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Wisconsin's Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.7%

Seasonally adjusted rate lowest since 2008; state adds 38,100 private-sector jobs over year

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) unemployment and employment estimates showing Wisconsin's preliminary unemployment rate decreased to 5.7 percent in May 2014 from 5.8 percent in April (seasonally adjusted).

The May 2014 rate is Wisconsin's lowest monthly rate since October 2008, down from a high point of 9.2 percent in 2010, and below the national unemployment rate of 6.3 percent. Wisconsin's unemployment rate has dropped every month since August 2013. Compared to one year ago, the May 2014 rate is down 1.1 percentage points, which is outside the margin of error for the data series.

The BLS preliminary monthly estimates also show statistically significant (outside margin of error) job growth in the private sector. Compared to a year ago, Wisconsin's private sector added 38,100 jobs, including 9,100 in manufacturing. Sectors providing services also had estimated gains that were statistically significant, such as 9,300 in leisure and hospitality, and 6,000 in retail trade. Preliminary over-the-month changes in total private sector jobs were within the margin of error for the data series.

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 subject to substantial 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.

The latest available QCEW numbers – covering the fourth quarter of 2013 – show Wisconsin added 28,141 private-sector jobs during the 12-month period ending in December 2013.

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

- According to monthly jobs estimates, more than 116,000 private sector jobs have been created across the state since December 2010.
- Wisconsin's private sector job growth from December 2010 through December 2013 is the largest three-year December-to-December private sector job growth seen under a single Governor this century, according to actual job counts.
- Initial weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 23 weeks of 2014 dropped to the lowest point since 2000, and the annual average weekly UI claims are at a 13-year low.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: up 4.2 percent through May compared to the same period in 2013.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
APRIL – MAY 2014

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM APRIL 2014

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,083,000	3,083,400	400	3,055,800	3,056,800	1,000
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.0%	68.1%	0.1%	67.4%	67.5%	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,904,300	2,904,700	400	2,876,500	2,877,500	1,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	178,700	178,700	0	179,200	179,300	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.8%	5.8%	0.0%	5.9%	5.9%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%	5.9%	5.9%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,857,700	2,858,600	900	2,835,800	2,836,700	900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,440,800	2,442,000	1,200	2,406,100	2,407,300	1,200
GOODS PRODUCING	572,200	574,200	2,000	559,500	561,500	2,000
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,900	3,900	0	3,700	3,700	0
CONSTRUCTION	100,600	101,200	600	93,300	93,900	600
MANUFACTURING	467,700	469,100	1,400	462,500	463,900	1,400
Durable Goods	283,400	284,800	1,400	281,300	282,700	1,400
Nondurable Goods	184,300	184,300	0	181,200	181,200	0
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,285,500	2,284,400	-1,100	2,276,300	2,275,200	-1,100
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,868,600	1,867,800	-800	1,846,600	1,845,800	-800
TRADE	425,600	425,100	-500	417,400	416,900	-500
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	99,200	99,400	200	97,600	97,800	200
INFORMATION	45,800	45,700	-100	45,300	45,200	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,100	157,900	-200	158,100	157,900	-200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	300,300	300,300	0	299,500	299,500	0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	433,200	432,600	-600	433,000	432,400	-600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	265,800	266,200	400	256,000	256,400	400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	140,600	140,600	0	139,700	139,700	0
GOVERNMENT	416,900	416,600	-300	429,700	429,400	-300
Federal Government	28,500	28,600	100	28,500	28,600	100
State Government	98,600	98,600	0	104,400	104,400	0
Local Government	289,800	289,400	-400	296,800	296,400	-400

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR MAY 2014

Place of Residence Data	May-14 (P)	Apr-14 (R)	Net Change	May-14 (P)	Apr-14 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,082,300	3,083,400	-1,100	3,067,800	3,056,800	11,000
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.0%	68.1%	-0.1%	67.7%	67.5%	0.2%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,906,000	2,904,700	1,300	2,898,800	2,877,500	21,300
UNEMPLOYMENT	176,300	178,700	-2,400	169,000	179,300	-10,300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.7%	5.8%	-0.1%	5.5%	5.9%	-0.4%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%	6.1%	5.9%	0.2%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,857,600	2,858,600	-1,000	2,871,500	2,836,700	34,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,441,600	2,442,000	-400	2,447,900	2,407,300	40,600
GOODS PRODUCING	573,600	574,200	-600	575,100	561,500	13,600
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,900	-100	4,000	3,700	300
CONSTRUCTION	102,900	101,200	1,700	105,800	93,900	11,900
MANUFACTURING	466,900	469,100	-2,200	465,300	463,900	1,400
Durable Goods	283,200	284,800	-1,600	283,200	282,700	500
Nondurable Goods	183,700	184,300	-600	182,100	181,200	900
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,284,000	2,284,400	-400	2,296,400	2,275,200	21,200
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,868,000	1,867,800	200	1,872,800	1,845,800	27,000
TRADE	424,300	425,100	-800	420,900	416,900	4,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	98,400	99,400	-1,000	99,500	97,800	1,700
INFORMATION	46,900	45,700	1,200	46,400	45,200	1,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,400	157,900	500	159,100	157,900	1,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	301,400	300,300	1,100	301,900	299,500	2,400
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	430,000	432,600	-2,600	430,800	432,400	-1,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	269,300	266,200	3,100	274,800	256,400	18,400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	139,300	140,600	-1,300	139,400	139,700	-300
GOVERNMENT	416,000	416,600	-600	423,600	429,400	-5,800
Federal Government	28,600	28,600	0	28,500	28,600	-100
State Government	98,700	98,600	100	98,400	104,400	-6,000
Local Government	288,700	289,400	-700	296,700	296,400	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 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						
June 2014						
July 2014						
August 2014						
September 2014						
October 2014						
November 2014						
December 2014						

4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2012 Employment*			2013 Employment†			Dec-Dec Change	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,731,526	2,737,935	2,725,029	2,757,892	2,758,980	2,751,710	26,681	1.0%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,343,150	2,341,544	2,334,657	2,369,981	2,369,410	2,362,663	28,006	1.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	29,707	27,564	26,191	31,205	28,968	27,031	840	3.2%
Construction	100,691	97,732	92,521	106,433	103,481	95,242	2,721	2.9%
Manufacturing	455,204	453,949	454,145	455,113	455,487	455,857	1,712	0.4%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	512,954	524,516	526,074	517,771	528,081	532,019	5,945	1.1%
Information	46,473	46,972	46,786	47,129	47,466	47,548	762	1.6%
Financial Activities	148,881	148,587	149,090	147,796	147,427	147,884	-1,206	-0.8%
Professional & Business Services	294,713	295,536	291,395	302,842	303,981	302,610	11,215	3.8%
Education & Health Services	400,457	401,133	402,434	405,094	406,184	406,651	4,217	1.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	255,317	246,457	246,158	260,918	252,061	250,964	4,806	2.0%
Other Services	87,705	87,330	87,750	84,369	84,567	84,982	-2,768	-3.2%
Unclassified	11,048	11,768	12,113	11,311	11,707	11,875	-238	-2.0%
<i>Total Government</i>	388,376	396,391	390,372	387,911	389,570	389,047	-1,325	-0.3%

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

†Data as will be 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.