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Wisconsin Local Employment & Unemployment Estimates Released

Half of state's 32 largest municipalities, along with 61 percent of all Wisconsin counties, reached historic low unemployment rate during any April

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 for March 2017 and the preliminary estimates for April 2017. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted. In brief, the estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary April 2017 unemployment rates decreased in all areas when compared over the year to April 2016 and over the month to March 2017. The largest 12-month decline was 1.3 percent in Racine. The rates ranged from 2.1 percent in Madison to 3.8 percent in Racine. Additional points:
 - Preliminary March 2017 rates showed Wisconsin with 5 of the 10 lowest MSA unemployment rates when compared to MSA's in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota.
 - The preliminary March 2017 rate for the MSA including Milwaukee was below that of MSA's covering Minneapolis-St. Paul, Chicago and Detroit.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary April 2017 rates decreased in the state's 32 largest municipalities when compared over the year to April 2016 and over the month to March 2017. The latest rates ranged from 2.0 percent in Madison to 4.8 percent in Beloit. Additionally:
 - Based on the preliminary April 2017 rates, half of the state's 32 largest municipalities reached a record low during any April, including the southeast Wisconsin municipalities of Milwaukee and Racine.
- **Counties:** Preliminary April 2017 rates decreased in all 72 counties when compared over the year to April 2016 rates and over the month to March 2017. The largest over the year decline was 2.9 percent in Menominee county. The latest rates ranged from 2.1 percent in Dane to 7.4 percent in Iron. Additional points include:
 - Compared year-over-year, preliminary unemployment rates for 44 of Wisconsin's 72 counties reached record lows for the month of April.
 - Grant, Lafayette, Green, Rock, Walworth and Kenosha counties outpaced nearly all neighboring Illinois counties based on the preliminary March 2017 unemployment rates.

The release of the April 2017 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing a preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.2 percent in April 2017, dropping to its lowest rate since February 2000. Data also showed both total labor force and employment in Wisconsin reached all-time highs in April, while the number of unemployed individuals was its lowest since April 2000.

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

- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate increased to 68.6 percent and continues to outpace the U.S. rate of 62.9 percent in April.
- Wisconsin saw a preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.2 percent in April 2017, down 0.2 percent from March and at its lowest rate since February 2000.
- Initial UI claims ended 2016 at their lowest level in their last 30 years. Year 2017 initial UI claims are running at their lowest levels since 1989.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2016 at their lowest level since 1973. Continuing unemployment claims in Wisconsin are running the lowest in at least the past 30 years.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates April 2017

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-17	Mar-17	Apr-16	1-Month	1-Year	Apr-17	Mar-17	Apr-16	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,147,300	3,136,900	3,114,300	10,400	33,000	3,121,800	3,110,600	3,098,000	11,200	23,800
Employment	3,046,900	3,029,800	2,986,400	17,100	60,500	3,028,500	2,995,400	2,970,700	33,100	57,800
Unemployment	100,500	107,100	128,000	-6,600	-27,500	93,300	115,100	127,400	-21,800	-34,100
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.4%	4.1%	-0.2%	-0.9%	3.0%	3.7%	4.1%	-0.7%	-1.1%
National Rate	4.4%	4.5%	5.0%	-0.1%	-0.6%	4.1%	4.6%	4.7%	-0.5%	-0.6%

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-17	Mar-17	Apr-16	1-Month	1-Year	Apr-17	Mar-17	Apr-16	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,961,900	2,947,100	2,924,300	14,800	37,600	2,941,500	2,901,900	2,919,100	39,600	22,400
Appleton	127,500	127,200	125,100	300	2,400	126,200	124,800	124,400	1,400	1,800
Eau Claire	86,000	85,000	86,400	1,000	-400	85,800	84,100	87,000	1,700	-1,200
Fond du Lac	48,500	48,500	47,600	0	900	48,300	48,000	47,400	300	900
Green Bay	175,700	173,700	175,800	2,000	-100	174,200	170,700	174,800	3,500	-600
Janesville	69,300	68,900	67,800	400	1,500	69,400	67,900	67,900	1,500	1,500
La Crosse	79,200	78,200	78,300	1,000	900	79,900	77,700	79,300	2,200	600
Madison	403,300	402,100	397,500	1,200	5,800	402,700	398,200	397,600	4,500	5,100
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	864,900	866,300	864,400	-1,400	500	858,300	852,100	863,000	6,200	-4,700
Oshkosh-Neenah	97,100	97,100	96,600	0	500	96,900	96,100	96,600	800	300
Racine	77,700	77,500	77,400	200	300	76,900	76,100	77,200	800	-300
Sheboygan	61,800	62,100	61,200	-300	600	61,100	60,900	60,700	200	400
Wausau	73,100	72,900	72,200	200	900	72,500	72,200	71,600	300	900

Source: Current Employment Statistics (CES)

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-17	Mar-17	Apr-16	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.0	3.7	4.1	-0.7	-1.1
Appleton	2.6	3.2	3.6	-0.6	-1.0
Eau Claire	2.8	3.6	3.8	-0.8	-1.0
Fond du Lac	2.4	3.0	3.5	-0.6	-1.1
Green Bay	2.8	3.5	3.8	-0.7	-1.0
Janesville	3.5	4.4	4.5	-0.9	-1.0
La Crosse	2.7	3.5	3.5	-0.8	-0.8
Madison	2.1	2.6	2.9	-0.5	-0.8
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	3.2	3.7	4.4	-0.5	-1.2
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.6	3.1	3.7	-0.5	-1.1
Racine	3.8	4.5	5.1	-0.7	-1.3
Sheboygan	2.5	3.0	3.5	-0.5	-1.0
Wausau	2.6	3.3	3.7	-0.7	-1.1

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 April 2017

CITIES

CITY	Apr-17 RANK	Mar-17 RANK	Apr-17 RATE	Mar-17 RATE	Apr-16 RATE
Appleton	16	12	2.8	3.2	3.8
Beloit	32	32	4.8	5.7	5.9
Brookfield	11	6	2.7	3.0	3.5
Caledonia	24	23	3.3	3.8	4.0
Eau Claire	4	6	2.4	3.0	3.3
Fitchburg	3	2	2.2	2.4	2.8
Fond du Lac	5	6	2.6	3.0	3.8
Franklin	21	12	3.0	3.2	3.9
Green Bay	21	22	3.0	3.7	4.1
Greenfield	20	21	2.9	3.6	4.3
Janesville	25	26	3.4	4.1	4.3
Kenosha	29	28	3.9	4.5	5.2
La Crosse	16	19	2.8	3.4	3.7
Madison	1	1	2.0	2.3	2.7
Manitowoc	27	26	3.6	4.1	5.0
Menomonee Falls	5	4	2.6	2.9	3.5

CITY	Apr-17 RANK	Mar-17 RANK	Apr-17 RATE	Mar-17 RATE	Apr-16 RATE
Milwaukee	30	30	4.2	4.6	5.6
Mount Pleasant	23	23	3.2	3.8	4.4
Neenah	11	12	2.7	3.2	3.8
New Berlin	5	9	2.6	3.1	3.5
Oak Creek	16	12	2.8	3.2	3.7
Oshkosh	11	9	2.7	3.1	3.7
Racine	31	31	4.5	5.3	6.6
Sheboygan	16	17	2.8	3.3	3.9
Stevens Point	5	19	2.6	3.4	3.9
Sun Prairie	2	2	2.1	2.4	2.9
Superior	27	28	3.6	4.5	4.8
Waukesha	5	9	2.6	3.1	3.7
Wausau	11	17	2.7	3.3	3.8
Wauwatosa	11	4	2.7	2.9	3.4
West Allis	25	25	3.4	4.0	5.0
West Bend	5	12	2.6	3.2	3.6

COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Apr-17 RANK	Mar-17 RANK	Apr-17 RATE	Mar-17 RATE	Apr-16 RATE
Adams	59	66	4.3	6.5	5.9
Ashland	64	60	4.7	5.7	6.6
Barron	43	51	3.5	4.8	5.0
Bayfield	70	70	5.8	7.3	8.3
Brown	12	15	2.6	3.4	3.7
Buffalo	39	47	3.3	4.6	4.7
Burnett	65	68	4.9	6.8	6.7
Calumet	3	3	2.4	2.9	3.2
Chippewa	36	43	3.2	4.5	4.7
Clark	27	31	2.9	4.0	4.1
Columbia	18	15	2.7	3.4	3.7
Crawford	57	61	4.1	5.8	5.2
Dane	1	1	2.1	2.5	2.8
Dodge	18	17	2.7	3.5	3.8
Door	58	63	4.2	6.1	6.0
Douglas	59	57	4.3	5.3	5.8
Dunn	27	34	2.9	4.1	4.1
Eau Claire	7	8	2.5	3.1	3.4
Florence	65	63	4.9	6.1	6.6
Fond du Lac	3	4	2.4	3.0	3.5
Forest	69	67	5.5	6.6	7.8
Grant	18	30	2.7	3.9	3.7
Green	3	13	2.4	3.3	3.2
Green Lake	39	47	3.3	4.6	5.2
Iowa	12	22	2.6	3.7	3.5
Iron	72	72	7.4	7.8	10.2
Jackson	39	36	3.3	4.2	4.6
Jefferson	32	27	3.0	3.8	3.8
Juneau	32	38	3.0	4.3	4.6
Kenosha	46	38	3.6	4.3	4.7
Kewaunee	12	19	2.6	3.6	3.8
La Crosse	7	11	2.5	3.2	3.5
Lafayette	2	4	2.2	3.0	2.9
Langlade	59	54	4.3	5.1	5.6
Lincoln	46	43	3.6	4.5	5.0
Manitowoc	36	31	3.2	4.0	4.4

COUNTY	Apr-17 RANK	Mar-17 RANK	Apr-17 RATE	Mar-17 RATE	Apr-16 RATE
Marathon	12	13	2.6	3.3	3.7
Marinette	59	57	4.3	5.3	5.8
Marquette	43	47	3.5	4.6	5.3
Menominee	71	70	6.5	7.3	9.4
Milwaukee	52	36	3.7	4.2	5.0
Monroe	7	17	2.5	3.5	3.7
Oconto	46	47	3.6	4.6	4.8
Oneida	56	57	4.0	5.3	5.8
Outagamie	18	11	2.7	3.2	3.7
Ozaukee	7	2	2.5	2.8	3.3
Pepin	27	41	2.9	4.4	3.7
Pierce	32	31	3.0	4.0	3.9
Polk	46	54	3.6	5.1	4.9
Portage	18	19	2.7	3.6	3.9
Price	52	38	3.7	4.3	4.9
Racine	55	43	3.8	4.5	5.1
Richland	18	22	2.7	3.7	3.9
Rock	43	41	3.5	4.4	4.5
Rusk	59	62	4.3	5.9	5.3
Sauk	25	19	2.8	3.6	3.8
Sawyer	67	68	5.1	6.8	7.8
Shawano	36	34	3.2	4.1	4.6
Sheboygan	7	4	2.5	3.0	3.5
St. Croix	18	22	2.7	3.7	3.7
Taylor	46	53	3.6	4.9	4.9
Trempealeau	25	22	2.8	3.7	3.6
Vernon	27	27	2.9	3.8	3.6
Vilas	68	65	5.4	6.3	7.8
Walworth	27	27	2.9	3.8	4.0
Washburn	52	56	3.7	5.2	5.3
Washington	3	4	2.4	3.0	3.3
Waukesha	12	8	2.6	3.1	3.5
Waupaca	32	22	3.0	3.7	4.3
Waushara	46	51	3.6	4.8	5.3
Winnebago	12	8	2.6	3.1	3.7
Wood	39	43	3.3	4.5	4.9

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

Local Unemployment Rates April 2017

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Apr-17 RATE	Mar-17 RATE	Apr-16 RATE	COUNTY	Apr-17 RATE	Mar-17 RATE	Apr-16 RATE
Dane	2.1	2.5	2.8	Manitowoc	3.2	4.0	4.4
Lafayette	2.2	3.0	2.9	Shawano	3.2	4.1	4.6
Calumet	2.4	2.9	3.2	Buffalo	3.3	4.6	4.7
Fond du Lac	2.4	3.0	3.5	Green Lake	3.3	4.6	5.2
Green	2.4	3.3	3.2	Jackson	3.3	4.2	4.6
Washington	2.4	3.0	3.3	Wood	3.3	4.5	4.9
Eau Claire	2.5	3.1	3.4	Barron	3.5	4.8	5.0
La Crosse	2.5	3.2	3.5	Marquette	3.5	4.6	5.3
Monroe	2.5	3.5	3.7	Rock	3.5	4.4	4.5
Ozaukee	2.5	2.8	3.3	Kenosha	3.6	4.3	4.7
Sheboygan	2.5	3.0	3.5	Lincoln	3.6	4.5	5.0
Brown	2.6	3.4	3.7	Oconto	3.6	4.6	4.8
Iowa	2.6	3.7	3.5	Polk	3.6	5.1	4.9
Kewaunee	2.6	3.6	3.8	Taylor	3.6	4.9	4.9
Marathon	2.6	3.3	3.7	Waushara	3.6	4.8	5.3
Waukesha	2.6	3.1	3.5	Milwaukee	3.7	4.2	5.0
Winnebago	2.6	3.1	3.7	Price	3.7	4.3	4.9
Columbia	2.7	3.4	3.7	Washburn	3.7	5.2	5.3
Dodge	2.7	3.5	3.8	Racine	3.8	4.5	5.1
Grant	2.7	3.9	3.7	Oneida	4.0	5.3	5.8
Outagamie	2.7	3.2	3.7	Crawford	4.1	5.8	5.2
Portage	2.7	3.6	3.9	Door	4.2	6.1	6.0
Richland	2.7	3.7	3.9	Adams	4.3	6.5	5.9
St. Croix	2.7	3.7	3.7	Douglas	4.3	5.3	5.8
Sauk	2.8	3.6	3.8	Langlade	4.3	5.1	5.6
Trempealeau	2.8	3.7	3.6	Marinette	4.3	5.3	5.8
Clark	2.9	4.0	4.1	Rusk	4.3	5.9	5.3
Dunn	2.9	4.1	4.1	Ashland	4.7	5.7	6.6
Pepin	2.9	4.4	3.7	Burnett	4.9	6.8	6.7
Vernon	2.9	3.8	3.6	Florence	4.9	6.1	6.6
Walworth	2.9	3.8	4.0	Sawyer	5.1	6.8	7.8
Jefferson	3.0	3.8	3.8	Vilas	5.4	6.3	7.8
Juneau	3.0	4.3	4.6	Forest	5.5	6.6	7.8
Pierce	3.0	4.0	3.9	Bayfield	5.8	7.3	8.3
Waupaca	3.0	3.7	4.3	Menominee	6.5	7.3	9.4
Chippewa	3.2	4.5	4.7	Iron	7.4	7.8	10.2