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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 July 2015 and the preliminary estimates for August 2015. In brief, the not-seasonally adjusted estimates showed:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary August 2015 unemployment rates decreased in all 12 metro areas compared to August 2014 with the largest decline of 1.5 percent in Oshkosh-Neenah. The latest rates ranged from 2.8 percent in metro Madison to 5.1 percent in metro Racine. Rates also decreased in all 12 metro areas from July 2015 to August 2015.
- **Municipalities:** The August 2015 preliminary rates decreased in the state's 32 largest municipalities compared to August 2014. The latest August rates ranged from 2.7 percent in Madison and Sun Prairie to 6.6 percent in Racine. Rates also decreased in all of the 32 largest municipalities from July 2015 to August 2015.
- **Counties:** August 2015 rates decreased in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties compared to rates in August 2014. The August rates ranged from 2.7 percent in Dane to 10.7 percent in Menominee. Rates also decreased in all 72 counties from July 2015 to August 2015.

The release of the August 2015 local rates follows last week's release of BLS monthly estimates showing that Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August 2015 decreased to 4.5%, significantly lower than the national average of 5.1% in August and below the state's rate of 5.3 percent in August 2014.

Today's release also follows last week's BLS release of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data which showed Wisconsin's 12-month gain of 39,624 private-sector jobs outpaced neighboring states of Illinois and Iowa, as well as Ohio, in rate of growth through March 2015.

Other indicators that help illustrate the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 37 weeks of 2015 dropped to the lowest point since 1990, and the annual average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in the first seven months of 2015 grew by 3.4% percent compared to same period in 2014. As of July 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 24,625, compared to 23,875 in the same period in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) ranked Wisconsin the "12th Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's, an increase of 2 spots over the 2014 ranking, and a big increase over 2010, when the state ranked 41st.

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Labor Force and Employment Estimates August 2015

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14	1-Month	1-Year	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14	1-Month	1-Year
Total labor force	3,071,700	3,072,900	3,099,500	-1,200	-27,800	3,102,000	3,119,600	3,113,900	-17,600	-11,900
Employment	2,934,300	2,930,400	2,934,300	3,900	0	2,979,900	2,977,600	2,951,300	2,300	28,600
Unemployment	137,400	142,500	165,200	-5,100	-27,800	122,100	142,100	162,500	-20,000	-40,400
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.6%	5.3%	-0.1%	-0.8%	3.9%	4.6%	5.2%	-0.7%	-1.3%
National Rate	5.1%	5.3%	6.1%	-0.2%	-1.0%	5.2%	5.6%	6.3%	-0.4%	-1.1%

MSA EMPLOYMENT

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14	1-Month	1-Year	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14	1-Month	1-Year
Statewide	2,898,600	2,891,500	2,851,000	7,100	47,600	2,923,300	2,918,900	2,867,400	4,400	55,900
Appleton	123,200	123,900	121,100	-700	2,100	124,800	125,300	122,400	-500	2,400
Eau Claire	85,000	85,400	84,600	-400	400	85,000	85,000	84,300	0	700
Fond du Lac	48,000	48,100	47,500	-100	500	48,700	48,800	47,900	-100	800
Green Bay	175,800	176,000	170,500	-200	5,300	177,200	177,100	171,900	100	5,300
Janesville	68,000	67,700	65,900	300	2,100	68,500	68,400	66,600	100	1,900
La Crosse	76,400	76,300	76,500	100	-100	75,900	75,600	75,400	300	500
Madison						391,100	389,500	381,600	1,600	9,500
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	852,600	853,200	848,100	-600	4,500	860,900	859,900	851,100	1,000	9,800
Oshkosh-Neenah	94,200	95,100	93,200	-900	1,000	94,600	95,700	92,900	-1,100	1,700
Racine	75,800	75,800	76,500	0	-700	76,600	76,600	77,300	0	-700
Sheboygan	61,800	61,900	60,700	-100	1,100	63,200	63,300	62,200	-100	1,000
Wausau	71,300	71,300	70,900	0	400	71,400	71,200	70,600	200	800

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.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14	1-Month	1-Year
Wisconsin	3.9%	4.6%	5.2%	-0.7%	-1.3%
Appleton	3.3%	3.8%	4.5%	-0.5%	-1.2%
Eau Claire	3.5%	4.1%	4.7%	-0.6%	-1.2%
Fond du Lac	3.6%	4.1%	4.9%	-0.5%	-1.3%
Green Bay	3.5%	4.0%	4.8%	-0.5%	-1.3%
Janesville	4.4%	5.2%	5.8%	-0.8%	-1.4%
La Crosse	3.4%	4.0%	4.1%	-0.6%	-0.7%
Madison	2.8%	3.3%	3.8%	-0.5%	-1.0%
Milwaukee-W. O. W.	4.6%	5.2%	5.9%	-0.6%	-1.3%
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.8%	4.4%	5.3%	-0.6%	-1.5%
Racine	5.1%	6.3%	6.5%	-1.2%	-1.4%
Sheboygan	3.1%	3.6%	4.3%	-0.5%	-1.2%
Wausau	3.5%	4.0%	4.9%	-0.5%	-1.4%

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 August 2015

CITIES

CITY	Aug-15 RANK	Jul-15 RANK	Aug-15 RATE	Jul-15 RATE	Aug-14 RATE
Appleton	24	25	3.5	4.0	4.9
Beloit	3	3	5.8	6.8	7.1
Brookfield	26	27	3.3	3.7	4.6
Caledonia	9	8	4.5	5.4	5.3
Eau Claire	25	24	3.4	4.1	4.6
Fitchburg	30	30	3.0	3.3	3.6
Fond du Lac	19	16	3.8	4.5	5.5
Franklin	18	20	3.8	4.3	4.5
Green Bay	16	15	3.9	4.5	5.1
Greenfield	10	11	4.2	4.7	5.7
Janesville	8	9	4.5	5.2	5.8
Kenosha	4	5	5.0	5.6	6.5
La Crosse	20	17	3.7	4.5	4.7
Madison	32	31	2.7	3.2	3.6
Manitowoc	5	7	4.8	5.4	6.4
Menomonee Falls	29	29	3.1	3.6	4.4

CITY	Aug-15 RANK	Jul-15 RANK	Aug-15 RATE	Jul-15 RATE	Aug-14 RATE
Milwaukee	2	2	6.4	7.2	8.3
Mount Pleasant	7	4	4.5	5.9	5.6
Neenah	17	19	3.8	4.3	5.4
New Berlin	28	26	3.2	3.8	4.7
Oak Creek	23	23	3.5	4.1	4.5
Oshkosh	12	10	4.1	4.8	5.7
Racine	1	1	6.6	8.3	8.6
Sheboygan	22	22	3.5	4.1	4.8
Stevens Point	15	12	3.9	4.7	5.4
Sun Prairie	31	32	2.7	3.0	3.7
Superior	11	13	4.1	4.6	5.4
Waukesha	14	18	3.9	4.4	4.7
Wausau	13	14	4.0	4.6	5.5
Wauwatosa	27	28	3.2	3.6	4.2
West Allis	6	6	4.7	5.5	6.0
West Bend	21	21	3.6	4.1	4.9

COUNTIES

Alphabetical Order

COUNTY	Aug-15 RANK	Jul-15 RANK	Aug-15 RATE	Jul-15 RATE	Aug-14 RATE
Adams	6	6	5.9	6.6	7.4
Ashland	11	11	5.2	6.0	6.7
Barron	33	33	4.0	4.6	5.1
Bayfield	3	3	6.5	7.4	7.8
Brown	54	51	3.4	4.0	4.7
Buffalo	31	31	4.1	4.6	5.0
Burnett	8	9	5.5	6.1	6.9
Calumet	71	71	2.9	3.5	4.1
Chippewa	44	44	3.7	4.3	4.8
Clark	53	50	3.4	4.0	4.8
Columbia	50	48	3.5	4.1	4.8
Crawford	23	23	4.4	5.1	5.9
Dane	72	72	2.7	3.2	3.6
Dodge	38	39	3.8	4.4	5.3
Door	30	27	4.1	4.8	5.7
Douglas	29	29	4.1	4.7	5.4
Dunn	43	36	3.7	4.5	5.1
Eau Claire	61	56	3.3	3.9	4.6
Florence	7	13	5.5	5.6	6.0
Fond du Lac	47	47	3.6	4.1	4.9
Forest	4	4	6.4	7.2	7.8
Grant	46	45	3.6	4.3	4.5
Green	70	69	3.1	3.6	4.0
Green Lake	27	28	4.2	4.7	5.4
Iowa	69	66	3.1	3.7	4.3
Iron	2	2	7.6	8.5	8.6
Jackson	42	43	3.7	4.3	5.3
Jefferson	45	46	3.6	4.2	4.8
Juneau	25	24	4.3	4.9	5.8
Kenosha	20	20	4.5	5.2	5.9
Kewaunee	64	61	3.2	3.8	4.6
La Crosse	60	52	3.3	4.0	4.2
Lafayette	63	64	3.2	3.7	4.0
Langlade	10	10	5.3	6.0	7.1
Lincoln	22	22	4.4	5.1	6.0
Manitowoc	26	26	4.2	4.8	5.9

COUNTY	Aug-15 RANK	Jul-15 RANK	Aug-15 RATE	Jul-15 RATE	Aug-14 RATE
Marathon	49	49	3.5	4.0	4.9
Marinette	15	15	5.0	5.6	6.4
Marquette	14	14	5.1	5.6	6.3
Menominee	1	1	10.7	11.5	14.3
Milwaukee	9	8	5.4	6.2	7.0
Monroe	41	42	3.7	4.4	4.9
Oconto	34	34	3.9	4.6	5.6
Oneida	24	25	4.3	4.8	5.7
Outagamie	52	55	3.4	3.9	4.6
Ozaukee	59	60	3.3	3.8	4.2
Pepin	58	62	3.3	3.7	4.2
Pierce	68	65	3.1	3.7	4.0
Polk	40	41	3.7	4.4	4.9
Portage	37	35	3.8	4.6	5.7
Price	39	40	3.7	4.4	4.9
Racine	13	7	5.1	6.3	6.5
Richland	48	53	3.5	3.9	4.5
Rock	21	21	4.4	5.2	5.8
Rusk	19	19	4.6	5.2	6.1
Sauk	62	63	3.2	3.7	4.3
Sawyer	5	5	6.1	6.7	7.2
Shawano	28	30	4.1	4.6	5.5
Sheboygan	66	68	3.1	3.6	4.3
St. Croix	67	70	3.1	3.5	4.1
Taylor	57	59	3.3	3.8	4.5
Trempealeau	65	67	3.1	3.6	4.2
Vernon	56	58	3.3	3.8	4.4
Vilas	16	16	4.9	5.5	6.3
Walworth	32	32	4.0	4.6	5.3
Washburn	18	18	4.7	5.4	5.5
Washington	55	57	3.3	3.8	4.5
Waukesha	51	54	3.4	3.9	4.4
Waupaca	36	38	3.8	4.4	5.3
Waushara	12	12	5.1	6.0	6.3
Winnebago	35	37	3.8	4.4	5.3
Wood	17	17	4.7	5.4	6.0

Local Unemployment Rates August 2015

COUNTIES

Ascending Order

COUNTY	Aug-15 RATE	Jul-15 RATE	Aug-14 RATE	COUNTY	Aug-15 RATE	Jul-15 RATE	Aug-14 RATE
Dane	2.7	3.2	3.6	Waupaca	3.8	4.4	5.3
Calumet	2.9	3.5	4.1	Winnebago	3.8	4.4	5.3
Green	3.1	3.6	4.0	Oconto	3.9	4.6	5.6
Iowa	3.1	3.7	4.3	Barron	4.0	4.6	5.1
Pierce	3.1	3.7	4.0	Walworth	4.0	4.6	5.3
Sheboygan	3.1	3.6	4.3	Buffalo	4.1	4.6	5.0
St. Croix	3.1	3.5	4.1	Door	4.1	4.8	5.7
Trempealeau	3.1	3.6	4.2	Douglas	4.1	4.7	5.4
Kewaunee	3.2	3.8	4.6	Shawano	4.1	4.6	5.5
Lafayette	3.2	3.7	4.0	Green Lake	4.2	4.7	5.4
Sauk	3.2	3.7	4.3	Manitowoc	4.2	4.8	5.9
Eau Claire	3.3	3.9	4.6	Juneau	4.3	4.9	5.8
La Crosse	3.3	4.0	4.2	Oneida	4.3	4.8	5.7
Ozaukee	3.3	3.8	4.2	Crawford	4.4	5.1	5.9
Pepin	3.3	3.7	4.2	Lincoln	4.4	5.1	6.0
Taylor	3.3	3.8	4.5	Rock	4.4	5.2	5.8
Vernon	3.3	3.8	4.4	Kenosha	4.5	5.2	5.9
Washington	3.3	3.8	4.5	Rusk	4.6	5.2	6.1
Brown	3.4	4.0	4.7	Washburn	4.7	5.4	5.5
Clark	3.4	4.0	4.8	Wood	4.7	5.4	6.0
Outagamie	3.4	3.9	4.6	Vilas	4.9	5.5	6.3
Waukesha	3.4	3.9	4.4	Marinette	5.0	5.6	6.4
Columbia	3.5	4.1	4.8	Marquette	5.1	5.6	6.3
Marathon	3.5	4.0	4.9	Racine	5.1	6.3	6.5
Richland	3.5	3.9	4.5	Waushara	5.1	6.0	6.3
Fond du Lac	3.6	4.1	4.9	Ashland	5.2	6.0	6.7
Grant	3.6	4.3	4.5	Langlade	5.3	6.0	7.1
Jefferson	3.6	4.2	4.8	Milwaukee	5.4	6.2	7.0
Chippewa	3.7	4.3	4.8	Burnett	5.5	6.1	6.9
Dunn	3.7	4.5	5.1	Florence	5.5	5.6	6.0
Jackson	3.7	4.3	5.3	Adams	5.9	6.6	7.4
Monroe	3.7	4.4	4.9	Sawyer	6.1	6.7	7.2
Polk	3.7	4.4	4.9	Forest	6.4	7.2	7.8
Price	3.7	4.4	4.9	Bayfield	6.5	7.4	7.8
Dodge	3.8	4.4	5.3	Iron	7.6	8.5	8.6
Portage	3.8	4.6	5.7	Menominee	10.7	11.5	14.3