
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JANUARY LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT, JOB NUMBERS ANNOUNCED

Unemployment rates drop over the year in 70 counties, 12 metro areas, 30 large municipalities

MADISON – Seventy Wisconsin counties, 30 large municipalities and the state's 12 metro areas experienced a drop in their unemployment rates over the year as of January 2012, according to the latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary data that the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released today.

"The across-the-board decline in local and metro unemployment rates over the year is encouraging, particularly in the absence of seasonally adjusted numbers to address the normal uptick in month-to-month unemployment during January every year," DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. "We know the 2012 hiring season is ramping up, and we encourage job seekers to move quickly and start pursuing opportunities today under Wisconsin's improving business climate."

Secretary Newson encouraged job seekers and employers to utilize www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com, which had a record 151,000 jobs posted in 2011 and today has over 33,000 jobs posted.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

METRO AREAS

All 12 metro areas had lower rates in January 2012 than January 2011 and higher rates than December 2011. Janesville had the highest rate at 9.4 percent and Madison had the lowest at 5.3 percent. The largest year-over-year decrease was in metro Sheboygan, which dropped by 1.6 percent to 7.2 percent from 8.8 percent in January 2011.

MUNICIPALITIES

Of 32 municipalities with at least 25,000 residents, all had rate increases over the month and 30 had decreases when compared to January 2011. Fitchburg and Mount Pleasant had increases over the year. Caledonia had the lowest January 2012 rate, 3.5 percent, while Beloit had the highest at 12.2 percent. Note the city of Fitchburg is now being included in the monthly estimates as it reached the 25,000-population threshold as of the 2010 U.S. Census.

COUNTIES

Seventy counties had lower rates in January than January 2011, while Bayfield and Iron counties experienced increases. Seventy-one counties had higher rates in January 2012 than December 2011, with Florence County seeing a slight drop. Dane County had the lowest rate at 4.9 percent, while Door County had the highest rate at 13.5 percent.

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JOBS DATA (METRO AREAS ONLY)

Seven metro areas added jobs over the month on a seasonally adjusted basis, including Appleton, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Sheboygan, Wausau and metro Milwaukee, which includes Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties.

The January numbers are preliminary and are subject to revision within the next several weeks.

Labor Force and Employment Estimates January 2012

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Jan-12	FINAL Dec-11	YEAR AGO Jan-11	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Jan-12	FINAL Dec-11	YEAR AGO Jan-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,054,700	3,056,400	3,069,700	-1,700	-15,000	3,027,000	3,038,400	3,043,400	-11,400	-16,400
Employment	2,844,800	2,843,200	2,833,100	1,600	11,700	2,797,900	2,838,900	2,785,800	-41,000	12,100
Unemployment	209,900	213,200	236,600	-3,300	-26,700	229,100	199,500	257,600	29,600	-28,500
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	7.0%	7.7%	-0.1%	-0.8%	7.6%	6.6%	8.5%	1.0%	-0.9%
National Rate	8.3%	8.5%	9.1%	-0.2%	-0.8%	8.8%	8.3%	9.8%	0.5%	-1.0%

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Jan-12	FINAL Dec-11	YEAR AGO Jan-11	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Jan-12	FINAL Dec-11	YEAR AGO Jan-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,732,300	2,719,800	2,744,800	12,500	-12,500	2,662,200	2,724,200	2,681,600	-62,000	-19,400
Appleton	117,800	116,500	116,600	1,300	1,200	115,400	117,000	114,500	-1,600	900
Eau Claire	79,600	78,900	79,800	700	-200	77,600	79,800	77,500	-2,200	100
Fond du Lac	46,100	46,000	44,800	100	1,300	45,100	45,600	43,700	-500	1,400
Green Bay	168,300	166,200	165,100	2,100	3,200	164,500	167,300	162,400	-2,800	2,100
Janesville	60,400	60,500	61,100	-100	-700	59,000	60,500	59,700	-1,500	-700
La Crosse	73,600	74,400	73,300	-800	300	72,200	74,600	71,700	-2,400	500
Madison	343,500	349,500	346,600	-6,000	-3,100	339,000	347,000	340,400	-8,000	-1,400
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	811,400	808,900	810,000	2,500	1,400	796,000	811,700	797,300	-15,700	-1,300
Oshkosh-Neenah	94,500	94,600	93,900	-100	600	92,500	95,300	92,400	-2,800	100
Racine	75,100	75,200	75,500	-100	-400	73,700	75,600	74,200	-1,900	-500
Sheboygan	58,000	57,500	57,400	500	600	56,600	57,200	56,000	-600	600
Wausau	66,900	66,600	67,100	300	-200	65,700	67,000	66,100	-1,300	-400

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Jan-12	FINAL Dec-11	YEAR AGO Jan-11	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	7.6%	6.6%	8.5%	1.0%	-0.9%
Appleton	6.7%	5.9%	7.7%	0.8%	-1.0%
Eau Claire	7.0%	6.0%	7.7%	1.0%	-0.7%
Fond du Lac	7.2%	6.2%	8.3%	1.0%	-1.1%
Green Bay	7.1%	6.2%	8.0%	0.9%	-0.9%
Janesville	9.4%	8.3%	10.8%	1.1%	-1.4%
La Crosse	6.2%	5.1%	6.9%	1.1%	-0.7%
Madison	5.3%	4.7%	5.9%	0.6%	-0.6%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	7.7%	6.9%	8.6%	0.8%	-0.9%
Oshkosh-Neenah	6.5%	5.7%	7.1%	0.8%	-0.6%
Racine	9.0%	7.9%	9.8%	1.1%	-0.8%
Sheboygan	7.2%	6.5%	8.8%	0.7%	-1.6%
Wausau	7.6%	6.5%	8.6%	1.1%	-1.0%

Note: Seasonally adjusted unemployment estimates for MSAs are available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/metrossa.htm>.
County and city unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Local Unemployment Rates January 2012

CITIES

CITY	Jan-12 RANK	Dec-11 RANK	Jan-12 RATE	Dec-11 RATE	Jan-11 RATE	CITY	Jan-12 RANK	Dec-11 RANK	Jan-12 RATE	Dec-11 RATE	Jan-11 RATE
Appleton	13	13	8.6	7.7	9.5	Milwaukee	3	3	10.3	9.5	11.4
Beloit	1	2	12.2	11.0	14.2	Mount Pleasant	10	10	9.3	8.3	7.1
Brookfield	28	27	5.8	5.3	6.5	Neenah	12	12	8.7	7.7	9.8
Caledonia	32	32	3.5	3.0	3.9	New Berlin	24	28	6.2	5.2	6.6
Eau Claire	22	23	6.8	5.7	7.4	Oak Creek	23	21	6.7	6.0	6.9
Fitchburg	30	30	5.5	4.9	4.6	Oshkosh	18	18	7.3	6.5	7.9
Fond du Lac	16	14	8.4	7.5	9.5	Racine	2	1	12.1	11.1	14.5
Franklin	27	26	5.9	5.3	6.9	Sheboygan	11	11	9.0	8.2	11.0
Green Bay	7	5	9.8	8.8	11.2	Stevens Point	15	17	8.5	6.5	8.7
Greenfield	19	19	7.2	6.3	8.0	Sun Prairie	26	25	6.0	5.4	7.1
Janesville	5	4	9.9	8.8	11.4	Superior	21	20	6.8	6.3	7.3
Kenosha	6	7	9.8	8.6	11.3	Waukesha	14	15	8.5	7.3	9.3
La Crosse	20	22	7.1	5.9	7.6	Wausau	8	6	9.7	8.8	11.4
Madison	31	31	4.5	4.2	5.0	Wauwatosa	29	29	5.6	5.0	6.3
Manitowoc	9	9	9.7	8.3	10.9	West Allis	17	16	7.9	7.2	9.2
Menomonee Falls	25	24	6.2	5.5	6.8	West Bend	4	8	10.0	8.5	11.5

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Jan-12 RANK	Dec-11 RANK	Jan-12 RATE	Dec-11 RATE	Jan-11 RATE	COUNTY	Jan-12 RANK	Dec-11 RANK	Jan-12 RATE	Dec-11 RATE	Jan-11 RATE
Adams	7	6	11.9	10.3	13.0	Marathon	46	47	7.6	6.5	8.6
Ashland	15	25	9.8	7.9	10.7	Marinette	23	15	9.4	8.4	11.2
Barron	28	31	9.0	7.5	9.4	Marquette	10	11	10.6	9.1	11.3
Bayfield	2	3	13.4	11.1	13.3	Menominee	4	1	12.7	11.9	13.4
Brown	61	52	6.7	6.0	7.6	Milwaukee	32	24	8.6	7.9	9.5
Buffalo	60	63	6.7	5.5	7.3	Monroe	45	46	7.6	6.5	7.9
Burnett	12	13	10.1	8.6	11.1	Oconto	19	23	9.5	7.9	10.7
Calumet	71	71	5.7	4.8	6.7	Oneida	9	8	11.0	9.3	11.9
Chippewa	38	39	8.1	6.9	9.1	Outagamie	56	48	7.0	6.2	7.9
Clark	29	32	8.9	7.3	10.5	Ozaukee	69	65	6.0	5.2	6.7
Columbia	44	42	7.8	6.7	8.8	Pepin	53	58	7.2	5.7	8.2
Crawford	27	38	9.0	6.9	9.9	Pierce	68	67	6.1	5.1	6.8
Dane	72	72	4.9	4.4	5.4	Polk	18	26	9.5	7.7	9.8
Dodge	42	41	7.9	6.8	9.1	Portage	50	57	7.3	5.7	7.5
Door	1	2	13.5	11.5	14.0	Price	43	37	7.8	6.9	9.3
Douglas	55	43	7.2	6.6	7.8	Racine	25	22	9.0	7.9	9.8
Dunn	59	62	6.7	5.5	7.5	Richland	57	54	6.9	5.8	8.2
Eau Claire	66	64	6.3	5.4	6.9	Rock	22	18	9.4	8.3	10.8
Florence	33	12	8.6	8.7	9.4	Rusk	11	9	10.5	9.2	12.5
Fond du Lac	54	49	7.2	6.2	8.3	Sauk	40	40	8.0	6.8	9.2
Forest	8	10	11.1	9.2	11.7	Sawyer	6	7	12.0	9.9	12.3
Grant	58	66	6.7	5.2	7.7	Shawano	30	28	8.8	7.6	9.9
Green	49	55	7.4	5.8	8.4	Sheboygan	52	45	7.2	6.5	8.8
Green Lake	26	30	9.0	7.5	9.9	St. Croix	67	68	6.1	5.0	7.1
Iowa	41	60	7.9	5.6	8.5	Taylor	24	21	9.2	8.0	11.3
Iron	3	5	12.8	10.4	11.7	Trempealeau	62	61	6.6	5.5	7.6
Jackson	20	27	9.5	7.7	10.7	Vernon	48	51	7.4	6.0	8.4
Jefferson	36	36	8.3	7.0	9.5	Vilas	5	4	12.2	10.7	13.0
Juneau	16	17	9.7	8.4	11.0	Walworth	35	35	8.4	7.0	9.4
Kenosha	31	29	8.7	7.6	10.2	Washburn	17	19	9.6	8.2	10.5
Kewaunee	47	53	7.5	5.9	7.9	Washington	51	50	7.2	6.1	8.0
La Crosse	70	70	5.8	4.9	6.4	Waukesha	64	59	6.5	5.6	7.2
Lafayette	65	69	6.5	5.0	7.7	Waupaca	39	34	8.0	7.0	9.2
Langlade	14	16	10.0	8.4	10.7	Waushara	21	20	9.4	8.0	10.7
Lincoln	13	14	10.0	8.5	11.5	Winnebago	63	56	6.5	5.7	7.1
Manitowoc	34	33	8.5	7.2	9.6	Wood	37	44	8.1	6.5	9.1

Local Unemployment Rates January 2012

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Jan-12 RATE	Dec-11 RATE	Jan-11 RATE	COUNTY	Jan-12 RATE	Dec-11 RATE	Jan-11 RATE
Dane	4.9	4.4	5.4	Jefferson	8.3	7.0	9.5
Calumet	5.7	4.8	6.7	Walworth	8.4	7.0	9.4
La Crosse	5.8	4.9	6.4	Manitowoc	8.5	7.2	9.6
Ozaukee	6.0	5.2	6.7	Florence	8.6	8.7	9.4
Pierce	6.1	5.1	6.8	Milwaukee	8.6	7.9	9.5
St. Croix	6.1	5.0	7.1	Kenosha	8.7	7.6	10.2
Eau Claire	6.3	5.4	6.9	Shawano	8.8	7.6	9.9
Lafayette	6.5	5.0	7.7	Clark	8.9	7.3	10.5
Waukesha	6.5	5.6	7.2	Barron	9.0	7.5	9.4
Winnebago	6.5	5.7	7.1	Crawford	9.0	6.9	9.9
Trempealeau	6.6	5.5	7.6	Green Lake	9.0	7.5	9.9
Brown	6.7	6.0	7.6	Racine	9.0	7.9	9.8
Buffalo	6.7	5.5	7.3	Taylor	9.2	8.0	11.3
Dunn	6.7	5.5	7.5	Marinette	9.4	8.4	11.2
Grant	6.7	5.2	7.7	Rock	9.4	8.3	10.8
Richland	6.9	5.8	8.2	Waushara	9.4	8.0	10.7
Outagamie	7.0	6.2	7.9	Jackson	9.5	7.7	10.7
Douglas	7.2	6.6	7.8	Oconto	9.5	7.9	10.7
Fond du Lac	7.2	6.2	8.3	Polk	9.5	7.7	9.8
Pepin	7.2	5.7	8.2	Washburn	9.6	8.2	10.5
Sheboygan	7.2	6.5	8.8	Juneau	9.7	8.4	11.0
Washington	7.2	6.1	8.0	Ashland	9.8	7.9	10.7
Portage	7.3	5.7	7.5	Langlade	10.0	8.4	10.7
Green	7.4	5.8	8.4	Lincoln	10.0	8.5	11.5
Vernon	7.4	6.0	8.4	Burnett	10.1	8.6	11.1
Kewaunee	7.5	5.9	7.9	Rusk	10.5	9.2	12.5
Marathon	7.6	6.5	8.6	Marquette	10.6	9.1	11.3
Monroe	7.6	6.5	7.9	Oneida	11.0	9.3	11.9
Columbia	7.8	6.7	8.8	Forest	11.1	9.2	11.7
Price	7.8	6.9	9.3	Adams	11.9	10.3	13.0
Dodge	7.9	6.8	9.1	Sawyer	12.0	9.9	12.3
Iowa	7.9	5.6	8.5	Vilas	12.2	10.7	13.0
Sauk	8.0	6.8	9.2	Menominee	12.7	11.9	13.4
Waupaca	8.0	7.0	9.2	Iron	12.8	10.4	11.7
Chippewa	8.1	6.9	9.1	Bayfield	13.4	11.1	13.3
Wood	8.1	6.5	9.1	Door	13.5	11.5	14.0