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WISCONSIN APRIL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES TO 6.7 PERCENT

Preliminary jobs estimates continue to contradict other state economic indicators

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary data for April, showing Wisconsin's unemployment rate declined to 6.7 percent seasonally adjusted from March. Compared to a year ago, more people are working.

"Wisconsin's unemployment rate continued its decline, dropping to a preliminary rate of 6.7 percent in April from 6.8 percent in March and 6.9 percent the previous two months," Secretary Reggie Newson said. "A year ago, the rate was 7.5 percent. Meanwhile, we had more people employed and fewer unemployed in April 2012 compared to the previous year."

Secretary Newson noted that the data series – based on household surveys – is in line with other indicators that show continued economic growth in the state. Meanwhile, the place of work data – based on a survey of 3.5 percent of Wisconsin businesses – continued to contradict other indicators of economic improvement by estimating a decline over the month.

"Job creators and job seekers rely on accurate workforce data when they decide to seek employment or grow their businesses in Wisconsin," Secretary Newson said. "When a highly volatile data series diverts from other indicators of job growth – such as fewer Unemployment Insurance claims and increasing state sales and income tax collections – it creates a misleading picture that's out of line with other indicators that show Wisconsin's economy is headed in the right direction."

"This week, we had the first opportunity to see the full 2011 jobs picture in Wisconsin based not on a survey of 3.5 percent of businesses, but on reports filed by some 160,000 Wisconsin businesses," Secretary Newson said. "The picture is clear: Wisconsin added jobs last year."

Place of Residence Data

Based on unemployment insurance claims and a monthly survey of 1,400 households, BLS said Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 6.7 percent, down slightly from the 6.8 percent rate in March and 6.9 percent in January and February. In April 2011, the rate was 7.5 percent. The unemployment rates encompass Wisconsin residents 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 8.1 percent, down slightly from 8.2 percent in March and 9.0 percent in April 2011. Wisconsin unemployment rates remain below the national rates and, through March, below rates of other major manufacturing Midwest states including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

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The BLS data also estimated that more people are working and fewer are unemployed, when comparing data either month to month or year to year. The over-the-year comparison shows an estimated 27,400 more people employed, and a 26,200 decrease in those unemployed. The corresponding over-the-month estimates show 6,800 more people employed, and slightly fewer unemployed.

Place of Work Data

The most recent CES data indicate upward job revisions to March 2012 estimates for both total non-farm and private sector. The upward revisions include 7,300 more in nonfarm jobs for a January-to-March gain of 18,100; and 700 more in private sector jobs for a January-to-March gain of 16,300. The revisions for preliminary February nonfarm and private sector totals are shown in the following table:

2012 Revision History: Over-the-Month Changes (Seasonally Adjusted)						
Month	Total Nonfarm			Private		
	Preliminary	Revised	Difference	Preliminary	Revised	Difference
January 2012	12,500	5,200	(7,300)	15,700	13,800	(1,900)
February 2012	8,300	10,100	1,800	4,000	6,100	2,100
March 2012	-4,500	2,800	+7,300	-4,300	-3,600	+700

Preliminary seasonally adjusted data show private-sector job numbers declined by 6,200 in April and by 11,100 over the year, but grew by a net 10,100 since December 2011. The net gain since December 2010 is 400. Total nonfarm employment decreased by 5,900 from March to April and 21,400 compared to April 2011, but grew by a net 12,200 since December 2011. A total nonfarm decline of 8,800 since December 2010 is entirely due to a drop in government jobs over this time frame.

The preliminary April totals will undergo further revisions in the next several weeks.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-12	Mar-12	Apr-11	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,068,900	3,064,400	3,067,700	4,500	1,200
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,863,600	2,856,800	2,836,200	6,800	27,400
UNEMPLOYMENT	205,300	207,600	231,500	-2,300	-26,200
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.7%	6.8%	7.5%	-0.1%	-0.8%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.1%	8.2%	9.0%	-0.1%	-0.9%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,732,000	2,737,900	2,753,400	-5,900	-21,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,324,000	2,330,200	2,335,100	-6,200	-11,100
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	531,300	534,200	533,400	-2,900	-2,100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	2,900	3,000	2,900	-100	0
CONSTRUCTION	86,400	88,100	92,500	-1,700	-6,100
MANUFACTURING	447,800	449,100	443,800	-1,300	4,000
Durable Goods	276,300	277,300	269,300	-1,000	7,000
Nondurable Goods	171,500	171,800	174,500	-300	-3,000
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,200,700	2,203,700	2,220,000	-3,000	-19,300
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,792,700	1,796,000	1,801,700	-3,300	-9,000
TRADE	410,800	407,500	409,300	3,300	1,500
Wholesale Trade	116,500	116,100	114,000	400	2,500
Retail Trade	294,300	291,400	295,300	2,900	-1,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	98,200	98,800	101,000	-600	-2,800
Utilities					
INFORMATION	46,100	46,300	46,900	-200	-800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,500	155,400	159,100	100	-3,600
Finance and Insurance					
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	23,900	23,900	24,300	0	-400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	282,700	282,100	282,500	600	200
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	95,000	92,000	96,000	3,000	-1,000
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises					
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	136,600	138,100	136,600	-1,500	0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	415,300	415,500	408,900	-200	6,400
Educational Services	50,000	50,200	49,600	-200	400
Health Care & Social Assistance	365,300	365,300	359,300	0	6,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	244,300	249,300	251,300	-5,000	-7,000
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	32,000	33,800	34,300	-1,800	-2,300
Accommodation & Food Services	212,300	215,500	217,000	-3,200	-4,700
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	134,000	135,100	136,900	-1,100	-2,900
GOVERNMENT	408,000	407,700	418,300	300	-10,300
Federal Government	28,800	28,700	29,500	100	-700
State Government	100,600	100,100	99,700	500	900
Local Government	278,600	278,900	289,100	-300	-10,500

*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.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Apr-12	Mar-12	Apr-11	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,044,000	3,049,700	3,044,500	-5,700	-500
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,838,100	2,819,900	2,815,400	18,200	22,700
UNEMPLOYMENT	206,000	229,800	229,100	-23,800	-23,100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.8%	7.5%	7.5%	-0.7%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.7%	8.4%	8.7%	-0.7%	-1.0%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,712,900	2,682,300	2,742,400	30,600	-29,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,292,800	2,265,600	2,310,100	27,200	-17,300
GOODS PRODUCING	524,200	514,900	529,000	9,300	-4,800
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	2,700	2,500	2,700	200	0
CONSTRUCTION	79,200	71,000	87,700	8,200	-8,500
MANUFACTURING	442,300	441,400	438,600	900	3,700
Durable Goods	273,300	272,800	266,900	500	6,400
Nondurable Goods	169,000	168,600	171,700	400	-2,700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,188,700	2,167,400	2,213,400	21,300	-24,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,768,600	1,750,700	1,781,100	17,900	-12,500
TRADE	403,100	398,000	402,800	5,100	300
Wholesale Trade	115,700	114,600	113,300	1,100	2,400
Retail Trade	287,400	283,400	289,500	4,000	-2,100
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	97,400	97,100	100,700	300	-3,300
Utilities	10,900	10,900	10,900	0	0
INFORMATION	46,000	46,000	46,500	0	-500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,500	154,500	158,600	1,000	-3,100
Finance and Insurance	132,100	131,600	134,700	500	-2,600
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	23,400	22,900	23,900	500	-500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	280,900	273,400	281,200	7,500	-300
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	94,800	92,200	97,800	2,600	-3,000
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	50,900	51,200	50,200	-300	700
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	135,200	130,000	133,200	5,200	2,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	416,000	415,900	409,900	100	6,100
Educational Services	51,600	52,000	50,800	-400	800
Health Care & Social Assistance	364,400	363,900	359,100	500	5,300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	235,600	231,400	244,700	4,200	-9,100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	30,000	28,700	32,300	1,300	-2,300
Accommodation & Food Services	205,600	202,700	212,400	2,900	-6,800
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	134,100	134,400	136,700	-300	-2,600
GOVERNMENT	420,100	416,700	432,300	3,400	-12,200
Federal Government	28,800	28,500	29,500	300	-700
State Government	104,000	102,600	104,500	1,400	-500
Local Government	287,300	285,600	298,300	1,700	-11,000
PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR/MGT. DISP	43	0	0	43	43

*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.

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Preliminary to Final Estimate Revisions March 2012

	Not-Seasonally Adjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA						
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,049,100	3,049,700	600	3,064,200	3,064,400	200
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,819,500	2,819,900	400	2,856,600	2,856,800	200
UNEMPLOYMENT	229,600	229,800	200	207,500	207,600	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	7.5%	7.5%	0.0%	6.8%	6.8%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.4%	8.4%	0.0%	8.2%	8.2%	0.0%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,675,000	2,682,300	7,300	2,730,600	2,737,900	7,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,264,800	2,265,600	800	2,329,500	2,330,200	700
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	514,400	514,900	500	533,700	534,200	500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	2,500	2,500	0	3,000	3,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	70,800	71,000	200	87,900	88,100	200
MANUFACTURING	441,100	441,400	300	448,800	449,100	300
Durable Goods	272,700	272,800	100	277,200	277,300	100
Nondurable Goods	168,400	168,600	200	171,600	171,800	200
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,160,600	2,167,400	6,800	2,196,900	2,203,700	6,800
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,750,400	1,750,700	300	1,795,800	1,796,000	200
TRADE	397,400	398,000	600	406,900	407,500	600
Wholesale Trade	114,600	114,600	0	116,100	116,100	0
Retail Trade	282,800	283,400	600	290,800	291,400	600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	97,000	97,100	100	98,700	98,800	100
Utilities	10,900	10,900	0			
INFORMATION	46,000	46,000	0	46,300	46,300	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,600	154,500	-100	155,500	155,400	-100
Finance and Insurance	131,700	131,600	-100			
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	22,900	22,900	0	23,900	23,900	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	273,000	273,400	400	281,700	282,100	400
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	92,200	92,200	0	92,000	92,000	0
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	51,000	51,200	200			
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	129,800	130,000	200	137,900	138,100	200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	416,000	415,900	-100	415,600	415,500	-100
Educational Services	52,000	52,000	0	50,200	50,200	0
Health Care & Social Assistance	364,000	363,900	-100	365,400	365,300	-100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	232,000	231,400	-600	250,000	249,300	-700
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	28,900	28,700	-200	34,000	33,800	-200
Accommodation & Food Services	203,100	202,700	-400	216,000	215,500	-500
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	134,400	134,400	0	135,100	135,100	0
GOVERNMENT	410,200	416,700	6,500	401,100	407,700	6,600
Federal Government	28,500	28,500	0	28,700	28,700	0
State Government	96,000	102,600	6,600	93,500	100,100	6,600
Local Government	285,700	285,600	-100	278,900	278,900	0

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

(1) Includes L-M Disputes

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