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July Unemployment Rates Decline in all Wisconsin Metro Areas Over Year

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 updates to June 2018 and preliminary estimates for July 2018.

Unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted. The estimates show:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary July 2018 unemployment rates declined in all 12 of Wisconsin's metro areas over the year from July 2017 to July 2018. The rates ranged from 2.4 percent in Madison to 4.0 percent in Racine. The Racine and Janesville-Beloit metro areas experienced their lowest July unemployment rate on record (1990).
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary July 2018 unemployment rates declined or stayed the same in 31 of Wisconsin's 32 largest cities over the year from July 2017 to July 2018. Racine experienced the largest decline over the year, 0.7 percent. The rates ranged from 2.3 percent in Fitchburg to 4.9 percent in Racine. Of Wisconsin's 32 largest cities, 15 either set or tied their lowest July unemployment rates on record (1990).
- **Counties:** Preliminary July 2018 unemployment rates declined or stayed the same over the year from July 2017 to July 2018 in 69 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Pepin and Florence County tied for the largest unemployment rate decline over the year, 0.8 percent. Twenty-two of Wisconsin's 72 counties experienced or tied their lowest July unemployment rate on record (1990).

The release of July 2018 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly statewide estimates which showed that Wisconsin maintained a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate under 3 percent for the sixth straight month, setting another record. The data also showed that Wisconsin's addition of 21,300 manufacturing jobs from July 2017 to July 2018 ranked 2nd nationally, trailing only Texas's addition of 21,400.

When compared to other states, Wisconsin continues to rank in the top 10 nationally in numerous measurements:

- Wisconsin ranked **6th nationally** in percent growth in the state's manufacturing industry over the last three months
- Wisconsin ranked **9th nationally** in percent growth in the state's manufacturing industry over the last six months
- Wisconsin ranked **5th nationally** in percent growth in the state's manufacturing industry from July 2017 through July 2018, and 2nd in the Midwest
- Wisconsin ranked **5th nationally** in percent growth in the state's manufacturing industry in 2018
- Wisconsin's addition of 2,500 manufacturing jobs in July ranked **3rd nationally**, and 2nd in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's manufacturing job gains over the last three months ranked **2nd nationally**
- Wisconsin's manufacturing job gains over the last six months ranked **2nd nationally**

- Wisconsin's addition of 21,300 manufacturing jobs from July 2017 through July 2018 ranked **2nd nationally**, and 1st in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's addition of 15,700 manufacturing jobs in 2018 ranked **2nd nationally**
- Wisconsin's addition of 9,100 private-sector jobs in July ranked **8th nationally**, and 1st in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's percent growth in private-sector jobs in July ranked **7th nationally**, and 1st in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's July seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 2.9 percent tied for **7th lowest nationally**
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.9 percent tied for **5th highest nationally**

Other indicators of the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Initial UI claims ended 2017 at their lowest level in the last 30 years.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2017 at their lowest level since 1973.
- Moody's Investor Service recently upgraded the state's credit rating, noting that "(T)he stable outlook reflects the expectation that the state will experience moderate economic growth and will continue its prudent fiscal management practices."

The data included in today's release can be accessed on the [Bureau of Labor Statistics website](#).

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates July 2018

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Jul-18	FINAL Jun-18	YEAR AGO Jul-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Jul-18	FINAL Jun-18	YEAR AGO Jul-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,183,000	3,183,000	3,158,500	0	24,500	3,216,100	3,227,700	3,201,100	-11,600	15,000
Employment	3,090,000	3,092,000	3,053,200	-2,000	36,800	3,114,900	3,116,400	3,092,700	-1,500	22,200
Unemployment	92,900	91,100	105,300	1,800	-12,400	101,200	111,300	108,400	-10,100	-7,200
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.9%	3.3%	0.0%	-0.4%	3.1%	3.4%	3.4%	-0.3%	-0.3%
National Rate	3.9%	4.0%	4.3%	-0.1%	-0.4%	4.1%	4.2%	4.6%	-0.1%	-0.5%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Jul-18	FINAL Jun-18	YEAR AGO Jul-17	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Jul-18	FINAL Jun-18	YEAR AGO Jul-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,985,000	2,976,300	2,946,200	8,700	38,800	3,009,500	3,015,500	2,965,600	-6,000	43,900
Appleton	127,300	127,200	124,800	100	2,500	128,700	129,600	126,000	-900	2,700
Eau Claire	87,600	87,800	86,600	-200	1,000	87,200	87,800	86,200	-600	1,000
Fond du Lac	48,900	48,700	48,100	200	800	49,200	49,500	48,300	-300	900
Green Bay	180,200	180,500	178,400	-300	1,800	181,400	183,100	179,200	-1,700	2,200
Janesville	69,200	69,300	69,100	-100	100	70,500	70,300	70,200	200	300
La Crosse	80,600	80,700	78,700	-100	1,900	79,700	80,500	77,400	-800	2,300
Madison	408,300	406,700	400,800	1,600	7,500	408,500	408,100	401,600	400	6,900
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	874,900	872,200	867,300	2,700	7,600	880,200	882,600	869,500	-2,400	10,700
Oshkosh-Neenah	98,200	98,300	98,200	-100	0	98,000	98,400	98,700	-400	-700
Racine	77,900	77,700	77,900	200	0	79,000	79,000	78,800	0	200
Sheboygan	64,500	64,100	62,500	400	2,000	65,900	65,700	64,000	200	1,900
Wausau	74,200	73,900	72,300	300	1,900	74,300	74,900	72,200	-600	2,100

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Jul-18	FINAL Jun-18	YEAR AGO Jul-17	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.1	3.4	3.4	-0.3	-0.3
Appleton	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
Eau Claire	2.8	3.1	3.1	-0.3	-0.3
Fond du Lac	3.0	3.2	3.1	-0.2	-0.1
Green Bay	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.3	-0.2
Janesville	3.3	3.7	3.6	-0.4	-0.3
La Crosse	2.7	3.1	3.1	-0.4	-0.4
Madison	2.4	2.8	2.6	-0.4	-0.2
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.6	3.9	3.9	-0.3	-0.3
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.0	3.4	3.2	-0.4	-0.2
Racine	4.0	4.1	4.3	-0.1	-0.3
Sheboygan	2.6	3.0	2.9	-0.4	-0.3
Wausau	2.8	3.1	3.1	-0.3	-0.3

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

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 July 2018

CITIES

CITY	Jul-18 RANK	Jun-18 RANK	Jul-18 RATE	Jun-18 RATE	Jul-17 RATE
Appleton	16	14	3.2	3.5	3.4
Beloit	30	31	4.4	5.0	4.7
Brookfield	5	18	2.9	3.6	3.2
Caledonia	25	22	3.6	3.7	3.5
Eau Claire	5	5	2.9	3.2	3.2
Fitchburg	1	1	2.3	2.6	2.4
Fond du Lac	19	11	3.3	3.4	3.4
Franklin	13	14	3.1	3.5	3.2
Green Bay	19	18	3.3	3.6	3.4
Greenfield	19	23	3.3	3.8	3.7
Janesville	13	14	3.1	3.5	3.5
Kenosha	29	29	4.1	4.5	4.3
La Crosse	16	14	3.2	3.5	3.6
Madison	2	3	2.4	2.8	2.5
Manitowoc	19	23	3.3	3.8	3.9
Menomonee Falls	4	4	2.7	3.0	3.0

CITY	Jul-18 RANK	Jun-18 RANK	Jul-18 RATE	Jun-18 RATE	Jul-17 RATE
Milwaukee	31	30	4.8	4.9	5.2
Mount Pleasant	27	26	3.7	3.9	3.9
Neenah	8	18	3.0	3.6	3.3
New Berlin	8	5	3.0	3.2	3.1
Oak Creek	8	5	3.0	3.2	3.2
Oshkosh	13	18	3.1	3.6	3.4
Racine	32	32	4.9	5.1	5.6
Sheboygan	8	8	3.0	3.3	3.2
Stevens Point	24	26	3.5	3.9	3.5
Sun Prairie	2	2	2.4	2.7	2.6
Superior	28	28	3.9	4.3	4.3
Waukesha	16	8	3.2	3.3	3.4
Wausau	19	11	3.3	3.4	3.5
Wauwatosa	5	11	2.9	3.4	2.9
West Allis	25	23	3.6	3.8	3.9
West Bend	8	8	3.0	3.3	3.2

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Jul-18 RANK	Jun-18 RANK	Jul-18 RATE	Jun-18 RATE	Jul-17 RATE
Adams	69	68	4.6	4.6	4.7
Ashland	67	68	4.4	4.6	4.5
Barron	33	24	3.0	3.2	3.0
Bayfield	64	63	4.2	4.3	4.4
Brown	26	24	2.9	3.2	3.1
Buffalo	44	45	3.2	3.5	3.7
Burnett	59	60	3.7	4.2	4.0
Calumet	10	8	2.7	3.0	2.8
Chippewa	26	17	2.9	3.1	3.2
Clark	10	8	2.7	3.0	2.9
Columbia	10	17	2.7	3.1	2.9
Crawford	54	51	3.4	3.7	3.7
Dane	2	3	2.4	2.8	2.5
Dodge	10	8	2.7	3.0	3.0
Door	7	17	2.6	3.1	2.7
Douglas	61	63	3.8	4.3	4.3
Dunn	44	45	3.2	3.5	3.4
Eau Claire	19	24	2.8	3.2	3.1
Florence	44	49	3.2	3.6	4.0
Fond du Lac	33	24	3.0	3.2	3.1
Forest	70	70	4.9	5.1	5.0
Grant	42	40	3.1	3.4	3.4
Green	5	6	2.5	2.9	2.7
Green Lake	44	45	3.2	3.5	3.3
Iowa	2	3	2.4	2.8	2.5
Iron	71	70	5.2	5.1	5.4
Jackson	19	17	2.8	3.1	3.2
Jefferson	33	35	3.0	3.3	3.2
Juneau	19	24	2.8	3.2	3.2
Kenosha	61	58	3.8	4.0	4.1
Kewaunee	10	8	2.7	3.0	3.0
La Crosse	19	24	2.8	3.2	3.2
Lafayette	2	1	2.4	2.5	2.6
Langlade	67	63	4.4	4.3	4.4
Lincoln	51	35	3.3	3.3	3.6
Manitowoc	33	40	3.0	3.4	3.6

COUNTY	Jul-18 RANK	Jun-18 RANK	Jul-18 RATE	Jun-18 RATE	Jul-17 RATE
Marathon	19	17	2.8	3.1	3.1
Marinette	66	66	4.3	4.4	4.5
Marquette	44	49	3.2	3.6	3.6
Menominee	72	72	7.7	6.3	7.5
Milwaukee	64	66	4.2	4.4	4.4
Monroe	10	8	2.7	3.0	3.1
Oconto	33	35	3.0	3.3	3.3
Oneida	26	40	2.9	3.4	3.2
Outagamie	26	24	2.9	3.2	3.1
Ozaukee	19	17	2.8	3.1	3.1
Pepin	10	17	2.7	3.1	3.5
Pierce	33	45	3.0	3.5	3.1
Polk	26	35	2.9	3.3	3.0
Portage	51	51	3.3	3.7	3.2
Price	55	60	3.6	4.2	3.6
Racine	63	59	4.0	4.1	4.3
Richland	10	6	2.7	2.9	2.9
Rock	51	51	3.3	3.7	3.6
Rusk	55	60	3.6	4.2	3.9
Sauk	1	3	2.3	2.8	2.6
Sawyer	55	55	3.6	3.8	3.8
Shawano	33	24	3.0	3.2	3.2
Sheboygan	7	8	2.6	3.0	2.9
St. Croix	26	24	2.9	3.2	2.9
Taylor	5	2	2.5	2.7	2.9
Trempealeau	19	8	2.8	3.0	2.9
Vernon	7	8	2.6	3.0	2.8
Vilas	44	40	3.2	3.4	3.4
Walworth	42	35	3.1	3.3	3.3
Washburn	55	51	3.6	3.7	3.4
Washington	10	8	2.7	3.0	2.9
Waukesha	26	24	2.9	3.2	3.1
Waupaca	33	24	3.0	3.2	3.1
Waushara	44	55	3.2	3.8	3.7
Winnebago	33	40	3.0	3.4	3.2
Wood	59	57	3.7	3.9	3.9

Note: Ranking is ascending from lowest (best) unemployment rate to highest.
Ranking ties exist in the results.

Local Unemployment Rates July 2018

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Jul-18 RATE	Jun-18 RATE	Jul-17 RATE	COUNTY	Jul-18 RATE	Jun-18 RATE	Jul-17 RATE
Sauk	2.3	2.8	2.6	Oconto	3.0	3.3	3.3
Dane	2.4	2.8	2.5	Pierce	3.0	3.5	3.1
Iowa	2.4	2.8	2.5	Shawano	3.0	3.2	3.2
Lafayette	2.4	2.5	2.6	Waupaca	3.0	3.2	3.1
Green	2.5	2.9	2.7	Winnebago	3.0	3.4	3.2
Taylor	2.5	2.7	2.9	Grant	3.1	3.4	3.4
Door	2.6	3.1	2.7	Walworth	3.1	3.3	3.3
Sheboygan	2.6	3.0	2.9	Buffalo	3.2	3.5	3.7
Vernon	2.6	3.0	2.8	Dunn	3.2	3.5	3.4
Calumet	2.7	3.0	2.8	Florence	3.2	3.6	4.0
Clark	2.7	3.0	2.9	Green Lake	3.2	3.5	3.3
Columbia	2.7	3.1	2.9	Marquette	3.2	3.6	3.6
Dodge	2.7	3.0	3.0	Vilas	3.2	3.4	3.4
Kewaunee	2.7	3.0	3.0	Waushara	3.2	3.8	3.7
Monroe	2.7	3.0	3.1	Lincoln	3.3	3.3	3.6
Pepin	2.7	3.1	3.5	Portage	3.3	3.7	3.2
Richland	2.7	2.9	2.9	Rock	3.3	3.7	3.6
Washington	2.7	3.0	2.9	Crawford	3.4	3.7	3.7
Eau Claire	2.8	3.2	3.1	Price	3.6	4.2	3.6
Jackson	2.8	3.1	3.2	Rusk	3.6	4.2	3.9
Juneau	2.8	3.2	3.2	Sawyer	3.6	3.8	3.8
La Crosse	2.8	3.2	3.2	Washburn	3.6	3.7	3.4
Marathon	2.8	3.1	3.1	Burnett	3.7	4.2	4.0
Ozaukee	2.8	3.1	3.1	Wood	3.7	3.9	3.9
Trempealeau	2.8	3.0	2.9	Douglas	3.8	4.3	4.3
Brown	2.9	3.2	3.1	Kenosha	3.8	4.0	4.1
Chippewa	2.9	3.1	3.2	Racine	4.0	4.1	4.3
Oneida	2.9	3.4	3.2	Bayfield	4.2	4.3	4.4
Outagamie	2.9	3.2	3.1	Milwaukee	4.2	4.4	4.4
Polk	2.9	3.3	3.0	Marinette	4.3	4.4	4.5
St. Croix	2.9	3.2	2.9	Ashland	4.4	4.6	4.5
Waukesha	2.9	3.2	3.1	Langlade	4.4	4.3	4.4
Barron	3.0	3.2	3.0	Adams	4.6	4.6	4.7
Fond du Lac	3.0	3.2	3.1	Forest	4.9	5.1	5.0
Jefferson	3.0	3.3	3.2	Iron	5.2	5.1	5.4
Manitowoc	3.0	3.4	3.6	Menominee	7.7	6.3	7.5