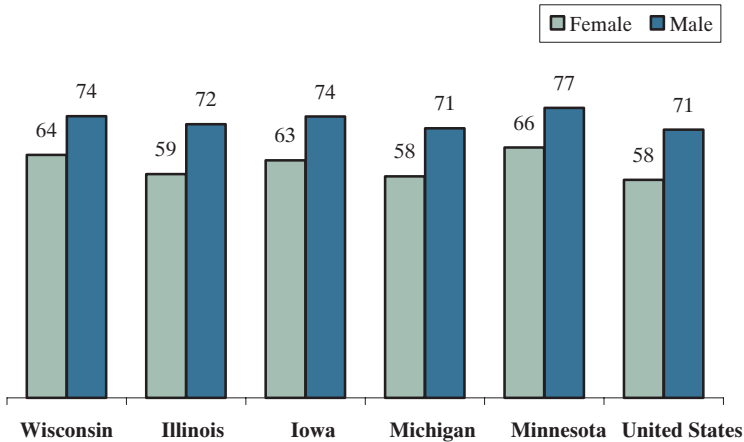


Figure 45  
**Labor Force Participation Rates,  
 Wisconsin, Neighboring States and U.S.: 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

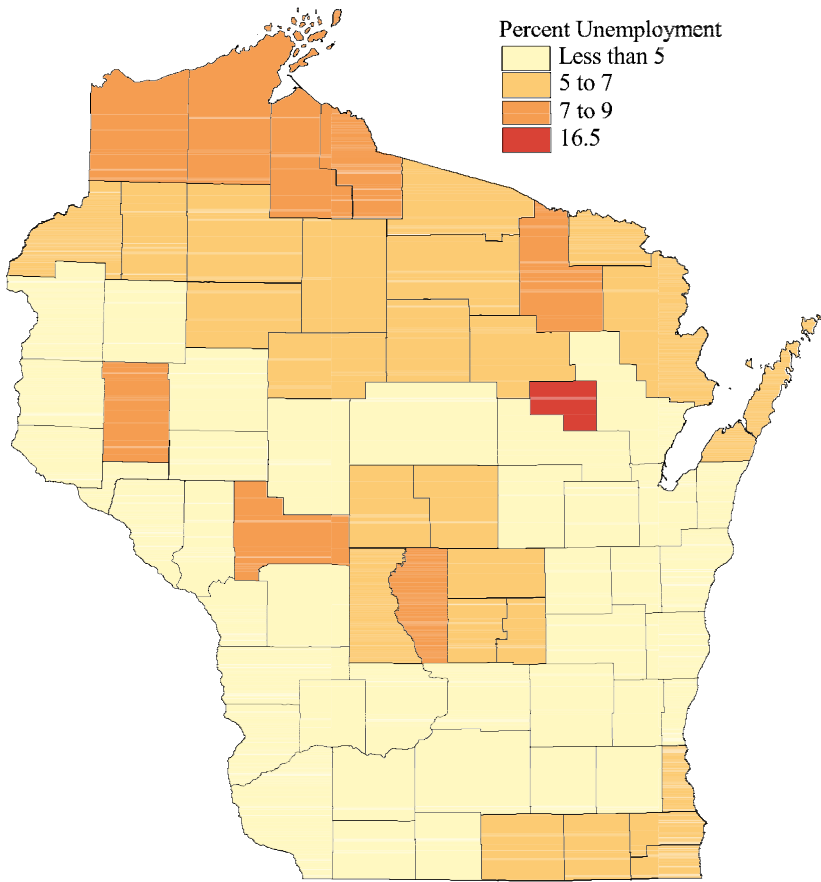
## Unemployment

Following a decade marked by a strong economy and job growth, overall unemployment in Wisconsin was a relatively low 4.7% in 2000. Unemployment is defined for persons ages 16 years and over as being out of paid work but actively seeking employment in the civilian labor force. Men were more likely to be unemployed than women (5.1% vs. 4.2%). There also remains a troubling disparity in unemployment when the data are broken down by race. Unemployment rates were highest among Black men and women (17% and 14%), a lingering consequence of lower educational achievement among Blacks, a serious “mismatch” between the residential location and availability of jobs and discrimination in hiring.

As with all demographic phenomena, unemployment rates vary considerably across the state (Fig. 46). The lowest rates of total unemployment in 2000 were in Calumet and Ozaukee Counties (2.2% each). These counties also had the lowest unemployment rates for men and women. Overall, 16 counties had less than 3% unemployment for women, and 6 counties had under 3% unemployment for men.

The county with the highest rate of unemployment was Menominee County (16.5%). Four other counties had unemployment rates over 8% – Iron (8.9%), Bayfield (8.5%), Jackson (8.3%), and Ashland (8.1%). Menominee, Iron, Bayfield, and Jackson each had unemployment rates greater than 10% among men. Only one county had an unemployment rate of over 10% among women (Menominee, 16%). Women in three other counties had unemployment rates over 6.5% – Adams (7.9%), Bayfield (6.7%) and Milwaukee (6.7%).

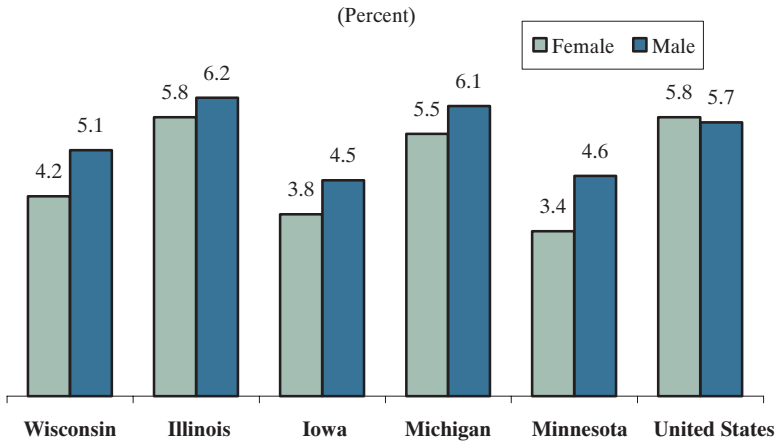
Figure 46  
**Unemployment Rate, Wisconsin Counties: 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population, 2000

Compared to its neighbors and to the U.S., Wisconsin had a lower rate of unemployment in 2000 than did Illinois, Michigan, and the U.S. Its rate of unemployment was higher than the states of Iowa and Minnesota. This was true for both men and women (Fig. 47).

Figure 47  
**Unemployment by Sex,**  
**Wisconsin, Neighboring States and U.S.: 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population 2000

## Industry

The 2000 Census confirms something that has long been understood in Wisconsin. Two principal industry groups for employment in the state stand out: manufacturing (22%) and education, health and social services (20%). These two industries, when also combined with retail trade (12%), employed over 50% Wisconsin's labor force at the beginning of the 21st century (Fig. 48).

There are substantial sex differences among the workers in some industries (Fig. 49). Manufacturing accounts for a greater percentage of the male labor force (29%) than the female labor force (15%). Education, health and social services are strongly tilted toward female workers (32% of women in the labor force), while only 9% of men are employed in these industries. Other industries that notably employ more men than women are construction (10% vs. 1%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (6% vs. 2%). Women are significantly more likely than men to be employed in finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (8% vs. 4%).

Next section