

BLS Data: Wisconsin February Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Ticks Up to 3.4%

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today announced the following information for Wisconsin’s labor market, reflecting February 2026 preliminary estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- **Employment** – There were 3,019,300 people employed in Wisconsin, up 1,500 over the month and down 11,900 over the year.
- **Labor Force** – The state’s labor force participation rate increased to 64.4% which is 2.4 percentage points above the national rate of 62.0%.
- **Nonfarm Jobs** – The total nonfarm jobs in the state were 3,019,900, a decrease of 10,500 over last month.
- **Unemployment** – The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up to 3.4%, which is 1.0 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.4%

This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	February Preliminary	January Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,019,300 (+1,500)	3,017,800	-11,900
Labor force participation rate	64.4% (+0.1%)	64.3%	-0.4%
Nonfarm jobs	3,019,900 (-10,500)	3,030,400	-20,200
Unemployment rate	3.4% (+0.1%)	3.3%	+0.1%

One-Year Overview

Month	Total Employment	Unemployment rate
February 2026	3,019,300* (+1,500)	3.4%*
January 2026	3,017,800 (+1,200)	3.3%
December 2025	3,016,600 (+600)	3.2%
November 2025	3,016,000	3.2%
October 2025	NA	NA
September 2025	3,010,700 (+1,400)	3.1%
August 2025	3,009,300 (-1,000)	3.1%
July 2025	3,010,300 (-3,200)	3.0%
June 2025	3,013,500 (-4,800)	3.1%
May 2025	3,018,300 (-4,700)	3.1%
April 2025	3,023,000 (-4,000)	3.2%
March 2025	3,027,000 (-4,200)	3.2%

*Based on preliminary estimate from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
See following pages for informational tables.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM. Feb-26	REVISED Jan-26	YEAR AGO Feb-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	1-Year
-------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------

Labor Force	3,126,600	3,121,200	3,133,300	5,400	-6,700
Employment	3,019,300	3,017,800	3,031,200	1,500	-11,900
Unemployment	107,300	103,400	102,100	3,900	5,200
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	0.1%	0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.3%	4.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.4%	64.3%	64.8%	0.1%	-0.4%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.0%	62.5%	62.4%	-0.5%	-0.4%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,019,900	3,030,400	3,040,100	-10,500	-20,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,612,300	2,617,700	2,622,500	-5,400	-10,200
GOODS PRODUCING	609,300	608,600	607,600	700	1,700
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	153,700	152,900	143,500	800	10,200
MANUFACTURING	451,500	451,600	460,100	-100	-8,600
Durable Goods	260,400	259,000	264,800	1,400	-4,400
Nondurable Goods	191,100	192,600	195,300	-1,500	-4,200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,410,600	2,421,800	2,432,500	-11,200	-21,900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,003,000	2,009,100	2,014,900	-6,100	-11,900
TRADE	417,700	417,600	427,000	100	-9,300
Wholesale Trade	128,700	127,700	131,400	1,000	-2,700
Retail Trade	289,000	289,900	295,600	-900	-6,600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,500	124,200	124,800	-1,700	-2,300
INFORMATION	45,000	45,700	46,700	-700	-1,700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157,500	158,200	159,500	-700	-2,000
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,700	29,600	29,200	100	500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	324,100	324,900	329,200	-800	-5,100
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	130,900	130,800	131,300	100	-400
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	129,200	129,800	132,300	-600	-3,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	501,100	502,800	493,500	-1,700	7,600
Private Educational Services	63,900	63,900	62,200	0	1,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	437,200	438,900	431,300	-1,700	5,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	289,800	290,000	288,100	-200	1,700
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	46,800	46,500	48,000	300	-1,200
Accommodation & Food Services	243,000	243,500	240,100	-500	2,900
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,300	145,700	146,100	-400	-800
GOVERNMENT	407,600	412,700	417,600	-5,100	-10,000
Federal Government	28,900	28,900	31,000	0	-2,100
State Government	98,500	101,800	99,900	-3,300	-1,400
Local Government	280,200	282,000	286,700	-1,800	-6,500

Note: Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support.

Numbers in **blue** are statistically significant changes.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM. Feb-26	REVISED Jan-26	YEAR AGO Feb-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	1-Year
-------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------

Labor Force	3,120,500	3,094,000	3,120,000	26,500	500
Employment	2,985,500	2,974,800	2,999,600	10,700	-14,100
Unemployment	135,000	119,200	120,300	15,800	14,700
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	3.9%	3.9%	0.4%	0.4%
US Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.6%	4.5%	0.1%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.3%	63.7%	64.6%	0.6%	-0.3%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.9%	62.2%	62.3%	-0.3%	-0.4%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,976,500	2,971,300	2,997,700	5,200	-21,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,560,300	2,566,200	2,571,600	-5,900	-11,300
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	594,400	595,200	591,700	-800	2,700
MINING & LOGGING	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
CONSTRUCTION	141,400	142,000	131,300	-600	10,100
MANUFACTURING	449,000	449,200	456,600	-200	-7,600
Durable Goods	258,400	257,100	263,500	1,300	-5,100
Nondurable Goods	190,600	192,100	193,100	-1,500	-2,500
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,382,100	2,376,100	2,406,000	6,000	-23,900
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,965,900	1,971,000	1,979,900	-5,100	-14,000
TRADE	411,700	414,800	420,800	-3,100	-9,100
Wholesale Trade	126,900	126,000	130,200	900	-3,300
Retail Trade	284,800	288,800	290,600	-4,000	-5,800
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	119,800	123,400	123,800	-3,600	-4,000
Utilities	8,400	8,500	8,400	-100	0
INFORMATION	45,200	46,300	46,400	-1,100	-1,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156,700	157,500	158,000	-800	-1,300
Finance and Insurance	127,700	128,400	129,800	-700	-2,100
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,000	29,100	28,200	-100	800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	317,200	316,400	324,200	800	-7,000
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	131,700	129,900	131,700	1,800	0
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	63,400	64,100	65,300	-700	-1,900
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	122,100	122,400	127,200	-300	-5,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	502,000	499,800	493,400	2,200	8,600
Private Educational Services	66,000	63,900	64,400	2,100	1,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	436,000	435,900	429,000	100	7,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	269,600	268,500	268,900	1,100	700
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	36,800	36,200	40,700	600	-3,900
Accommodation & Food Services	232,800	232,300	228,200	500	4,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	143,700	144,300	144,400	-600	-700
GOVERNMENT	416,200	405,100	426,100	11,100	-9,900
Federal Government	28,900	28,800	30,900	100	-2,000
State Government	103,900	96,600	105,500	7,300	-1,600
Local Government	283,400	279,700	289,700	3,700	-6,300

Note: Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support.

Numbers in blue are statistically significant changes.