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December Unemployment, Employment Estimates Released

Number of employed reaches historic high; state unemployment rate below the national average

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for November and preliminary estimates for December, covering unemployment and employment statistics for the state of Wisconsin. In brief, the estimates show:

- Place of residence data: Wisconsin's total employment grew by 20,700 year-over-year to a record high of 2,972,100 in December, while the number of unemployed declined by a significant 26,800 over the year. Additionally, the state's labor force participation rate increased to 68.0 percent in December, outpacing the national rate of 62.6 percent. A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.3 percent in December 2015, which is 0.1 percent increase from November, below the national unemployment rate of 5.0 percent for the month, and below the state's rate of 5.2 percent in December 2014.
- Place of work data: Wisconsin added a statistically significant 23,600 private sector jobs from December 2014 to December 2015 (seasonally adjusted). Wisconsin also added a statistically significant 11,900 jobs in education and health services over the year. The estimates show a decline of 5,000 private sector jobs from November 2015 to December 2015, which is within the margin of error for the data series.

"Under Governor Walker's leadership, the number of employed Wisconsinites reached a record high in December 2015, meaning more people were employed in Wisconsin than ever before," DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. "Additionally, our state's labor force participation rate grew to 68 percent, which is more than five percentage points higher than the national rate. As the Governor noted Tuesday during his State of the State address, the Wisconsin comeback is real."

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:

- The average weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for 2015 dropped to the lowest level since 1989, and average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 1999.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in 2015 grew by 3.6% percent compared to 2014. As of December 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 40,827, compared to 39,395 in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) ranked Wisconsin the "12th Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's in 2015.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2015

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM NOVEMBER 2015

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,096,600	3,096,600	0	3,104,500	3,104,600	100
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.8%	67.8%	0.0%	68.0%	68.0%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,965,100	2,965,100	0	2,980,600	2,980,500	-100
UNEMPLOYMENT	131,500	131,600	100	123,900	124,000	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	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	2,898,900	2,899,300	400	2,928,100	2,928,500	400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,487,700	2,488,300	600	2,503,700	2,504,300	600
GOODS PRODUCING	584,800	585,500	700	589,600	590,300	700
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,900	3,900	0	4,100	4,100	0
CONSTRUCTION	108,000	108,200	200	112,700	112,900	200
MANUFACTURING	472,900	473,400	500	472,800	473,300	500
Durable Goods	282,800	283,300	500	282,500	283,000	500
Nondurable Goods	190,100	190,100	0	190,300	190,300	0
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,314,100	2,313,800	-300	2,338,500	2,338,200	-300
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,902,900	1,902,800	-100	1,914,100	1,914,000	-100
TRADE	432,600	432,000	-600	444,600	444,000	-600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	103,000	102,800	-200	104,700	104,500	-200
INFORMATION	50,100	50,900	800	50,600	51,400	800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156,100	156,000	-100	155,900	155,800	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	312,700	312,600	-100	316,600	316,500	-100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	444,700	445,000	300	448,100	448,400	300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	265,800	265,800	0	256,100	256,100	0
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	137,900	137,700	-200	137,500	137,300	-200
GOVERNMENT	411,200	411,000	-200	424,400	424,200	-200
Federal Government	28,900	28,900	0	28,800	28,800	0
State Government	95,700	95,700	0	100,500	100,500	0
Local Government	286,600	286,400	-200	295,100	294,900	-200

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR DECEMBER 2015

Place of Residence Data	Dec-15 (P)	Nov-15 (R)	Net Change	Dec-15 (P)	Nov-15 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,107,100	3,096,600	10,500	3,103,000	3,104,600	-1,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.0%	67.8%	0.2%	67.9%	68.0%	-0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,972,100	2,965,100	7,000	2,971,200	2,980,500	-9,300
UNEMPLOYMENT	135,000	131,600	3,400	131,800	124,000	7,800
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.3%	4.2%	0.1%	4.2%	4.0%	0.2%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,897,700	2,899,300	-1,600	2,908,200	2,928,500	-20,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,483,300	2,488,300	-5,000	2,484,300	2,504,300	-20,000
GOODS PRODUCING	587,800	585,500	2,300	582,900	590,300	-7,400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,100	3,900	200	3,900	4,100	-200
CONSTRUCTION	110,200	108,200	2,000	106,500	112,900	-6,400
MANUFACTURING	473,500	473,400	100	472,500	473,300	-800
Durable Goods	281,100	283,300	-2,200	280,800	283,000	-2,200
Nondurable Goods	192,400	190,100	2,300	191,700	190,300	1,400
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,309,900	2,313,800	-3,900	2,325,300	2,338,200	-12,900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,895,500	1,902,800	-7,300	1,901,400	1,914,000	-12,600
TRADE	427,500	432,000	-4,500	440,600	444,000	-3,400
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	102,700	102,800	-100	104,500	104,500	0
INFORMATION	50,800	50,900	-100	51,300	51,400	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,800	156,000	-200	156,100	155,800	300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	312,400	312,600	-200	311,500	316,500	-5,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	445,000	445,000	0	447,100	448,400	-1,300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	263,900	265,800	-1,900	252,900	256,100	-3,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	137,400	137,700	-300	137,400	137,300	100
GOVERNMENT	414,400	411,000	3,400	423,900	424,200	-300
Federal Government	29,100	28,900	200	29,200	28,800	400
State Government	96,300	95,700	600	100,300	100,500	-200
Local Government	289,000	286,400	2,600	294,400	294,900	-500

*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

Seasonally Adjusted	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	(4,800)	(4,400)	+400	(3,800)	(3,200)	+600
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	2,771,882	2,806,723	2,839,783	29,016	1.0%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,340,719	2,383,996	2,424,438	2,379,038	2,417,286	2,455,197	30,759	1.3%
Natural Resources & Mining	27,615	29,349	30,071	29,666	30,722	31,369	1,298	4.3%
Construction	95,630	104,426	110,805	104,942	111,970	116,921	6,116	5.5%
Manufacturing	455,848	458,811	466,074	461,460	462,975	470,879	4,805	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	511,156	517,822	522,338	515,890	524,033	529,410	7,072	1.4%
Information	46,837	47,195	47,309	47,750	48,043	48,263	954	2.0%
Financial Activities	143,897	144,641	146,479	145,292	146,388	148,040	1,561	1.1%
Professional & Business Services	300,171	303,797	307,095	307,966	310,103	313,160	6,065	2.0%
Education & Health Services	405,751	405,893	406,197	411,562	412,549	412,482	6,285	1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	253,992	269,743	282,095	261,366	276,355	289,028	6,933	2.5%
Other Services	83,321	83,896	85,720	82,966	83,749	85,264	-456	-0.5%
Unclassified	16,501	18,423	20,255	10,178	10,399	10,381	-9,874	-48.7%
<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.

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.