
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 21, 2026

CONTACT: [DWD Communications](#)

CommunicationsOffice@dwd.wisconsin.gov

September Local Employment and Unemployment Data Released

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development today released U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates of employment and unemployment statistics for metropolitan areas, major cities, and counties in Wisconsin for September 2026.

In brief, the nonseasonally adjusted data for Wisconsin shows:

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the month. Rates increased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the year.
- **Municipalities:** Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 35 of Wisconsin's largest cities over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in one city over the year: Sheboygan. Rates increased in 29 cities over the year and stayed the same in the remaining five cities.
- **Counties:** Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 72 counties over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in four counties over the year. Rates increased in 61 counties over the year and stayed the same in the remaining seven counties.

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

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](#).

Current Employment Statistics and Local Area Unemployment Statistics
September 2026

EMPLOYMENT

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Sep-26	FINAL Aug-26	YEAR AGO Sep-25	NET CHANGE OVER		PRELIM Sep-26	FINAL Aug-26	YEAR AGO Sep-25	NET CHANGE OVER	
Appleton	128,300	130,000	128,000	-1,700	300	128,700	128,900	128,200	-200	500
Eau Claire	90,200	91,000	90,300	-800	-100	90,100	90,600	90,300	-500	-200
Fond du Lac	46,900	47,300	46,700	-400	200	46,800	46,800	46,400	0	400
Green Bay	183,300	184,800	181,900	-1,500	1,400	183,200	183,400	181,300	-200	1,900
Janesville-Beloit	72,700	72,800	72,200	-100	500	72,500	72,400	72,000	100	500
Kenosha	80,200	80,100	79,800	100	400	80,300	79,800	80,000	500	300
La Crosse-Onalaska	89,200	88,100	88,000	1,100	1,200	88,900	88,800	87,400	100	1,500
Madison	433,500	429,400	432,800	4,100	700	430,900	430,300	431,900	600	-1,000
Milwaukee-Waukesha	857,500	863,500	855,900	-6,000	1,600	855,400	855,200	855,200	200	200
Oshkosh-Neenah	96,700	96,900	96,700	-200	0	96,700	96,800	96,800	-100	-100
Racine	78,500	79,700	78,500	-1,200	0	78,500	78,600	78,700	-100	-200
Sheboygan	63,500	64,000	63,200	-500	300	63,300	63,400	62,800	-100	500
Wausau	71,100	71,300	71,300	-200	-200	71,200	71,300	71,500	-100	-300

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	PRELIM Sep-26	FINAL Aug-26	YEAR AGO Sep-25	NET CHANGE OVER	
Appleton	2.5	3.0	2.4	(0.5)	0.1
Eau Claire	2.7	3.1	2.5	(0.4)	0.2
Fond du Lac	2.6	3.2	2.5	(0.6)	0.1
Green Bay	2.6	3.1	2.5	(0.5)	0.1
Janesville-Beloit	3.0	3.7	2.9	(0.7)	0.1
Kenosha	3.0	3.6	2.9	(0.6)	0.1
La Crosse-Onalaska	2.7	3.0	2.5	(0.3)	0.2
Madison	2.5	2.9	2.3	(0.4)	0.2
Milwaukee-Waukesha	3.2	3.8	3.1	(0.6)	0.1
Oshkosh-Neenah	2.7	3.3	2.6	(0.6)	0.1
Racine	3.4	4.1	3.1	(0.7)	0.3
Sheboygan	2.6	2.9	2.5	(0.3)	0.1
Wausau	2.5	3.0	2.4	(0.5)	0.1

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

CITY	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
	RATE Sep-26	RATE Aug-26	RATE Sep-25	RANK Sep-26	RANK Aug-26
Appleton	2.8	3.4	2.5	11	20
Beloit	3.4	4.5	3.2	32	32
Brookfield	3.1	3.4	2.8	26	20
Caledonia	3.0	3.7	2.7	24	28
De Pere	2.7	2.9	2.7	7	3
Eau Claire	2.7	3.1	2.6	7	8
Fitchburg	2.2	2.7	2.2	1	1
Fond du Lac	2.8	3.7	2.7	11	28
Franklin	3.2	3.4	2.8	27	20
Green Bay	2.8	3.2	2.6	11	11
Greenfield	2.9	3.4	2.6	21	20
Janesville	3.0	3.5	3.0	24	25
Kenosha	3.2	3.6	3.0	27	27
La Crosse	2.9	3.3	2.9	21	15
Madison	2.5	2.9	2.3	2	3
Manitowoc	2.8	3.3	2.6	11	15
Menomonee Falls	2.8	3.1	2.6	11	8
Mequon	3.2	3.5	2.8	27	25
Milwaukee	4.1	5.0	3.9	35	35
Mount Pleasant	3.2	3.8	2.5	27	30
Muskego	2.7	3.2	2.3	7	11
Neenah	2.8	3.3	2.5	11	15
New Berlin	2.8	3.2	2.4	11	11
Oak Creek	2.7	3.3	2.4	7	15
Oshkosh	2.9	3.4	2.7	21	20
Racine	4.0	4.9	3.8	34	34
Sheboygan	2.6	3.0	2.7	4	6
Stevens Point	2.8	3.0	2.7	11	6
Sun Prairie	2.6	2.8	2.3	4	2
Superior	3.5	4.6	2.8	33	33
Waukesha	2.5	3.1	2.5	2	8
Wausau	2.8	3.3	2.6	11	15
Wauwatosa	2.8	3.2	2.6	11	11
West Allis	3.3	3.8	3.2	31	30
West Bend	2.6	2.9	2.4	4	3

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Note: Seasonally adjusted unemployment estimates for MSAs are available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/metrossa.htm>.
City and county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Employment and Training, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

September 2026

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	ALPHABETICAL ORDER				
	RATE Sep-26	RATE Aug-26	RATE Sep-25	RANK Sep-26	RANK Aug-26
Adams	3.7	4.7	3.3	69	70
Ashland	2.9	3.6	3.2	44	50
Barron	2.8	3.5	2.8	35	44
Bayfield	3.0	3.8	2.7	48	59
Brown	2.6	3.1	2.5	16	23
Buffalo	3.0	3.5	2.6	48	44
Burnett	3.3	4.0	3.0	62	62
Calumet	2.4	2.8	2.2	6	7
Chippewa	2.7	3.1	2.5	30	23
Clark	2.3	2.7	2.2	2	4
Columbia	2.6	3.1	2.5	16	23
Crawford	3.2	3.5	3.0	59	44
Dane	2.5	2.9	2.3	9	13
Dodge	2.3	2.8	2.2	2	7
Door	2.5	2.7	2.2	9	4
Douglas	3.5	4.2	3.1	67	66
Dunn	2.7	3.2	2.6	30	31
Eau Claire	2.6	3.0	2.5	16	17
Florence	3.4	3.5	3.0	65	44
Fond du Lac	2.6	3.2	2.5	16	31
Forest	2.9	3.8	3.2	44	59
Grant	2.8	3.2	2.7	35	31
Green	2.3	2.7	2.2	2	4
Green Lake	2.8	3.4	2.6	35	41
Iowa	2.4	2.6	2.2	6	2
Iron	4.0	5.1	3.6	71	71
Jackson	3.1	3.5	2.8	58	44
Jefferson	2.5	2.8	2.5	9	7
Juneau	3.0	3.6	2.8	48	50
Kenosha	3.0	3.6	2.9	48	50
Kewaunee	2.3	2.6	2.3	2	2
La Crosse	2.6	2.9	2.5	16	13
Lafayette	2.2	2.5	2.2	1	1
Langlade	3.0	4.0	3.0	48	62
Lincoln	2.9	3.8	2.6	44	59
Manitowoc	2.6	3.2	2.4	16	31
Marathon	2.5	3.0	2.4	9	17
Marinette	3.3	4.2	3.1	62	66
Marquette	3.0	3.6	2.9	48	50
Menominee	4.2	5.8	4.6	72	72
Milwaukee	3.7	4.4	3.5	69	69
Monroe	2.6	2.9	2.4	16	13
Oconto	2.8	3.3	2.6	35	37
Oneida	2.6	3.1	2.4	16	23
Outagamie	2.6	3.1	2.4	16	23
Ozaukee	2.7	3.1	2.5	30	23
Pepin	2.4	2.8	2.3	6	7
Pierce	3.0	3.4	2.8	48	41
Polk	3.0	3.6	2.9	48	50
Portage	2.8	3.1	2.6	35	23
Price	3.3	3.7	3.2	62	57
Racine	3.4	4.1	3.1	65	65
Richland	2.6	3.0	2.5	16	17
Rock	3.0	3.7	2.9	48	57
Rusk	3.5	4.2	3.3	67	66
Sauk	2.5	2.8	2.3	9	7
Sawyer	3.2	3.6	2.7	59	50
Shawano	2.8	3.3	2.5	35	37
Sheboygan	2.6	2.9	2.5	16	13
St. Croix	2.8	3.4	2.7	35	41
Taylor	2.5	3.0	2.5	9	17
Trempealeau	2.8	3.2	2.6	35	31
Vernon	2.5	2.8	2.5	9	7
Vilas	3.0	3.5	2.6	48	44
Walworth	2.6	3.0	2.4	16	17
Washburn	3.2	4.0	2.8	59	62
Washington	2.6	3.0	2.5	16	17
Waukesha	2.7	3.2	2.5	30	31
Waupaca	2.6	3.1	2.5	16	23
Waushara	2.8	3.3	3.0	35	37
Winnebago	2.7	3.3	2.6	30	37
Wood	2.9	3.6	2.7	44	50

COUNTY	ASCENDING ORDER		
	RATE Sep-26	RATE Aug-26	RATE Sep-25
Lafayette	2.2	2.5	2.2
Clark	2.3	2.7	2.2
Dodge	2.3	2.8	2.2
Green	2.3	2.7	2.2
Kewaunee	2.3	2.6	2.3
Calumet	2.4	2.8	2.2
Iowa	2.4	2.6	2.2
Pepin	2.4	2.8	2.3
Dane	2.5	2.9	2.3
Door	2.5	2.7	2.2
Jefferson	2.5	2.8	2.5
Marathon	2.5	3.0	2.4
Sauk	2.5	2.8	2.3
Taylor	2.5	3.0	2.5
Vernon	2.5	2.8	2.5
Brown	2.6	3.1	2.5
Columbia	2.6	3.1	2.5
Eau Claire	2.6	3.0	2.5
Fond du Lac	2.6	3.2	2.5
La Crosse	2.6	2.9	2.5
Manitowoc	2.6	3.2	2.4
Monroe	2.6	2.9	2.4
Oneida	2.6	3.1	2.4
Outagamie	2.6	3.1	2.4
Richland	2.6	3.0	2.5
Sheboygan	2.6	2.9	2.5
Walworth	2.6	3.0	2.4
Washington	2.6	3.0	2.5
Waupaca	2.6	3.1	2.5
Chippewa	2.7	3.1	2.5
Dunn	2.7	3.2	2.6
Ozaukee	2.7	3.1	2.5
Waukesha	2.7	3.2	2.5
Winnebago	2.7	3.3	2.6
Barron	2.8	3.5	2.8
Grant	2.8	3.2	2.7
Green Lake	2.8	3.4	2.6
Oconto	2.8	3.3	2.6
Portage	2.8	3.1	2.6
Shawano	2.8	3.3	2.5
St. Croix	2.8	3.4	2.7
Trempealeau	2.8	3.2	2.6
Waushara	2.8	3.3	3.0
Ashland	2.9	3.6	3.2
Forest	2.9	3.8	3.2
Lincoln	2.9	3.8	2.6
Wood	2.9	3.6	2.7
Bayfield	3.0	3.8	2.7
Buffalo	3.0	3.5	2.6
Juneau	3.0	3.6	2.8
Kenosha	3.0	3.6	2.9
Langlade	3.0	4.0	3.0
Marquette	3.0	3.6	2.9
Pierce	3.0	3.4	2.8
Polk	3.0	3.6	2.9
Rock	3.0	3.7	2.9
Vilas	3.0	3.5	2.6
Jackson	3.1	3.5	2.8
Crawford	3.2	3.5	3.0
Sawyer	3.2	3.6	2.7
Washburn	3.2	4.0	2.8
Burnett	3.3	4.0	3.0
Marinette	3.3	4.2	3.1
Price	3.3	3.7	3.2
Florence	3.4	3.5	3.0
Racine	3.4	4.1	3.1
Douglas	3.5	4.2	3.1
Rusk	3.5	4.2	3.3
Adams	3.7	4.7	3.3
Milwaukee	3.7	4.4	3.5
Iron	4.0	5.1	3.6
Menominee	4.2	5.8	4.6

Note: Ranking is ascending from lowest (best) unemployment rate to highest. Ranking ties exist in the results.