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BLS Actual Jobs Data: Wisconsin Jumps to 31st in Total Job Growth

Wisconsin Moves up to 11 spots to 33rd in Private Sector Job Growth; Ranks 21st in Total Jobs and in Private Sector Jobs Created

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson issued the following statement on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' release of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data and state-by-state rankings that showed Wisconsin advancing on a numerical and percentage basis.

“According to actual jobs data, Wisconsin’s economy is growing and employment opportunities are steadily improving under Governor Walker’s leadership. After losing 134,000 private sector jobs in the four years prior to his administration, it is good news for Wisconsin that our friends and neighbors are getting back to work.

We are making solid progress, and there is more work to do to make sure workers have the skills they need to find available work. We anticipate greater progress as we implement Wisconsin Fast Forward and other workforce reforms and initiatives of Governor Walker.”

Key highlights include:

- **Wisconsin ranked 21st in total private sector jobs created from December 2011 to 2012 with a gain of 32,282. Wisconsin’s total private sector job gain outpaces Iowa, and jumped 11 spots in percentage of private sector job growth to 33rd highest at 1.4 percent, higher than neighboring Illinois.**
- **Wisconsin ranked 21st in total job gains with a jump of 31,902 from December 2011 to 2012, outpacing Iowa, and ranked 31st highest in percentage of total job gains at 1.2 percent.**
- **Wisconsin ranked 12th in weekly wage growth over the year, which is second highest in the Midwest.**

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), the most accurate count of jobs data, is based on a census of approximately 95-96 percent of Wisconsin employers. Key highlights of the actual job counts for 2011-12 include:

- After four years of private job losses totaling 134,000, Wisconsin gained over 62,000 private sector jobs from December 2010-December 2012, including over 32,000 jobs in 2012.
- The private sector job gains under Governor Walker are the best two-year gains under any Governor in over a decade.

(more)

- Wisconsin created more manufacturing jobs in the last two years than in either of the last two Governors' terms.
- Initial unemployment insurance claims are at pre-recession levels.
- Whether increased revenue collections, lower Unemployment Insurance claims, or more new business formations, all economic indicators show Wisconsin is creating jobs.
- In 2012, Wisconsin had the largest growth in construction jobs in over a decade.
- Wages by private employers grew by 6.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared to the fourth quarter of 2011, up to \$26 billion from \$24.5 billion.

Other indicators that help illustrate the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- [Department of Revenue](#) state revenue collections through May: up by 4.4 percent in fiscal year 2013.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formations: up 3.6 percent through May compared to the first five months of 2012.
- A decline this calendar year in initial and continued DWD [Unemployment Insurance claims](#).
- Wisconsin's exports set a record in calendar year 2012.