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WISCONSIN DECEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 7.1 PERCENT

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data show 21,400 more residents working since December '10

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary data for December, showing Wisconsin's unemployment rate dropped to 7.1 percent from 7.3 percent in November and 7.5 percent in December 2010, as the number of Wisconsinites working increased by 6,900 over the month and by 21,400 since December 2010.

"Our unemployment rate continues to decline and more Wisconsinites are working," Secretary Reggie Newson said. "Challenges remain, but the latest data show we finished 2011 with more Wisconsinites working, record postings of over 151,500 on JobCenterofWisconsin.com, and higher state sales and withholding tax collections over the year, all of which point to economic growth for our state."

The monthly estimated nonfarm employment was revised upward for the month of November for both total and private-sector jobs. The revised numbers for November show a net 13,600 total nonfarm loss and 10,600 for private sector loss, out of a total nonfarm employment base of 2.74 million jobs:

2011 Revision History (seasonally adjusted)						
Estimated change in employment, in thousands						
Month	Total Nonfarm			Private		
	Preliminary	Final	Revision	Preliminary	Final	Revision
January 2011	+6,200	+7,700	+1,500	+10,100	+11,300	+1,200
February 2011	+5,200	+8,200	+3,000	+3,600	+3,000	(600)
March 2011	+9,100	+7,700	(1,400)	+9,800	+7,600	(2,200)
April 2011	+2,300	+3,500	+1,200	+3,000	+3,600	+600
May 2011	+900	+700	(200)	+900	+900	+0
June 2011	+9,500	+11,000	+1,500	+12,900	+14,800	+1,900
July 2011	(8,200)	(6,400)	+1,800	(12,500)	(10,800)	+1,700
August 2011	(2,300)	(500)	+1,800	(800)	(200)	+600
September 2011	(12,400)	(11,000)	+1,400	(900)	(800)	+100
October 2011	(9,700)	(2,400)	+7,300	(9,300)	(1,400)	+7,900
November 2011	(14,600)	(13,600)	+1,000	(11,700)	(10,600)	+1,100
December 2011	(1,700)			(3,900)		

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Place of Work Data

Preliminary December data put total nonfarm employment at approximately 2.74 million, down 1,700 from November; and total private sector employment at more than 2.33 million, down 3,900 from November. Declines occurred in a number of categories, primarily within the service sector. The preliminary data indicate 6,100 job losses in leisure and hospitality, 2,800 job losses in professional and business services, and 1,000 job losses in educational and health services.

Manufacturing posted a preliminary gain of 3,300 jobs with growth in both durable and nondurable goods production.

The seasonally adjusted data also show that, compared to December 2010, the private sector gained 13,500 jobs, including 9,300 in manufacturing and 8,200 in educational and health services. The public sector saw a decline of 10,300 jobs over the year. Without seasonal adjustment, the estimates had similar results, a monthly private sector job decrease, but a 13,100 gain over the year.

Unemployment Rate

Based on a monthly survey of 1,400 households, BLS estimated that the number of people working increased by 6,900 from November to December and by 21,400 compared to the December 2010 data.

The changes help explain the drop in Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted December unemployment rate to 7.1 percent from 7.3 percent in November 2011 and 7.5 percent in December 2010. Without seasonal adjustment, the December rate was 6.6 percent, unchanged from November 2011, but down from 7.1 percent in December 2010. The rates encompass Wisconsinites who are available for work and actively seeking jobs and are generated by BLS from Wisconsin household surveys and other input.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.5 percent, down from 8.7 percent in November 2011 and down from 9.4 percent in December 2010. Without seasonal adjustment, the U.S. rate was 8.3 percent, up from 8.2 percent in November 2011 and down from 9.1 percent in December 2010.

Wisconsin unemployment rates remain below the national rates and, through November 2011, below rates of other manufacturing-heavy Midwest states including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Dec-11	Nov-11	Dec-10	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,054,200	3,055,500	3,044,700	-1,300	9,500
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,838,400	2,831,500	2,817,000	6,900	21,400
UNEMPLOYMENT	215,800	223,900	227,700	-8,100	-11,900
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	7.1%	7.3%	7.5%	-0.2%	-0.4%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.5%	8.7%	9.4%	-0.2%	-0.9%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,739,500	2,741,200	2,736,300	-1,700	3,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,330,700	2,334,600	2,317,200	-3,900	13,500
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	526,000	520,800	520,600	5,200	5,400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
CONSTRUCTION	85,800	83,900	89,600	1,900	-3,800
MANUFACTURING	443,200	439,900	433,900	3,300	9,300
Durable Goods	272,300	271,500	261,000	800	11,300
Nondurable Goods	170,900	168,400	172,900	2,500	-2,000
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,213,500	2,220,400	2,215,700	-6,900	-2,200
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,804,700	1,813,800	1,796,600	-9,100	8,100
TRADE	412,800	410,900	406,300	1,900	6,500
Wholesale Trade	117,200	118,100	114,000	-900	3,200
Retail Trade	295,600	292,800	292,300	2,800	3,300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	100,500	99,700	101,100	800	-600
Utilities					
INFORMATION	46,500	47,400	46,600	-900	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,100	152,400	155,200	-300	-3,100
Finance and Insurance					
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	24,000	23,900	24,500	100	-500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	264,400	267,200	268,600	-2,800	-4,200
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	86,700	86,700	89,700	0	-3,000
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises					
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	132,000	134,400	132,200	-2,400	-200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	428,100	429,100	419,900	-1,000	8,200
Educational Services	54,600	54,300	52,600	300	2,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	373,500	374,800	367,300	-1,300	6,200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	253,900	260,000	254,200	-6,100	-300
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	39,800	43,400	40,200	-3,600	-400
Accommodation & Food Services	214,100	216,600	214,000	-2,500	100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	140,400	141,100	138,900	-700	1,500
GOVERNMENT	408,800	406,600	419,100	2,200	-10,300
Federal Government	28,200	28,200	29,000	0	-800
State Government	92,100	92,300	94,900	-200	-2,800
Local Government	288,500	286,100	295,200	2,400	-6,700

*Differences in total may occur as a result of rounding.

(1) Includes L-M Disputes

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section.

Cautionary note to users: Revised methodological procedures mandated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) force individual state estimates of employment into closer alignment with the national estimate. This change results in larger month-to-month employment change for the states and the information reported by DWD.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Dec-11	Nov-11	Dec-10	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,038,700	3,048,700	3,031,400	-10,000	7,300
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,838,600	2,846,700	2,817,000	-8,100	21,600
UNEMPLOYMENT	200,100	202,000	214,400	-1,900	-14,300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.6%	6.6%	7.1%	0.0%	-0.5%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.3%	8.2%	9.1%	0.1%	-0.8%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,749,700	2,771,800	2,747,200	-22,100	2,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,332,000	2,351,300	2,318,900	-19,300	13,100
GOODS PRODUCING	525,600	534,500	520,100	-8,900	5,500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	2,800	3,200	2,700	-400	100
CONSTRUCTION	79,600	89,100	83,700	-9,500	-4,100
MANUFACTURING	443,200	442,200	433,700	1,000	9,500
Durable Goods	274,000	274,200	262,600	-200	11,400
Nondurable Goods	169,200	168,000	171,100	1,200	-1,900
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,224,100	2,237,300	2,227,100	-13,200	-3,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,806,400	1,816,800	1,798,800	-10,400	7,600
TRADE	427,800	423,100	421,100	4,700	6,700
Wholesale Trade	118,100	118,900	114,800	-800	3,300
Retail Trade	309,700	304,200	306,300	5,500	3,400
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	102,200	101,800	102,800	400	-600
Utilities	10,700	10,700	10,700	0	0
INFORMATION	46,800	47,700	47,000	-900	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,000	152,000	155,100	0	-3,100
Finance and Insurance	128,400	128,600	131,000	-200	-2,600
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	23,600	23,400	24,100	200	-500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	264,000	270,800	268,300	-6,800	-4,300
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	86,700	86,800	89,700	-100	-3,000
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	46,200	46,200	47,100	0	-900
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	131,100	137,800	131,500	-6,700	-400
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	430,700	431,800	422,500	-1,100	8,200
Educational Services	55,400	55,800	53,500	-400	1,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	375,300	376,000	369,000	-700	6,300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	241,400	248,200	242,000	-6,800	-600
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	34,900	36,600	35,300	-1,700	-400
Accommodation & Food Services	206,500	211,600	206,700	-5,100	-200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	141,500	141,400	140,000	100	1,500
GOVERNMENT	417,700	420,500	428,300	-2,800	-10,600
Federal Government	28,400	28,100	29,200	300	-800
State Government	94,700	97,000	97,600	-2,300	-2,900
Local Government	294,600	295,400	301,500	-800	-6,900
PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR/MGT. DISP	185	0	0	185	185

*Differences in total may occur as a result of rounding.

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