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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

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## Latest Job Counts for First Quarter '12 Verify State Job Gains

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Private sector creates 37,500 jobs from March 2011 to March 2012*

MADISON – New data published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show the private sector created almost 37,500 jobs in Wisconsin from March 2011 to March 2012, with more than 12,100 of those in manufacturing.

The job counts, based on reports from approximately 96 percent of Wisconsin business establishments and published last week on [BLS website](#), support a broad picture of job gains in the state over this time frame.

Specific highlights of the BLS-published Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data, include:

- **Wisconsin added a total of 28,133 jobs from March 2011 to March 2012, including a gain of 37,497 private sector jobs and a decline of 9,364 government jobs.**
- **Wisconsin manufacturers created 12,138 jobs year over year, leading all other sectors in net job growth.**
- **The state added 7,459 jobs in the professional and business services sector, which experienced the second-highest area of growth.**

The QCEW is considered by most economists to be the most accurate measure of jobs because it is compiled on a quarterly basis from Unemployment Insurance records submitted by 160,000 (over 96%) of Wisconsin business establishments. The **QCEW is one of three data sets** that BLS uses to measure employment and unemployment. The other two include:

- **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):** compiled from a monthly survey of 1,450 households. Measures the labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate.
- **Current Employment Statistics (CES):** compiled from a monthly survey sent to about 5,500 employers (3.5% of Wisconsin employers). CES data has been shown to be volatile and subject to major revisions.

The three BLS job measures were relatively consistent in Wisconsin until June 2011, when the CES began to show results inconsistent with QCEW and LAUS data and other economic indicators, such as a declining unemployment rate, decline in initial and weekly unemployment claims, and growing state revenue collections.

This inconsistency continued with the quarterly release of actual jobs data, including the release of data for the first quarter of 2012. The CES series reported Wisconsin lost 22,700 jobs (not seasonally adjusted) from March 2011 and 2012, including a loss of 11,300 private-sector jobs.