



United States Congress

Joint Economic Committee

EST. 1946

Republicans

Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*



Wisconsin Employment Update



August 2025 | Released September 19, 2025

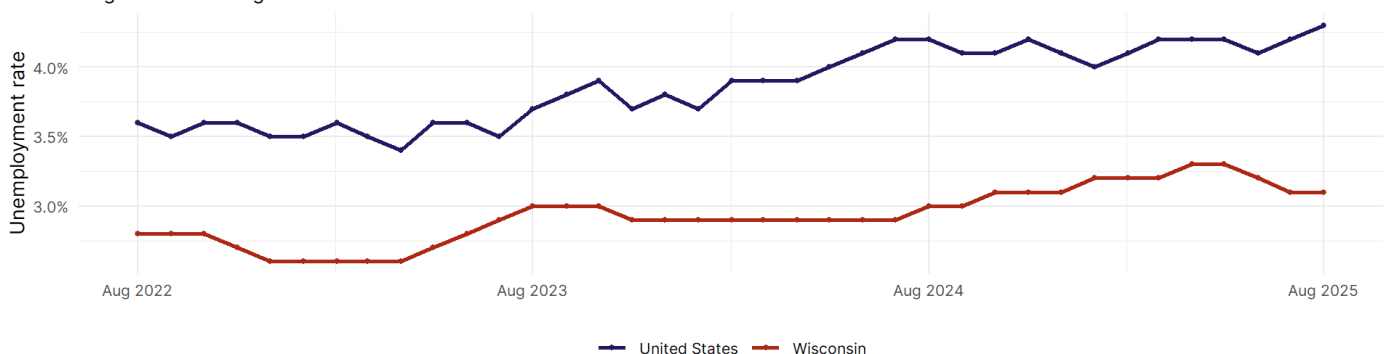
United States Employment Snapshot

- In August, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 13, rose in 12, and remained unchanged in 26.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 6 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 1.9 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3 percent.
- In August, **payroll jobs rose in 32 states and fell in 18.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.5 percent in **Utah**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.7 percent in **District of Columbia**.

Wisconsin Employment Snapshot

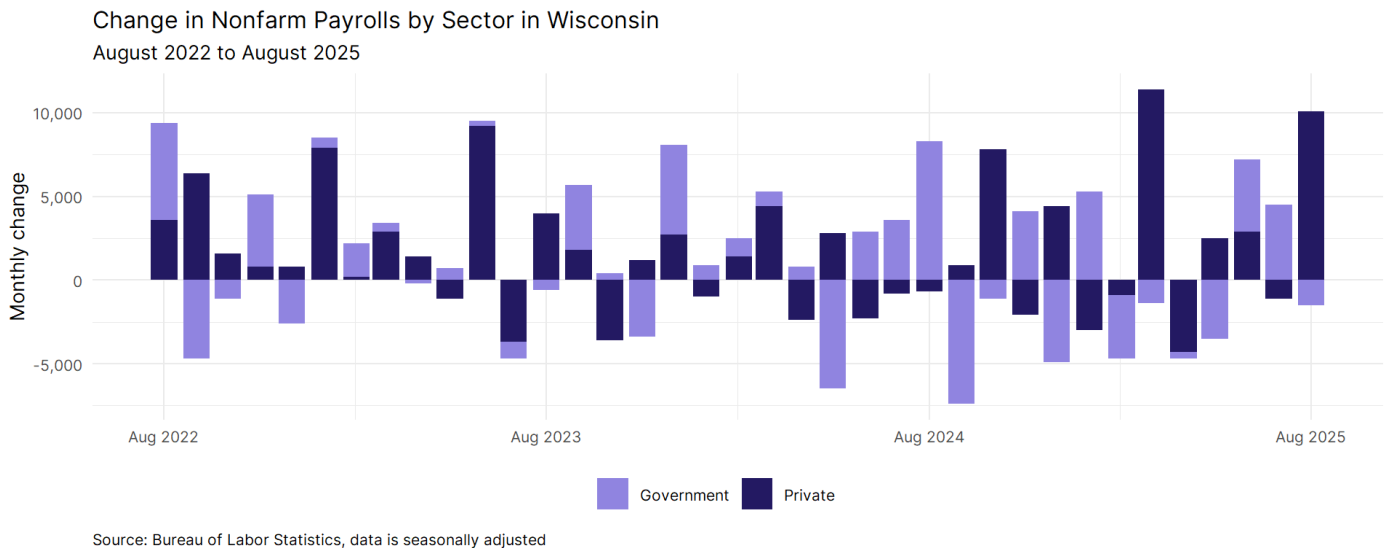
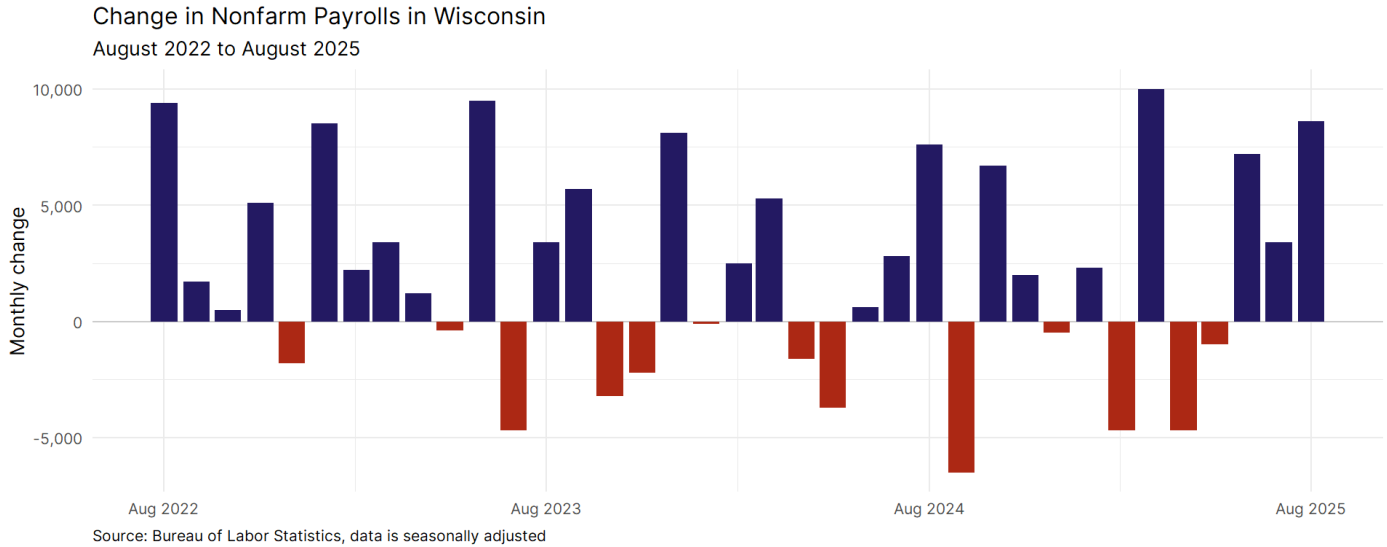
- In August, **Wisconsin added 8,600 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.1 percent.** In the prior month, Wisconsin added 3,400 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **Wisconsin added 22,800 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point from 3 percent.**
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent.** Wisconsin is **tied for 27th** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In August, **Wisconsin's private sector added 10,100 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 28,600 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, Wisconsin lost 1,100 net private payroll jobs.
- In August, employment in Wisconsin **fell by 5,962**, and over the past 12 months it fell by 40,374.
- **Wisconsin's labor force participation rate fell to 64.8 percent** in August from 65 percent and **ranks 13th** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has fallen by 1.2 percentage points.

Unemployment Rate in Wisconsin
August 2022 to August 2025



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

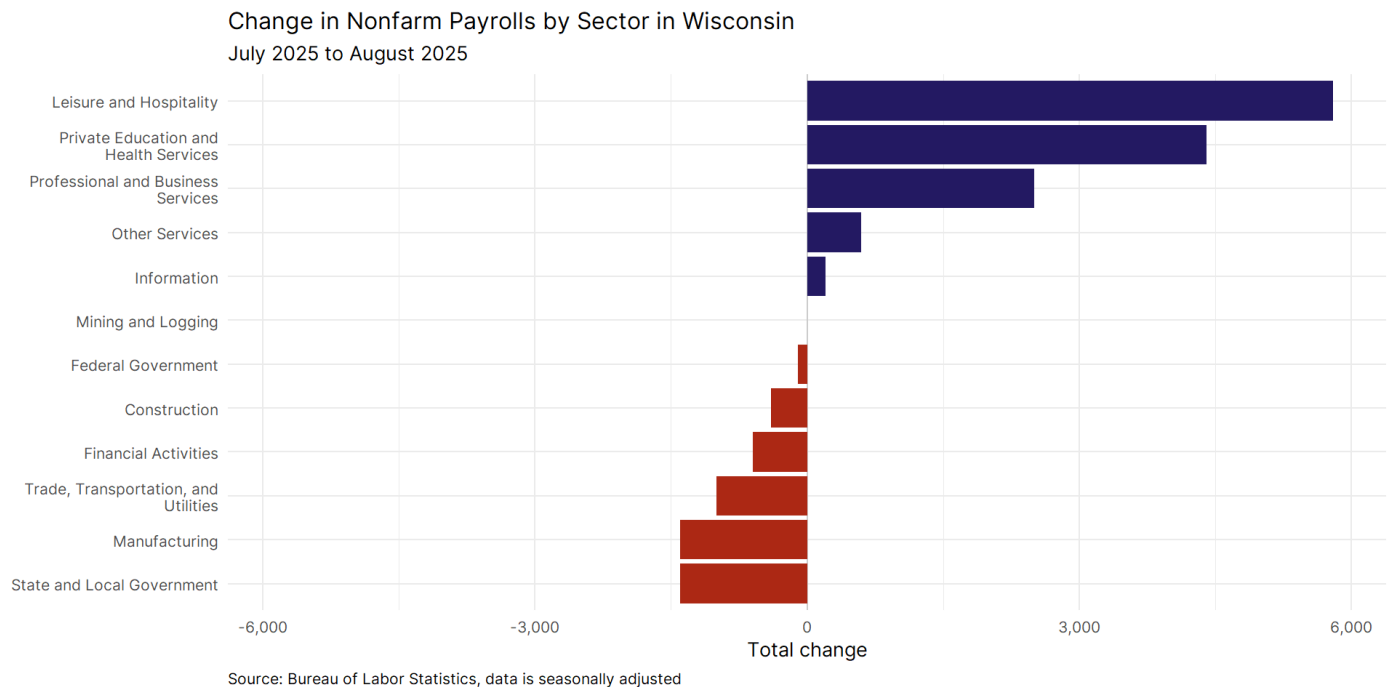
Wisconsin Payroll employment



- **Wisconsin added 8,600 net payroll jobs, or 0.3 percent**, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Wisconsin added 3,400 jobs. Wisconsin nonfarm payroll employment has increased in **7 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent**. Wisconsin is tied for 27th in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- **Wisconsin added 10,100 private sector jobs, or 0.4 percent**, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Wisconsin lost 1,100 jobs. Wisconsin private sector payroll employment has increased in **7 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, private sector payroll jobs **rose by 38,000 jobs in August, or 0 percent**. Wisconsin is tied for 16th in the nation for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

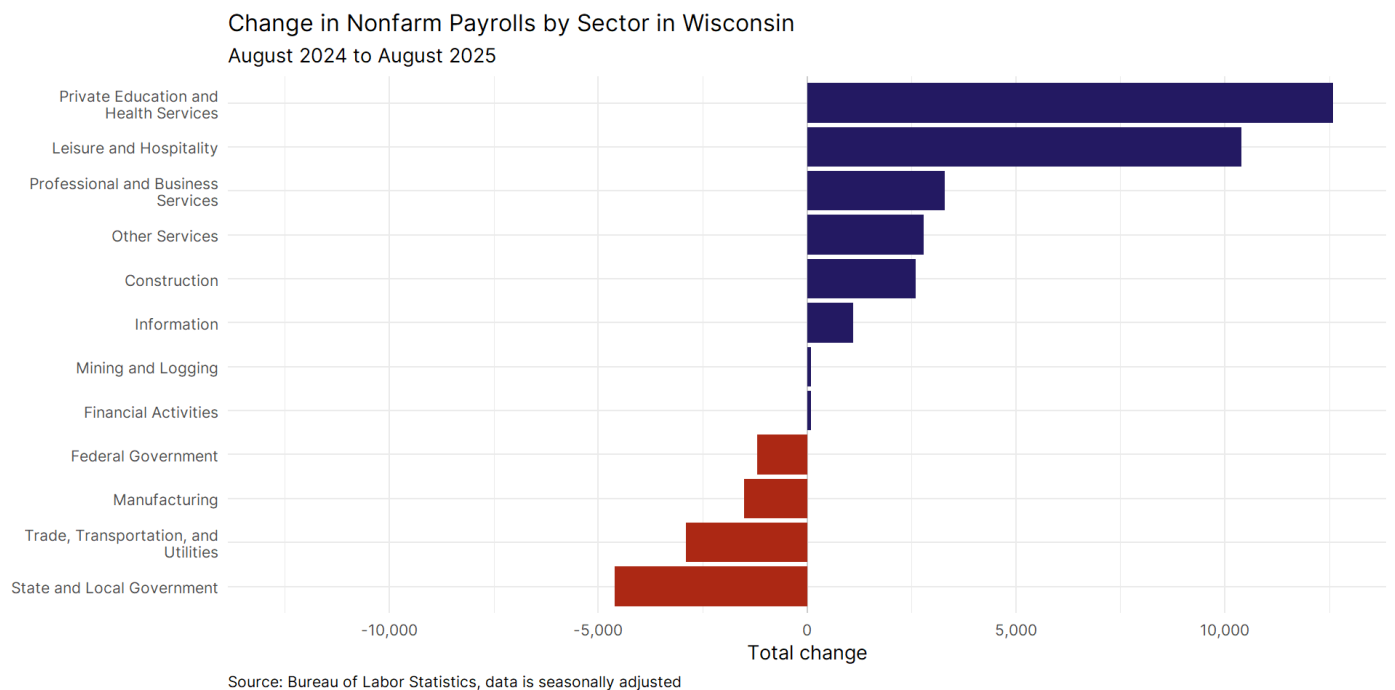
From July 2025 to August 2025:

- The best performing sectors were **Leisure and Hospitality** (+5,800) and **Private Education and Health Services** (+4,400).
- The worst performing sectors were **State and Local Government** (-1,400) and **Manufacturing** (-1,400).



From August 2024 to August 2025:

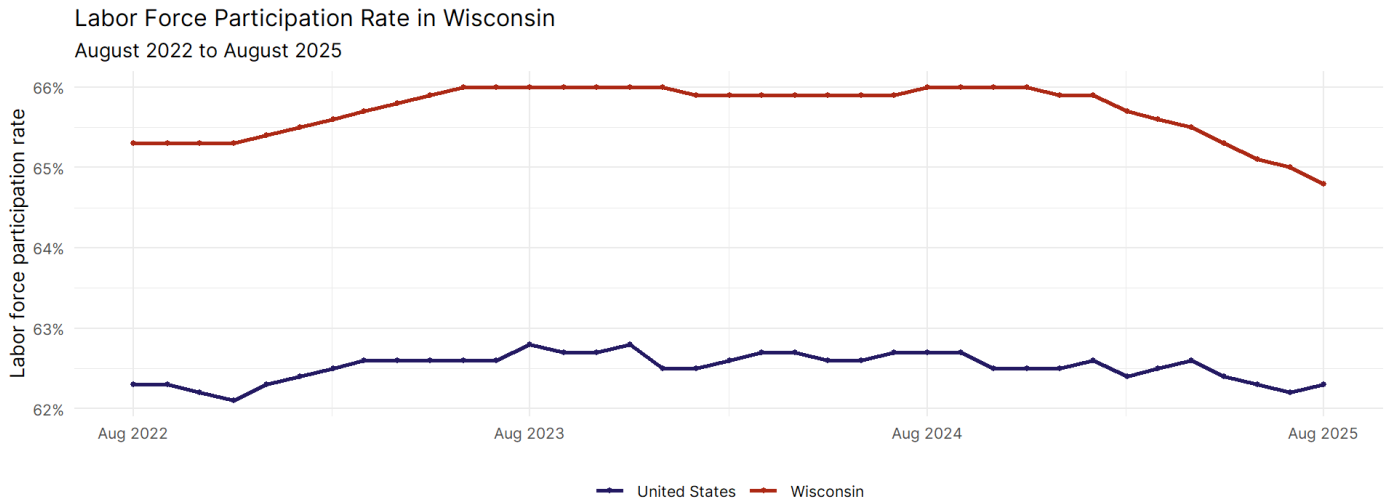
- The best performing sectors were **Private Education and Health Services** (+12,600) and **Leisure and Hospitality** (+10,400).
- The worst performing sectors were **State and Local Government** (-4,600) and **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** (-2,900).



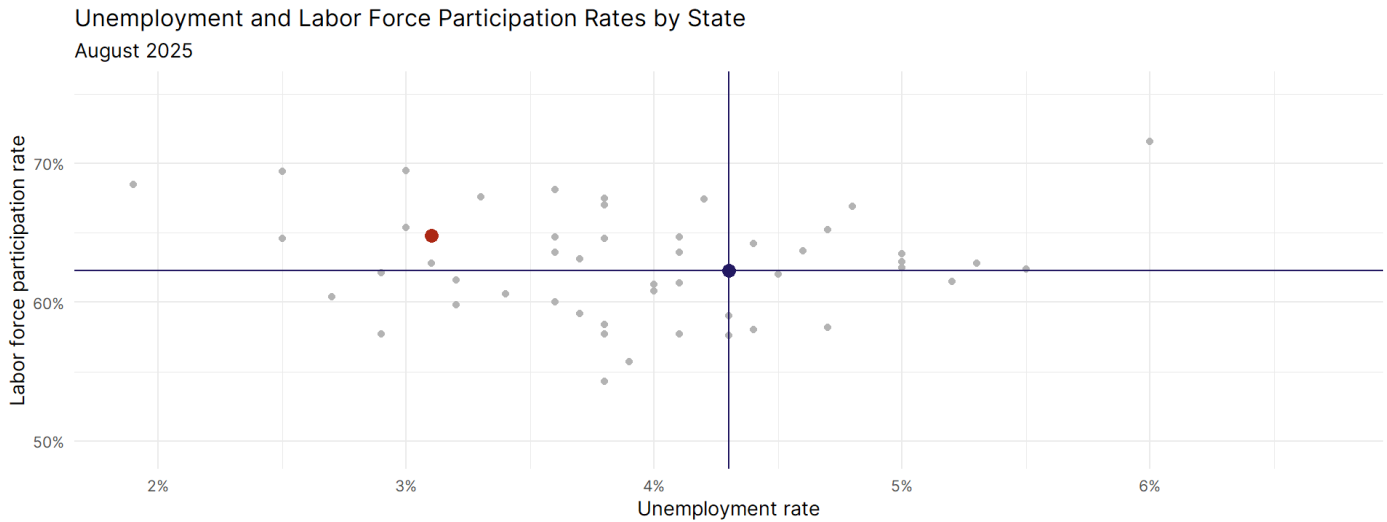
Wisconsin Labor force

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

- The labor force participation rate in **Wisconsin fell to 64.8 percent in August from 65 percent in the prior month.**
- **Wisconsin ranks 13th** in the nation.
- The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Wisconsin was **68.2 percent** occurring in August 2017, and the 10-year low was **64.8 percent** in August 2025.
- The national labor force participation rate **rose by 0.1 percentage points to 62.3 percent** in August.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted