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JANUARY LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

METRO AREAS

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced all metro area unemployment rates for January 2006 were lower than January 2005 numbers. The greatest annual reduction in unemployment rate occurred in the Janesville metropolitan area. The Janesville rate was 5.4 percent in January 2006, down from 9.6 percent in January 2005. In line with seasonal fluctuations, all twelve metropolitan areas in Wisconsin posted increased unemployment rates from December 2005 to January 2006. Among the metro counties, the Racine MSA had the highest unemployment rate in January at 6.0 percent, while the Madison MSA had the lowest rate at 3.4 percent.

Eleven of the 12 metro areas posted job gains in January 2006 compared to the estimates of January 2005. January's preliminary job totals in the state's metropolitan areas for nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates were seasonally lower in January compared to December's estimates. The Madison MSA posted the largest annual job gain with 5,500 more jobs, while the Janesville MSA has the largest proportional growth with 4.9 percent more jobs, overall, compared to January 2005. The Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis MSA was the lone metro area to post a decrease in its total number of jobs compared to January 2005 with 7,500 fewer jobs.

COUNTY RATES

"Wisconsin has a lower unemployment rate than one-year-ago with more people working. While unemployment typically increases at this time of year, the improvement over one year ago indicates Wisconsin is continuing to show economic growth," Secretary Gassman said.

Compared to January 2005, unemployment rates were lower in January 2006 in all but five counties. This year followed the pattern of past years with 71 on the state's 72 counties posting an increase in unemployment rate from December to January. Among the state's 72 counties, Menominee County had the highest January 2006 unemployment rate at 9.9 percent, while Dane County had the lowest at 3.1 percent. The greatest reduction in unemployment rate from December 2005 to January 2006 occurred in Florence County.

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Employment and Labor Force Household Survey

Unadjusted estimates	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,033,900	3,041,200	3,009,900
Employed	2,880,900	2,906,100	2,845,300
Unemployed	153,000	135,000	164,600
Wis. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.4%	5.5%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.1%	4.6%	5.7%

Seasonally adjusted	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,061,300	3,047,200	3,044,300
Employed	2,924,100	2,899,800	2,893,400
Unemployed	137,200	147,300	151,000
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.8%	5.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.9%	5.2%

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Unemployment % not seasonally adjusted	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	5.0	4.4	5.5
<i>Appleton</i>	4.8	4.2	4.9
<i>Eau Claire</i>	5.0	4.4	5.7
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	4.9	4.3	5.2
<i>Green Bay</i>	5.0	4.5	5.1
<i>Janesville</i>	5.4	5.0	9.6
<i>La Crosse</i>	4.5	3.8	4.8
<i>Madison</i>	3.4	3.0	3.5
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	5.0	4.5	5.2
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	4.6	3.9	4.7
<i>Racine</i>	6.0	5.4	6.4
<i>Sheboygan</i>	4.0	3.7	4.1
<i>Wausau</i>	4.4	3.6	4.9

Source *Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Office of Economic Advisors

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
January 2006
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
3	ADAMS	8.3%	7.2%	5	9.2%	64	MARATHON	4.4%	3.6%	68	4.9%
34	ASHLAND	5.7%	5.1%	31	6.5%	18	MARINETTE	6.7%	6.4%	10	6.9%
24	BARRON	6.4%	5.4%	24	7.0%	13	MARQUETTE	7.1%	6.2%	13	8.5%
5	BAYFIELD	8.0%	7.3%	4	8.4%	1	MENOMINEE	9.9%	9.0%	1	8.6%
54	BROWN	4.8%	4.3%	50	4.8%	33	MILWAUKEE	5.7%	5.3%	25	6.0%
59	BUFFALO	4.7%	3.7%	66	5.4%	58	MONROE	4.7%	4.0%	58	4.8%
17	BURNETT	6.8%	5.7%	20	7.1%	19	OCONTO	6.7%	5.9%	17	7.0%
69	CALUMET	4.0%	3.5%	69	4.4%	11	ONEIDA	7.3%	6.3%	12	7.8%
22	CHIPPEWA	6.5%	5.7%	19	7.3%	48	OUTAGAMIE	5.0%	4.3%	52	5.0%
23	CLARK	6.5%	5.2%	30	7.7%	71	OZAUKEE	3.7%	3.3%	71	3.8%
43	COLUMBIA	5.2%	4.7%	39	5.2%	28	PEPIN	5.9%	5.2%	28	7.3%
40	CRAWFORD	5.4%	4.4%	48	6.1%	38	PIERCE	5.5%	4.5%	45	5.6%
72	DANE	3.1%	2.7%	72	3.2%	4	POLK	8.2%	5.3%	27	6.7%
46	DODGE	5.1%	4.6%	41	5.4%	51	PORTAGE	4.9%	4.0%	60	5.7%
12	DOOR	7.1%	6.5%	7	8.0%	63	PRICE	4.5%	4.3%	49	4.9%
31	DOUGLAS	5.8%	5.0%	33	6.6%	26	RACINE	6.0%	5.4%	23	6.4%
55	DUNN	4.8%	4.0%	59	5.4%	56	RICHLAND	4.7%	4.5%	43	4.9%
67	EAU CLAIRE	4.1%	3.6%	67	4.8%	39	ROCK	5.4%	5.0%	32	9.6%
36	FLORENCE	5.5%	6.6%	6	6.8%	14	RUSK	7.0%	5.7%	21	8.1%
49	FOND DU LAC	4.9%	4.3%	51	5.2%	45	SAUK	5.1%	4.7%	38	5.5%
6	FOREST	7.9%	7.3%	3	8.6%	8	SAWYER	7.7%	6.5%	9	7.8%
61	GRANT	4.6%	4.1%	56	5.3%	35	SHAWANO	5.7%	4.9%	36	5.7%
53	GREEN	4.9%	3.8%	63	5.7%	68	SHEBOYGAN	4.0%	3.7%	64	4.1%
16	GREEN LAKE	6.9%	5.9%	18	7.7%	32	ST. CROIX	5.8%	4.5%	46	5.7%
42	IOWA	5.3%	4.4%	47	5.2%	29	TAYLOR	5.9%	5.2%	29	7.5%
2	IRON	9.3%	8.1%	2	9.5%	47	TREMPEALEAU	5.0%	4.5%	44	5.9%
10	JACKSON	7.4%	6.2%	14	7.6%	41	VERNON	5.3%	4.7%	40	5.5%
60	JEFFERSON	4.6%	4.2%	53	5.4%	9	VILAS	7.4%	6.5%	8	7.9%
20	JUNEAU	6.6%	6.0%	16	7.5%	57	WALWORTH	4.7%	4.2%	54	5.0%
37	KENOSHA	5.5%	4.9%	35	6.3%	7	WASHBURN	7.8%	6.2%	15	7.5%
50	KEWAUNEE	4.9%	4.2%	55	5.2%	65	WASHINGTON	4.3%	4.0%	57	4.7%
66	LA CROSSE	4.2%	3.7%	65	4.5%	70	WAUKESHA	3.9%	3.4%	70	4.0%
52	LAFAYETTE	4.9%	3.8%	62	5.0%	27	WAUPACA	6.0%	5.3%	26	6.1%
15	LANGLADE	6.9%	6.3%	11	7.2%	21	WAUSHARA	6.6%	5.6%	22	6.9%
25	LINCOLN	6.4%	5.0%	34	6.7%	62	WINNEBAGO	4.6%	3.9%	61	4.7%
44	MANITOWOC	5.2%	4.6%	42	6.1%	30	WOOD	5.9%	4.9%	37	7.2%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Bureau of Workforce Information

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
January 2006
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
7	APPLETON CITY	6.3%	5.5%	7	6.3%
2	BELOIT CITY	7.6%	7.1%	2	10.7%
27	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.3%	2.9%	27	3.4%
19	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.5%	3.9%	19	5.3%
9	FOND DU LAC CITY	5.9%	5.3%	9	5.7%
26	FRANKLIN CITY	3.6%	3.4%	23	3.9%
3	GREEN BAY CITY	7.4%	6.8%	3	7.5%
20	GREENFIELD CITY	4.3%	3.8%	20	4.5%
11	JANESVILLE CITY	5.5%	5.1%	10	12.2%
6	KENOSHA CITY	6.4%	5.7%	6	7.2%
15	LA CROSSE CITY	5.1%	4.3%	17	5.4%
28	MADISON CITY	2.9%	2.6%	28	3.0%
8	MANITOWOC CITY	6.3%	5.4%	8	7.2%
24	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	3.7%	3.4%	24	3.8%
4	MILWAUKEE CITY	7.1%	6.5%	4	7.4%
22	NEENAH CITY	3.9%	3.3%	26	4.0%
25	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.7%	3.3%	25	4.0%
21	OAK CREEK CITY	3.9%	3.6%	21	4.4%
18	OSHKOSH CITY	4.9%	4.2%	18	5.0%
1	RACINE CITY	9.5%	8.6%	1	10.1%
16	SHEBOYGAN CITY	5.0%	4.8%	11	5.1%
10	STEVENS POINT CITY	5.9%	4.7%	12	6.6%
13	SUPERIOR CITY	5.2%	4.6%	13	6.2%
14	WAUKESHA CITY	5.2%	4.5%	15	5.1%
12	WAUSAU CITY	5.4%	4.5%	16	5.9%
23	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.8%	3.5%	22	3.6%
17	WEST ALLIS CITY	5.0%	4.5%	14	5.4%
5	WEST BEND CITY	6.4%	6.0%	5	7.0%