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BLS Data: State Adds 8,000 Private Sector Jobs in February

January numbers were revised up from a decline of 1,400 to a gain of 5,800 private sector jobs

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

- Place of work data: The state added a statistically significant 8,000 private sector jobs from January 2016 to February 2016 on a preliminary basis. Wisconsin also added a significant 35,300 private sector and 37,700 total non-farm jobs over the year ending in February 2016. Other statistically significant changes include a month-over-month job gain of 4,100 jobs in Education and Health Services, and year-over-year additions of 7,600 jobs in Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities and 11,100 jobs in Education and Health Services. Additionally, revised January private-sector job counts swung from a decline of 1,400 to a gain of 5,800 private sector jobs, a difference of 7,200.
- Place of residence data: A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.6 percent in February 2016, unchanged from January 2016. The 4.6 percent rate is lower than the 4.7 percent rate in February 2015 and lower than the national unemployment rate of 4.9 percent in February 2016.

"The monthly job estimates reflect a dramatic swing from an initially reported decline in January to gains during the first two months of 2016, reinforcing the value of looking at a variety of indicators to understand the complete picture of Wisconsin's economy," DWD Secretary Ray Allen said. "In February, our labor force participation rate grew and we had more Wisconsinites working than ever before. Early indications show our labor market is off to a strong start in 2016."

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 985 households and unemployment insurance claims. 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.

(more)

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

- Wisconsin was one of only 10 states with an annual average unemployment rate in 2015 lower than 2007, the year that the Great Recession began. The state's average annual unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in 2015 (not seasonally adjusted).
- Wisconsin's average weekly private-sector wages increased by 3.6 percent in the third quarter of 2015 over the same quarter in 2014, representing the 5th highest rate of growth in the nation, tied with Tennessee.
- The average weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for 2015 dropped to the lowest level since 1989.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2016

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM JANUARY 2016

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,123,000	3,122,800	-200	3,103,900	3,103,300	-600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%	68.0%	68.0%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,978,300	2,978,100	-200	2,941,300	2,940,800	-500
UNEMPLOYMENT	144,700	144,700	0	162,600	162,600	0
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	5.2%	5.2%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	5.3%	5.3%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,903,900	2,911,300	7,400	2,839,800	2,847,100	7,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,489,800	2,497,000	7,200	2,431,300	2,438,400	7,100
GOODS PRODUCING	586,700	587,300	600	568,800	569,400	600
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	3,500	3,500	0
CONSTRUCTION	111,700	112,600	900	96,400	97,300	900
MANUFACTURING	471,000	470,700	-300	468,900	468,600	-300
Durable Goods	282,000	281,900	-100	281,000	280,900	-100
Nondurable Goods	189,000	188,800	-200	187,900	187,700	-200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,317,200	2,324,000	6,800	2,271,000	2,277,700	6,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,903,100	1,909,700	6,600	1,862,500	1,869,000	6,500
TRADE	426,000	427,400	1,400	422,100	423,500	1,400
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	107,100	109,200	2,100	105,700	107,800	2,100
INFORMATION	48,200	48,200	0	48,300	48,300	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,000	151,300	300	150,100	150,400	300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	313,600	314,500	900	304,900	305,800	900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	440,200	440,800	600	434,200	434,800	600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	268,500	269,300	800	249,800	250,500	700
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	148,500	149,000	500	147,400	147,900	500
GOVERNMENT	414,100	414,300	200	408,500	408,700	200
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	0	28,800	28,800	0
State Government	97,800	97,800	0	94,000	94,000	0
Local Government	287,500	287,700	200	285,700	285,900	200

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR FEBRUARY 2016

Place of Residence Data	Feb-16 (P)	Jan-16 (R)	Net Change	Feb-16 (P)	Jan-16 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,136,300	3,122,800	13,500	3,125,700	3,103,300	22,400
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.7%	68.4%	0.3%	68.4%	68.0%	0.4%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,991,500	2,978,100	13,400	2,953,600	2,940,800	12,800
UNEMPLOYMENT	144,800	144,700	100	172,100	162,600	9,500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	5.5%	5.2%	0.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	5.2%	5.3%	-0.1%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,918,500	2,911,300	7,200	2,864,000	2,847,100	16,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,505,000	2,497,000	8,000	2,441,000	2,438,400	2,600
GOODS PRODUCING	586,600	587,300	-700	567,100	569,400	-2,300
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	3,500	3,500	0
CONSTRUCTION	113,600	112,600	1,000	97,200	97,300	-100
MANUFACTURING	469,000	470,700	-1,700	466,400	468,600	-2,200
Durable Goods	281,200	281,900	-700	279,400	280,900	-1,500
Nondurable Goods	187,800	188,800	-1,000	187,000	187,700	-700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,331,900	2,324,000	7,900	2,296,900	2,277,700	19,200
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,918,400	1,909,700	8,700	1,873,900	1,869,000	4,900
TRADE	430,800	427,400	3,400	418,500	423,500	-5,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,300	109,200	1,100	108,000	107,800	200
INFORMATION	48,700	48,200	500	48,300	48,300	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,300	151,300	1,000	150,900	150,400	500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	311,100	314,500	-3,400	304,200	305,800	-1,600
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	444,900	440,800	4,100	445,100	434,800	10,300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	270,100	269,300	800	250,100	250,500	-400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,200	149,000	1,200	148,800	147,900	900
GOVERNMENT	413,500	414,300	-800	423,000	408,700	14,300
Federal Government	28,700	28,800	-100	28,600	28,800	-200
State Government	97,800	97,800	0	102,700	94,000	8,700
Local Government	287,000	287,700	-700	291,700	285,900	5,800

*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

Month-Over-Month Changes Seasonally Adjusted	TNF			Private		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
January 2016	(200)	+7,200	+7,400	(1,400)	+5,800	+7,200
February 2016						
March 2016						
April 2016						
May 2016						
June 2016						
July 2016						
August 2016						
September 2016						
October 2016						
November 2016						
December 2016						

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

	2014 Employment			2015 Employment			Sep-Sep Change	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,770,472	2,783,949	2,789,287	2,805,783	2,811,632	2,815,728	26,441	0.9%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,431,839	2,440,220	2,410,318	2,467,308	2,472,462	2,439,934	29,616	1.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	30,138	30,486	31,081	31,690	31,864	32,410	1,329	4.3%
Construction	112,817	113,755	111,706	119,541	118,931	116,255	4,549	4.1%
Manufacturing	469,834	469,219	463,271	474,077	473,297	467,087	3,816	0.8%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	518,527	519,295	516,376	529,573	531,916	530,768	14,392	2.8%
Information	47,949	48,297	47,290	49,437	49,842	48,860	1,570	3.3%
Financial Activities	146,646	146,900	145,449	148,907	148,547	146,480	1,031	0.7%
Professional & Business Services	307,755	310,303	308,409	316,292	318,570	313,945	5,536	1.8%
Education & Health Services	403,298	404,707	405,160	411,522	412,375	412,416	7,256	1.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	283,240	284,138	270,713	291,859	292,810	279,093	8,380	3.1%
Other Services	85,214	84,958	83,742	85,109	84,724	83,236	-506	-0.6%
Unclassified	26,421	28,162	27,121	9,301	9,586	9,384	-17,737	-65.4%
<i>Total Government</i>	338,633	343,729	378,969	338,475	339,170	375,794	-3,175	-0.8%

Table 4 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.