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Wisconsin's Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.6% in August

State's employment, unemployment estimates announced: July revised, August preliminary

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for July and preliminary estimates for August, covering unemployment and employment statistics for the state of Wisconsin. In brief, the estimates show:

- **Place of residence data:** A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.6 percent in August, down from 5.8 percent in July and from 6.7 percent in August 2013. The 5.6 percent rate is the lowest since October 2008 and remains lower than the national unemployment rate of 6.1 percent.
- **Place of work data:** Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs increased by a statistically significant 29,600 since August 2013. The year-over-year gains in private-sector, manufacturing and total nonfarm all were outside their respective margins of error. The number of private-sector jobs declined by 4,300 from July to August on a preliminary basis (seasonally adjusted), which is within the margin of error for the monthly series.

DWD Secretary Reggie Newson issued the following statement: "The state's unemployment rate has dropped to 5.6 percent in August as more people entered the labor force, more people became employed, and the number of unemployed individuals declined. These are all positive signs that our economy is growing and Wisconsinites are getting back to work."

The BLS uses three data sets to measure employment and unemployment:

- **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 revision.
- **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):** compiled from a monthly survey of 1,450 households. Measures the labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate.
- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW):** compiled on a quarterly basis from Unemployment Insurance records from some 96% of Wisconsin business establishments. Considered by most economists to be the most accurate measure of jobs, the QCEW includes data from almost all employers in Wisconsin.

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

- According to monthly estimates, Wisconsin has created 114,900 private sector jobs since December 2010.
- Initial weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 36 weeks of 2014 dropped to the lowest point since 2000, and the annual average weekly UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- According to the most recent personal income report, Wisconsin's 2013 per capita personal income growth was seventh highest in the nation.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: up 5.5 percent during the first eight months of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report

JULY – AUGUST 2014

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM JULY 2014

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,076,100	3,076,400	300	3,134,100	3,134,800	700
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.8%	67.8%	0.0%	69.1%	69.1%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,898,600	2,898,800	200	2,952,000	2,952,700	700
UNEMPLOYMENT	177,500	177,500	0	182,100	182,200	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.8%	5.8%	0.0%	5.8%	5.8%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.2%	0.0%	6.5%	6.5%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,859,900	2,863,000	3,100	2,887,100	2,890,300	3,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,442,400	2,444,500	2,100	2,498,400	2,500,700	2,300
GOODS PRODUCING	572,000	571,700	-300	593,900	593,600	-300
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,200	4,200	0
CONSTRUCTION	102,300	102,200	-100	114,800	114,700	-100
MANUFACTURING	465,900	465,700	-200	474,900	474,700	-200
Durable Goods	285,000	284,900	-100	289,600	289,500	-100
Nondurable Goods	180,900	180,800	-100	185,300	185,200	-100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,287,900	2,291,300	3,400	2,293,200	2,296,700	3,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,870,400	1,872,800	2,400	1,904,500	1,907,100	2,600
TRADE	424,200	425,200	1,000	427,700	428,700	1,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	98,300	98,400	100	98,100	98,200	100
INFORMATION	46,600	47,000	400	47,200	47,600	400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	159,600	159,400	-200	161,100	160,900	-200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	301,900	302,100	200	307,500	307,700	200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	429,100	428,000	-1,100	426,500	425,400	-1,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	271,000	273,300	2,300	294,600	297,100	2,500
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	139,700	139,400	-300	141,800	141,500	-300
GOVERNMENT	417,500	418,500	1,000	388,700	389,600	900
Federal Government	28,500	28,500	0	28,800	28,800	0
State Government	99,400	99,400	0	90,600	90,600	0
Local Government	289,600	290,600	1,000	269,300	270,200	900

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR AUGUST 2014

Place of Residence Data	Aug-14 (P)	Jul-14 (R)	Net Change	Aug-14 (P)	Jul-14 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,077,900	3,076,400	1,500	3,107,000	3,134,800	-27,800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.8%	67.8%	0.0%	68.4%	69.1%	-0.7%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,904,000	2,898,800	5,200	2,948,300	2,952,700	-4,400
UNEMPLOYMENT	173,900	177,500	-3,600	158,700	182,200	-23,500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.6%	5.8%	-0.2%	5.1%	5.8%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.2%	-0.1%	6.3%	6.5%	-0.2%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,866,400	2,863,000	3,400	2,897,000	2,890,300	6,700
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,440,200	2,444,500	-4,300	2,502,400	2,500,700	1,700
GOODS PRODUCING	572,700	571,700	1,000	594,500	593,600	900
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,300	4,200	100
CONSTRUCTION	102,700	102,200	500	114,900	114,700	200
MANUFACTURING	466,200	465,700	500	475,300	474,700	600
Durable Goods	286,000	284,900	1,100	289,900	289,500	400
Nondurable Goods	180,200	180,800	-600	185,400	185,200	200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,293,700	2,291,300	2,400	2,302,500	2,296,700	5,800
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,867,500	1,872,800	-5,300	1,907,900	1,907,100	800
TRADE	423,300	425,200	-1,900	427,800	428,700	-900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	99,300	98,400	900	99,600	98,200	1,400
INFORMATION	47,100	47,000	100	47,400	47,600	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,400	159,400	-1,000	159,800	160,900	-1,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	304,100	302,100	2,000	310,100	307,700	2,400
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	425,400	428,000	-2,600	424,700	425,400	-700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	269,100	273,300	-4,200	296,200	297,100	-900
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	140,800	139,400	1,400	142,300	141,500	800
GOVERNMENT	426,200	418,500	7,700	394,600	389,600	5,000
Federal Government	28,700	28,500	200	28,900	28,800	100
State Government	99,600	99,400	200	92,700	90,600	2,100
Local Government	297,900	290,600	7,300	273,000	270,200	2,800

*Differences in total may occur as a result of rounding. (1) Includes Labor Market Disputes (P) = Prelim; (R) = Revised Blue changes are outside margin of error.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support.

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.

3. HISTORY OF REVISIONS OF ESTIMATES FROM PLACE OF WORK SURVEY

	TNF			Private		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
January 2014	+6,200	+6,400	+200	+0	(200)	(200)
February 2014	(9,500)	(13,000)	(3,500)	(1,600)	(5,300)	(3,700)
March 2014	+6,900	+7,300	+400	+6,400	+7,300	+900
April 2014	+8,000	+8,900	+900	+7,600	+8,800	+1,200
May 2014	(1,000)	(1,400)	(400)	(400)	(900)	(500)
June 2014	+2,400	(200)	(2,600)	(1,200)	(1,900)	(700)
July 2014	+2,900	+6,000	+3,100	+3,200	+5,300	+2,100
August 2014						
September 2014						
October 2014						
November 2014						
December 2014						

Note: The numbers above show month over month changes

4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2013 Employment*			2014 Employment†			Mar-Mar Change	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,644,320	2,651,339	2,666,659	2,675,625	2,680,061	2,694,405	27,746	1.0%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,265,645	2,264,668	2,280,050	2,297,150	2,296,056	2,308,703	28,653	1.3%
Natural Resources & Mining	23,770	23,920	24,590	24,814	24,868	25,671	1,081	4.4%
Construction	83,308	82,516	84,752	86,635	85,616	88,567	3,815	4.5%
Manufacturing	451,065	449,751	450,790	452,934	451,800	453,557	2,767	0.6%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	502,931	497,836	499,761	507,383	503,031	505,579	5,818	1.2%
Information	46,712	46,505	46,333	47,197	47,056	46,753	420	0.9%
Financial Activities	147,326	147,065	147,642	143,206	142,990	143,231	-4,411	-3.0%
Professional & Business Services	284,560	288,022	290,881	296,263	297,143	296,740	5,859	2.0%
Education & Health Services	396,680	398,637	399,988	401,480	403,337	404,216	4,228	1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	238,237	238,727	242,207	240,454	241,446	244,064	1,857	0.8%
Other Services	83,505	83,498	84,210	82,109	82,407	82,819	-1,391	-1.7%
Unclassified	7,551	8,191	8,896	14,675	16,362	17,506	8,610	96.8%
<i>Total Government</i>	378,675	386,671	386,609	378,475	384,005	385,702	-907	-0.2%

†Data as published at worknet.wisconsin.gov.

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages counts are published 6 months after the quarter they describe.

Data from the latest published quarter and a year prior are included here.