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## WISCONSIN LOCAL EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES RELEASED

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) estimates of unemployment and employment statistics for metro areas, major cities and counties in Wisconsin. The estimates include revisions for January 2015 and the preliminary estimates for February 2015. Please note *it is not unusual to see an uptick in local and county unemployment rates in Wisconsin during the winter months, including from January to February*. In brief, the not-seasonally adjusted estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary February 2015 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 12 metro areas compared to February 2014 rates, with the largest decline of 1.8 percent in Wausau. The latest rates ranged from 3.9 percent in metro Madison to 6.7 percent in metro Racine. Rates were unchanged in 3 metro areas from January to February.

**Municipalities:** The February 2015 preliminary rates decreased in all of Wisconsin's 32 largest municipalities compared to February 2014 rates. The latest February rates ranged from 3.4 percent in Madison and Fitchburg to 7.9 percent in Racine. Rates were unchanged or declined in 12 municipalities from January to February.

- **Counties:** February 2015 rates decreased in all of Wisconsin 72 counties compared to rates in February 2014. The February rates ranged from 3.6 percent in Dane to 11.2 percent in Sawyer. Rates were unchanged or declined in 20 counties from January to February.

The release of the February 2015 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing Wisconsin added 13,600 private sector jobs between January 2015 and February 2015, the best one-month jump since September 2003 according to the benchmarked series. Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February is 4.8 percent, the lowest rate since July 2008, and lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.5 percent in February.

The BLS monthly estimates also indicated that Wisconsin's employment reached an all-time high including 2,969,400 employed workers.

Other indicators that help illustrate the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 10 weeks of 2015 dropped to the lowest point since 1995, and the annual average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: the number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in the first two months of 2015 grew by 4.2% compared to same period in 2014. As of February 28, 2015, new business filings totaled 7,071, compared to 6,787 in same period in 2014.
- The [Manpower Employment Outlook Survey](#) gives Wisconsin the 3<sup>rd</sup> best outlook in the US for the next quarter.

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# Labor Force and Employment Estimates February 2015

## STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	1-Month	1-Year	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,118,600	3,120,800	3,087,300	-2,200	31,300	3,088,500	3,093,000	3,071,200	-4,500	17,300
Employment	2,969,400	2,964,400	2,908,900	5,000	60,500	2,917,100	2,924,600	2,860,900	-7,500	56,200
Unemployment	149,200	156,400	178,400	-7,200	-29,200	171,400	168,400	210,400	3,000	-39,000
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	5.0%	5.8%	-0.2%	-1.0%	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	0.1%	-1.3%
National Rate	5.5%	5.7%	6.7%	-0.2%	-1.2%	5.8%	6.1%	7.0%	-0.3%	-1.2%

## MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	1-Month	1-Year	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,891,900	2,877,000	2,832,000	14,900	59,900	2,831,300	2,814,900	2,775,600	16,400	55,700
Appleton	124,400	123,900	119,900	500	4,500	121,300	121,600	117,200	-300	4,100
Eau Claire	85,700	84,900	83,800	800	1,900	84,400	83,000	82,600	1,400	1,800
Fond du Lac	49,000	48,500	47,100	500	1,900	48,000	47,500	46,000	500	2,000
Green Bay	175,700	174,200	170,300	1,500	5,400	172,100	171,400	166,900	700	5,200
Janesville	67,300	67,100	64,200	200	3,100	65,800	65,500	62,600	300	3,200
La Crosse	77,600	77,300	76,900	300	700	76,700	75,400	76,000	1,300	700
Madison						383,300	381,000	373,800	2,300	9,500
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	849,700	847,500	840,800	2,200	8,900	834,700	831,100	829,000	3,600	5,700
Oshkosh-Neenah	95,500	95,600	93,800	-100	1,700	94,300	94,100	92,500	200	1,800
Racine	75,700	75,800	76,100	-100	-400	74,300	74,700	74,700	-400	-400
Sheboygan	62,300	62,200	60,400	100	1,900	60,400	60,500	58,600	-100	1,800
Wausau	72,200	71,800	69,700	400	2,500	71,100	71,000	68,800	100	2,300

Note: The Seasonally Adjusted Madison MSA data is not available due to the restructuring of the MSA (addition of Green County).

## MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	5.5%	5.4%	6.8%	0.1%	-1.3%
Appleton	4.8%	4.5%	5.9%	0.3%	-1.1%
Eau Claire	5.2%	5.2%	6.3%	0.0%	-1.1%
Fond du Lac	5.0%	4.9%	6.4%	0.1%	-1.4%
Green Bay	5.1%	5.0%	6.4%	0.1%	-1.3%
Janesville	6.2%	6.0%	7.8%	0.2%	-1.6%
La Crosse	4.6%	4.6%	5.6%	0.0%	-1.0%
Madison	3.9%	3.8%	4.9%	0.1%	-1.0%
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	5.6%	5.6%	6.9%	0.0%	-1.3%
Oshkosh-Neenah	5.0%	4.9%	6.3%	0.1%	-1.3%
Racine	6.7%	6.6%	8.2%	0.1%	-1.5%
Sheboygan	4.5%	4.3%	5.8%	0.2%	-1.3%
Wausau	4.9%	4.8%	6.7%	0.1%	-1.8%

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 February 2015

## CITIES

CITY	Feb-15 RANK	Jan-15 RANK	Feb-15 RATE	Jan-15 RATE	Feb-14 RATE
Appleton	21	25	4.7	4.4	5.9
Beloit	2	2	7.8	7.4	9.4
Brookfield	29	29	4.0	3.9	5.0
Caledonia	8	9	5.7	5.2	6.9
Eau Claire	26	26	4.3	4.3	5.4
Fitchburg	32	31	3.4	3.5	4.3
Fond du Lac	15	14	5.0	5.0	6.5
Franklin	16	16	4.9	4.9	6.2
Green Bay	11	8	5.4	5.3	7.0
Greenfield	10	10	5.4	5.2	7.1
Janesville	7	7	5.9	5.8	7.7
Kenosha	5	4	6.5	6.6	7.9
La Crosse	25	17	4.6	4.7	5.5
Madison	31	32	3.4	3.3	4.2
Manitowoc	6	6	6.4	6.2	7.7
Menomonee Falls	28	27	4.1	4.1	5.2

CITY	Feb-15 RANK	Jan-15 RANK	Feb-15 RATE	Jan-15 RATE	Feb-14 RATE
Milwaukee	3	3	7.4	7.4	8.9
Mount Pleasant	9	12	5.6	5.1	6.5
Neenah	18	19	4.8	4.6	6.1
New Berlin	24	23	4.6	4.5	5.6
Oak Creek	14	15	5.0	4.9	6.0
Oshkosh	13	11	5.2	5.2	6.7
Racine	1	1	7.9	8.1	9.7
Sheboygan	17	18	4.8	4.6	6.4
Stevens Point	12	13	5.3	5.1	6.3
Sun Prairie	30	30	3.7	3.7	4.9
Superior	20	24	4.7	4.4	5.7
Waukesha	23	21	4.6	4.6	5.7
Wausau	19	20	4.7	4.6	6.5
Wauwatosa	27	28	4.1	4.0	5.1
West Allis	4	5	6.6	6.3	7.9
West Bend	22	22	4.6	4.5	6.2

## COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Feb-15 RANK	Jan-15 RANK	Feb-15 RATE	Jan-15 RATE	Feb-14 RATE
Adams	7	6	10.3	9.8	12.2
Ashland	15	15	8.2	7.8	9.6
Barron	24	29	6.8	6.4	8.6
Bayfield	3	2	11.1	11.0	12.6
Brown	60	59	4.9	4.8	6.2
Buffalo	34	34	6.3	6.1	7.5
Burnett	9	9	9.2	9.1	10.1
Calumet	68	70	4.5	4.1	5.3
Chippewa	33	31	6.3	6.3	7.5
Clark	38	36	6.1	6.1	7.8
Columbia	51	49	5.5	5.4	6.8
Crawford	13	14	8.4	8.0	9.9
Dane	72	72	3.6	3.6	4.6
Dodge	46	46	5.7	5.5	7.2
Door	2	1	11.1	11.0	12.7
Douglas	37	39	6.1	5.9	7.2
Dunn	44	44	5.9	5.6	7.1
Eau Claire	67	65	4.5	4.5	5.6
Florence	10	10	8.5	8.5	9.6
Fond du Lac	57	57	5.0	4.9	6.4
Forest	8	8	9.4	9.1	11.5
Grant	53	52	5.4	5.2	6.4
Green	64	62	4.8	4.7	6.1
Green Lake	17	17	7.6	7.3	9.0
Iowa	43	43	5.9	5.7	7.4
Iron	5	5	10.7	10.8	11.2
Jackson	28	24	6.7	6.7	8.4
Jefferson	50	48	5.5	5.4	6.7
Juneau	22	22	7.0	7.0	9.0
Kenosha	41	38	6.0	6.0	7.5
Kewaunee	54	53	5.3	5.2	7.0
La Crosse	70	67	4.4	4.4	5.5
Lafayette	63	64	4.8	4.5	6.0
Langlade	16	16	7.7	7.7	9.4
Lincoln	30	30	6.5	6.4	8.5
Manitowoc	32	33	6.4	6.1	7.6

COUNTY	Feb-15 RANK	Jan-15 RANK	Feb-15 RATE	Jan-15 RATE	Feb-14 RATE
Marathon	59	58	4.9	4.8	6.7
Marinette	21	19	7.1	7.2	8.6
Marquette	12	11	8.4	8.2	9.2
Menominee	4	3	11.0	11.0	14.1
Milwaukee	29	28	6.5	6.5	8.0
Monroe	48	45	5.6	5.6	7.0
Oconto	27	27	6.7	6.5	7.9
Oneida	11	13	8.4	8.1	9.6
Outagamie	58	61	4.9	4.7	6.1
Ozaukee	71	71	4.2	4.1	5.2
Pepin	31	32	6.4	6.1	7.3
Pierce	62	60	4.8	4.8	5.9
Polk	26	26	6.7	6.6	8.1
Portage	40	41	6.0	5.9	7.3
Price	45	47	5.8	5.4	6.8
Racine	25	25	6.7	6.6	8.2
Richland	52	55	5.4	5.1	7.0
Rock	36	37	6.2	6.0	7.8
Rusk	18	20	7.3	7.0	9.3
Sauk	47	50	5.6	5.3	6.9
Sawyer	1	4	11.2	10.8	12.1
Shawano	35	35	6.2	6.1	7.9
Sheboygan	66	68	4.5	4.3	5.8
St. Croix	61	63	4.8	4.6	6.0
Taylor	23	23	6.8	6.9	7.6
Trempealeau	55	54	5.2	5.2	6.4
Vernon	49	51	5.5	5.3	6.7
Vilas	6	7	10.3	9.7	11.9
Walworth	39	40	6.0	5.9	7.3
Washburn	20	21	7.2	7.0	8.8
Washington	65	66	4.5	4.4	5.8
Waukesha	69	69	4.4	4.3	5.5
Waupaca	42	42	5.9	5.8	7.4
Waushara	14	12	8.2	8.2	9.4
Winnebago	56	56	5.0	4.9	6.3
Wood	19	18	7.2	7.2	7.8

# Local Unemployment Rates February 2015

## COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Feb-15 RATE	Jan-15 RATE	Feb-14 RATE	COUNTY	Feb-15 RATE	Jan-15 RATE	Feb-14 RATE
Dane	3.6	3.6	4.6	Rock	6.2	6.0	7.8
Ozaukee	4.2	4.1	5.2	Shawano	6.2	6.1	7.9
La Crosse	4.4	4.4	5.5	Buffalo	6.3	6.1	7.5
Waukesha	4.4	4.3	5.5	Chippewa	6.3	6.3	7.5
Calumet	4.5	4.1	5.3	Manitowoc	6.4	6.1	7.6
Eau Claire	4.5	4.5	5.6	Pepin	6.4	6.1	7.3
Sheboygan	4.5	4.3	5.8	Lincoln	6.5	6.4	8.5
Washington	4.5	4.4	5.8	Milwaukee	6.5	6.5	8.0
Green	4.8	4.7	6.1	Jackson	6.7	6.7	8.4
Lafayette	4.8	4.5	6.0	Oconto	6.7	6.5	7.9
Pierce	4.8	4.8	5.9	Polk	6.7	6.6	8.1
St. Croix	4.8	4.6	6.0	Racine	6.7	6.6	8.2
Brown	4.9	4.8	6.2	Barron	6.8	6.4	8.6
Marathon	4.9	4.8	6.7	Taylor	6.8	6.9	7.6
Outagamie	4.9	4.7	6.1	Juneau	7.0	7.0	9.0
Fond du Lac	5.0	4.9	6.4	Marinette	7.1	7.2	8.6
Winnebago	5.0	4.9	6.3	Washburn	7.2	7.0	8.8
Trempealeau	5.2	5.2	6.4	Wood	7.2	7.2	7.8
Kewaunee	5.3	5.2	7.0	Rusk	7.3	7.0	9.3
Grant	5.4	5.2	6.4	Green Lake	7.6	7.3	9.0
Richland	5.4	5.1	7.0	Langlade	7.7	7.7	9.4
Columbia	5.5	5.4	6.8	Ashland	8.2	7.8	9.6
Jefferson	5.5	5.4	6.7	Waushara	8.2	8.2	9.4
Vernon	5.5	5.3	6.7	Crawford	8.4	8.0	9.9
Monroe	5.6	5.6	7.0	Marquette	8.4	8.2	9.2
Sauk	5.6	5.3	6.9	Oneida	8.4	8.1	9.6
Dodge	5.7	5.5	7.2	Florence	8.5	8.5	9.6
Price	5.8	5.4	6.8	Burnett	9.2	9.1	10.1
Dunn	5.9	5.6	7.1	Forest	9.4	9.1	11.5
Iowa	5.9	5.7	7.4	Adams	10.3	9.8	12.2
Waupaca	5.9	5.8	7.4	Vilas	10.3	9.7	11.9
Kenosha	6.0	6.0	7.5	Iron	10.7	10.8	11.2
Portage	6.0	5.9	7.3	Menominee	11.0	11.0	14.1
Walworth	6.0	5.9	7.3	Bayfield	11.1	11.0	12.6
Clark	6.1	6.1	7.8	Door	11.1	11.0	12.7
Douglas	6.1	5.9	7.2	Sawyer	11.2	10.8	12.1