

St. Croix County's June Unemployment Rate Rises to 6.5%

7 Counties had Lower Unemployment Rates than St. Croix

On July 27th, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach announced the preliminary June unemployment rates for Wisconsin's 72 counties. St. Croix's rate was estimated at 6.5% which is up from the May rate of 5.7% but lower than the April rate of 6.6%. A year ago, the county's unemployment rate was estimated at 7.0%.

DWD said eight of the state's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates or no change in June compared to May.

"The rise in unemployment from May to June reflects a mixed bag and ends a nice streak of steady declines," said William Rubin, executive director of St. Croix Economic Development Corporation. "Rates are generally up across the state, including in all ten counties in the west central and northwest region of Wisconsin. St. Croix's rate of 6.5% is below the Twin Cities rate of 6.9% for June."

Only seven counties had unemployment rates lower than St. Croix in June. Dane County recorded the lowest rate at 5.8% (up from 5.1% in May), followed by Pepin at 6.1% (up from 5.6% in May), Iowa at 6.2%

(up from 6.1%), Buffalo at 6.3% (up from 5.8%), and Calumet at 6.4% (up from 5.8%). Menominee County had the highest rate in June at 20.6% (up from 18.1%), followed by Rusk at 11.1%, and Iron at 10.7%.

The three counties of St. Croix, Polk, and Pierce comprise the St. Croix Valley. Pierce County's rate in June was 6.6% (up from 5.6%) and Polk County was at 8.5% (unchanged from May). The 13-county Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MN-WI metro had reported an unemployment rate of 6.9% in June, up from May's rate of 6.3%.

The preliminary (seasonally adjusted) unemployment rate for Wisconsin in June was estimated at 7.6%, which is up slightly from May's rate of 7.4% and April's rate of 7.3%. The state's seasonally adjusted rate was 8.3% one year ago.

The preliminary unemployment rate in the U.S. in May was estimated at 9.2%, up slightly from May's rate of 9.1% and April's rate of 9.0%. One year ago the U.S. rate was estimated at 9.5%.

June's estimates are preliminary and are subject to revision within the next few weeks.

| County | June 2011 Unemployment Rate | Rank | Rate One Year Ago | County | June 2011 Unemployment Rate | Rank | Rate One Year Ago |
|------------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Barron | 8.0% | 41 | 8.1% | Pierce | 6.6% | 64 | 6.5% |
| Chippewa | 7.7% | 47 | 7.5% | Polk | 8.5% | 31 | 9.1% |
| Clark | 8.3% | 37 | 9.3% | Rusk | 11.1% | 2 | 11.4% |
| Dunn | 7.5% | 54 | 7.1% | St. Croix | 6.5% | 65 | 7.0% |
| Eau Claire | 7.2% | 58 | 7.0% | Wisconsin | 7.6% | --- | 8.3% |
| Pepin | 6.1% | 71 | 6.7% | Twin Cities | 6.9% | --- | 7.2% |

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; St. Croix Economic Development Corp.

Note: The 10 counties of western, west central, & northwest Wisconsin comprise Momentum West, a regional economic development & marketing organization; The Twin Cities Metro Area is comprised of 13 counties (11 in Minnesota and 2 in Wisconsin - St. Croix and Pierce)