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Wisconsin's Labor Force Participation Rate Remains at 67.2 Percent in August

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary employment estimates for the month of August. The data shows that Wisconsin's Labor Force Participation Rate remained at 67.2 percent in August, 4.0 percent better than the national rate of 63.2 percent. Wisconsin's unemployment rate in August was 3.1 percent, 0.6 percent lower than the national rate of 3.7 percent.

In brief:

- **Place of Resident Data:** Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August was 3.1 percent, up slightly from the August 2018 rate of 3.0 percent, but near the historic lows achieved earlier this year. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate in August was 67.2 percent. The national labor force participation rate in August was 63.2 percent.
- **Place of Work Data:** Wisconsin added 8,300 private-sector jobs from August 2018 to August 2019, and 1,900 total non-farm jobs over the same period. Over-the-month, Wisconsin's private-sector jobs declined by 1,400, while total non-farm jobs declined by 3,500.

"Along with the country's, Wisconsin's workforce is aging rapidly, with thousands retiring daily," DWD Secretary-designee Caleb Frostman said. "To replace retiring workers, while also filling new positions, Wisconsin's employers and workforce partners, very much including DWD, will need to continue their aggressive, creative, and inclusive workforce recruitment efforts. We look forward to building on our strong partnerships to attract and retain the best and brightest here in Wisconsin."

Today's full report can be viewed on DWD's premier source for labor market information, WisConomy.com.

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-19	Jul-19	Aug-18	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,121,000	3,118,500	3,127,000	2,500	-6,000
Employment	3,024,200	3,025,400	3,032,700	-1,200	-8,500
Unemployment	96,800	93,100	94,400	3,700	2,400
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	0.1%	0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%	0.0%	-0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.2%	67.2%	67.7%	0.0%	-0.5%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	63.2%	63.0%	62.7%	0.2%	0.5%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,978,100	2,981,600	2,976,200	-3,500	1,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,572,600	2,574,000	2,564,300	-1,400	8,300
GOODS PRODUCING	602,700	602,600	605,000	100	-2,300
MINING & LOGGING	4,800	4,700	4,800	100	0
CONSTRUCTION	125,800	125,100	122,900	700	2,900
MANUFACTURING	472,100	472,800	477,300	-700	-5,200
Durable Goods	281,100	283,000	288,500	-1,900	-7,400
Nondurable Goods	191,000	189,800	188,800	1,200	2,200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,375,400	2,379,000	2,371,200	-3,600	4,200
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,969,900	1,971,400	1,959,300	-1,500	10,600
TRADE	435,000	434,300	433,100	700	1,900
Wholesale Trade	128,400	127,400	127,600	1,000	800
Retail Trade	306,600	306,900	305,500	-300	1,100
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	112,300	112,900	110,700	-600	1,600
INFORMATION	48,700	48,400	47,000	300	1,700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,100	154,300	152,700	-200	1,400
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	26,900	26,900	26,500	0	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	322,600	321,600	325,300	1,000	-2,700
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	113,100	112,600	112,000	500	1,100
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	142,900	142,400	145,800	500	-2,900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	457,900	458,100	457,100	-200	800
Educational Services	53,300	53,300	52,100	0	1,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	404,600	404,800	405,000	-200	-400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	285,400	287,300	281,400	-1,900	4,000
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	46,200	46,000	41,900	200	4,300
Accommodation & Food Services	239,200	241,300	239,500	-2,100	-300
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	153,900	154,500	152,000	-600	1,900
GOVERNMENT	405,500	407,600	411,900	-2,100	-6,400
Federal Government	29,600	29,100	29,000	500	600
State Government	93,900	94,000	93,700	-100	200
Local Government	282,000	284,500	289,200	-2,500	-7,200

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.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Aug-19	Jul-19	Aug-18	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,146,800	3,170,000	3,134,600	-23,200	12,200
Employment	3,041,600	3,061,200	3,043,300	-19,600	-1,700
Unemployment	105,200	108,800	91,300	-3,600	13,900
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.4%	2.9%	-0.1%	0.4%
US Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.0%	3.9%	-0.2%	-0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.8%	68.3%	67.9%	-0.5%	-0.1%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	63.2%	63.6%	62.7%	-0.4%	0.5%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,995,300	3,008,400	2,993,000	-13,100	2,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,623,100	2,627,400	2,611,500	-4,300	11,600
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	619,100	620,500	621,800	-1,400	-2,700
MINING & LOGGING	5,000	5,000	5,100	0	-100
CONSTRUCTION	136,500	136,400	132,200	100	4,300
MANUFACTURING	477,600	479,100	484,500	-1,500	-6,900
Durable Goods	284,000	287,200	291,600	-3,200	-7,600
Nondurable Goods	193,600	191,900	192,900	1,700	700
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,376,200	2,387,900	2,371,200	-11,700	5,000
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,004,000	2,006,900	1,989,700	-2,900	14,300
TRADE	438,600	438,300	437,600	300	1,000
Wholesale Trade	129,500	129,200	129,200	300	300
Retail Trade	309,100	309,100	308,400	0	700
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	112,800	112,800	109,200	0	3,600
Utilities	9,100	9,200	9,300	-100	-200
INFORMATION	48,900	48,500	47,500	400	1,400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,300	156,100	154,700	-800	600
Finance and Insurance	127,100	127,800	126,800	-700	300
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,200	28,300	27,900	-100	300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	326,700	325,100	331,000	1,600	-4,300
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	113,000	112,700	112,400	300	600
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	67,200	67,100	68,000	100	-800
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	146,500	145,300	150,600	1,200	-4,100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	453,100	452,200	450,700	900	2,400
Educational Services	45,600	45,600	43,900	0	1,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	407,500	406,600	406,800	900	700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	313,800	318,200	305,800	-4,400	8,000
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	56,800	58,400	51,200	-1,600	5,600
Accommodation & Food Services	257,000	259,800	254,600	-2,800	2,400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	154,800	155,700	153,200	-900	1,600
GOVERNMENT	372,200	381,000	381,500	-8,800	-9,300
Federal Government	29,700	29,200	29,100	500	600
State Government	80,300	83,200	82,200	-2,900	-1,900
Local Government	262,200	268,600	270,200	-6,400	-8,000

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.

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