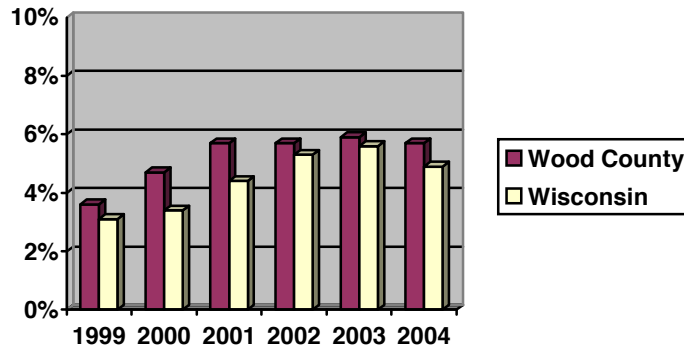


Wood County's Unemployment Rate Indicates Available Workforce

Annual Average Unemployment Rate



Key Facts

- Wood County's unemployment rates have generally followed Wisconsin's trends.
- In 2003 Wood County's labor force participation rate was 71% compared to 72.9% in Wisconsin.
- Commuting patterns and income estimates suggest Wood County has a higher number of jobs versus workers.
- Wood County's aging workforce enhances the opportunities for qualified, younger workers.

Why is this Information Important?

Unemployment has many financial and emotional impacts on those seeking work, as well as their families. Low unemployment rates result in less stress on individuals and families and an overall stronger local economy, which raises the quality of life.

Unemployment measures the percent of the population that is unemployed and actively seeking work. Those who choose not to become part of the labor force do not influence the unemployment rates.

Factors Contributing to Unemployment

Many factors contribute to the unemployment rate. Changes in business ownership, competition, supply and demand, national economic climate and technology are all factors that impact the number of people out of work.

The North Central Wisconsin Workforce Board, along with local Job Centers, chambers, schools and several other providers have developed a variety of programs to address unemployment issues within Wood County. The goal of all of these programs is to prepare individuals for employment in the area by upgrading necessary skills and providing training, education and referrals.

Sources: State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Office of Economic Advisors; Labor Market Information