BLS Data: Wisconsin October Employment Numbers Released; Unemployment Ticks Up to 3.3%

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

- **Employment –** There were 3,068,200 people employed in Wisconsin. October 2025 data is unavailable for comparison.
- **Labor Force –** The state's labor force participation increased to 65.1% which is 3.2 percentage points above the national rate of 61.9%.
- **Nonfarm Jobs –** The total nonfarm jobs in the state were 3,048,400, an increase of 3,100 over last month.
- **Unemployment –** The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up to 3.3%, which is 0.8 percentage points below the national unemployment rate of 4.1%

This Month's Labor Market in Brief:

	October Preliminary	September Revised	Net Change Over One Year
People employed	3,068,200 (+12,000)	3,056,200	NA
Labor force participation rate	65.1% (+0.2%)	64.9%	NA
Nonfarm jobs	3,048,400 (+3,100)	3,045,300	+27,900
Unemployment rate	3.3% (-)	3.2%	NA

One-Year Overview

Month	Total Employment	Unemployment rate
October 2026	3,068,200* (+12,000)	3.3%*
September 2026	3,056,200 (+10,000)	3.2%
August 2026	3,046,200 (+9,300)	3.2%
July 2026	3,036,900 (+6,500)	3.3%
June 2026	3,030,200 (+6,100)	3.3%
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

*Based on preliminary estimate from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM. Oct-26	REVISED Sep-26	YEAR AGO Oct-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Year
Labor Force	**3,171,600**	**3,158,400**	-	**13,200**	-
Employment	**3,068,200**	**3,056,200**	-	**12,000**	-
Unemployment	103,400	102,200	-	1,200	-
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.2%	-	0.1%	-
US Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.2%	-	-0.1%	-
Labor Force Participation Rate	**65.1%**	64.9%	-	**0.2%**	-
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.9%	61.8%	-	0.1%	-

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	3,048,400	3,045,300	3,020,500	3,100	27,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,637,100	2,634,900	2,611,400	2,200	25,700
GOODS PRODUCING	618,500	616,500	607,400	2,000	11,100
MINING & LOGGING	4,000	4,100	4,100	-100	-100
CONSTRUCTION	155,800	155,700	147,600	100	8,200
MANUFACTURING	458,700	456,700	455,700	2,000	3,000
Durable Goods	265,400	262,800	260,600	2,600	4,800
Nondurable Goods	193,300	193,900	195,100	-600	-1,800
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,429,900	2,428,800	2,413,100	1,100	16,800
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,018,600	2,018,400	2,004,000	200	14,600
TRADE	410,900	410,600	419,400	300	-8,500
Wholesale Trade	126,300	126,400	127,600	-100	-1,300
Retail Trade	284,600	284,200	291,800	400	**-7,200**
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	124,100	122,900	123,500	1,200	600
INFORMATION	45,800	45,200	46,100	600	-300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,700	158,200	159,300	500	-600
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,900	29,400	29,600	500	300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	333,600	334,700	324,600	-1,100	9,000
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	133,200	134,600	130,300	-1,400	2,900
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	137,500	137,400	130,000	100	7,500
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	507,100	504,300	498,200	2,800	8,900
Private Educational Services	62,200	62,500	63,200	-300	-1,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	444,900	441,800	435,000	3,100	9,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	292,600	297,000	288,200	-4,400	4,400
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	45,900	46,000	46,600	-100	-700
Accommodation & Food Services	246,700	251,000	241,600	**-4,300**	5,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,800	145,500	144,700	300	1,100
GOVERNMENT	411,300	410,400	409,100	900	2,200
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	29,100	0	-300
State Government	98,900	98,800	99,200	100	-300
Local Government	283,600	282,800	280,800	800	2,800

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. Oct-26	REVISED Sep-26	YEAR AGO Oct-25	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Month	NET CHANGE OVER 1-Year
Labor Force	3,197,000	3,176,000	-	21,000	-
Employment	**3,110,100**	3,085,500	-	**24,600**	-
Unemployment	87,000	90,500	-	-3,500	-
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.9%	-	-0.2%	-
US Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.0%	-	-0.1%	-
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.6%	65.2%	-	0.4%	-
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.0%	61.8%	-	0.2%	-

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	3,065,200	3,055,400	3,038,400	9,800	26,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,646,700	2,645,200	2,621,100	1,500	25,600
GOODS PRODUCING	624,500	622,600	613,400	1,900	11,100
MINING & LOGGING	4,100	4,200	4,200	-100	-100
CONSTRUCTION	161,100	161,500	153,000	-400	8,100
MANUFACTURING	459,300	456,900	456,200	2,400	3,100
Durable Goods	265,100	261,900	260,300	**3,200**	4,800
Nondurable Goods	194,200	195,000	195,900	-800	-1,700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,440,700	2,432,800	2,425,000	7,900	15,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	2,022,200	2,022,600	2,007,700	-400	14,500
TRADE	410,300	407,000	418,900	3,300	-8,600
Wholesale Trade	126,100	126,400	127,500	-300	-1,400
Retail Trade	284,200	280,600	291,400	**3,600**	**-7,200**
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	126,300	123,400	125,200	2,900	1,100
Utilities	8,700	8,700	8,600	0	100
INFORMATION	45,400	45,000	45,700	400	-300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,400	158,200	158,900	200	-500
Finance and Insurance	128,500	128,500	129,300	0	-800
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	29,900	29,700	29,600	200	300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	338,400	337,900	329,600	500	8,800
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	133,300	133,800	130,500	-500	2,800
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	63,000	62,700	64,400	300	-1,400
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	142,100	141,400	134,700	700	7,400
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	507,500	503,400	498,500	4,100	9,000
Private Educational Services	63,800	62,100	65,400	1,700	-1,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	443,700	441,300	433,100	2,400	10,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	290,900	303,200	287,100	**-12,300**	3,800
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	47,000	50,400	48,200	-3,400	-1,200
Accommodation & Food Services	243,900	252,800	238,900	**-8,900**	5,000
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	145,000	144,500	143,800	500	1,200
GOVERNMENT	418,500	410,200	417,300	8,300	1,200
Federal Government	28,800	28,700	29,100	100	-300
State Government	104,400	102,200	105,200	2,200	-800
Local Government	285,300	279,300	283,000	6,000	2,300

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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