

# Monthly Economic Update

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**SEPTEMBER 2024, FEATURING AUGUST NEWS RELEASES**  
**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

Based in part on information and commentary supplied by Federal  
and State government statistical agencies.

# Wisconsin Updates

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Employment

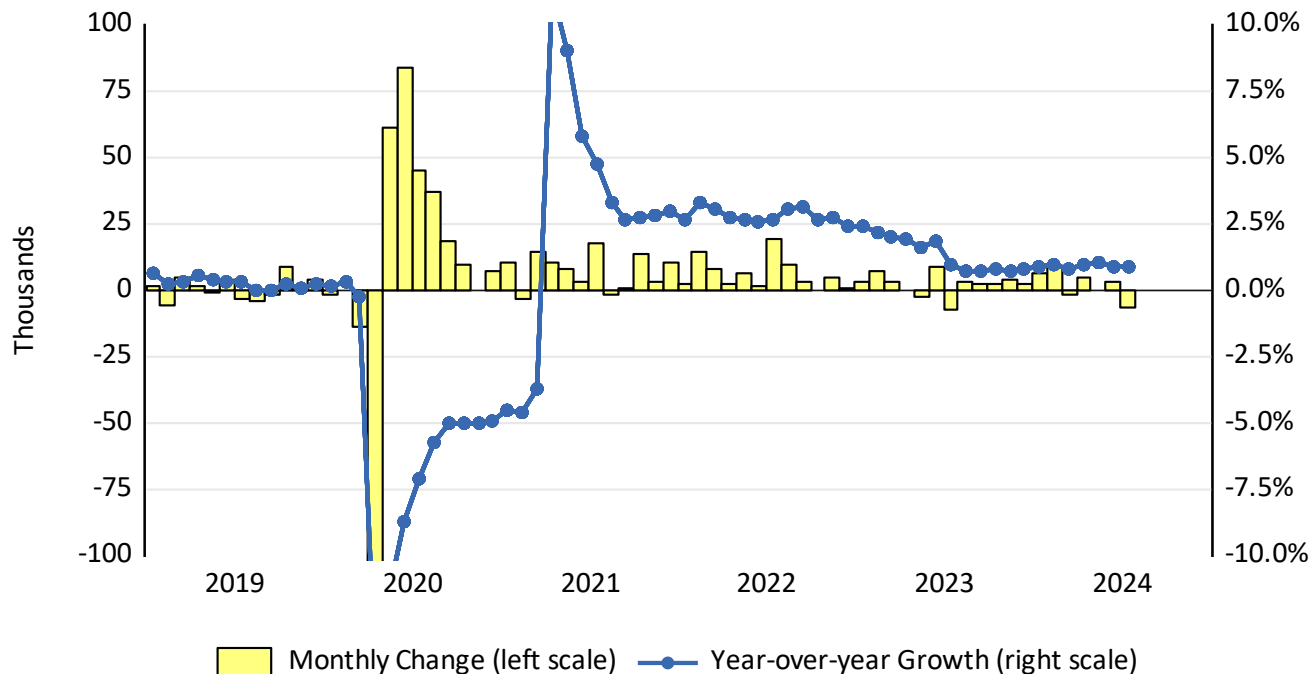
- Sectors

Housing Permits

Exports

# Wisconsin Employment Declined by 6,500 Jobs in July

**Wisconsin Employment**



Wisconsin lost 6,500 jobs in July. Employment, at 3,035,100, is below its level of six months ago.

Private employment shed 8,500 jobs while government employment increased by 2,000 from the prior month.

Compared to the prior year, employment increased 0.9%, or by 25,700 jobs. This compares to a 1.6% increase at the national level.

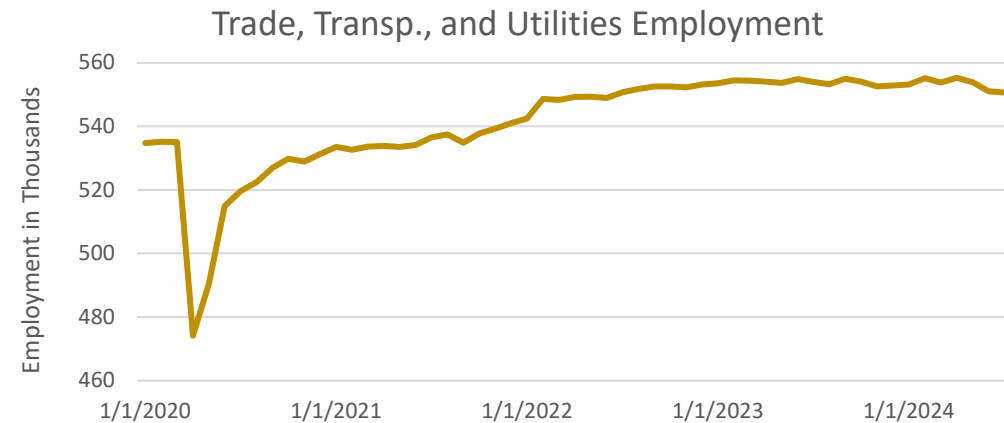
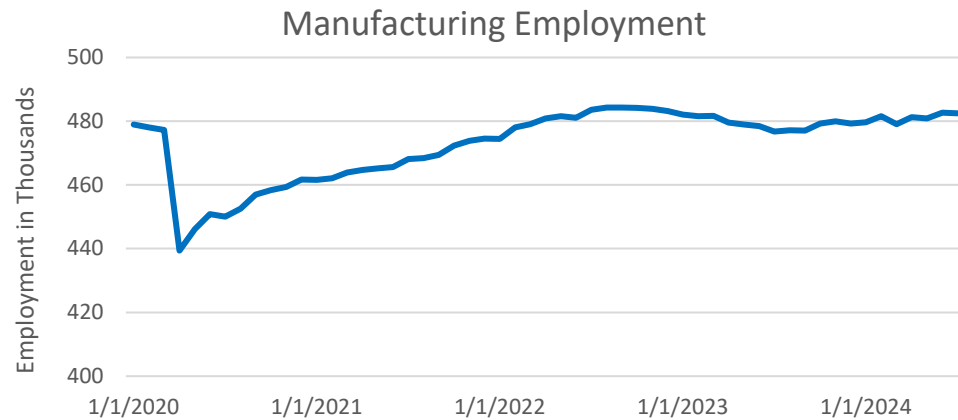
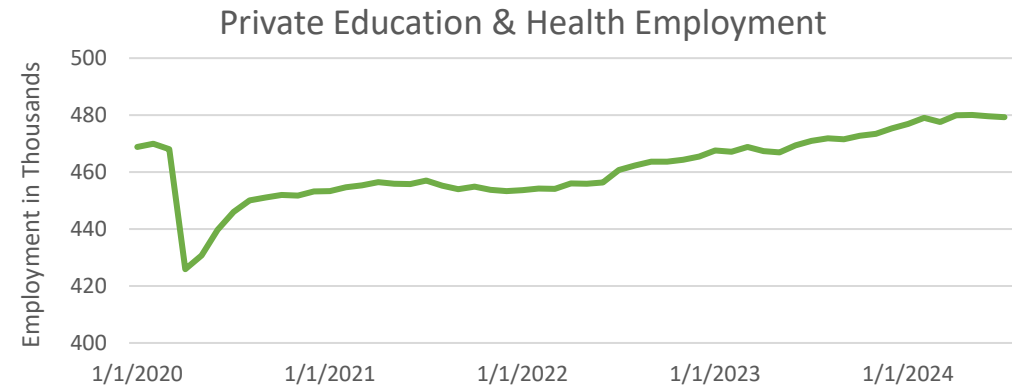
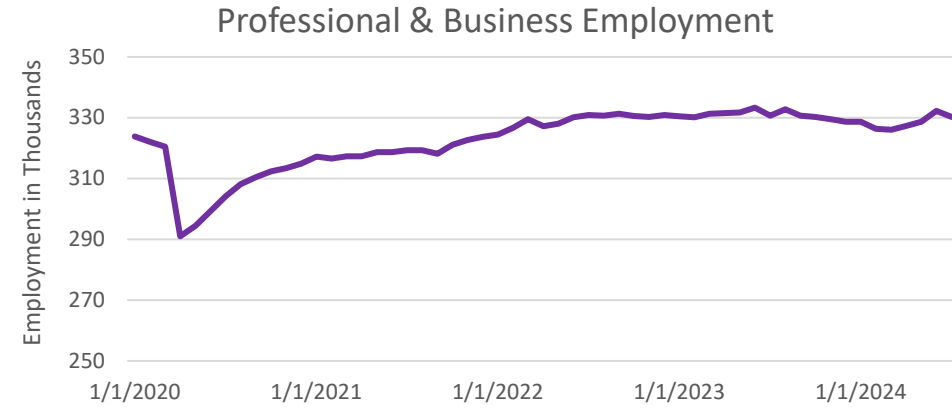
For the month, employment in Wisconsin increased in two private sectors, information (+200) and financial activities (+100).

Sectors losing jobs over the month include leisure and hospitality (-4,400), professional and business services (-2,000) and construction (-1,000),

The unemployment rate increased from 2.9% to 3.0%, still well below the U.S. rate of 4.3%.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

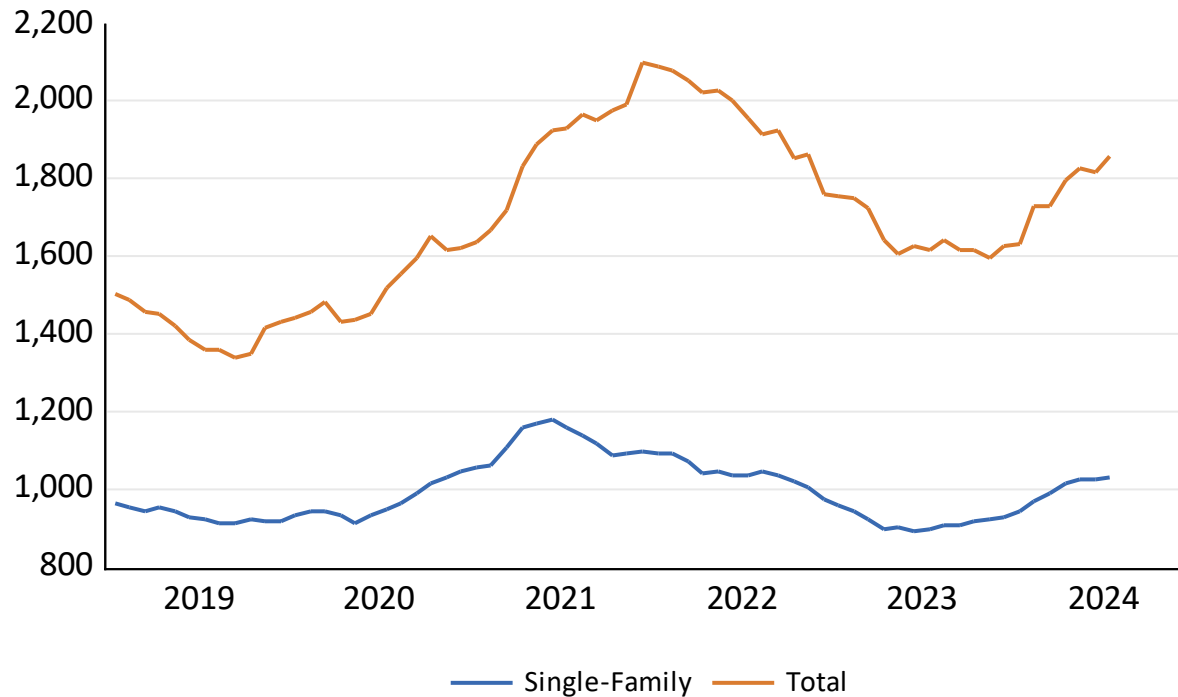
# Wisconsin Employment Sectors



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

# Wisconsin Housing Permits Increasing in 2024

### Wisconsin Housing Permits, 12-month Moving Average



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, New Private Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits for Wisconsin, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

After declining in 2023, Wisconsin housing permits have turned up during the first seven months of 2024.

Total housing permits have risen 26.2% so far in 2024, compared to the same period in 2023, while single family permits have increased 19.3%.

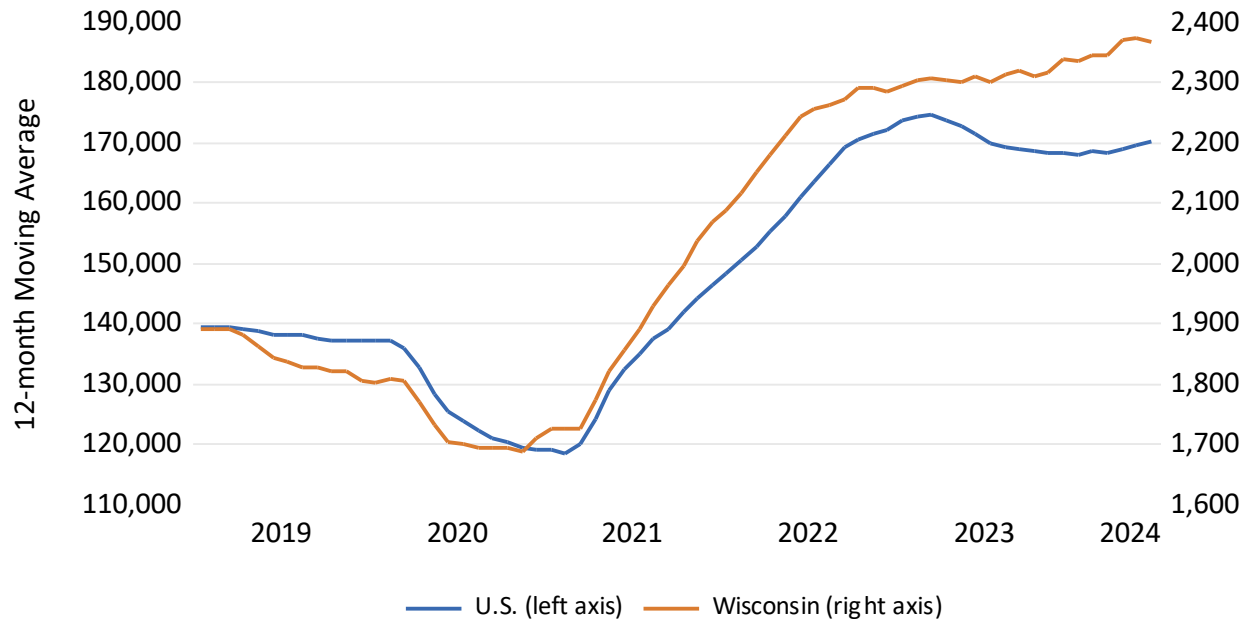
The increase was strongest in the first quarter of the year, when total housing permits increased 35.3% y/y (year-over-year) and single-family permits rose 39.6% y/y.

The increases continued in the second quarter, but at a slower pace, with total housing permits up 19.6% y/y and single-family permits up 13.0% y/y.

Nationally, single family housing permits have increased 12.2% y/y in the first seven months of the year, but total permits are down 2.8% y/y.

# Wisconsin Exports up 2.4% in First Half of 2024

Exports of Goods (Millions of Dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Exports of Goods for Wisconsin, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Wisconsin's exports increased 2.4% in the first half of 2024, while U.S. imports increased at nearly the same rate, 2.3%.

Wisconsin's exports to Canada, its largest trade partner, declined 0.4%. Exports to Mexico, the second largest export partner for Wisconsin goods, increased 1.4%.

The largest increase was a 124.8% increase in exports to Taiwan, which saw a surge in computer equipment (+1,212%) and aerospace products & parts (+163.7%). Exports to Germany had the second largest increase, up 48.3%, mostly in aerospace products & parts (+1,610%) and pharmaceuticals & medicines (+87.2%).

Wisconsin's largest export category, machinery, fell 0.7% in the first six months of 2024, while exports of computer & electronic products, the second-largest category, increased 20.9%.

# U.S. Updates

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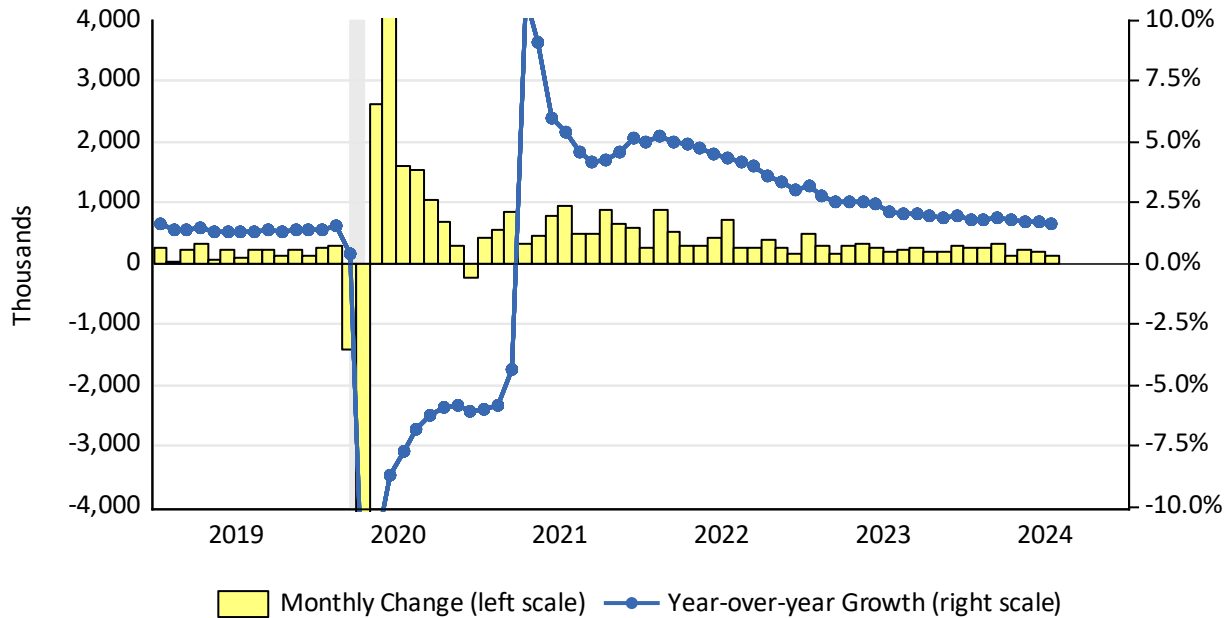
Employment

Inflation (CPI)

Mortgage Rates

# U.S. Added 114,000 Jobs in July

**National Employment**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Employment Report

Total nonfarm payroll employment edged up by 114,000 in July. Employment in May and June were revised down a combined 29,000 lower than previously reported. The July increase was smaller than the May and June increases, but larger than the April increase of 108,000

Health care added 55,000 jobs in July, with increases in home health care services (+22,000), hospitals (+20,000), and nursing and residential care facilities (+9,000).

Employment continued to trend up in construction in July (+25,000) and in transportation and warehousing (+14,000), with job gains in couriers and messengers (+11,000) and warehousing and storage (+11,000).

Information employment declined by 20,000 in July but has changed little over the year.

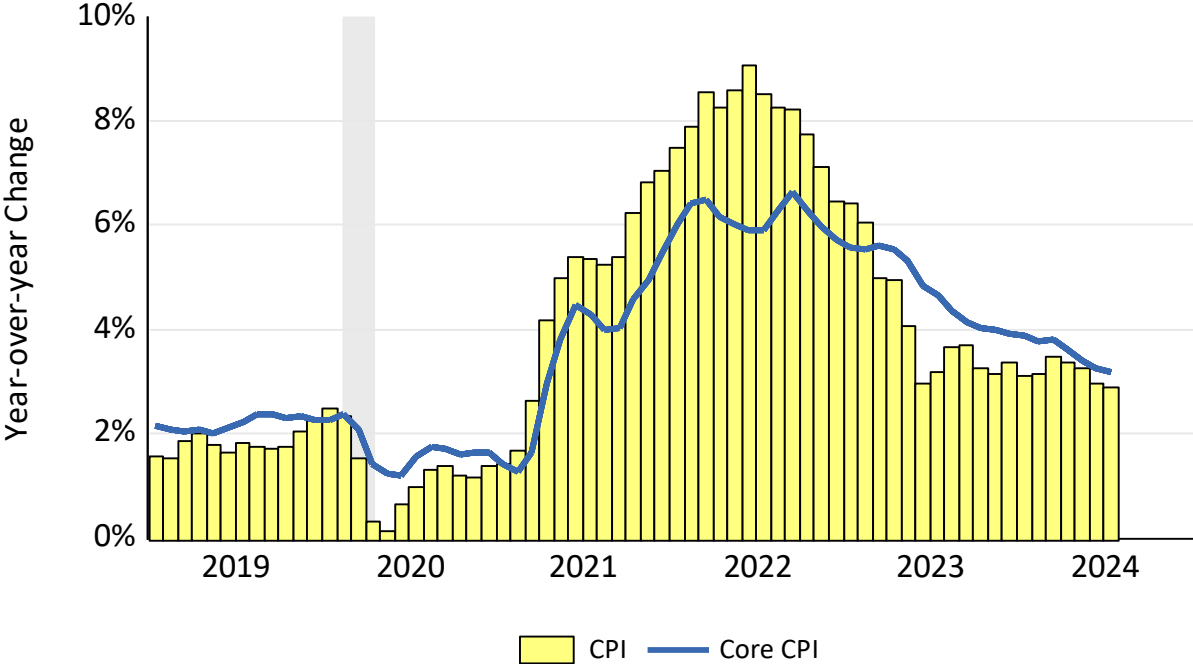
The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage point to 4.3% in July. The labor force participation rate, at 62.7%, changed little in July and was little changed over the year.

On August 14, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released preliminary payroll employment revisions, which will be released in February of 2025. Payroll employment in March 2024 will be revised lower by about 818,000. The revisions will show payroll employment increasing 1.3% in the 12 months ending in March 2024, down from the current estimate of 1.9%.



# Annual Price Increases Fell Below 3.0%

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2% on a seasonally adjusted basis, after declining 0.1% in June. Over the last 12 months, the all-items price index increased 2.9% before seasonal adjustment.

The index for shelter rose 0.4% in July, accounting for nearly 90% of the monthly increase in the all-items index. The energy index was unchanged over the month, after declining in the two preceding months. The index for food increased 0.2% in July, as it did in June. Food at home increased 0.1%.

The core index, which excludes food and energy, rose 0.2% in July, after rising 0.1% the preceding month. Indexes which increased in July include shelter, motor vehicle insurance, household furnishings and operations, education, recreation, and personal care.

The indexes for used cars and trucks, medical care, airline fares, and apparel were among those that decreased over the month.

The all-items index rose 2.9% for the 12 months ending July, the smallest 12-month increase since March 2021. The core index rose 3.2% over the last 12 months and was the smallest 12-month increase since April 2021. The energy index increased 1.1% for the 12 months ending in July while the food index increased 2.2% over the last year.

This report supports the view that the Federal Open Market Committee will lower the federal funds rate at their next meeting in September. This was all but confirmed by FOMC chair Jerome Powell in his speech at Jackson Hole, WY, on August 23.

# Mortgage Rates Drift Lower

Average Thirty Year Fixed Rate Mortgage



Source: Freddie Mac, 30-Year Fixed Rate Mortgage Average in the United States, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Mortgage rates have drifted lower over the past several months.

The rate on a 30-year mortgage in the U.S. averaged 6.35% last week, according to Freddie Mac. This is down from 7.22% reached in May and the recent peak of 7.79% in October of 2023.

Higher mortgage rates put downward pressure on home sales, with even small increases in the rate resulting in higher monthly payments for homeowners.

The monthly payment (principal & interest) on the median-priced home in June 2024 was \$2,309, according to the Atlanta Fed Home Ownership Affordability Monitor. This is more than twice the \$1,044 median payment needed in June 2020 to purchase a home.

# Get in Touch

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Check out our **data visualizations** at [DorViz.wi.gov](https://DorViz.wi.gov).

Anything you'd like to see that we haven't covered? **Let us know!**  
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