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BLS Data: Wisconsin Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.2%

October Numbers Revised Up, Marking Best Month of Job Growth Since 1992

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for October and preliminary estimates for November, 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 4.2 percent in November 2015, its lowest point since March 2001, down from 4.3 percent in October 2015. The 4.2 percent rate is below the national unemployment rate of 5.0 percent for the month and below the state's rate of 5.2 percent in November 2014. Additionally, the state's labor force participation rate of 67.8 percent in November outpaced the national rate of 62.5 percent by 5.3 percentage points.
- **Place of work data:** Wisconsin added a statistically significant 33,400 private sector jobs and 29,900 total non-farm jobs from November 2014 to November 2015 (seasonally adjusted). Private sector job numbers for the month of October were revised up 1,500 to 16,600, marking October 2015 as the best month of net job growth dating back to April of 1992 and the best October since 1990. While the preliminary numbers show a loss of 3,800 private sector jobs from October 2015 to November 2015, it is not considered significant and is well within the margin of error.

"Wisconsin continues to see significant year-over-year job growth under Governor Walker," DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. "With revisions showing that Wisconsin had the best October for job growth in 23 years, and a labor force participation rate over 5 percent higher than the national rate in November, it is obvious that Wisconsin is working again."

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 quarterly based on 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 of the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 50 weeks of 2015 dropped to the lowest point since 1990, and 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 11 months of 2015 grew by 3.6% percent compared to same period in 2014. As of November 30, 2015, new business filings totaled 37,432, compared to 36,143 in the same period in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) ranked Wisconsin the "12th Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's, an increase of 2 spots over the 2014 ranking, and a big increase over 2010, when the state ranked 41st.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2015

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM OCTOBER 2015

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,086,700	3,085,900	-800	3,100,500	3,098,500	-2,000
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.6%	67.6%	0.0%	67.9%	67.9%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,955,300	2,954,500	-800	2,988,000	2,986,000	-2,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	131,400	131,500	100	112,400	112,500	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.3%	4.3%	0.0%	3.6%	3.6%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,908,900	2,903,700	-5,200	2,939,400	2,933,800	-5,600
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,490,000	2,491,500	1,500	2,510,500	2,512,000	1,500
GOODS PRODUCING	583,500	583,800	300	592,200	592,500	300
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	4,300	4,300	0
CONSTRUCTION	106,700	106,500	-200	115,000	114,800	-200
MANUFACTURING	472,800	473,300	500	472,900	473,400	500
Durable Goods	283,000	283,300	300	282,400	282,700	300
Nondurable Goods	189,800	190,000	200	190,500	190,700	200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,325,400	2,319,900	-5,500	2,347,200	2,341,300	-5,900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,906,500	1,907,700	1,200	1,918,300	1,919,500	1,200
TRADE	428,900	430,000	1,100	433,800	434,900	1,100
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	101,900	101,700	-200	104,100	103,900	-200
INFORMATION	50,100	50,000	-100	50,100	50,000	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156,800	156,500	-300	155,800	155,500	-300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	315,100	317,200	2,100	319,400	321,500	2,100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	447,400	446,200	-1,200	448,300	447,100	-1,200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	268,300	267,900	-400	268,700	268,300	-400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	138,000	138,200	200	138,100	138,300	200
GOVERNMENT	418,900	412,200	-6,700	428,900	421,800	-7,100
Federal Government	28,700	28,700	0	28,800	28,800	0
State Government	101,900	95,000	-6,900	107,200	99,900	-7,300
Local Government	288,300	288,500	200	292,900	293,100	200

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR NOVEMBER 2015

Place of Residence Data	Nov-15 (P)	Oct-15 (R)	Net Change	Nov-15 (P)	Oct-15 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,096,600	3,085,900	10,700	3,104,500	3,098,500	6,000
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.8%	67.6%	0.2%	68.0%	67.9%	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,965,100	2,954,500	10,600	2,980,600	2,986,000	-5,400
UNEMPLOYMENT	131,500	131,500	0	123,900	112,500	11,400
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.2%	4.3%	-0.1%	4.0%	3.6%	0.4%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,898,900	2,903,700	-4,800	2,928,100	2,933,800	-5,700
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,487,700	2,491,500	-3,800	2,503,700	2,512,000	-8,300
GOODS PRODUCING	584,800	583,800	1,000	589,600	592,500	-2,900
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,900	4,000	-100	4,100	4,300	-200
CONSTRUCTION	108,000	106,500	1,500	112,700	114,800	-2,100
MANUFACTURING	472,900	473,300	-400	472,800	473,400	-600
Durable Goods	282,800	283,300	-500	282,500	282,700	-200
Nondurable Goods	190,100	190,000	100	190,300	190,700	-400
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,314,100	2,319,900	-5,800	2,338,500	2,341,300	-2,800
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,902,900	1,907,700	-4,800	1,914,100	1,919,500	-5,400
TRADE	432,600	430,000	2,600	444,600	434,900	9,700
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	103,000	101,700	1,300	104,700	103,900	800
INFORMATION	50,100	50,000	100	50,600	50,000	600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156,100	156,500	-400	155,900	155,500	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	312,700	317,200	-4,500	316,600	321,500	-4,900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	444,700	446,200	-1,500	448,100	447,100	1,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	265,800	267,900	-2,100	256,100	268,300	-12,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	137,900	138,200	-300	137,500	138,300	-800
GOVERNMENT	411,200	412,200	-1,000	424,400	421,800	2,600
Federal Government	28,900	28,700	200	28,800	28,800	0
State Government	95,700	95,000	700	100,500	99,900	600
Local Government	286,600	288,500	-1,900	295,100	293,100	2,000

*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	(4,300)	(4,200)	+100	(5,000)	(5,000)	+0
April 2015	+3,700	+100	(3,600)	+5,400	+2,000	(3,400)
May 2015	(8,600)	(5,800)	+2,800	(6,100)	(3,500)	+2,600
June 2015	+1,900	(2,900)	(4,800)	(300)	(4,600)	(4,300)
July 2015	+12,400	+14,300	+1,900	+8,200	+9,100	+900
August 2015	+7,100	+7,300	+200	+7,200	+7,900	+700
September 2015	+1,400	(12,800)	(14,200)	(1,300)	(7,000)	(5,700)
October 2015	+22,900	+17,700	(5,200)	+15,100	+16,600	+1,500
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

	2014 Employment*			2015 Employment†			Jun-Jun Change	
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,731,187	2,774,157	2,810,767	2,771,987	2,806,783	2,839,759	28,992	1.0%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,340,719	2,383,996	2,424,438	2,379,143	2,417,346	2,455,173	30,735	1.3%
Natural Resources & Mining	27,615	29,349	30,071	29,689	30,750	31,399	1,328	4.4%
Construction	95,630	104,426	110,805	104,971	111,993	116,972	6,167	5.6%
Manufacturing	455,848	458,811	466,074	461,502	463,019	470,923	4,849	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	511,156	517,822	522,338	515,949	524,097	529,477	7,139	1.4%
Information	46,837	47,195	47,309	47,759	48,052	48,174	865	1.8%
Financial Activities	143,897	144,641	146,479	145,305	146,400	148,053	1,574	1.1%
Professional & Business Services	300,171	303,797	307,095	308,102	310,217	313,289	6,194	2.0%
Education & Health Services	405,751	405,893	406,197	411,587	412,575	412,511	6,314	1.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	253,992	269,743	282,095	261,409	276,398	289,070	6,975	2.5%
Other Services	83,321	83,896	85,720	83,008	83,799	85,314	-406	-0.5%
Unclassified	16,501	18,423	20,255	9,862	10,046	9,991	-10,264	-50.7%
<i>Total Government</i>	390,468	390,161	386,329	392,844	389,437	384,586	-1,743	-0.5%

*Table 4 data as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

†Table 4 data as 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.