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WISCONSIN LOCAL EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES RELEASED

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 revisions for November 2015 and the preliminary estimates for December 2015. In brief, the not-seasonally adjusted estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary December 2015 unemployment rates decreased or were unchanged in all 12 metro areas compared to December 2014. The largest 12-month decline was 0.7 percent in Racine. The latest rates ranged from 3.1 percent in metro Madison to 5.1 percent in metro Racine.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary December 2015 rates decreased or remained the same in 29 of the state's 32 largest municipalities compared to December 2014. The latest rates ranged from 2.8 percent in Madison and Sun Prairie to 6.0 percent in Racine.
- **Counties:** Preliminary December 2015 rates decreased or remained the same in 68 of Wisconsin's 72 counties compared to rates in December 2014. The latest rates ranged from 2.9 percent in Dane to 8.7 percent in Iron.

The release of the December 2015 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.3 percent remained below the national rate of 5.0 percent in December and significantly below the state's rate of 5.2 percent in December 2014.

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

- The average weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for 2015 dropped to the lowest level since 1989, and average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 1999.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in 2015 grew by 3.6% percent compared to 2014. As of December 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 40,827, compared to 39,395 in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) ranked Wisconsin the "12th Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's in 2015.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates December 2015

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Dec-15	FINAL Nov-15	YEAR AGO Dec-14	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Dec-15	FINAL Nov-15	YEAR AGO Dec-14	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,107,100	3,096,600	3,113,100	10,500	-6,000	3,103,000	3,104,600	3,096,500	-1,600	6,500
Employment	2,972,100	2,965,100	2,951,400	7,000	20,700	2,971,200	2,980,500	2,950,100	-9,300	21,100
Unemployment	135,000	131,600	161,800	3,400	-26,800	131,800	124,000	146,400	7,800	-14,600
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.2%	5.2%	0.1%	-0.9%	4.2%	4.0%	4.7%	0.2%	-0.5%
National Rate	5.0%	5.0%	5.6%	0.0%	-0.6%	4.8%	4.8%	5.4%	0.0%	-0.6%

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Dec-15	FINAL Nov-15	YEAR AGO Dec-14	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM. Dec-15	FINAL Nov-15	YEAR AGO Dec-14	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year				1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,897,700	2,899,300	2,872,000	-1,600	25,700	2,908,200	2,928,500	2,881,600	-20,300	26,600
Appleton	125,700	124,800	121,900	900	3,800	126,300	126,000	122,500	300	3,800
Eau Claire	85,200	85,100	84,800	100	400	86,200	87,000	85,800	-800	400
Fond du Lac	48,500	48,900	48,700	-400	-200	48,400	49,200	48,600	-800	-200
Green Bay	177,700	177,000	174,200	700	3,500	178,000	178,800	174,400	-800	3,600
Janesville	67,900	67,600	67,100	300	800	68,300	68,400	67,500	-100	800
La Crosse	77,400	77,200	77,000	200	400	78,500	78,500	78,000	0	500
Madison						395,300	399,200	389,200	-3,900	6,100
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	855,500	855,200	848,700	300	6,800	856,600	863,700	849,700	-7,100	6,900
Oshkosh-Neenah	96,700	96,000	94,600	700	2,100	97,200	97,400	95,100	-200	2,100
Racine	75,600	75,700	76,200	-100	-600	75,900	76,200	76,500	-300	-600
Sheboygan	62,600	62,100	61,200	500	1,400	62,500	62,100	61,100	400	1,400
Wausau	72,100	72,200	71,100	-100	1,000	73,100	73,000	72,000	100	1,100

Note: The Seasonally Adjusted Madison MSA data is not available due to the restructuring of the MSA (addition of Green County).

MSA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM. Dec-15	FINAL Nov-15	YEAR AGO Dec-14	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	4.2%	4.0%	4.7%	0.2%	-0.5%
Appleton	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%	0.3%	-0.4%
Eau Claire	4.1%	3.5%	4.3%	0.6%	-0.2%
Fond du Lac	3.6%	3.4%	4.2%	0.2%	-0.6%
Green Bay	3.8%	3.6%	4.3%	0.2%	-0.5%
Janesville	4.6%	4.4%	5.2%	0.2%	-0.6%
La Crosse	3.7%	3.5%	3.7%	0.2%	0.0%
Madison	3.1%	3.0%	3.3%	0.1%	-0.2%
Milwaukee-W.O.W.	4.5%	4.4%	5.0%	0.1%	-0.5%
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.8%	3.7%	4.4%	0.1%	-0.6%
Racine	5.1%	4.9%	5.8%	0.2%	-0.7%
Sheboygan	3.4%	3.3%	3.7%	0.1%	-0.3%
Wausau	3.7%	3.5%	4.1%	0.2%	-0.4%

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 December 2015

CITIES

CITY	Dec-15 RANK	Nov-15 RANK	Dec-15 RATE	Nov-15 RATE	Dec-14 RATE
Appleton	23	23	3.6	3.5	4.0
Beloit	3	3	5.4	5.2	6.3
Brookfield	29	26	3.4	3.5	3.6
Caledonia	7	7	4.8	4.5	4.5
Eau Claire	27	28	3.5	3.4	3.6
Fitchburg	30	30	2.9	2.9	3.0
Fond du Lac	14	21	3.9	3.5	4.2
Franklin	13	12	4.0	4.0	4.2
Green Bay	12	13	4.1	3.9	4.7
Greenfield	9	9	4.5	4.5	4.6
Janesville	8	8	4.6	4.5	5.2
Kenosha	4	4	5.3	5.2	5.8
La Crosse	19	14	3.8	3.9	3.9
Madison	32	31	2.8	2.9	2.9
Manitowoc	6	6	4.9	4.7	5.4
Menomonee Falls	28	25	3.4	3.5	3.6

CITY	Dec-15 RANK	Nov-15 RANK	Dec-15 RATE	Nov-15 RATE	Dec-14 RATE
Milwaukee	2	2	5.8	5.8	6.9
Mount Pleasant	10	10	4.4	4.2	4.7
Neenah	26	24	3.5	3.5	4.1
New Berlin	22	27	3.6	3.4	3.9
Oak Creek	21	22	3.7	3.5	4.2
Oshkosh	18	16	3.8	3.8	4.5
Racine	1	1	6.0	6.1	7.5
Sheboygan	17	20	3.8	3.6	4.0
Stevens Point	25	18	3.5	3.7	4.1
Sun Prairie	31	32	2.8	2.8	3.2
Superior	11	11	4.1	4.2	3.9
Waukesha	16	19	3.8	3.6	4.0
Wausau	20	17	3.7	3.8	4.3
Wauwatosa	24	29	3.5	3.3	3.3
West Allis	5	5	5.1	5.0	5.9
West Bend	15	15	3.8	3.8	3.8

COUNTIES Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Dec-15 RANK	Nov-15 RANK	Dec-15 RATE	Nov-15 RATE	Dec-14 RATE
Adams	9	9	7.4	6.2	8.7
Ashland	12	11	6.3	5.6	6.9
Barron	22	29	5.3	4.3	5.5
Bayfield	2	3	8.6	7.5	9.7
Brown	62	56	3.7	3.5	4.1
Buffalo	21	31	5.3	4.2	5.3
Burnett	8	7	7.4	6.3	8.1
Calumet	71	71	3.1	3.1	3.5
Chippewa	30	39	5.0	3.9	5.3
Clark	45	49	4.2	3.6	4.7
Columbia	56	53	3.9	3.6	4.6
Crawford	18	20	5.6	4.9	6.2
Dane	72	72	2.9	2.9	3.1
Dodge	52	41	4.0	3.8	4.9
Door	6	10	7.7	6.0	9.2
Douglas	25	23	5.2	4.7	5.0
Dunn	44	44	4.2	3.7	4.4
Eau Claire	65	66	3.5	3.3	3.8
Florence	7	5	7.6	6.6	8.3
Fond du Lac	63	63	3.6	3.4	4.2
Forest	10	8	7.2	6.3	8.3
Grant	48	51	4.1	3.6	4.1
Green	70	70	3.4	3.2	3.8
Green Lake	20	17	5.5	5.0	6.1
Iowa	55	60	3.9	3.4	4.6
Iron	1	2	8.7	7.5	9.5
Jackson	27	37	5.1	4.0	5.7
Jefferson	54	47	3.9	3.7	4.4
Juneau	29	26	5.0	4.5	6.1
Kenosha	35	24	4.8	4.7	5.2
Kewaunee	58	61	3.8	3.4	4.4
La Crosse	61	54	3.7	3.6	3.7
Lafayette	69	69	3.4	3.2	3.5
Langlade	15	14	5.9	5.2	6.5
Lincoln	33	33	4.9	4.2	5.5
Manitowoc	34	27	4.8	4.4	5.5

COUNTY	Dec-15 RANK	Nov-15 RANK	Dec-15 RATE	Nov-15 RATE	Dec-14 RATE
Marathon	60	55	3.7	3.5	4.1
Marinette	17	15	5.7	5.2	6.2
Marquette	11	13	6.3	5.3	7.0
Menominee	3	1	8.1	7.7	10.6
Milwaukee	24	16	5.2	5.1	6.0
Monroe	42	40	4.4	3.9	4.8
Oconto	32	30	4.9	4.3	5.6
Oneida	13	18	6.2	4.9	7.3
Outagamie	59	62	3.7	3.4	4.1
Ozaukee	68	64	3.4	3.4	3.5
Pepin	41	58	4.4	3.4	5.0
Pierce	47	50	4.1	3.6	4.0
Polk	23	32	5.2	4.2	5.6
Portage	51	46	4.0	3.7	4.8
Price	36	35	4.7	4.1	4.5
Racine	26	22	5.1	4.9	5.8
Richland	50	52	4.0	3.6	4.4
Rock	37	28	4.6	4.4	5.2
Rusk	19	21	5.5	4.9	6.7
Sauk	49	45	4.0	3.7	4.6
Sawyer	4	4	7.9	7.2	9.2
Shawano	38	34	4.5	4.2	5.2
Sheboygan	67	68	3.4	3.3	3.7
St. Croix	53	59	3.9	3.4	3.9
Taylor	31	42	4.9	3.7	5.4
Trempealeau	46	65	4.1	3.3	4.4
Vernon	43	43	4.3	3.7	4.2
Vilas	5	6	7.8	6.4	9.1
Walworth	40	36	4.4	4.1	4.9
Washburn	16	19	5.7	4.9	5.8
Washington	66	67	3.4	3.3	3.8
Waukesha	64	57	3.5	3.5	3.7
Waupaca	39	38	4.4	4.0	5.2
Waushara	14	12	6.1	5.4	7.0
Winnebago	57	48	3.8	3.7	4.4
Wood	28	25	5.0	4.5	5.3

Local Unemployment Rates December 2015

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Dec-15 RATE	Nov-15 RATE	Dec-14 RATE	COUNTY	Dec-15 RATE	Nov-15 RATE	Dec-14 RATE
Dane	2.9	2.9	3.1	Price	4.7	4.1	4.5
Calumet	3.1	3.1	3.5	Kenosha	4.8	4.7	5.2
Green	3.4	3.2	3.8	Manitowoc	4.8	4.4	5.5
Lafayette	3.4	3.2	3.5	Lincoln	4.9	4.2	5.5
Ozaukee	3.4	3.4	3.5	Oconto	4.9	4.3	5.6
Sheboygan	3.4	3.3	3.7	Taylor	4.9	3.7	5.4
Washington	3.4	3.3	3.8	Chippewa	5.0	3.9	5.3
Eau Claire	3.5	3.3	3.8	Juneau	5.0	4.5	6.1
Waukesha	3.5	3.5	3.7	Wood	5.0	4.5	5.3
Fond du Lac	3.6	3.4	4.2	Jackson	5.1	4.0	5.7
Brown	3.7	3.5	4.1	Racine	5.1	4.9	5.8
La Crosse	3.7	3.6	3.7	Douglas	5.2	4.7	5.0
Marathon	3.7	3.5	4.1	Milwaukee	5.2	5.1	6.0
Outagamie	3.7	3.4	4.1	Polk	5.2	4.2	5.6
Kewaunee	3.8	3.4	4.4	Barron	5.3	4.3	5.5
Winnebago	3.8	3.7	4.4	Buffalo	5.3	4.2	5.3
Columbia	3.9	3.6	4.6	Green Lake	5.5	5.0	6.1
Iowa	3.9	3.4	4.6	Rusk	5.5	4.9	6.7
Jefferson	3.9	3.7	4.4	Crawford	5.6	4.9	6.2
St. Croix	3.9	3.4	3.9	Marinette	5.7	5.2	6.2
Dodge	4.0	3.8	4.9	Washburn	5.7	4.9	5.8
Portage	4.0	3.7	4.8	Langlade	5.9	5.2	6.5
Richland	4.0	3.6	4.4	Waushara	6.1	5.4	7.0
Sauk	4.0	3.7	4.6	Oneida	6.2	4.9	7.3
Grant	4.1	3.6	4.1	Ashland	6.3	5.6	6.9
Pierce	4.1	3.6	4.0	Marquette	6.3	5.3	7.0
Trempealeau	4.1	3.3	4.4	Forest	7.2	6.3	8.3
Clark	4.2	3.6	4.7	Adams	7.4	6.2	8.7
Dunn	4.2	3.7	4.4	Burnett	7.4	6.3	8.1
Vernon	4.3	3.7	4.2	Florence	7.6	6.6	8.3
Monroe	4.4	3.9	4.8	Door	7.7	6.0	9.2
Pepin	4.4	3.4	5.0	Vilas	7.8	6.4	9.1
Walworth	4.4	4.1	4.9	Sawyer	7.9	7.2	9.2
Waupaca	4.4	4.0	5.2	Menominee	8.1	7.7	10.6
Shawano	4.5	4.2	5.2	Bayfield	8.6	7.5	9.7
Rock	4.6	4.4	5.2	Iron	8.7	7.5	9.5