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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DWD Submits Actual Jobs Data for First Quarter of 2012

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has sent the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) actual jobs data compiled from unemployment records reported by approximately 96 percent of Wisconsin business establishments during the first three months of 2012.

Highlights from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) administrative data for the first quarter of 2012, when compared to QCEW data on BLS' website for the first quarter of 2011, include:

- **Wisconsin added 37,464 private-sector jobs from March 2011 to March 2012.** This represents 48,764 more private sector jobs than earlier job estimates.
- **The net job gain from March 2011 to March 2012 includes 12,088 manufacturing jobs,** which equates to a 2.8% increase.
- **Wages by covered employers grew by 7.16% year over year.**

DWD Secretary Reggie Newson issued the following statement on the latest quarterly data:

"While we are pleased to see gains in private-sector jobs between March 2011 and March 2012, we know this year is bringing extraordinary challenges, such as the severe drought, early harvests with diminished crop yields, and global economic challenges in areas such as Europe and China. These forces could have an impact on most sectors of our economy, particularly manufacturing, and we will continue to monitor all of these factors in the months to come."

The BLS will review and sign off on the UI administrative data before incorporating it into the next Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) release on September 27. The BLS uses three data sets to measure employment and unemployment:

- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW):** compiled on a quarterly basis from Unemployment Insurance records from some 160,000 (over 96%) of Wisconsin employers. Considered by most economists to be the most accurate measure of jobs, the QCEW includes data from almost all employers in Wisconsin.
- **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):** compiled from a monthly survey of 1,450 households. Measures the labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate.
- **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 major revisions.

(more)

The three BLS job measures were relatively consistent until June 2011, when the CES began to show results inconsistent with QCEW and LAUS data and other economic indicators. The following chart shows this inconsistency continued into the first quarter of 2012:

Private-sector jobs		Consistent with other economic indicators?			
Name of Data Series	March 2011 – March 2012 change	Decline in UI claims	Increase in general fund taxes	Surveys of job creators	Personal income estimates
Q1 actual jobs data	+37,464	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LAUS (household surveys)	+ 21,995	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CES (place of work survey)	- 11,300	No	No	No	No

*Note: Actual jobs data for Q1 2012 have been submitted to BLS for processing; BLS' next QCEW release is September 27, 2012.*

At this time, CES shows a different picture than other economic indicators including actual jobs data.

DWD will continue to use more accurate QCEW data to show jobs added. Secretary Newson has made the accurate reporting of jobs data a priority. He recently asked the BLS to update its methodology to capture the job growth shown by more accurate data series. BLS acknowledges issues with the data and has indicated it will not be changing its methodology until March 2013.

Read the letter to BLS by Secretary Newson here: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/pdf/120729\\_bls.pdf](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/pdf/120729_bls.pdf)  
 Read the response by BLS Acting Commissioner Galvin here: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2012/120724\\_bls\\_letter\\_to\\_secretary\\_newson.pdf](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2012/120724_bls_letter_to_secretary_newson.pdf)

**Wage increases:** The UI administrative data for the first quarter of 2012 shows wages by covered employers, including private and public, grew by 7.16 percent over the first quarter of 2011, to \$28.2 billion from \$26.3 billion. This increase represents the largest percent growth in the first quarter since 2006, when wages grew by 8.61 percent.

The BLS' June revised and July preliminary LAUS and CES data for Wisconsin will be released this afternoon.

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## LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT

	2011			2012			Mar-Mar	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Number	Percent
<i>TOTAL</i>	2,593,358	2,593,428	2,610,854	2,616,252	2,617,157	2,638,954	28,100	1.1%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,205,584	2,198,375	2,214,233	2,237,958	2,233,326	2,251,697	37,464	1.7%
Natural Resources & Mining	21,257	21,384	22,158	22,647	22,732	24,012	1,854	8.4%
Construction	79,128	76,565	79,364	79,525	77,705	81,089	1,725	2.2%
Manufacturing	432,499	432,273	434,278	444,933	444,272	446,366	12,088	2.8%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	496,840	490,444	492,922	501,108	494,249	496,183	3,261	0.7%
Information	46,829	46,517	46,337	46,212	45,817	45,641	-696	-1.5%
Financial Activities	148,686	148,313	148,366	148,281	147,977	148,051	-315	-0.2%
Professional & Business Services	273,152	273,428	276,273	278,630	280,116	283,882	7,609	2.8%
Education & Health Services	385,820	388,054	389,347	389,899	392,083	393,094	3,747	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	232,240	231,993	234,476	233,253	234,167	238,627	4,151	1.8%
Other Services	85,554	85,404	86,489	85,867	86,198	86,399	-90	-0.1%
Unclassified	3,579	4,000	4,223	7,603	8,010	8,353	4,130	97.8%
<i>Total Government</i>	387,774	395,053	396,621	378,294	383,831	387,257	-9,364	-2.4%

Sources: 2011 First Quarter of QCEW data is from the BLS website - First quarter of 2012 is state UI Administrative Data

DWD - LMI Section

**Wisconsin Employment Data Y/Y Change**

	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12
LAUS Employment (Household Survey)	20,600	14,600	11,900	23,100	12,900
CES (Tot. Nonfarm., Bus. Establishment Survey)	36,600	21,000	4,100	-33,900	-22,700
QCEW (in 2011) and UI Administrative data (in 2012)	42,506	25,308	39,719	19,551	28,100

Note: Actual Job Numbers include 2011 QCEW data and Q1 2012 UI Administrative Data that has been submitted to BLS; BLS' next QCEW release is September 27, 2012.  
 Updated 8/14/12 to include 2011 monthly QCEW changes based on BLS data and UI Administrative Data from January to March 2012.

