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AUGUST LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that 65 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have a lower unemployment rate in August 2004 than they had in August 2003, but many Wisconsin communities are still hard hit by the effects of the national recession.

"After four years of a struggling national economy, Wisconsin's economy is finally heading in the right direction," Secretary Gassman said. "But we still have significant pockets of the state that have not recovered from the serious job losses of the past four years. We shouldn't be satisfied with these numbers, because it's clear there's more work to do."

While most metropolitan areas saw improvements over the previous year, several remained among the highest areas of unemployment in the nation. For example, Racine's unemployment rate of 6.8 percent ranks 286th out of the 331 largest metropolitan areas in the nation.

The state's lowest county preliminary unemployment rates for August were recorded in Dane County at 2.3 percent, Buffalo County at 2.7 percent, Ozaukee County at 2.8 percent, and Iowa County at 2.9 percent. There were twenty-nine counties with unemployment rates lower than 4.0 percent.

The state's highest county unemployment rate for August was recorded in Menominee County, where the preliminary unemployment rate is estimated at 10.9 percent, followed by Oconto County at 7.4 percent, Juneau County at 7.0 percent, and Langlade County at 7.0 percent. Ten Wisconsin counties had rates of 6.0 percent or higher, including the four above.

Wisconsin has seen a monthly increase of about 37,600 jobs over last year's monthly figures.

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Employment and Labor Force Household Survey

Unadjusted estimates	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,143,800	3,175,900	3,122,600
Employed	3,005,000	3,028,500	2,957,900
Unemployed	138,800	147,400	164,700
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.6%	5.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.7%	6.0%

Seasonally adjusted	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,113,600	3,109,000	3,091,700
Employed	2,963,500	2,963,300	2,916,100
Unemployed	150,100	145,600	175,600
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.7%	5.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.5%	6.1%

*State current mo. Area prior mo.	Unemployment % seasonally adjusted	Current Month	Month Ago	Year Ago
19 th	Wisconsin	4.8	4.7	5.7
63 rd	Appleton-Oshkosh	4.3	4.1	5.4
74 th	Eau Claire	4.8	4.4	5.3
85 th	Green Bay	4.3	4.2	5.1
298 th	Janesville-Beloit	6.2	6.0	6.8
227 th	Kenosha	5.3	4.7	6.2
27 th	La Crosse	3.6	3.4	4.3
6 th	Madison	2.5	2.5	3.1
185 th	Milwaukee-Waukesha	5.0	5.0	6.1
286 th	Racine	6.8	6.6	8.5
135 th	Sheboygan	3.9	4.2	5.0
49 th	Wausau	4.3	3.9	4.8

- This is the latest available data for the U.S.'s 331 largest metro areas. Urban rankings are NOT seasonally adjusted. Lower is better. Ties are shown only if existing with other Wisconsin urban areas; ties with urban areas in other states are not shown, but are available upon request. Rankings are by the U.S. Labor Department and are based on unadjusted data for the previous month, while the rates shown above for Wisconsin metropolitan areas are seasonally-adjusted and for the current month.
- **State ranking is seasonally adjusted
- *Metropolitan ranking is not seasonally adjusted and is for the prior month

Source *Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
August 2004
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
13	ADAMS	5.4%	5.8%	15	4.0%	60	MARATHON	3.6%	3.6%	62	4.1%
8	ASHLAND	6.2%	5.9%	13	7.0%	15	MARINETTE	5.2%	5.8%	14	6.7%
27	BARRON	4.6%	4.5%	34	4.9%	16	MARQUETTE	5.0%	5.3%	17	6.4%
22	BAYFIELD	4.8%	5.1%	19	4.6%	1	MENOMINEE	10.9%	11.0%	1	11.5%
45	BROWN	3.9%	4.0%	50	4.7%	7	MILWAUKEE	6.3%	6.4%	7	7.5%
71	BUFFALO	2.7%	2.9%	70	4.1%	52	MONROE	3.8%	3.8%	56	5.9%
40	BURNETT	4.2%	4.1%	43	3.2%	2	OCONTO	7.4%	7.7%	3	9.3%
67	CALUMET	3.2%	3.2%	67	4.3%	42	ONEIDA	4.1%	4.2%	40	4.7%
32	CHIPPEWA	4.5%	4.2%	42	4.7%	44	OUTAGAMIE	3.9%	4.0%	49	4.9%
26	CLARK	4.6%	4.7%	30	5.3%	70	OZAUKEE	2.8%	2.9%	71	4.7%
29	COLUMBIA	4.5%	4.7%	29	5.5%	20	PEPIN	4.9%	4.8%	26	4.8%
47	CRAWFORD	3.8%	4.0%	45	4.5%	49	PIERCE	3.8%	4.0%	47	4.3%
72	DANE	2.3%	2.4%	72	2.8%	30	POLK	4.5%	4.6%	32	5.2%
10	DODGE	6.0%	5.0%	21	6.6%	25	PORTAGE	4.6%	5.5%	16	4.9%
48	DOOR	3.8%	4.0%	46	6.1%	43	PRICE	4.0%	4.0%	51	5.7%
19	DOUGLAS	4.9%	4.9%	22	5.4%	5	RACINE	6.6%	7.2%	5	8.2%
63	DUNN	3.4%	3.5%	64	4.0%	35	RICHLAND	4.3%	4.8%	24	4.2%
57	EAU CLAIRE	3.7%	3.7%	61	4.3%	11	ROCK	5.8%	8.0%	2	6.4%
6	FLORENCE	6.6%	6.2%	10	6.8%	21	RUSK	4.8%	5.2%	18	5.2%
28	FOND DU LAC	4.6%	4.4%	35	5.2%	66	SAUK	3.2%	3.3%	65	3.4%
23	FOREST	4.8%	5.1%	20	6.2%	62	SAWYER	3.5%	3.7%	58	4.4%
50	GRANT	3.8%	4.0%	48	4.7%	37	SHAWANO	4.2%	4.3%	37	5.0%
54	GREEN	3.7%	4.3%	36	5.0%	61	SHEBOYGAN	3.5%	4.7%	27	4.5%
55	GREEN LAKE	3.7%	3.9%	52	5.5%	36	ST. CROIX	4.3%	4.8%	25	5.9%
69	IOWA	2.9%	3.1%	68	3.1%	34	TAYLOR	4.4%	4.1%	44	4.2%
9	IRON	6.0%	6.2%	9	6.3%	58	TREMPEALEAU	3.6%	3.7%	59	5.0%
65	JACKSON	3.3%	3.3%	66	3.4%	56	VERNON	3.7%	3.9%	53	4.8%
31	JEFFERSON	4.5%	4.6%	33	4.4%	53	VILAS	3.8%	3.8%	57	4.0%
3	JUNEAU	7.0%	7.3%	4	8.6%	64	WALWORTH	3.3%	3.5%	63	3.7%
18	KENOSHA	4.9%	6.0%	12	5.7%	33	WASHBURN	4.4%	4.3%	39	5.7%
39	KEWAUNEE	4.2%	4.2%	41	6.3%	46	WASHINGTON	3.9%	3.9%	55	4.9%
68	LA CROSSE	3.1%	3.1%	69	3.9%	59	WAUKESHA	3.6%	3.7%	60	4.4%
41	LAFAYETTE	4.1%	4.7%	28	5.4%	38	WAUPACA	4.2%	4.3%	38	5.1%
4	LANGLADE	7.0%	7.1%	6	8.5%	17	WAUSHARA	5.0%	4.9%	23	5.7%
24	LINCOLN	4.7%	4.7%	31	5.5%	51	WINNEBAGO	3.8%	3.9%	54	4.7%
12	MANITOWOC	5.4%	6.1%	11	7.3%	14	WOOD	5.3%	6.2%	8	5.8%

WISCONSIN CITIES
 Unemployment Rates
 August 2004
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
12	APPLETON CITY	5.5%	5.8%	11	6.6%
2	BELOIT CITY	8.9%	10.7%	2	9.6%
26	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.0%	3.0%	26	3.8%
20	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.5%	4.5%	20	5.0%
10	FOND DU LAC CITY	5.8%	5.5%	15	6.9%
23	FRANKLIN CITY	4.0%	4.4%	21	5.0%
5	GREEN BAY CITY	6.4%	6.6%	9	7.7%
22	GREENFIELD CITY	4.1%	4.2%	23	4.7%
6	JANESVILLE CITY	6.3%	9.7%	3	6.5%
8	KENOSHA CITY	6.0%	7.6%	6	7.0%
21	LA CROSSE CITY	4.2%	4.3%	22	5.1%
28	MADISON CITY	2.6%	2.7%	28	3.0%
4	MANITOWOC CITY	6.6%	7.8%	5	8.8%
27	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	3.0%	2.9%	27	3.9%
3	MILWAUKEE CITY	8.7%	8.8%	4	10.3%
11	NEENAH CITY	5.6%	5.5%	14	7.2%
25	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.4%	3.3%	25	4.1%
17	OAK CREEK CITY	4.8%	5.0%	18	6.2%
19	OSHKOSH CITY	4.5%	4.5%	19	5.5%
1	RACINE CITY	11.4%	12.5%	1	13.6%
18	SHEBOYGAN CITY	4.6%	6.9%	8	6.0%
7	STEVENS POINT CITY	6.1%	7.1%	7	6.7%
16	SUPERIOR CITY	5.2%	5.6%	12	6.2%
15	WAUKESHA CITY	5.3%	5.4%	16	6.2%
13	WAUSAU CITY	5.4%	5.1%	17	5.9%
24	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.5%	3.5%	24	4.0%
14	WEST ALLIS CITY	5.3%	5.6%	13	6.0%
9	WEST BEND CITY	5.8%	5.9%	10	7.9%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
 Bureau of Workforce Information