

## BLS Data: Wisconsin May Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Ticks Down to 3.4%

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

- **Employment** – There were 3,024,100 people employed in Wisconsin, up 4,000 over the month and up 5,800 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 3,039,800, an increase of 8,700 over last month.
- **Unemployment** – The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked down to 3.4%, which is 0.9 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.3%

### This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	May Preliminary	April Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,024,100 (+4,000)	3,020,100	+5,800
Labor force participation rate	64.4% (=)	64.4%	0.0%
Nonfarm jobs	3,039,800 (+8,700)	3,031,100	-1,500
Unemployment rate	3.4% (-0.1%)	3.5%	+0.3%

### One-Year Overview

Month	Total Employment	Unemployment rate
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%
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%

\*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. May-26	REVISED Apr-26	YEAR AGO May-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	1-Year
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Labor Force	3,131,500	3,130,200	3,115,700	1,300	15,800
Employment	3,024,100	3,020,100	3,018,300	4,000	5,800
Unemployment	107,400	110,100	97,400	-2,700	10,000
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.5%	3.1%	-0.1%	0.3%
US Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.4%	64.4%	64.4%	0.0%	0.0%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.8%	61.8%	62.4%	0.0%	-0.6%

### PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</i>	3,039,800	3,031,100	3,041,300	8,700	-1,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,629,900	2,623,300	2,626,300	6,600	3,600
GOODS PRODUCING	614,500	609,400	609,100	<b>5,100</b>	5,400
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,200	4,000	-100	100
CONSTRUCTION	154,700	151,800	145,700	2,900	9,000
MANUFACTURING	455,700	453,400	459,400	2,300	-3,700
Durable Goods	261,600	260,900	264,000	700	-2,400
Nondurable Goods	194,100	192,500	195,400	1,600	-1,300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,425,300	2,421,700	2,432,200	3,600	-6,900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,015,400	2,013,900	2,017,200	1,500	-1,800
TRADE	414,000	413,600	425,600	400	-11,600
Wholesale Trade	126,500	126,600	131,200	-100	-4,700
Retail Trade	287,500	287,000	294,400	500	<b>-6,900</b>
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	121,800	122,000	123,900	-200	-2,100
INFORMATION	45,900	45,800	46,600	100	-700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157,800	158,300	159,100	-500	-1,300
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,400	29,600	29,400	-200	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	327,100	328,500	329,000	-1,400	-1,900
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	130,500	131,200	131,000	-700	-500
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	133,000	134,100	132,700	-1,100	300
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	505,500	503,900	496,600	1,600	8,900
Private Educational Services	64,600	64,400	62,100	200	2,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	440,900	439,500	434,500	1,400	6,400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	298,000	296,000	290,900	2,000	7,100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	50,900	48,900	49,700	2,000	1,200
Accommodation & Food Services	247,100	247,100	241,200	0	5,900
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,300	145,800	145,500	-500	-200
GOVERNMENT	409,900	407,800	415,000	2,100	-5,100
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	30,600	0	-1,800
State Government	100,000	98,500	98,800	1,500	1,200
Local Government	281,100	280,500	285,600	600	-4,500

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. May-26	REVISED Apr-26	YEAR AGO May-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	1-Year
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Labor Force	3,116,900	3,116,200	3,095,800	700	21,100
Employment	3,027,300	3,010,600	3,002,000	16,700	25,300
Unemployment	<b>89,600</b>	105,600	93,800	<b>-16,000</b>	-4,200
Unemployment Rate	<b>2.9%</b>	3.4%	3.0%	<b>-0.5%</b>	-0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.1%	64.1%	64.0%	0.0%	0.1%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.7%	61.7%	62.3%	0.0%	-0.6%

### PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</i>	3,053,400	3,014,800	3,051,900	<b>38,600</b>	1,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,636,900	2,594,200	2,634,400	<b>42,700</b>	2,500
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	616,800	602,700	609,700	<b>14,100</b>	7,100
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	157,300	147,800	148,500	<b>9,500</b>	8,800
MANUFACTURING	455,400	450,800	457,100	<b>4,600</b>	-1,700
Durable Goods	262,000	260,000	263,400	2,000	-1,400
Nondurable Goods	193,400	190,800	193,700	<b>2,600</b>	-300
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,436,600	2,412,100	2,442,200	24,500	-5,600
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,020,100	1,991,500	2,024,700	<b>28,600</b>	-4,600
TRADE	412,700	410,500	425,500	2,200	-12,800
Wholesale Trade	126,800	126,000	131,500	800	-4,700
Retail Trade	285,900	284,500	294,000	1,400	<b>-8,100</b>
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	120,300	119,300	123,100	1,000	-2,800
Utilities	8,500	8,500	8,500	0	0
INFORMATION	45,900	45,600	46,100	300	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157,300	157,500	158,800	-200	-1,500
Finance and Insurance	128,100	128,400	129,400	-300	-1,300
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,200	29,100	29,400	100	-200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	327,400	327,100	329,800	300	-2,400
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	129,200	132,100	129,900	<b>-2,900</b>	-700
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	63,200	62,900	65,000	300	-1,800
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	135,000	132,100	134,900	2,900	100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	505,100	502,700	497,400	2,400	7,700
Private Educational Services	65,500	65,700	63,400	-200	2,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	439,600	437,000	434,000	2,600	5,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	305,000	283,200	298,400	<b>21,800</b>	6,600
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	54,800	43,000	52,500	<b>11,800</b>	2,300
Accommodation & Food Services	250,200	240,200	245,900	<b>10,000</b>	4,300
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	146,400	145,600	145,600	800	800
GOVERNMENT	416,500	420,600	417,500	-4,100	-1,000
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	30,600	0	-1,800
State Government	101,500	104,400	97,600	-2,900	3,900
Local Government	286,200	287,400	289,300	-1,200	-3,100

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.