

In The News

Average hourly compensation costs in U.S. dollars for production workers in manufacturing among 33 foreign economies were 82 percent of the U.S. level in 2006, increasing from 79 percent in 2005, according to data issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Compensation costs relative to the United States rose or remained unchanged in 30 of the economies covered in 2006. For the first time, this news release contains data for all employees in addition to the series for production workers. Both production worker and all employee data are introduced for the Philippines. The all employee series covers most of the countries included in the production worker series, but also introduces Argentina and Slovakia which are not included in the latter series.

-U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, DAILY REPORT, FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

The economy nearly stalled in the fourth quarter with a growth rate of just 0.6 percent, capping its worst year since 2002. For all of 2007, the economy grew by just 2.2 percent, the weakest performance in five years, when the country was struggling to recover from the 2001 recession. The housing collapse was the biggest culprit; builders slashed spending on housing projects by 16.9 percent on an annualized basis, the most in 25 years. The 0.6 percent annualized increase in gross domestic product (GDP) marked a big loss of momentum from the third quarter's brisk, 4.9 percent showing. The fourth-quarter pace was the slowest since the first quarter of last year.

<http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/ECONOMY?SITE=WIMIL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT>

Weekly Overview from the Office of Economic Advisors

The nation's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.4 percent in January; up from 4.8 percent in December. This rate was four-tenths of a percentage point higher compared to January 2007. Total nonfarm jobs numbers declined by three million monthly (not seasonally adjusted) and its annual comparison shows 977,000 more jobs than in January of last year.

Wisconsin's labor market numbers for the month of January will assuredly post a higher unemployment rate on a monthly basis, perhaps up a single percent point or so. The total labor force will contract to one of its lower points of the calendar year. On average over the last decade, the December to January turn measured 41,000 fewer employed coupled with 28,000 more unemployed for a combined monthly net loss of about 13,000 labor force participants.

Total jobs, statewide, should decrease approximately 3% or between 80,000—90,000 jobs. Virtually every major employment sector will experience at least some net employment decrease with the more significant declines being measured in post-holiday retail trade, construction, manufacturing, leisure and hospitality, and both private and public education services.



Weekly Indicators

Dislocated Workers Data

For the week of: January 20 to January 26, 2008

Number of WARN Notices Received	2
Number of Workers Affected	342

For the week of: January 20 to January 26, 2008

Paper Manufacturing	320 Workers
Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	22 Workers



Rapid Response/Orientation Visits

Location	Date	Company	Type of Visit
Niagara	2/5/2007	NewPage Paper Mill	Orientation
Niagara	2/6/2007	NewPage Paper Mill	Orientation
Niagara	2/7/2007	NewPage Paper Mill	Orientation
Niagara	2/12/2007	NewPage Paper Mill	Orientation
Niagara	2/13/2007	NewPage Paper Mill	Orientation
Niagara	2/14/2007	NewPage Paper Mill	Orientation

Unemployment Insurance Data

Week	Initial Claims			Percent Recall	
	2008	2007	% Yrly. Change	2008	2007
January 20 - January 26	15,538	14,310	8.6%	69.0%	66.8%
January 13 - January 19	13,212	14,087	-6.2%	71.1%	70.4%
January 6 - January 12	16,935	16,859	0.5%	89.7%	90.6%

Week	Continued Claims		
	2008	2007	% Yrly. Change
January 20 - January 26	101,120	103,567	-2.4%
January 13 - January 19	101,293	100,195	1.1%
January 6 - January 12	112,968	104,819	7.8%

Monthly Indicators

Labor Market Data

	December-2007	November-2007	December-2006	Monthly Change	Yearly Change
Place of Work Data*					
Total Nonfarm Jobs	2,901,300	2,911,600	2,879,600	-10,300	21,700
Manufacturing Jobs	495,200	496,000	500,400	-800	-5,200
Wholesale and Retail Trade Jobs	454,300	452,600	454,600	1,700	-300
Professional, Business, Education and Health Services Jobs	683,200	684,500	661,400	-1,300	21,800
Avg. Weekly Production Workers' Hours	40.5	39.8	41.3	0.7	-0.8
Avg. Weekly Production Workers' Pay	\$719.69	\$702.47	\$701.27	\$17.22	\$18.42

	December-2007	November-2007	December-2006	Monthly Change	Yearly Change
Place of Residence Data					
Labor Force*	3,088,400	3,093,900	3,080,400	-5,500	8,000
Employed*	2,946,700	2,946,700	2,940,400	0	6,300
Unemployed*	141,700	147,300	140,100	-5,600	1,600
Unemployment Rate*	4.6%	4.8%	4.5%	-0.2%	0.1%
Unemployment Rate (seasonally adjusted)	5.0%	5.1%	4.9%	-0.1%	0.1%

* Not seasonally adjusted

Monthly Indicators –continued

Vocational Rehabilitation Data

	October-2007	September-2007	October-2006
Applicants per Month	1,340	1,386	1,519
Active Caseload end of Month	20,731	20,530	19,583
Waiting List Total	27	39	244
Cases Closed Achieving Competitive Employment Outcome	332	272	185
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
October 2007 Caseload (excluding new applicants)	4,935	13,208	620
October 2007 Order of Selection Waiting List	0	0	27

WIA/TAA (Workforce Investment Act/Trade Adjustment Act) Programs

	December-2007	November-2007	December-2006
JobNet Computer Users	12,341	17,732	14,912
Job Openings in JobNet Business	9,796	15,342	9,669
Registrants in ASSET *	9,277	11,230	10,966
WIA T3 (W-P) Registrants	8,238	10,033	9,537
WIA T1 (Adult) Registrants	431	488	608
WIA T1 (Dislocated Worker) Registrants	336	435	556
WIA T1 (Youth) Registrants	166	195	186
Trade Adjustment Act Registrants	197	181	203
Self-initiated Job Referrals	17,434	20,256	20,352
Staff-initiated Job Referrals	457	497	805

* Since one registrant can exist in several programs at the same time, the ASSET total is smaller than the sum of the registrant totals for each WIA/TAA program.

Employment Support Programs

	December-2007	November-2007	December-2006
W-2 cash caseload	6,607	6,712	6,349
	December-2007	November-2007	December-2006
Childcare caseload - families served	32,221	32,662	32,361
Childcare caseload - children served	58,530	57,388	56,356

Consumer Price Index (Inflation)

	December-2007	November-2007	December-2006	Monthly Change	Yearly Change
Midwest Size Class B/C (population between 50,000 and 1,500,000) 1996 = 100	128.0	128.4	123.1	-0.3%	4.0%
Midwest Size Class D (population under 50,000) 1982-84 = 100	195.8	196.6	187.0	-0.4%	4.7%
U.S. City Average 1982-84 = 100	210.0	210.2	201.5	-0.1%	4.2%

Sources: DWD, Divisions of Unemployment Insurance; Vocational Rehabilitation; and Employment and Training, BWT; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Key to Terminology and Indicators

Dislocated Worker Data

Dislocated Workers - Individuals who have been terminated or laid off, or who have received a notice of termination or layoff from their employer

WARN notices - Notices received under the plant closing and mass layoff federal and state laws

Initial Rapid Response - Initial meeting with the company and union, if applicable, to discuss the dislocation event and assistance available

Orientation Sessions - For the workers that will be dislocated to provide information on assistance available to them

Labor Market and Unemployment Insurance Data

Total Nonfarm Employment- Total number of jobs in state that are not farm related. Does not include self-employed or unpaid workers

Manufacturing - Establishments engaged in the mechanical or chemical transformation of materials or substances into new products

Total Trade - Retail and wholesale trade employment, combined

Professional, Business, Education and Health Services - Wide swath of employment primarily engaged in providing services for individuals, businesses and government organizations

Labor Force - The sum of employed and unemployed who are at least 16 years of age, civilian and not part of an institutional population such as a prison

Unemployment - All persons who had no employment during the reference week and were available for work, [except for temporary illness] and had made specific efforts to find employment during the 4 week-period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed

Unemployment Rate - Number of unemployed as a percent of the total labor force. Labor force is the sum of both the employed and unemployed. It is not a direct indication of those filing for unemployment insurance.

Weekly Production Hours and Wages - Average number of hours worked and wages earned by production workers in the manufacturing sector.

Continued Claims - Number of claimants filing continued claims for unemployment insurance on a weekly basis

Initial Claims - Number of claimants filing initial claims for unemployment insurance on a weekly basis

Percent Recall - Percent of claimants filing initial claims for unemployment insurance who expect to be

recalled by their employer

WIA/TAA

JobNet Computer Users - - Monthly number of ASSET-registered customers who used JobNet touch screen computers to access the WI JobNet system. These computers are gradually being replaced by computers accessing JobNet via Internet, whose usage is not being counted.

Job Openings in WJOS - - Monthly number of job openings received from employers and listed in the WI JobNet/Wisconsin Job Order System (WJOS)

Registrants in ASSET - - Monthly number of new registrations received in the WI JobNet/Automated System Support for Employment & Training (ASSET). One registrant may be registered in several programs at the same time, so this total is smaller than the sum of the five specified program totals.

Self-initiated Job Referral - This referral is tallied when a JobNet user selects the "Print" option on the JobNet job search menu to print out employer job referral information needed to self-refer to the job during the month .

Staff-initiated Job Referral - This referral is tallied when a WIA/TAA staff member uses ASSET to menu-select and Enter a job referral transaction after she/he has provided a job referral service to a client during the month .

Employment Support Programs

W-2 cash caseload - Number of W-2 participants receiving cash assistance benefits; does not include those receiving child care, food stamps or other W-2 program services

Childcare caseload families served - Total number of families participating in the child care program

Childcare caseload children served - Total number of children participating in the child care program

Vocational Rehabilitation Data

Number of Applicants - Number of people with disabilities applying for DVR services

Active caseload at month end - Total number of DVR clients actively participating in DVR programs or services.

Consumer Price Index

A gauge of inflation at the consumer level produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics