

## In The News

"Rebuilding mass prosperity in America will require two epochal shifts in the way our nation does business," contends Harold Meyerson. First, non-manufacturing jobs not subject to global competition -- in transportation, construction, health care, sales -- must be upgraded and unskilled the way many of their counterparts in manufacturing have. Second, the workers in those jobs must regain the power to bargain for decent wages, a power that's eroded as the union movement has shrunk from representing close to 40 percent of private-sector workers in mid-century to just 7 percent today. To see the difference that these two conditions can make, turn your attention to one small but critical corner of the U.S. economy, the adjoining ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Forty percent of all imports to the United States come through these ports, including the vast majority of goods from Asia. They are unloaded by the best paid blue collar workers in Los Angeles, the longshoremen. They are then taken away by some of the more poorly paid workers in Los Angeles, the port truck drivers. Unlike their counterparts on the East and Gulf Coasts, the West Coast longshoremen belong to a powerful, incorruptible and visionary union, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU). In the late 1950s, Harry Bridges devised a plan to mechanize the West Coast ports. The swarm of musclemen who had unloaded ships were replaced by a much smaller group of dock workers operating giant cranes. Port productivity and profitability soared, and the union's agreement with the port operators and shippers ensured that those profits would be shared with its fewer but richer members. The ILWU local at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports has just 7,000 members, but they are among the very few blue collar American workers with annual incomes frequently exceeding \$100,000.

-BLS Daily Report

## Weekly Overview from the Office of Economic Advisors

The nation's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in August, down from 4.9 percent in July. The rate was unchanged compared to August 2006. The nation's total nonfarm job count decreased by 42,000 monthly (not seasonally adjusted) and is 1.5 million jobs higher compared to August 2007. Wisconsin's August labor market data will be released later this month.

Wisconsin's unemployment rate usually drops about two- to three-tenths of a percentage point between July and August primarily as the total labor force contracts (in both employed and unemployed) with a proportionally sharper drop in the number of unemployed. The unemployment rate should hover around this level for the remainder of the calendar year.

The state's overall nonfarm jobs total should measure a small net increase between July and August perhaps in the order of 2,000 to 5,000 jobs. Most of gain will be centered in retail trade and professional and business services. It would not be surprising to see a modest monthly increase in manufacturing as well, specifically in food processing.



## Weekly Indicators



### Dislocated Workers Data

**For the week of: August 26 to September 1, 2007**

Number of WARN Notices Received	None reported
Number of Workers Affected	

**For the week of: August 26 to September 1, 2007**

None reported

### Rapid Response/Orientation Visits

Location	Date	Company	Type of Visit
None reported			

### Unemployment Insurance Data

Week	Initial Claims			Percent Recall	
	2007	2006	% Yrly. Change	2007	2006
August 26 - September 1	9,973	8,075	23.5%	55.7%	51.8%
August 19 - August 25	11,155	7,650	45.8%	57.6%	50.8%
August 12 - August 18	8,135	7,764	4.8%	50.9%	49.5%

Week	Continued Claims		
	2007	2006	% Yrly. Change
August 26 - September 1	63,816	57,773	10.5%
August 19 - August 25	60,445	58,297	3.7%
August 12 - August 18	61,130	60,454	1.1%

## Monthly Indicators

### Labor Market Data

	July-2007	June-2007	July-2006	Monthly Change	Yearly Change
<b>Place of Work Data*</b>					
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,891,000	2,920,000	2,873,300	-29,000	17,700
Manufacturing Employment	506,000	502,700	513,100	3,300	-7,100
Wholesale and Retail Trade Employment	441,600	444,300	434,200	-2,700	7,400
Professional, Business, Education and Health Services	677,400	675,800	664,000	1,600	13,400
Avg. Weekly Production Workers' Hours	39.9	39.9	40.1	0.0	-0.2
Avg. Weekly Production Workers' Pay	\$683.09	\$691.47	\$652.83	-\$8.38	\$30.26

	July-2007	June-2007	July-2006	Monthly Change	Yearly Change
<b>Place of Residence Data</b>					
Labor Force*	3,123,300	3,129,900	3,108,000	-6,600	15,300
Employed*	2,972,700	2,965,400	2,960,500	7,300	12,200
Unemployed*	150,700	164,500	147,400	-13,800	3,300
Unemployment Rate*	4.8%	5.3%	4.7%	-0.5%	0.1%
Unemployment Rate (seasonally adjusted)	5.0%	5.0%	4.7%	0.0%	0.3%

\* Not seasonally adjusted

## Monthly Indicators –continued

### Vocational Rehabilitation Data

	July-2007	June-2007	July-2006
Applicants per Month	1,255	1,378	979
Active Caseload end of Month	20,277	20,334	18,197
Waiting List Total	40	56	2,345
Cases Closed Achieving Competitive Employment Outcome	307	287	219
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
July 2007 Caseload (excluding new applicants)	5,055	13,066	616
July 2007 Order of Selection Waiting List	0	2	37

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

	July-2007	June-2007	July-2006
JobNet Computer Users	17,540	16,498	21,414
Job Openings in JobNet Business	14,949	12,906	14,512
Registrants in ASSET *	13,246	12,935	13,312
WIA T3 (W-P) Registrants	11,686	11,340	11,910
WIA T1 (Adult) Registrants	608	554	581
WIA T1 (Dislocated Worker) Registrants	573	507	499
WIA T1 (Youth) Registrants	236	426	217
Trade Adjustment Act Registrants	287	234	217
Self-initiated Job Referrals	25,861	23,181	29,163
Staff-initiated Job Referrals	827	728	923

\* 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

	July-2007	June-2007	July-2006
W-2 cash caseload	6,254	6,157	7,055
	July-2007	June-2007	July-2006
Childcare caseload - families served	31,479	32,818	31,436
Childcare caseload - children served	56,586	58,126	55,998

### Consumer Price Index (Inflation)

	July-2007	June-2007	July-2006	Monthly Change	Yearly Change
Midwest Size Class B/C (population between 50,000 and 1,500,000) 1996 = 100	127.1	127.4	124.1	-0.2%	2.4%
Midwest Size Class D (population under 50,000) 1982-84 = 100	194.8	194.4	190.1	0.2%	2.5%
U.S. City Average 1982-84 = 100	208.3	208.4	203.5	0.0%	2.4%

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