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## DWD Secretary Newson: Wisconsin Wages Up 6.7% First Quarter

***\$27.6 billion in wages a record for first quarter, signaling state's continuing economic growth***

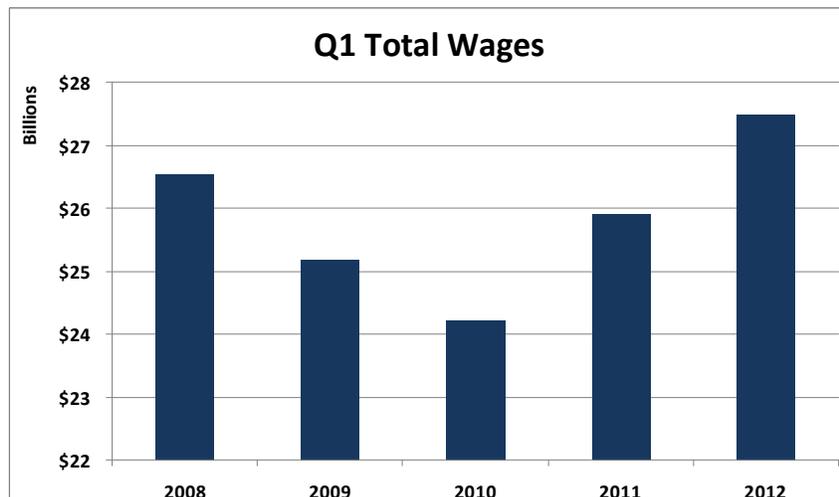
MADISON – As further evidence of economic growth under Governor Walker's leadership, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson said today that Wisconsin wage earners received record 1<sup>st</sup> quarter wages of \$27.6 billion, up 6.7 percent or \$1.75 billion from the first quarter in 2011.

Secretary Newson cited quarterly reports that employers who are covered under state and federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) are required to file with DWD. The reports show record wages earned in the first quarter of 2012 and growth in the same quarter last year, compared to first-quarter decreases each in 2009 and 2010.

"After substantial losses in 2009 and 2010, Wisconsin workers are earning more, including a record amount during the first three months of this year," Secretary Newson said. "The record wages paid is another sign that we've turned things around and are moving in the right direction."

Every quarter, all employers covered under state or federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) must submit tax reports on monthly employment, quarterly total and taxable wages, and contributions for hourly and salaried employees. Wisconsin has nearly 160,000 business establishments that employ over 2.7 million workers.

According to DWD reports, total wages in the first quarter of 2008 exceeded \$26.53 billion, but declined by more than \$1.3 billion, or 5 percent, to \$25.18 billion in the 2009 first quarter and again, by \$960 million, or 3.8 percent, to \$24.2 billion in the 2010 first quarter. In the first quarter of 2011, however, they increased by more than \$1.7 billion, or 6.9 percent, to over \$25.9 billion, and increased again in the first quarter of 2012.



(more)

DWD's Unemployment Insurance Division administers UI eligibility and pays benefits to claimants under state and federal programs and requirements. In addition, the division manages the UI Trust fund, collects unemployment insurance taxes, ensures continuing program integrity and provides continuing outreach to employers and potential claimants.