

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLS Data: Wisconsin December Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Holds Steady at 3.1%

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today announced the following information for Wisconsin's labor market, reflecting December 2025 preliminary estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- **Employment** – There were 3,021,200 people employed in Wisconsin, down 200 over the month and down 65,500 over the year.
- **Labor Force** – The state's labor force participation rate increased to 64.2%, which is 1.8 percentage points above the national rate of 62.4%
- **Nonfarm Jobs** – Total nonfarm jobs in the state were 3,054,300, an increase of 9,000 over last month and 6,700 over the year.
- **Unemployment** – The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.1% which is 1.3 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.4%

This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	December Preliminary	November Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,021,200 (-200)	3,021,400	-65,500
Labor force participation rate	64.2%	64.1%	-1.7%
Nonfarm jobs	3,054,300 (+9,000)	3,045,300	6,700
Unemployment rate	3.1% (=)	3.1%	0.0%

One-Year Overview

Month	Total employed	Unemployment rate
December 2025	3,021,200 (-200)*	3.1%*
November 2025	3,021,400	3.1%
October 2025	NA	NA
September 2025	3,035,300* (-10,100)	3.1%*
August 2025	3,045,400 (-6,000)	3.1%
July 2025	3,051,400 (-4,400)	3.1%
June 2025	3,055,800 (-2,500)	3.2%

May 2025	3,058,300 (-8,400)	3.3%
April 2025	3,066,700 (-5,200)	3.3%
March 2025	3,071,900 (-5,600)	3.2%
February 2025	3,077,500 (-5,400)	3.2%
January 2025	3,082,900 (-3,800)	3.2%
December 2024	3,086,700 (12,700)	3.1%
TOTAL	-65,500	0.0%

*Based on preliminary estimate from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Additional information about the data included in the release is available at [WisConomy.com](https://www.wisconomy.com).

See following pages for informational tables.

ABOUT DWD

[Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development](#) efficiently delivers effective and inclusive services to meet Wisconsin's diverse workforce needs now and for the future. The department advocates for and invests in the protection and economic advancement of all Wisconsin workers, employers, and job seekers through six divisions – Employment and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, Unemployment Insurance, Equal Rights, Worker's Compensation, and Administrative Services. To keep up with DWD announcements and information, [sign up for news releases](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [YouTube](#).

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

	PRELIM. Dec-25	REVISED Nov-25	YEAR AGO Dec-24	NET CHANGE OVER	
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA				1-Month	1-Year

Labor Force	3,118,700	3,116,600	3,185,400	2,100	-66,700
Employment	3,021,200	3,021,400	3,086,700	-200	-65,500
Unemployment	97,600	95,100	98,700	2,500	-1,100
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%
US Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.5%	4.1%	-0.1%	0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.2%	64.1%	65.9%	0.1%	-1.7%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.4%	62.5%	62.5%	-0.1%	-0.1%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,054,300	3,045,300	3,047,600	9,000	6,700
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,641,100	2,637,500	2,632,000	3,600	9,100
GOODS PRODUCING	612,300	610,300	610,900	2,000	1,400
MINING & LOGGING	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	147,800	144,700	142,700	3,100	5,100
MANUFACTURING	460,300	461,400	464,100	-1,100	-3,800
Durable Goods	264,200	265,000	267,800	-800	-3,600
Nondurable Goods	196,100	196,400	196,300	-300	-200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,442,000	2,435,000	2,436,700	7,000	5,300
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,028,800	2,027,200	2,021,100	1,600	7,700
TRADE	423,500	425,500	432,200	-2,000	-8,700
Wholesale Trade	131,200	131,300	134,000	-100	-2,800
Retail Trade	292,300	294,200	298,200	-1,900	-5,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,900	121,900	124,000	1,000	-1,100
INFORMATION	47,700	47,900	48,500	-200	-800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,700	159,400	157,700	-700	1,000
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,900	29,100	29,200	-200	-300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	327,800	331,500	334,000	-3,700	-6,200
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	130,900	132,200	131,300	-1,300	-400
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	133,100	135,200	138,200	-2,100	-5,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	500,500	498,000	487,600	2,500	12,900
Private Educational Services	63,500	62,700	61,500	800	2,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	437,000	435,300	426,100	1,700	10,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	299,500	294,800	288,600	4,700	10,900
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	46,400	43,700	40,100	2,700	6,300
Accommodation & Food Services	253,100	251,100	248,500	2,000	4,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	148,200	148,200	148,500	0	-300
GOVERNMENT	413,200	407,800	415,600	5,400	-2,400
Federal Government	29,000	29,000	31,300	0	-2,300
State Government	98,900	97,900	99,300	1,000	-400
Local Government	285,300	280,900	285,000	4,400	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.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM. Dec-25	REVISED Nov-25	YEAR AGO Dec-24	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	1-Year
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Labor Force	3,123,300	3,113,900	3,167,800	9,400	-44,500
Employment	3,028,700	3,031,200	3,077,300	-2,500	-48,600
Unemployment	94,600	82,700	90,500	11,900	4,100
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	2.7%	2.9%	0.3%	0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.3%	3.8%	-0.2%	0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.2%	64.1%	65.6%	0.1%	-1.4%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.1%	62.4%	62.2%	-0.3%	-0.1%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,054,100	3,063,100	3,048,400	-9,000	5,700
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,635,400	2,642,700	2,626,300	-7,300	9,100
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	607,500	612,600	606,000	-5,100	1,500
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,200	4,000	-100	100
CONSTRUCTION	143,300	147,600	137,700	-4,300	5,600
MANUFACTURING	460,100	460,800	464,300	-700	-4,200
Durable Goods	263,700	265,100	267,600	-1,400	-3,900
Nondurable Goods	196,400	195,700	196,700	700	-300
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,446,600	2,450,500	2,442,400	-3,900	4,200
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,027,900	2,030,100	2,020,300	-2,200	7,600
TRADE	430,600	430,600	439,600	0	-9,000
Wholesale Trade	131,000	130,600	133,800	400	-2,800
Retail Trade	299,600	300,000	305,800	-400	-6,200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	126,300	125,700	127,500	600	-1,200
Utilities	8,400	8,400	8,400	0	0
INFORMATION	48,300	48,100	49,100	200	-800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,200	158,600	157,800	-400	400
Finance and Insurance	129,500	129,700	128,700	-200	800
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,700	28,900	29,100	-200	-400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	326,000	334,400	333,100	-8,400	-7,100
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	130,700	131,500	130,800	-800	-100
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	63,900	64,000	64,800	-100	-900
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	131,400	138,900	137,500	-7,500	-6,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	501,900	498,800	488,500	3,100	13,400
Private Educational Services	65,500	65,100	62,700	400	2,800
Health Care & Social Assistance	436,400	433,700	425,800	2,700	10,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	288,900	286,000	276,800	2,900	12,100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	40,300	39,300	34,300	1,000	6,000
Accommodation & Food Services	248,600	246,700	242,500	1,900	6,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	147,700	147,900	147,900	-200	-200
GOVERNMENT	418,700	420,400	422,100	-1,700	-3,400
Federal Government	29,100	28,900	31,400	200	-2,300
State Government	103,400	104,000	103,300	-600	100
Local Government	286,200	287,500	287,400	-1,300	-1,200

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.

Glossary of terms

Employed: Definition differs by BLS program:

- **(Place of residence/LAUS)** Individuals 16 years of age or older who worked at least one hour for pay or who worked unpaid for at least 15 hours in a family business during the reference week which includes the 12th of the month. Individuals are also counted if they had a job but were temporarily absent from their jobs due to illness, bad weather, vacation, a labor dispute, or for personal reasons.
- **(Place of work/CES)** Includes all paid employees, regardless of age, who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month.

Labor force: The sum of all employed and unemployed people excluding people less than 16 years of age, institutional population, and those in the military.

Labor force participation rate: The proportion of the civilian non-institutional population aged 16 years or older that is in the labor force.

Nonfarm jobs: Includes all full-time and part-time employees of all classes (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work in or receive compensation from nonagricultural establishments for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work.

It does not include pensioners, members of the armed forces, self-employed or unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, or people who are laid off, on leave of absence without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period. These statistics are collected in coordination with the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program.

Unemployed: Individuals 16 years of age or older who do not have a job but are available for work, are actively seeking work, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month). People who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off within the past 6 months, or those waiting to report to a new job within 30 days are also counted as unemployed.

Unemployment rate: The number of people unemployed, expressed as a percentage of the labor force.