Milwaukee Area Economic Summary

Updated October 02, 2019

This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include unemployment, employment, wages, prices, spending, and benefits. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm.

**Unemployment rates** for the Milwaukee area, selected area counties, and the nation

![Unemployment rates chart]

Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

**Average weekly wages** for all industries by county

![Average weekly wages chart]

Source: U.S. BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

**Over-the-year changes in employment on nonfarm payrolls** and employment by major industry sector

![Over-the-year changes in employment chart]

Over-the-year change in the prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories

12-month percent change in CPI-U, August 2019

- All Items
  - East North Central division: 1.7%
  - U.S. city average: 1.5%
- Food
  - East North Central division: 1.7%
  - U.S. city average: 1.7%
- Energy
  - East North Central division: 1.5%
  - U.S. city average: 1.7%

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories

Midwest Region average annual expenditures 2018

- Housing: $17,850 (30.6%)
- Transportation: $9,279 (16.9%)
- Food: $7,511 (12.9%)
- Personal insurance & pensions: $7,019 (12.1%)
- Healthcare: $5,247 (9.0%)
- All other: $11,335 (19.5%)

Total: $58,241

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Average hourly wages for selected occupations

Occupation | Milwaukee area | United States
--- | --- | ---
Total, all occupations | $24.54 | $24.98
Human resources managers | 61.07 | 60.91
Software developers, applications | 44.03 | 51.96
Loan officers | 36.68 | 36.67
Registered nurses | 34.92 | 36.30
Accountants and auditors | 33.61 | 37.89
Dietitians and nutritionists | 25.99 | 29.43
Postal service mail carriers | 24.89 | 24.89
Construction laborers | 23.78 | 19.40
Customer service representatives | 19.69 | 17.53
Retail salespersons | 12.21 | 13.61
Cooks, fast food | 10.95 | 10.89
Cashiers | 10.67 | 11.17


Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by geographic division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private industry, June 2019</th>
<th>East North Central (1)</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total compensation</td>
<td>$31.90</td>
<td>$34.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and salaries</td>
<td>22.06</td>
<td>24.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total benefits</td>
<td>9.84</td>
<td>10.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid leave</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>2.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental pay</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement and savings</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legally required benefits</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) East North Central includes IL, IN, MI, OH, and WI.

Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.

Over-the-year changes in the selling prices received by producers for selected industries nationwide

12-month percent changes in PPI

% Percent
- General freight trucking
- Hospitals
- Breweries

Source: U.S. BLS, Producer Price Index.

Over-the-year changes in wages and salaries

12-month percent changes in ECI

% Percent
- East North Central
- United States

Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.