

(AP) Unemployment rates either dropped or held their own in nine of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas in December. That is according to a report released Wednesday by the state Department of Workforce Development. Of the state's 31 largest cities, the report says unemployment rates either dropped or remained unchanged in 28 of them.



However, unemployment rates increased in 44 of the state's 72 counties. Racine had the highest unemployment rate of any city at 11.2 percent, down slightly from 11.8 percent in November. Beloit was second at 11.1 percent. Door County had the highest county unemployment rate at 11.7 percent followed by Bayfield County at 11.3 percent. In the larger metro areas, only Appleton, Eau Claire and La Crosse had increases in unemployment rates.