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## Wisconsin Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.6% in March

*Preliminary rate is lowest since June 2008, and lower than the national average of 5.5%*

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for February and preliminary estimates for March, 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 March, down from 4.8 percent in February. The 4.6 percent rate is the state's lowest rate since June 2008 and is lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.5 percent in March.

Additionally, the state's labor force participation rate of 68.4 percent outpaced the national rate of 62.7 percent by 5.7 percentage points. This margin was 5.8 percentage points in February 2015. These recent margins are the strongest they have been when compared to the nation since 2004.

- **Place of work data:** The state added a statistically significant 53,200 total non-farm jobs and 48,200 private sector jobs from March 2014 to March 2015 (seasonally adjusted). Other statistically significant changes include a year-over-year gain of 8000 jobs in construction, 8,600 jobs in manufacturing, and 4,700 jobs in financial activities. Wisconsin's private-sector job totals remain above pre-recession levels.

"Wisconsin's preliminary March unemployment rate of 4.6 percent is the lowest rate since June 2008 remains well below the national unemployment rate," DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. "In addition, the statistically significant year-over-year job increases across multiple sectors are positive economic indicators that we are on a long-term path to advance a Wisconsin that supports greater freedom and prosperity."

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 on a quarterly basis from Unemployment Insurance records from some 96 percent 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:

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 14 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 three months of 2015 grew by 5.3 percent compared to same period in 2014. As of March 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 10,985, compared to 10,435 in same period in 2014.
- The [Manpower Employment Outlook Survey](#) gave Wisconsin the 3<sup>rd</sup> best outlook in the US for the second quarter.\*

\*Updated 5/15

**Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report**  
**FEBRUARY – MARCH 2015**

**1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM FEBRUARY 2015**

**Seasonally Adjusted**

**Not Seasonally Adjusted**

Place of Residence Data	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,118,600	3,118,500	-100	3,088,500	3,088,200	-300
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.6%	68.6%	0.0%	67.9%	67.9%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,969,400	2,969,100	-300	2,917,100	2,916,500	-600
UNEMPLOYMENT	149,200	149,300	100	171,400	171,700	300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.8%	4.8%	0.0%	5.5%	5.6%	0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.5%	0.0%	5.8%	5.8%	0.0%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,891,900	2,890,000	-1,900	2,831,300	2,829,300	-2,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,477,800	2,476,000	-1,800	2,408,100	2,406,300	-1,800
GOODS PRODUCING	585,900	585,500	-400	564,800	564,400	-400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,600	4,600	0	3,900	3,900	0
CONSTRUCTION	108,700	108,700	0	92,200	92,200	0
MANUFACTURING	472,600	472,200	-400	468,700	468,300	-400
Durable Goods	286,400	285,600	-800	284,200	283,400	-800
Nondurable Goods	186,200	186,600	400	184,500	184,900	400
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,306,000	2,304,500	-1,500	2,266,500	2,264,900	-1,600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,891,900	1,890,500	-1,400	1,843,300	1,841,900	-1,400
TRADE	428,000	427,200	-800	415,400	414,600	-800
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	102,400	102,700	300	100,100	100,400	300
INFORMATION	49,300	49,300	0	48,700	48,700	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,100	154,200	100	152,600	152,700	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	311,200	311,100	-100	302,400	302,300	-100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	434,700	434,800	100	434,400	434,500	100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	272,700	272,300	-400	251,800	251,400	-400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	139,500	138,900	-600	137,900	137,300	-600
GOVERNMENT	414,100	414,000	-100	423,200	423,000	-200
Federal Government	28,700	28,700	0	28,600	28,600	0
State Government	98,600	98,600	0	102,300	102,300	0
Local Government	286,800	286,700	-100	292,300	292,100	-200

**2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR MARCH 2015**

Place of Residence Data	Mar-15 (P)	Feb-15 (R)	Net Change	Mar-15 (P)	Feb-15 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,110,200	3,118,500	-8,300	3,074,400	3,088,200	-13,800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.6%	-0.2%	67.6%	67.9%	-0.3%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,965,900	2,969,100	-3,200	2,907,400	2,916,500	-9,100
UNEMPLOYMENT	144,300	149,300	-5,000	167,000	171,700	-4,700
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6%	4.8%	-0.2%	5.4%	5.6%	-0.2%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.5%	0.0%	5.6%	5.8%	-0.2%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,885,700	2,890,000	-4,300	2,832,400	2,829,300	3,100
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,471,000	2,476,000	-5,000	2,408,800	2,406,300	2,500
GOODS PRODUCING	584,500	585,500	-1,000	564,900	564,400	500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,400	4,600	-200	3,900	3,900	0
CONSTRUCTION	109,600	108,700	900	94,500	92,200	2,300
MANUFACTURING	470,500	472,200	-1,700	466,500	468,300	-1,800
Durable Goods	283,800	285,600	-1,800	281,800	283,400	-1,600
Nondurable Goods	186,700	186,600	100	184,700	184,900	-200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,301,200	2,304,500	-3,300	2,267,500	2,264,900	2,600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,886,500	1,890,500	-4,000	1,843,900	1,841,900	2,000
TRADE	428,300	427,200	1,100	415,900	414,600	1,300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	102,400	102,700	-300	100,200	100,400	-200
INFORMATION	48,900	49,300	-400	48,400	48,700	-300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,200	154,200	0	152,800	152,700	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	309,200	311,100	-1,900	301,100	302,300	-1,200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	434,100	434,800	-700	435,300	434,500	800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	270,400	272,300	-1,900	253,000	251,400	1,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	139,000	138,900	100	137,200	137,300	-100
GOVERNMENT	414,700	414,000	700	423,600	423,000	600
Federal Government	28,800	28,700	100	28,700	28,600	100
State Government	98,600	98,600	0	102,100	102,300	-200
Local Government	287,300	286,700	600	292,800	292,100	700

\*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						
April 2015						
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			Sept-Sept Change	
	July	Aug	Sept	July	Aug	Sept	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,731,504	2,742,763	2,754,031	2,764,110	2,777,381	2,783,123	29,092	1.1%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,394,480	2,405,425	2,376,933	2,425,507	2,433,595	2,404,424	27,491	1.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	29,480	29,917	30,257	30,151	30,494	31,087	830	2.7%
Construction	108,394	109,643	107,001	112,724	113,559	111,532	4,531	4.2%
Manufacturing	462,751	462,767	456,944	469,683	469,085	463,114	6,170	1.4%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	514,117	516,003	513,025	518,440	519,100	515,151	2,126	0.4%
Information	47,407	47,637	46,786	47,954	48,316	47,294	508	1.1%
Financial Activities	150,334	150,103	148,128	146,437	146,752	145,260	-2,868	-1.9%
Professional & Business Services	302,575	304,748	303,011	307,325	310,109	308,139	5,128	1.7%
Education & Health Services	399,452	401,956	402,173	403,136	404,651	404,997	2,824	0.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	283,221	285,186	272,381	282,731	283,484	270,292	-2,089	-0.8%
Other Services	86,462	86,234	85,531	85,006	84,739	83,605	-1,926	-2.3%
Unclassified	10,287	11,231	11,696	21,920	23,306	23,953	12,257	104.8%
<i>Total Government</i>	337,024	337,338	377,098	338,603	343,786	378,699	1,601	0.4%

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.