



UW football: How the Badgers are shaping up

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SCIENCE

Microplastics could be overestimated



The culprit responsible? Researchers' lab gloves

Anne McNeil and Madeline Clough University of Michigan | THE CONVERSATION

It seems like every day a new study finds tiny plastic particles called microplastics where they should not be: in our bodies and our food, water and air. • Yet finding and identifying microplastics is extremely challenging, especially given their small size. One microplastic can range from as large as a ladybug to as small as an eighth of a red blood cell. • In addition, it can be hard for researchers to avoid unintentionally contaminating their samples, because these plastics are practically everywhere. As a result, much of this research may be overestimating the number of microplastics.

In a new study published in March, our team found that, even when following established protocols, using certain methods to measure environmental microplastics can potentially contaminate the results.

The study

We are chemists at the University of Michigan working in a collaborative team. We set out to understand how many microplastics Michiganders were inhaling when outside, and whether



Researchers found that gloves can contribute over 7,000 particles per square millimeter that are misidentified as microplastics. GETTY IMAGES

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Layoffs in April decline in WI from March

Ricardo Torres

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Six companies announced layoffs impacting 736 workers in April, a decline from March, which saw 1,082 workers laid off.

Wisconsin's unemployment has been slowly creeping up in recent months and in March was at 3.5%, which is lower than the national average of 4.3%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. There were roughly 3,019,800 people employed in Wisconsin in March, up more than 500 from February but down 7,200 over the year.

Wisconsin's unemployment has increased by 0.1% each month of the first quarter.

"That is something we're watching. Looking at what direction the jobs numbers are moving and what's happening with the unemployment rate," said Scott Hodek, economist with Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. "Through 2025 and into '26 we are seeing continued growth still, but it does seem to be decelerating some."

Construction continues to be strong with roughly 151,800 workers employed, which is up 6,600 compared to last year.

"There's a lot of jobs there, still. If anything the employment trend over the last year has likely accelerated there," Hodek said. "A lot of what we're seeing is demand still outstripping supply. There's not enough crews to go around, there just isn't enough skilled labor in that field, and we're still seeing issues from that."

Here are the companies that sent out WARN notices to workers:

Ryder Integrated Logistics Inc.

Supply chain consulting company Ryder Integrated Logistics Inc. is ceasing operations at its facility in Green Bay, located at 501 Eastman Ave., and 1145 Huron Road "due to the non-renewal of a contract."

The move, announced on April 30 in a letter to the DWD, impacts 151 workers, but some of them could stay on with another company.

"To our knowledge, operations at

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New bill would incentivize states, cities to help ICE

Vivian Jones

Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE – Shortly after Tennessee lawmakers passed a bill to punish local law enforcement agencies that do not help with a voluntary federal immigration enforcement program, U.S.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tennessee, is proposing new financial incentives for states and counties that help Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Blackburn and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, on April 28 filed the 287(g) Expansion Act, which would offer a 10% increase in federal funding

from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant Program – the primary federal funding stream for local law enforcement – for states and counties that agree to participate in the program.

The policy is similar to one Tennessee passed in 2025 that offered financial incentives to counties that agreed to work with ICE.

So far, just over half – 49 of the 95 – of Tennessee's counties have agreements with ICE.

As of April, 39 states have at least one agency participating in the 287(g) program.

Seventeen have adopted statewide

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