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September BLS Estimates: State Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.5%; Monthly Employment Survey Shows Gain of 8,400 Private-Sector Jobs

Wisconsin's unemployment rate reaches new post-Recession low, remains below U.S. rate

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for August and preliminary estimates for September, 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 5.5 percent in September, down from a revised 5.7 percent in August and from 6.6 percent in September 2013. The 5.5 percent rate is the lowest since October 2008 and remains lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.9 percent.
- **Place of work data:** A month-over-month increase in private-sector jobs by a statistically significant, 8,400 from August to September on a preliminary basis (seasonally adjusted). The year-over-year increase in private-sector jobs was also statistically significant, at 37,400 since September 2013. The year-over-year gain in private-sector jobs included the addition of 10,000 manufacturing jobs.

DWD Secretary Reggie Newson issued the following statement: "The state's unemployment rate has reached a new post-Recession low at 5.5 percent, and the latest estimates show the private sector created 8,400 jobs over the month. These and other indicators show Wisconsin's economy is growing stronger, which is great news for job creators and working families."

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:

- According to monthly estimates, Wisconsin has created 124,000 private sector jobs since December 2010.
- Initial weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 40 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 5.6 percent during the nine months of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013.
- [Department of Revenue](#): State revenue collections are \$55.3 million higher than projections for the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2014

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM AUGUST 2014

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,077,900	3,077,800	-100	3,107,000	3,106,700	-300
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.8%	67.8%	0.0%	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,904,000	2,903,900	-100	2,948,300	2,948,000	-300
UNEMPLOYMENT	173,900	173,900	0	158,700	158,700	0
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.6%	5.7%	0.1%	5.1%	5.1%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.1%	0.0%	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,866,400	2,866,200	-200	2,897,000	2,897,000	0
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,440,200	2,440,900	700	2,502,400	2,503,200	800
GOODS PRODUCING	572,700	572,800	100	594,500	594,600	100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,300	4,300	0
CONSTRUCTION	102,700	103,300	600	114,900	115,500	600
MANUFACTURING	466,200	465,700	-500	475,300	474,800	-500
Durable Goods	286,000	285,800	-200	289,900	289,700	-200
Nondurable Goods	180,200	179,900	-300	185,400	185,100	-300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,293,700	2,293,400	-300	2,302,500	2,302,400	-100
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,867,500	1,868,100	600	1,907,900	1,908,600	700
TRADE	423,300	423,100	-200	427,800	427,600	-200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	99,300	99,300	0	99,600	99,600	0
INFORMATION	47,100	47,200	100	47,400	47,500	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,400	158,400	0	159,800	159,800	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	304,100	303,600	-500	310,100	309,600	-500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	425,400	426,400	1,000	424,700	425,800	1,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	269,100	269,200	100	296,200	296,300	100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	140,800	140,900	100	142,300	142,400	100
GOVERNMENT	426,200	425,300	-900	394,600	393,800	-800
Federal Government	28,700	28,600	-100	28,900	28,800	-100
State Government	99,600	99,600	0	92,700	92,700	0
Local Government	297,900	297,100	-800	273,000	272,300	-700

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Place of Residence Data	Sep-14 (P)	Aug-14 (R)	Net Change	Sep-14 (P)	Aug-14 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,086,800	3,077,800	9,000	3,094,900	3,106,700	-11,800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.9%	67.8%	0.1%	68.1%	68.4%	-0.3%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,917,400	2,903,900	13,500	2,950,200	2,948,000	2,200
UNEMPLOYMENT	169,400	173,900	-4,500	144,600	158,700	-14,100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.5%	5.7%	-0.2%	4.7%	5.1%	-0.4%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.9%	6.1%	-0.2%	5.7%	6.3%	-0.6%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,866,500	2,866,200	300	2,890,100	2,897,000	-6,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,449,300	2,440,900	8,400	2,478,300	2,503,200	-24,900
GOODS PRODUCING	573,900	572,800	1,100	588,600	594,600	-6,000
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,200	4,300	-100
CONSTRUCTION	103,700	103,300	400	113,400	115,500	-2,100
MANUFACTURING	466,400	465,700	700	471,000	474,800	-3,800
Durable Goods	286,400	285,800	600	287,100	289,700	-2,600
Nondurable Goods	180,000	179,900	100	183,900	185,100	-1,200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,292,600	2,293,400	-800	2,301,500	2,302,400	-900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,875,400	1,868,100	7,300	1,889,700	1,908,600	-18,900
TRADE	423,200	423,100	100	421,700	427,600	-5,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	99,500	99,300	200	101,800	99,600	2,200
INFORMATION	47,000	47,200	-200	47,200	47,500	-300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158,300	158,400	-100	158,600	159,800	-1,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	304,600	303,600	1,000	309,600	309,600	0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	432,200	426,400	5,800	431,300	425,800	5,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	270,300	269,200	1,100	279,100	296,300	-17,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	140,300	140,900	-600	140,400	142,400	-2,000
GOVERNMENT	417,200	425,300	-8,100	411,800	393,800	18,000
Federal Government	28,600	28,600	0	28,700	28,800	-100
State Government	101,200	99,600	1,600	103,700	92,700	11,000
Local Government	287,400	297,100	-9,700	279,400	272,300	7,100

*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						
October 2014						
November 2014						
December 2014						

Note: The numbers above show month over month changes

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.