
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 18, 2015

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

Wisconsin Issues BLS' Monthly Employment & Unemployment Estimates

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for April and preliminary estimates for May, 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 4.6 percent in May, below the national unemployment rate of 5.5 percent for the month and below the state's rate of 5.5 percent in May 2014. Wisconsin's total employment grew by 31,900 year-over-year while the number of unemployed declined by a significant 27,800. Additionally, the state's labor force participation rate of 67.9 percent in May outpaced the national rate of 62.9 percent.
- **Place of work data:** The state added a statistically significant 38,700 total non-farm jobs and 38,200 private sector jobs from May 2014 to May 2015 (seasonally adjusted). The year-over-year gain of 8,300 jobs in manufacturing was also significant.

"As employment estimates often show variation from month to month, one constant is the challenge employers face in finding qualified workers to fill openings," DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. "We will continue to advance strategies that provide a robust pool of talent and help employers meet their skills requirements."

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 percent 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 985 households and unemployment insurance claims. Measures the labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate.
- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW):** compiled quarterly based on 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 of the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Wisconsin was one of 15 states with a below-average unemployment rate in April and [above-average income growth](#) 2014 using per-capita disposable income, according to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.
- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 24 weeks of 2015 dropped to the lowest point since 1995, and the annual average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in the first five months of 2015 grew by 3.2% percent compared to same period in 2014. As of May 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 18,024, compared to 17,464 in the same period in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) ranked Wisconsin the "12th Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's, an increase of 2 spots over the 2014 ranking, and a big increase over 2010, when the state ranked 41st.
- [Manpower Employment Outlook Survey](#) gave Wisconsin a better outlook than the nation and our second best outlook since the end of the recession for the 3rd quarter.

###

Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
APRIL – MAY 2015

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM APRIL 2015

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,096,000	3,095,700	-300	3,056,100	3,055,400	-700
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.0%	68.0%	0.0%	67.1%	67.1%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,959,200	2,958,800	-400	2,923,000	2,921,900	-1,100
UNEMPLOYMENT	136,800	136,900	100	133,100	133,500	400
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.4%	0.0%	5.1%	5.1%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,889,500	2,885,900	-3,600	2,869,500	2,865,800	-3,700
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,476,400	2,473,000	-3,400	2,443,300	2,439,900	-3,400
GOODS PRODUCING	589,700	588,700	-1,000	578,000	577,000	-1,000
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,200	4,200	0	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	111,400	111,100	-300	104,900	104,600	-300
MANUFACTURING	474,100	473,400	-700	469,100	468,400	-700
Durable Goods	285,700	285,500	-200	283,400	283,200	-200
Nondurable Goods	188,400	187,900	-500	185,700	185,200	-500
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,299,800	2,297,200	-2,600	2,291,500	2,288,800	-2,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,886,700	1,884,300	-2,400	1,865,300	1,862,900	-2,400
TRADE	427,700	427,500	-200	419,700	419,500	-200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	103,200	103,100	-100	101,100	101,000	-100
INFORMATION	49,200	49,200	0	48,600	48,600	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,200	153,800	-400	153,800	153,400	-400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	309,300	309,300	0	307,700	307,700	0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	435,900	435,300	-600	437,500	436,900	-600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	269,300	268,300	-1,000	259,100	258,100	-1,000
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	137,900	137,800	-100	137,800	137,700	-100
GOVERNMENT	413,100	412,900	-200	426,200	425,900	-300
Federal Government	28,900	28,900	0	28,900	28,900	0
State Government	97,500	97,500	0	102,500	102,500	0
Local Government	286,700	286,500	-200	294,800	294,500	-300

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR MAY 2015

Place of Residence Data	May-15 (P)	Apr-15 (R)	Net Change	May-15 (P)	Apr-15 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,090,800	3,095,700	-4,900	3,076,400	3,055,400	21,000
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.9%	68.0%	-0.1%	67.6%	67.1%	0.5%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,950,000	2,958,800	-8,800	2,931,900	2,921,900	10,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	140,800	136,900	3,900	144,500	133,500	11,000
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6%	4.4%	0.2%	4.7%	4.4%	0.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.4%	0.1%	5.3%	5.1%	0.2%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,877,300	2,885,900	-8,600	2,891,100	2,865,800	25,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,466,900	2,473,000	-6,100	2,471,100	2,439,900	31,200
GOODS PRODUCING	583,800	588,700	-4,900	584,400	577,000	7,400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,100	4,200	-100	4,300	4,000	300
CONSTRUCTION	107,100	111,100	-4,000	109,500	104,600	4,900
MANUFACTURING	472,600	473,400	-800	470,600	468,400	2,200
Durable Goods	284,700	285,500	-800	284,900	283,200	1,700
Nondurable Goods	187,900	187,900	0	185,700	185,200	500
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,293,500	2,297,200	-3,700	2,306,700	2,288,800	17,900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,883,100	1,884,300	-1,200	1,886,700	1,862,900	23,800
TRADE	425,800	427,500	-1,700	422,000	419,500	2,500
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	102,200	103,100	-900	102,100	101,000	1,100
INFORMATION	49,100	49,200	-100	48,700	48,600	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,800	153,800	-1,000	153,400	153,400	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	308,600	309,300	-700	307,900	307,700	200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	434,400	435,300	-900	436,900	436,900	0
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	272,000	268,300	3,700	277,000	258,100	18,900
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	138,200	137,800	400	138,700	137,700	1,000
GOVERNMENT	410,400	412,900	-2,500	420,000	425,900	-5,900
Federal Government	28,800	28,900	-100	28,700	28,900	-200
State Government	95,900	97,500	-1,600	96,500	102,500	-6,000
Local Government	285,700	286,500	-800	294,800	294,500	300

*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 2015	+600	+5,000	+4,400	+300	+4,500	+4,200
February 2015	+14,900	+13,000	(1,900)	+13,600	+11,800	(1,800)
March 2015	(4,300)	(4,200)	+100	(5,000)	(5,000)	+0
April 2015	+3,700	+100	(3,600)	+5,400	+2,000	(3,400)
May 2015						
June 2015						
July 2015						
August 2015						
September 2015						
October 2015						
November 2015						
December 2015						

Note: Prelim = original month-over-month change. Revised = updated month-over-month change. The "Change" column represents the difference between the prelim month-over-month change and the revised month-over-month change.

4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2013 Employment*			2014 Employment*			Dec-Dec Change	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,759,489	2,760,254	2,753,124	2,796,205	2,802,812	2,789,338	36,214	1.3%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,371,803	2,370,987	2,364,380	2,406,461	2,405,192	2,400,139	35,759	1.5%
Natural Resources & Mining	31,223	28,989	27,050	32,029	29,900	28,098	1,048	3.9%
Construction	106,689	103,759	95,530	111,130	107,953	101,688	6,158	6.4%
Manufacturing	455,304	455,441	455,579	461,485	461,288	462,110	6,531	1.4%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	517,896	528,248	532,112	520,631	531,152	534,525	2,413	0.5%
Information	47,071	47,411	47,499	48,021	48,283	48,341	842	1.8%
Financial Activities	147,800	147,431	147,891	144,793	144,780	145,730	-2,161	-1.5%
Professional & Business Services	303,056	304,196	302,878	311,199	311,122	307,697	4,819	1.6%
Education & Health Services	404,695	405,750	406,403	407,003	408,649	410,008	3,605	0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	261,114	252,231	251,163	260,110	251,889	250,668	-495	-0.2%
Other Services	84,458	84,631	85,052	83,146	82,451	83,124	-1,928	-2.3%
Unclassified	12,497	12,900	13,223	26,914	27,725	28,150	14,927	112.9%
<i>Total Government</i>	387,686	389,267	388,744	389,744	397,620	389,199	455	0.1%

*Data as published by the 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.