

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 20, 2014

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIWorkforce>

On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

State Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.4% in October

Monthly estimates also show state added 4,000 private-sector jobs over the month, 31,000 private-sector jobs over the year including 12,000 in manufacturing

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for September and preliminary estimates for October, 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 5.4 percent in October, down from 5.5 percent in September and from 6.5 percent in October 2013. The 5.4 percent rate marks a new post-Recession low for the state and is lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.8 percent.
- **Place of work data:** A year-over-year increase in private-sector jobs by a statistically significant 31,000 from October 2013 to October 2014 on a preliminary basis (seasonally adjusted), and monthly gain of 4,000 private sector jobs. One third of the year-over-year gain in private-sector jobs came in the form of 12,100 manufacturing jobs, also statistically significant.

DWD Secretary Reggie Newson issued the following statement: "Wisconsin's monthly unemployment declined again last month, reaching 5.4% which is the lowest rate since October 2008. In addition, a revised September private sector job gain of 8,100 made the month the strongest September in over a decade. As our economy grows stronger, we will continue to support innovative talent development solutions that ensure job creators have the skilled workers they need to stay competitive and move our state forward."

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:

- Initial weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 45 weeks of 2014 dropped to the lowest point since 2000, and the annual average weekly UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: up 5.9 percent during the ten months of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013.
- Forbes magazine recently ranked Wisconsin first in the Midwest for projected growth in its ["Best States for Business"](#) rankings.

###

Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2014

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2014

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,086,800	3,086,800	0	3,094,900	3,095,100	200
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.9%	67.9%	0.0%	68.1%	68.1%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,917,400	2,917,400	0	2,950,200	2,950,400	200
UNEMPLOYMENT	169,400	169,400	0	144,600	144,700	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.5%	5.5%	0.0%	4.7%	4.7%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.9%	5.9%	0.0%	5.7%	5.7%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,866,500	2,867,900	1,400	2,890,100	2,891,600	1,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,449,300	2,449,000	-300	2,478,300	2,478,100	-200
GOODS PRODUCING	573,900	573,700	-200	588,600	588,400	-200
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,200	4,200	0
CONSTRUCTION	103,700	103,700	0	113,400	113,400	0
MANUFACTURING	466,400	466,200	-200	471,000	470,800	-200
Durable Goods	286,400	286,500	100	287,100	287,200	100
Nondurable Goods	180,000	179,700	-300	183,900	183,600	-300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,292,600	2,294,200	1,600	2,301,500	2,303,200	1,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,875,400	1,875,300	-100	1,889,700	1,889,700	0
TRADE	423,200	422,800	-400	421,700	421,300	-400
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	99,500	100,000	500	101,800	102,300	500
INFORMATION	47,000	46,400	-600	47,200	46,600	-600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,300	158,200	-100	158,600	158,500	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	304,600	304,700	100	309,600	309,700	100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	432,200	431,700	-500	431,300	430,800	-500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	270,300	271,400	1,100	279,100	280,300	1,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	140,300	140,100	-200	140,400	140,200	-200
GOVERNMENT	417,200	418,900	1,700	411,800	413,500	1,700
Federal Government	28,600	28,700	100	28,700	28,800	100
State Government	101,200	101,200	0	103,700	103,700	0
Local Government	287,400	289,000	1,600	279,400	281,000	1,600

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR OCTOBER 2014

Place of Residence Data	Oct-14 (P)	Sep-14 (R)	Net Change	Oct-14 (P)	Sep-14 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,098,700	3,086,800	11,900	3,107,900	3,095,100	12,800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.2%	67.9%	0.3%	68.4%	68.1%	0.3%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,931,900	2,917,400	14,500	2,964,100	2,950,400	13,700
UNEMPLOYMENT	166,800	169,400	-2,600	143,900	144,700	-800
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.4%	5.5%	-0.1%	4.6%	4.7%	-0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.9%	-0.1%	5.5%	5.7%	-0.2%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,868,000	2,867,900	100	2,905,300	2,891,600	13,700
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,453,000	2,449,000	4,000	2,478,900	2,478,100	800
GOODS PRODUCING	579,500	573,700	5,800	589,100	588,400	700
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,200	4,200	0
CONSTRUCTION	104,100	103,700	400	113,700	113,400	300
MANUFACTURING	471,600	466,200	5,400	471,200	470,800	400
Durable Goods	288,900	286,500	2,400	287,900	287,200	700
Nondurable Goods	182,700	179,700	3,000	183,300	183,600	-300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,288,500	2,294,200	-5,700	2,316,200	2,303,200	13,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,873,500	1,875,300	-1,800	1,889,800	1,889,700	100
TRADE	421,500	422,800	-1,300	425,200	421,300	3,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	99,900	100,000	-100	102,500	102,300	200
INFORMATION	46,300	46,400	-100	46,500	46,600	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	160,200	158,200	2,000	159,100	158,500	600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	301,200	304,700	-3,500	309,200	309,700	-500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	432,000	431,700	300	433,900	430,800	3,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	272,900	271,400	1,500	273,300	280,300	-7,000
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	139,500	140,100	-600	140,100	140,200	-100
GOVERNMENT	415,000	418,900	-3,900	426,400	413,500	12,900
Federal Government	28,200	28,700	-500	28,700	28,800	-100
State Government	99,300	101,200	-1,900	105,300	103,700	1,600
Local Government	287,500	289,000	-1,500	292,400	281,000	11,400

*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	+3,400	+3,200	(200)	(4,300)	(3,600)	+700
September 2014	+300	+1,700	+1,400	+8,400	+8,100	(300)
October 2014						
November 2014						
December 2014						

Note: The numbers above show month over month changes. Prelim: original gain/loss. Revised: updated monthly gain/loss.

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	2,675,622	2,680,080	2,694,464	27,805	1.0%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,265,645	2,264,668	2,280,050	2,297,147	2,296,075	2,308,762	28,712	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	86,628	85,610	88,561	3,809	4.5%
Manufacturing	451,065	449,751	450,790	452,863	451,726	453,487	2,697	0.6%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	502,931	497,836	499,761	507,354	503,000	505,563	5,802	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	143,224	143,004	143,245	-4,397	-3.0%
Professional & Business Services	284,560	288,022	290,881	296,058	296,998	296,592	5,711	2.0%
Education & Health Services	396,680	398,637	399,988	401,089	402,947	403,834	3,846	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	238,237	238,727	242,207	240,428	241,388	244,006	1,799	0.7%
Other Services	83,505	83,498	84,210	82,105	82,408	82,823	-1,387	-1.6%
Unclassified	7,551	8,191	8,896	15,387	17,070	18,227	9,331	104.9%
<i>Total Government</i>	378,675	386,671	386,609	378,475	384,005	385,702	-907	-0.2%

*Data as published by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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.