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Web Audio: [http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/newsreleases/multimedia/ui\\_091604.mp3](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/newsreleases/multimedia/ui_091604.mp3)

## AUGUST UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

**Madison** – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August is estimated at 4.8 percent, up 0.1 percent from the July rate of 4.7 percent, the third time this year that the rate was below 5.0 percent. The August 2003 Wisconsin seasonally adjusted rate was 5.7 percent, compared to the national rate of 6.1 percent last August.

"We are encouraged to see that we are maintaining the improvements to the state's labor market under Governor Doyle's leadership in Wisconsin," said Secretary Gassman. "While we've made tremendous progress in the last year, we are still clearly feeling the effects of a national economy that has been sluggish for almost four years."

The nonfarm job total in August was 2,851,300, which ranks as the second highest job total for August in Wisconsin history. In August of 2000, the highest August job total on record, the job total was 2,858,500. The job total for August 2003 was 2,804,800, 46,500 lower than this year. Year-to-date, the average monthly job total has been 2,805,000, which is 37,600 jobs greater than last year's 2,767,400.

Manufacturing reported 524,500 jobs in August, which is up 10,800 jobs from last August. That marks the fifth straight month in Wisconsin, where this year's figure in manufacturing was up from last year's figure, which follows 45 months of drops in year-to-year comparisons. In November 2000, there were 590,800 jobs in manufacturing in Wisconsin. By November 2003, that figure had dropped to 502,900. A low was reached in January 2004 at 498,000. Since that time, there has been steady growth. About half of the positive change between January and August in manufacturing is a result of normal seasonal fluctuation.

Other Wisconsin industries that have seen good recent strength include construction; trade; financial activities; professional, technical, and business services; education and health services; and leisure and hospitality. The private sector in Wisconsin has added an average of 44,100 jobs per month for the first eight months of 2004, while government is down 6,500 jobs.

Wisconsin's unadjusted unemployment rate for August is estimated at 4.4 percent, which is based on 3,004,983 employed Wisconsin residents and 138,806 unemployed. That is the lowest unadjusted statewide unemployment rate for Wisconsin since October 2001. The unadjusted rate for July was 4.6 percent, while for August 2003 it was 5.3 percent. The national figure for August was 5.4 percent.

August employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available September 22. This release also is available at [www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi)

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**WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY**  
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. AUG 04	FINAL JUL 04	YEAR AGO AUG 03	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
<b>PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA</b>					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3143.8	3175.9	3122.6	-32.1	21.2
UNEMPLOYMENT	138.8	147.4	164.7	-8.6	-25.9
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.4	4.6	5.3	-0.2	-0.9
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3005.0	3028.5	2957.9	-23.5	47.1
<b>PLACE OF WORK DATA</b>					
<b>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</b>					
TOTAL PRIVATE	2851.3	2846.6	2804.8	4.7	46.5
GOODS PRODUCING	2478.7	2468.4	2426.1	10.3	52.6
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	666.6	664.9	653.6	1.7	13.0
CONSTRUCTION	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0
MANUFACTURING	137.9	138.7	135.7	-0.8	2.2
Durable Goods	524.5	522	513.7	2.5	10.8
Nondurable Goods	320.5	319.6	313.1	0.9	7.4
SERVICE PRODUCING	204	202.4	200.6	1.6	3.4
TRADE	2184.7	2181.7	2151.2	3.0	33.5
Wholesale Trade	445.7	444.9	439.0	0.8	6.7
Retail Trade	117.8	118.6	114.4	-0.8	3.4
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	327.9	326.3	324.6	1.6	3.3
Utilities	106.4	105.6	106.2	0.8	0.2
Information	12.2	12.4	11.7	-0.2	0.5
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	48.5	48.2	49.5	0.3	-1.0
Finance and Insurance	161.9	162.2	159	-0.3	2.9
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	131.9	132.3	129.8	-0.4	2.1
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	30	29.9	29.2	0.1	0.8
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	270.8	265.5	253	5.3	17.8
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	90.7	89.8	89.2	0.9	1.5
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	38.3	38.6	38.2	-0.3	0.1
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	141.8	137.1	125.6	4.7	16.2
Educational Services	376.1	375.9	365.2	0.2	10.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	44.4	44.9	44	-0.5	0.4
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	331.7	331	321.2	0.7	10.5
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	274	272.3	269.2	1.7	4.8
Accommodation & Food Services	47.1	45.6	46.2	1.5	0.9
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	226.9	226.7	223	0.2	3.9
GOVERNMENT	128.7	128.9	131.4	-0.2	-2.7
Federal Government	372.6	378.2	378.7	-5.6	-6.1
State Government	29.7	29.7	29.9	0.0	-0.2
Local Government	90	89.2	93.7	0.8	-3.7
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	252.9	259.3	255.1	-6.4	-2.2
(1) Includes L-M Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.5
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3113.6	3109.0	3091.7	4.6	21.9
UNEMPLOYMENT	150.1	145.6	175.6	4.5	-25.5
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.8	4.7	5.7	0.1	-0.9
EMPLOYMENT	2963.5	2963.3	2916.1	0.2	47.4
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2838.3	2839.4	2794.1	-1.1	44.2

\*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information