

# **Dept. of Workforce Development: BLS data: Wisconsin's addition of 21,300 manufacturing jobs from July 2017 to July 2018 ranks 2nd nationally, 1st in the midwest**

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*Wisconsin addition of 9,100 private-sector jobs in July ranks 8th nationally*

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Ray Allen released the following statement on today's release by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showing that Wisconsin's addition of 21,300 manufacturing jobs from July 2017 through July 2018 ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally, trailing only Texas's gain of 21,400 manufacturing jobs, and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Midwest. Today's release also showed that Wisconsin's addition of 9,100 private sector jobs in July ranked 8<sup>th</sup> nationally. Wisconsin's unemployment rate of 2.9 percent tied for 7<sup>th</sup> lowest nationally, while Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.9 percent tied for 5<sup>th</sup> highest nationally.

"Today's state-by-state rankings release by BLS reinforces the historically great times the Wisconsin's economy has been experiencing. These accomplishments shouldn't be taken for granted," Secretary Allen said. "Employers are adding jobs at historic rates, emboldened by their confidence in the direction of the state's economy, and workers are gaining employment and reaping the rewards of an economy of which Wisconsin has never seen."

Highlights of today's state-by-state rankings release by BLS include numerous measures where Wisconsin ranked in the top 10 among states:

- Wisconsin ranked **6<sup>th</sup> nationally** percent growth in the states manufacturing industry over the last three months
- Wisconsin ranked **9<sup>th</sup> nationally** in percent growth in the state's manufacturing industry over the last six months
- Wisconsin ranked **5<sup>th</sup> nationally** in percent growth in the state's manufacturing industry from July 2017 through July 2018, and **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the Midwest
- Wisconsin ranked **5<sup>th</sup> nationally** in percent growth in the state's manufacturing industry in 2018
- Wisconsin's addition of 2,500 manufacturing jobs July ranked **3<sup>rd</sup> nationally**, and **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's manufacturing job gains over the last three months ranked **2<sup>nd</sup> nationally**
- Wisconsin's manufacturing job gains over the last six months ranked **2<sup>nd</sup> nationally**
- Wisconsin's addition of 21,300 manufacturing jobs from July 2017 through July 2018 ranked **2<sup>nd</sup>** nationally, and **1<sup>st</sup>** in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's addition of 15,700 manufacturing jobs in 2018 ranked **2<sup>nd</sup> nationally**
- Wisconsin's addition of 9,100 private-sector jobs in July ranked **8<sup>th</sup> nationally**, and **1<sup>st</sup>** in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's percent growth in private sector jobs in July ranked **7<sup>th</sup> nationally**, and **1<sup>st</sup>** in the Midwest
- Wisconsin's addition of 6,100 construction jobs in 2018 ranked **11<sup>th</sup>** nationally
- Wisconsin's July unemployment rate of 2.9 percent tied for **7<sup>th</sup> lowest nationally**
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.9 percent tied for **5<sup>th</sup> highest nationally**

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

- Initial UI claims ended 2017 at their lowest level in the last 30 years.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2017 at their lowest level since 1973.
- Moody's investor Service recently upgraded the state's credit rating, noting that "(T)he stable outlook reflects the expectation that the state will

experience moderate economic growth and will continue its prudent fiscal management practices.”

The data included in today’s release can be accessed on the [Bureau of Labor Statistics website](#).