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La Crosse's unemployment rate is nearly back to pre-recession levels. New job numbers from the state shows both the La Crosse metro area and the county with a 4.8% jobless rate for September. That's nearly a point lower than August figures and about a half a point lower than a year ago. The state says all counties and metro areas in the state saw lower unemployment rates for September. Statewide, the unemployment rate is 7.3%, a half point lower than the national average of 7.8%.