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Statement by DWD Secretary Newson on BLS Report Showing State's 'Significant' Unemployment Rate Drop in January 2014

Wisconsin 5th in number of manufacturing jobs added; total job gain outnumbers all neighboring states

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today issued the following statement on today's U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report. The report shows Wisconsin had a "statistically significant" drop in its unemployment rate year over year in January 2014, when compared to other states in the nation:

"Today's U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report notes Wisconsin as one of the states with statistically significant unemployment rate declines in January 2014, both year over year and month over month," Secretary Newson said. "In addition, the report lists Wisconsin as one of the states that experienced statistically significant year-over-year total nonfarm job growth, which also outnumbered the growth of our neighboring states."

Highlights of today's BLS report include (all based on seasonally adjusted data):

- **Wisconsin had "statistically significant" unemployment rate declines** over the month and year over year to 6.1 percent in January 2014 from 6.3 percent in December 2013 and 6.9 percent in January 2013.
- **Wisconsin's total nonfarm jobs gain year over year through January 2014 outnumbered the change in all neighboring states** and was "statistically significant," **placing us 9th highest in the nation in number of jobs gained – tied with Arizona – and 11th highest in rate of growth.**
- **Wisconsin's growth in private sector and total nonfarm jobs outpaced that of the 50-state average** in year over year comparison.
- **Wisconsin ranked 22nd highest** in the nation in year over year **private sector job growth.**
- **Wisconsin ranked 5th highest number of in manufacturing jobs created** year over year.
- **Wisconsin ranked 6th highest in professional and business services job growth** year over year.

The BLS' full state-by-state estimates for January 2014 are available [online](#).