

From Governor
Walker's Press Office



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For Immediate Release

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Wisconsin's Economy is Turning Around Part 2: Employers Believe Wisconsin Is Open For Business

Madison—Recent survey data that looks at employers, points to a positive economic look for Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin is Open for Business," said Governor Walker. "Employer surveys indicate, overwhelmingly, that Wisconsin's economy is better off than it was just a few years ago. Data projects job growth, economic expansion, and sustained growth. I will remain focused on ensuring businesses are able to hire skilled employees so that we can continue to create jobs in Wisconsin."

On March 13, the Manpower Group, released their Manpower Economic Outlook Survey, and stated:

- Employers in Wisconsin expect to hire at an active pace during the second quarter of 2012;
- Employers' hiring expectations for Quarter 2 2012 are stronger compared to Quarter 1 2012 when the Net Employment Outlook was 8%;
- From April to June, 21% of the companies interviewed plan to hire more employees;
- From April to June, 7% expect to reduce their payrolls;
- From April to June, 70% expect to maintain their current staff levels and 2% are not certain of their hiring plans; and
- Overall the *Net Employment Outlook* is 14%—this is calculated by taking the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity and subtracting from this the percentage of employers expecting a decrease in hiring activity.

According to the Manpower Group, the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey is conducted quarterly to measure employers' intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforces during the next quarter. The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey's United States results are based on interviews with 18,000 employers located in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, which includes the largest 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas based on number of business establishments. The complete survey can be accessed at: <http://press.manpower.com/reports/2012/healthy-job-market-expected-for-wisconsin-2/>.

The state's chamber of commerce, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce also

released two surveys in the last few months that showed:

- 52% of respondents expect moderate to good growth in their business;
- 44% of respondents expect to add employees in the next six months;
- 94% of respondents think Wisconsin is headed in the right direction;
- 9% of the executives said they anticipate good growth through June 2012;
- 43% of the executives expect moderate growth through June 2012;
- 44% think business will be flat; and
- 5% of executives expect a decline in growth through June 2012.

The most recent survey WMC conducted was an online survey of 1,167 CEOs in late November. WMC received 281 responses from all sectors and small, medium and large employers. The complete [WMC Economic Outlook Survey results](#) are available at www.wmc.org.

The Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank released an economic growth forecast on March 20 that:

- forecasts Wisconsin to grow 1.95 percent over the next six months, which is the best economic forecast for the state since 2003;
- Wisconsin experienced the most improved forecast in the nation; and
- Wisconsin's three-month change was 2.36 percentage points, moving to a forecast of solid gains.

A copy of the [report](#) and [historical data](#) can be found at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's [website](#).

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