

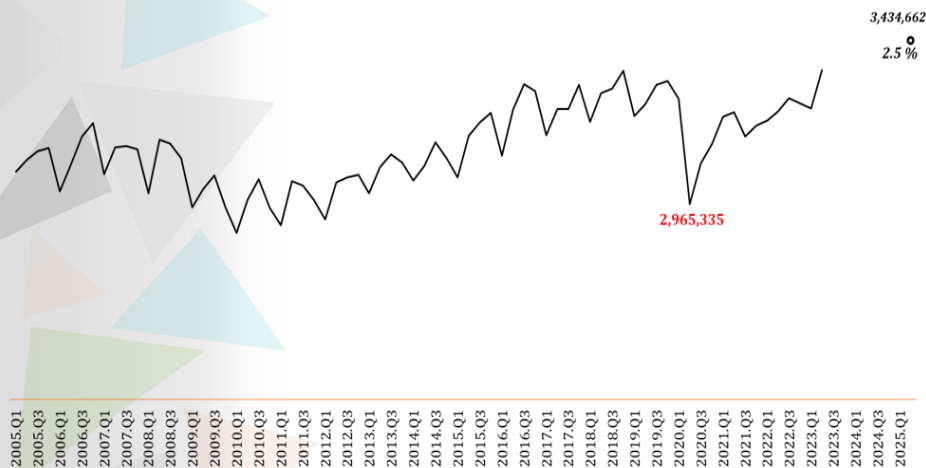
# Wisconsin Recovery Report 2023-2025

## INTRODUCTION

Each year, the **Projections Unit of the Office of Economic Advisors (OEA)** develops short-term (2-year period) outlooks of employment in Wisconsin's industries and occupations. Projections are developed using time series data from the **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)**, **Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS)**, and **Current Employment Statistics (CES)**. Employment trends are examined in approximately 275 industries and 800 occupations. This summary highlights some of the main findings for short-term projections 2023 second quarter to 2025 second quarter.

COVID-19 resulted in the shortest recession in history, lasting from March to April of 2020. Employment in Wisconsin's industries suffered a steep drop during that time but recovered quickly. As health concerns for COVID-19 faded away, high inflation emerged as a threat to Wisconsin's industries. In June 2022, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 9.1% year-over-year. The most recent CPI-U from February 2024 shows inflation increased by just 3.2% year-over-year, which is still above the Fed's 2% target but is a marked improvement.

**Figure 1:** Wisconsin Total Employment and Projected Employment 2025



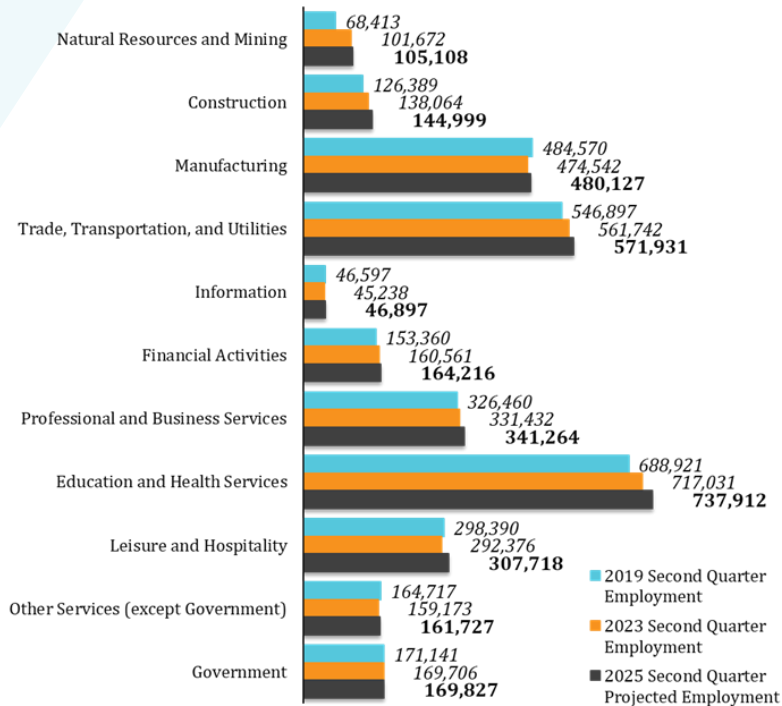
Despite these challenges, industries remain resilient in Wisconsin, and employment continues to register gains. As of second quarter 2023, the base year of this round of short-term projections, total employment in Wisconsin stands at 3,351,795. This is 3.2% above the 2019 value from the same period. Total employment in Wisconsin is expected to increase to 3,434,662 by the second quarter of 2025, a gain of 82,867 jobs or 2.5% over the two-year period. Employment in all industries is expected to expand. The state has made a remarkable recovery from COVID-19, and total employment has been fully restored to second quarter 2019 levels. See Figure 1.

## INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

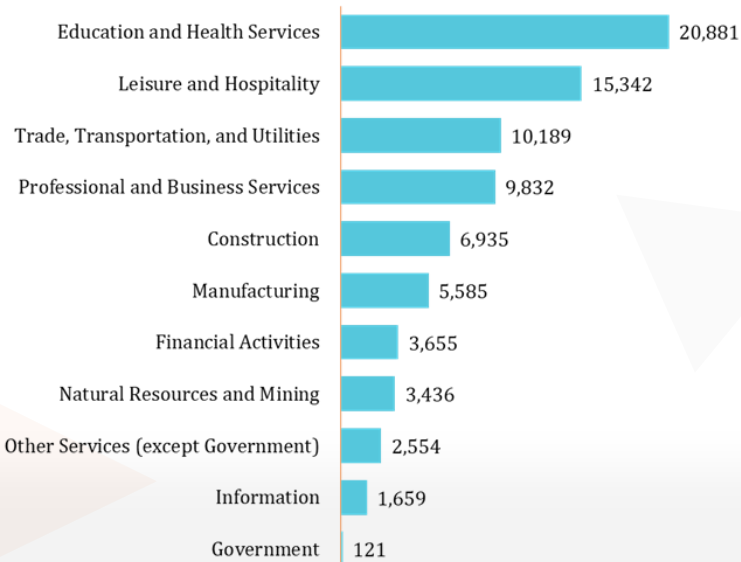
Overall, industry employment in Wisconsin is projected to grow by 2.5% from 2023 to 2025. All industries are projected to have positive growth. *Natural Resources and Mining; Construction; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Information; Financial Activities; Professional and Business Services; Education and Health Services; and Leisure and Hospitality* are all projected to have greater employment in 2025 than before the pandemic. *Manufacturing* is forecast to approach its pre-covid level by 2025 second quarter.

Considering the anticipated net growth from 2023 to 2025, *Education and Health Services* is forecast to have the largest job gain across all super-sectors, with 20,881 projected new jobs. Most of the job gains are expected in the Social Assistance (+6,088 jobs) and Ambulatory Health Care Services (+3,583) subsectors. *Leisure and Hospitality* is the second highest gaining super-sector (+15,342 new jobs), with most of the jobs coming from Food Services and Drinking Places (+7,203); Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries (+3,856); and Accommodation (+3,640). Next is *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* which is expected to increase by 10,189 jobs. The bulk of these jobs will come in Wholesale Trade (+5,215) and Retail Trade (+4,241). *Professional and Business Services* is forecasted to bring 9,832 new jobs; Computer Systems Design and Related Services (+2,603) is expected to have strong growth within the super-sector. *Construction* is adding 6,935 jobs, most of them coming from Specialty Trade Contractors (+4,412). *Manufacturing* is projected to

**Figure 2: Industry Employment 2019 and 2023 vs. Projected Employment 2025 (Second Quarter)**



**Figure 3: Super-sector by Numeric Change. 2023-2025 (Second Quarter)**



gain 5,585 new jobs; the bulk of the gains are expected from Durable Goods (+3,761). Of the larger super-sectors, *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* and *Education and Health Services* are expected to surpass their 2019 employment levels. See Figures 2 and 3.

Considering the percent change in employment by super-sectors over the 2023-2025 period, *Leisure and Hospitality* has the fastest expected growth rate (5.3%) followed by *Construction* (5.0%); and *Information* (3.7%). In the case of *Leisure and Hospitality*, the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector's (+8.6%) recovery from pandemic induced declines is expected to continue.

*Construction* has the second highest percent change as demand for new residential construction is anticipated to remain robust. It is expected that *Information* will continue to expand as well, driven mainly by Software Publishers (+15.1%). The remaining super-sectors expected to grow faster than the all-industry average of +2.5% from 2023-2025 are *Natural Resources and Mining* (+3.4); *Professional and Business Services* (+3.0%); and *Education and Health Services* (+2.9%). See Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Percent Change by Industry Sector. 2023-2025(Second Quarter)**



## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Table 1 compares 2019 and 2023 employment data against the 2025 projections. Growth is projected for all occupational groups between 2023 and 2025. The fastest growing occupations are *Computer and Mathematical* (5.6%); *Healthcare Support* (5.0%); and *Construction and Extraction* (4.4%). Computer occupations (+4,320) make up the majority of growth within *Computer and Mathematical* occupations. The remaining growth is from *Mathematical Science* occupations (+644). Of the *Healthcare Support* occupations, *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*; and *Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides* stand out with an increase of +6,308 jobs. *Construction and Extraction* occupations is primarily growing in *Construction Trade Workers* (+4,671); however, additional growth is seen in *Supervisors of Construction and Extraction Workers* (+797).

Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing with nine of 22 occupational groups remaining in 2023 second quarter below their 2019 levels. All of these occupational groups are expected to grow closer to 2019 levels by 2025, and three are projected to surpass 2019 levels. The 2019 to 2025 gap for *Food Preparation and Serving Related* occupations is expected to shrink by over 75% through the projection period. *Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media* occupations will similarly close the gap by around 20%.



To the extent possible, the projections consider anticipated changes in Wisconsin's economy from 2023 to 2025. It is important to note that unanticipated events may affect these projections.

If you have questions about this publication or need more detailed projections data, please contact:

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**Table 1:** Occupational Groups Employment Projections 2023-2025 (Second Quarter)

Occupations	2019 Second Quarter Employment	2023 Second Quarter Employment	2025 Second Quarter Projected Employment	Percent Change (2023-2025)
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>3,246,790</b>	<b>3,351,795</b>	<b>3,434,662</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Computer and Mathematical	82,053	88,330	93,294	5.6
Healthcare Support	73,877	149,625	157,059	5.0
Construction and Extraction	125,033	133,076	138,965	4.4
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	106,028	105,267	109,524	4.0
Life, Physical, and Social Science	22,411	26,181	27,177	3.8
Architecture and Engineering	55,404	55,314	57,395	3.8
Food Preparation and Serving Related	258,069	246,179	255,205	3.7
Personal Care and Service	161,065	88,252	91,372	3.5
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	120,972	124,624	128,561	3.2
Community and Social Service	47,280	47,154	48,570	3.0
Business and Financial Operations	165,690	201,936	207,576	2.8
Management	201,059	217,009	222,698	2.6
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	176,200	190,427	195,252	2.5
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	41,765	59,964	61,474	2.5
Transportation and Material Moving	223,114	299,955	307,147	2.4
Education, Training, and Library	201,655	205,263	210,106	2.4
Sales and Related	276,595	282,654	288,091	1.9
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	50,135	46,009	46,812	1.8
Production	346,840	327,688	330,300	0.8
Protective Service	59,168	56,352	56,781	0.8
Legal	16,404	17,169	17,244	0.4
Office and Administrative Support	435,973	383,367	384,059	0.2

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Office of Economic Advisors, Wisconsin Employment Projections 2023-2025 and estimates from BLS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) data.

