



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS UNDER THREE PERCENT FOR NINE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS IN GREATER OSHKOSH**

OSHKOSH, WIS. (August 2, 2018) – The Oshkosh-Neenah Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unemployment rate was 2.4 percent in May 2018, down 0.5 percent from May 2017. Wisconsin had an unemployment rate of 2.6 while the U.S. unemployment rate was 3.8 percent, not seasonally adjusted.

The unemployment rate in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA has remained under 3.0 percent for nine consecutive months. Among the twelve MSAs in the state, the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA is one of six to attain this. The other MSAs include Appleton, Fond du Lac, Madison, Sheboygan and Wausau.

The total civilian labor force in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA grew from 93,695 in May 2017 to 94,398 in May 2018, a 0.75 percent increase, and total employment grew from 91,002 to 92,129, a 1.2 percent increase. Over that same period, the total number of unemployed persons dropped from 2,693 to 2,269, a 15.7 percent decrease. This is the fourth most significant drop in the state, followed by Janesville-Beloit (22.9 percent), La Crosse-Onalaska (17.3 percent) and Racine (15.8 percent).

The average hourly earnings of all employees in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA was \$22.78 in May 2018, a 2.0 percent increase from 2017, and the average weekly earnings of all employees was \$769.96, a 1.4 percent increase from 2017.

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The Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation utilizes data from the Wisconsin Development of Workforce Development and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to track economic indicators in the greater Oshkosh region.

*Greater Oshkosh EDC was founded in 2015 and exists to preserve the health of existing companies, foster a positive entrepreneurial environment, connect companies to workforce and talent development resources, enhance the business climate and promote the quality of life in the greater Oshkosh area. For more information, visit: [www.greateroshkosh.com](http://www.greateroshkosh.com).*

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