

BLS Data: Wisconsin August Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Ticks Down to 3.2%

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

- **Employment** – There were 3,046,200 people employed in Wisconsin, up 9,300 over the month and up 36,900 over the year.
- **Labor Force** – The state's labor force participation increased to 64.7% which is 3.1 percentage points above the national rate of 61.6%.
- **Nonfarm Jobs** – The total nonfarm jobs in the state were 3,057,300, an increase of 11,800 over last month.
- **Unemployment** – The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked down to 3.2%, which is 0.9 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.1%

This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	August Preliminary	July Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,046,200 (+9,300)	3,036,900	+36,900
Labor force participation rate	64.7% (0.2%)	64.5%	+0.6%
Nonfarm jobs	3,057,300 (+11,800)	3,045,500	+19,400
Unemployment rate	3.2% (-0.1%)	3.3%	+0.1%

One-Year Overview

Month	Total Employment	Unemployment rate
August 2026	3,046,200* (+9,300)	3.2%*
July 2026	3,036,900 (+6,500)	3.3%
June 2026	3,030,200 (+6,100)	3.3%
May 2026	3,024,100 (+4,000)	3.4%
April 2026	3,020,100 (+400)	3.5%
March 2026	3,019,700 (+400)	3.5%
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%

*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.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,148,300	3,139,500	3,104,200	8,800	44,100
Employment	3,046,200	3,036,900	3,009,300	9,300	36,900
Unemployment	102,100	102,700	94,900	-600	7,200
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%	-0.1%	0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.3%	0.0%	-0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.7%	64.5%	64.1%	0.2%	0.6%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.6%	61.4%	62.3%	0.2%	-0.7%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	3,057,300	3,045,500	3,037,900	11,800	19,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,638,800	2,633,200	2,622,900	5,600	15,900
GOODS PRODUCING	620,000	616,900	608,200	3,100	11,800
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	157,500	154,700	147,000	2,800	10,500
MANUFACTURING	458,400	458,100	457,200	300	1,200
Durable Goods	263,900	262,600	262,400	1,300	1,500
Nondurable Goods	194,500	195,500	194,800	-1,000	-300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,437,300	2,428,600	2,429,700	8,700	7,600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,018,800	2,016,300	2,014,700	2,500	4,100
TRADE	412,700	413,700	424,000	-1,000	-11,300
Wholesale Trade	126,600	127,400	130,400	-800	-3,800
Retail Trade	286,100	286,300	293,600	-200	-7,500
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,800	123,200	122,700	-400	100
INFORMATION	45,500	46,100	46,200	-600	-700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156,400	156,400	158,900	0	-2,500
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,500	28,400	29,400	100	-900
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	333,700	333,400	329,900	300	3,800
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	132,400	132,000	131,100	400	1,300
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	138,400	138,400	133,600	0	4,800
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	505,500	502,700	497,900	2,800	7,600
Private Educational Services	62,300	62,300	62,500	0	-200
Health Care & Social Assistance	443,200	440,400	435,400	2,800	7,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	296,600	294,800	290,300	1,800	6,300
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	47,200	46,800	49,000	400	-1,800
Accommodation & Food Services	249,400	248,000	241,300	1,400	8,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,600	146,000	144,800	-400	800
GOVERNMENT	418,500	412,300	415,000	6,200	3,500
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	30,200	0	-1,400
State Government	99,900	99,800	99,200	100	700
Local Government	289,800	283,700	285,600	6,100	4,200

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.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM. Aug-26	REVISED Jul-26	YEAR AGO Aug-25	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,189,000	3,192,000	3,120,600	-3,000	68,400
Employment	3,081,900	3,083,700	3,023,200	-1,800	58,700
Unemployment	107,100	108,300	97,400	-1,200	9,700
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%	0.0%	0.3%
US Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	-0.1%	-0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.5%	65.6%	64.4%	-0.1%	1.1%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.7%	61.8%	62.4%	-0.1%	-0.7%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,082,000	3,077,600	3,062,500	4,400	19,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,687,600	2,689,500	2,671,500	-1,900	16,100
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	633,500	631,400	623,100	2,100	10,400
MINING & LOGGING	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	167,300	163,400	155,600	3,900	11,700
MANUFACTURING	462,000	463,800	463,300	-1,800	-1,300
Durable Goods	266,100	266,700	264,900	-600	1,200
Nondurable Goods	195,900	197,100	198,400	-1,200	-2,500
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,448,500	2,446,200	2,439,400	2,300	9,100
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,054,100	2,058,100	2,048,400	-4,000	5,700
TRADE	413,600	417,100	426,500	-3,500	-12,900
Wholesale Trade	127,700	129,300	131,400	-1,600	-3,700
Retail Trade	285,900	287,800	295,100	-1,900	-9,200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,900	122,800	120,200	100	2,700
Utilities	8,800	8,800	8,600	0	200
INFORMATION	45,500	45,900	46,700	-400	-1,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157,900	158,200	161,000	-300	-3,100
Finance and Insurance	128,500	128,900	130,200	-400	-1,700
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,400	29,300	30,800	100	-1,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	338,700	339,000	334,900	-300	3,800
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	132,700	132,800	132,000	-100	700
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	63,300	63,700	65,600	-400	-2,300
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	142,700	142,500	137,300	200	5,400
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	505,000	503,300	497,700	1,700	7,300
Private Educational Services	58,200	56,800	58,500	1,400	-300
Health Care & Social Assistance	446,800	446,500	439,200	300	7,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	323,900	324,200	315,000	-300	8,900
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	59,100	59,300	59,000	-200	100
Accommodation & Food Services	264,800	264,900	256,000	-100	8,800
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	146,600	147,600	146,400	-1,000	200
GOVERNMENT	394,400	388,100	391,000	6,300	3,400
Federal Government	28,700	28,900	30,200	-200	-1,500
State Government	89,600	88,300	89,100	1,300	500
Local Government	276,100	270,900	271,700	5,200	4,400

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.