

BLS Data: Wisconsin April Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Holds Steady at 3.5%

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

- **Employment** – There were 3,020,100 people employed in Wisconsin, up 400 over the month and down 2,900 over the year.
- **Labor Force** – The state’s labor force participation rate remained unchanged at 64.4% which is 2.6 percentage points above the national rate of 61.8%.
- **Nonfarm Jobs** – The total nonfarm jobs in the state were 3,028,800, an increase of 9,000 over last month.
- **Unemployment** – The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.5%, which is 0.8 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.3%

This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	April Preliminary	March Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,020,100 (+400)	3,019,700	-2,900
Labor force participation rate	64.4% (=)	64.4%	-0.2%
Nonfarm jobs	3,028,800 (+9,000)	3,019,800	-12,800
Unemployment rate	3.5% (=)	3.5%	+0.3%

One-Year Overview

Month	Total Employment	Unemployment rate
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%
July 2025	3,010,300 (-3,200)	3.0%
June 2025	3,013,500 (-4,800)	3.1%
May 2025	3,018,300 (-4,700)	3.1%
April 2025	3,023,000 (-4,000)	3.2%

*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. Apr-26	REVISED Mar-26	YEAR AGO Apr-25	NET CHANGE OVER	
				1-Month	1-Year

Labor Force	3,130,200	3,129,300	3,122,400	900	7,800
Employment	3,020,100	3,019,700	3,023,000	400	-2,900
Unemployment	110,100	109,500	99,400	600	10,700
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.5%	3.2%	0.0%	0.3%
US Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%	0.0%	0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.4%	64.4%	64.6%	0.0%	-0.2%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.8%	61.9%	62.6%	-0.1%	-0.8%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,028,800	3,019,800	3,041,600	9,000	-12,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,621,300	2,612,100	2,625,400	9,200	-4,100
GOODS PRODUCING	607,800	609,400	609,000	-1,600	-1,200
MINING & LOGGING	4,200	4,200	4,000	0	200
CONSTRUCTION	151,400	151,800	144,900	-400	6,500
MANUFACTURING	452,200	453,400	460,100	-1,200	-7,900
Durable Goods	260,200	260,800	264,300	-600	-4,100
Nondurable Goods	192,000	192,600	195,800	-600	-3,800
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,421,000	2,410,400	2,432,600	10,600	-11,600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,013,500	2,002,700	2,016,400	10,800	-2,900
TRADE	413,700	415,700	426,200	-2,000	-12,500
Wholesale Trade	126,600	127,500	131,000	-900	-4,400
Retail Trade	287,100	288,200	295,200	-1,100	-8,100
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,000	121,500	124,000	500	-2,000
INFORMATION	45,800	45,500	46,700	300	-900
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	159,100	158,200	159,200	900	-100
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,800	29,800	29,300	0	500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	329,200	324,000	329,300	5,200	-100
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	131,300	131,500	131,300	-200	0
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	134,700	128,900	132,600	5,800	2,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	503,300	502,000	496,200	1,300	7,100
Private Educational Services	64,200	64,200	62,300	0	1,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	439,100	437,800	433,900	1,300	5,200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	294,300	290,900	288,900	3,400	5,400
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	48,200	46,900	48,400	1,300	-200
Accommodation & Food Services	246,100	244,000	240,500	2,100	5,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	146,100	144,900	145,900	1,200	200
GOVERNMENT	407,500	407,700	416,200	-200	-8,700
Federal Government	28,700	28,800	30,700	-100	-2,000
State Government	98,200	98,500	100,000	-300	-1,800
Local Government	280,600	280,400	285,500	200	-4,900

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. Apr-26	REVISED Mar-26	YEAR AGO Apr-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	1-Year
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Labor Force	3,116,300	3,120,500	3,115,300	-4,200	1,000
Employment	3,010,700	2,994,300	3,015,300	16,400	-4,600
Unemployment	105,600	126,200	100,000	-20,600	5,600
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	4.0%	3.2%	-0.6%	0.2%
US Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.3%	3.9%	-0.3%	0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.1%	64.2%	64.4%	-0.1%	-0.3%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.7%	61.9%	62.5%	-0.2%	-0.8%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	3,014,600	2,984,500	3,034,500	30,100	-19,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,594,100	2,568,400	2,603,100	25,700	-9,000
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	601,500	597,500	602,400	4,000	-900
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,100	3,900	0	200
CONSTRUCTION	147,200	141,900	141,800	5,300	5,400
MANUFACTURING	450,200	451,500	456,700	-1,300	-6,500
Durable Goods	259,400	259,100	263,400	300	-4,000
Nondurable Goods	190,800	192,400	193,300	-1,600	-2,500
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,413,100	2,387,000	2,432,100	26,100	-19,000
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,992,600	1,970,900	2,000,700	21,700	-8,100
TRADE	410,800	411,300	423,200	-500	-12,400
Wholesale Trade	126,000	126,700	130,800	-700	-4,800
Retail Trade	284,800	284,600	292,400	200	-7,600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	119,200	119,400	122,200	-200	-3,000
Utilities	8,400	8,500	8,400	-100	0
INFORMATION	45,600	45,500	46,300	100	-700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,400	157,600	158,100	800	300
Finance and Insurance	129,100	128,400	129,500	700	-400
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,300	29,200	28,600	100	700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	327,700	318,300	328,900	9,400	-1,200
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	132,100	132,400	132,400	-300	-300
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	62,900	63,000	65,100	-100	-2,200
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	132,700	122,900	131,400	9,800	1,300
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	502,500	501,400	496,900	1,100	5,600
Private Educational Services	65,700	65,400	64,200	300	1,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	436,800	436,000	432,700	800	4,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	282,500	272,500	279,600	10,000	2,900
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	43,400	37,200	44,400	6,200	-1,000
Accommodation & Food Services	239,100	235,300	235,200	3,800	3,900
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,900	144,900	145,500	1,000	400
GOVERNMENT	420,500	416,100	431,400	4,400	-10,900
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	30,800	0	-2,000
State Government	104,400	103,700	106,400	700	-2,000
Local Government	287,300	283,600	294,200	3,700	-6,900

Note: Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

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