

BLS Data: Wisconsin September Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Holds Steady at 3.2%

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

- **Employment** – There were 3,056,300 people employed in Wisconsin, up 10,100 over the month and up 45,600 over the year.
- **Labor Force** – The state's labor force participation increased to 64.9% which is 3.1 percentage points above the national rate of 61.8%.
- **Nonfarm Jobs** – The total nonfarm jobs in the state were 3,043,300, a decrease of 13,700 over last month.
- **Unemployment** – The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.2%, which is 1.0 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.2%

This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	September Preliminary	August Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,056,300 (+10,100)	3,046,200	+45,600
Labor force participation rate	64.9% (0.2%)	64.7%	+0.8%
Nonfarm jobs	3,043,300 (-13,700)	3,057,000	+13,000
Unemployment rate	3.2% (-)	3.2%	+0.1%

One-Year Overview

Month	Total Employment	Unemployment rate
September 2026	3,056,300* (+10,100)	3.2%*
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%

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

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Sep-26	Aug-26	Sep-25	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,158,500	3,148,300	3,107,300	10,200	51,200
Employment	3,056,300	3,046,200	3,010,700	10,100	45,600
Unemployment	102,200	102,100	96,500	100	5,700
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%	0.0%	0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.1%	4.4%	0.1%	-0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.9%	64.7%	64.1%	0.2%	0.8%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.8%	61.6%	62.4%	0.2%	-0.6%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	3,043,300	3,057,000	3,030,300	-13,700	13,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,634,600	2,639,200	2,616,100	-4,600	18,500
GOODS PRODUCING	616,500	620,300	607,000	-3,800	9,500
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	154,600	157,900	146,800	-3,300	7,800
MANUFACTURING	457,800	458,300	456,200	-500	1,600
Durable Goods	263,000	263,500	262,000	-500	1,000
Nondurable Goods	194,800	194,800	194,200	0	600
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,426,800	2,436,700	2,423,300	-9,900	3,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,018,100	2,018,900	2,009,100	-800	9,000
TRADE	411,100	412,300	423,100	-1,200	-12,000
Wholesale Trade	126,400	126,400	130,100	0	-3,700
Retail Trade	284,700	285,900	293,000	-1,200	-8,300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,500	122,800	122,700	-300	-200
INFORMATION	45,400	45,700	45,900	-300	-500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,300	157,300	158,300	1,000	0
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,200	28,800	29,300	400	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	334,600	334,400	329,700	200	4,900
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	134,500	132,600	130,700	1,900	3,800
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	137,300	138,900	133,800	-1,600	3,500
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	506,100	505,700	496,600	400	9,500
Private Educational Services	63,100	62,500	62,300	600	800
Health Care & Social Assistance	443,000	443,200	434,300	-200	8,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	295,000	295,100	288,300	-100	6,700
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	45,600	46,600	47,700	-1,000	-2,100
Accommodation & Food Services	249,400	248,500	240,600	900	8,800
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,100	145,600	144,500	-500	600
GOVERNMENT	408,700	417,800	414,200	-9,100	-5,500
Federal Government	28,700	28,800	30,200	-100	-1,500
State Government	98,900	99,800	99,400	-900	-500
Local Government	281,100	289,200	284,600	-8,100	-3,500

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.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Sep-26	Aug-26	Sep-25	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,176,400	3,189,200	3,095,000	-12,800	81,400
Employment	3,085,900	3,082,100	3,011,900	3,800	74,000
Unemployment	90,500	107,100	83,100	-16,600	7,400
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	3.4%	2.7%	-0.5%	0.2%
US Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.3%	4.3%	-0.3%	-0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.2%	65.5%	63.8%	-0.3%	1.4%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.8%	61.7%	62.4%	0.1%	-0.6%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,054,400	3,084,000	3,040,000	-29,600	14,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,646,100	2,688,600	2,627,000	-42,500	19,100
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	622,400	633,600	613,700	-11,200	8,700
MINING & LOGGING	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	160,100	167,400	152,500	-7,300	7,600
MANUFACTURING	458,100	462,000	457,100	-3,900	1,000
Durable Goods	262,300	265,700	261,400	-3,400	900
Nondurable Goods	195,800	196,300	195,700	-500	100
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,432,000	2,450,400	2,426,300	-18,400	5,700
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,023,700	2,055,000	2,013,300	-31,300	10,400
TRADE	407,500	413,600	419,500	-6,100	-12,000
Wholesale Trade	126,300	127,500	129,700	-1,200	-3,400
Retail Trade	281,200	286,100	289,800	-4,900	-8,600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	123,500	122,900	123,000	600	500
Utilities	8,700	8,800	8,500	-100	200
INFORMATION	45,200	45,800	46,200	-600	-1,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,300	158,500	158,500	-200	-200
Finance and Insurance	128,800	128,900	128,900	-100	-100
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,500	29,600	29,600	-100	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	338,000	339,700	331,500	-1,700	6,500
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	133,900	132,500	129,600	1,400	4,300
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	62,900	63,300	65,100	-400	-2,200
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	141,200	143,900	136,800	-2,700	4,400
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	505,700	505,100	496,300	600	9,400
Private Educational Services	62,900	58,100	62,700	4,800	200
Health Care & Social Assistance	442,800	447,000	433,600	-4,200	9,200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	301,400	322,500	294,100	-21,100	7,300
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	50,200	59,000	50,500	-8,800	-300
Accommodation & Food Services	251,200	263,500	243,600	-12,300	7,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	144,100	146,900	144,200	-2,800	-100
GOVERNMENT	408,300	395,400	413,000	12,900	-4,700
Federal Government	28,700	28,700	30,200	0	-1,500
State Government	102,200	90,900	103,400	11,300	-1,200
Local Government	277,400	275,800	279,400	1,600	-2,000

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.