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## **BLS Data: State Has Best 12-Month Private Sector Job Growth since 2004; Employment Surpasses 3 Million for All-Time High**

*Wisconsin unemployment rate in March dropped to 4.5%; national rate increased to 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 seasonally adjusted estimates show:

- Place of work data: The state added a statistically significant 13,100 private sector jobs from February 2016 to March 2016 on a preliminary basis, including a significant gain of 4,200 jobs in manufacturing. Wisconsin also added a significant 47,500 private-sector and 51,200 total non-farm jobs over the year ending in March 2016, the best year-over-year growth since August 2004 in both categories. Additionally, revised February private-sector job counts swung from a gain of 8,000 to a gain of 10,500 private sector jobs, a difference of 2,500.
- Place of residence data: A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in March 2016, down from 4.6 percent in February 2016. The 4.5 percent rate is lower than the 4.6 percent rate in March 2015 and lower than the national unemployment rate which increased to 5.0 percent in March 2016. Based on preliminary estimates, Wisconsin's total employment grew by a statistically significant 58,000 year-over-year to more than 3 million, an all-time high. Additionally, the state's labor force reached an all-time high in March 2016.

"Today's report shows that Wisconsin's employment was higher than ever in March, our unemployment rate dropped over the month while the national rate increased, and the state experienced the best 12 months of job growth since 2004," Secretary Allen said. "All indicators show that under Governor Walker's leadership, Wisconsin's economy is expanding and adding jobs in 2016."

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 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% 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:

- Wisconsin was one of only 10 states with an annual average unemployment rate in 2015 lower than 2007, the year that the Great Recession began.
- Year 2016 initial UI claims are running at their lowest level since 1990.

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**Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report**  
**FEBRUARY – MARCH 2016**

**1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM FEBRUARY 2016**

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,136,300	3,137,100	800	3,125,700	3,127,600	1,900
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.7%	68.7%	0.0%	68.4%	68.5%	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,991,500	2,992,200	700	2,953,600	2,955,400	1,800
UNEMPLOYMENT	144,800	144,800	0	172,100	172,200	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	5.2%	5.2%	0.0%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,918,500	2,922,900	4,400	2,864,000	2,868,400	4,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,505,000	2,507,500	2,500	2,441,000	2,443,500	2,500
GOODS PRODUCING	586,600	588,000	1,400	567,100	568,500	1,400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	3,500	3,500	0
CONSTRUCTION	113,600	113,600	0	97,200	97,200	0
MANUFACTURING	469,000	470,400	1,400	466,400	467,800	1,400
Durable Goods	281,200	282,700	1,500	279,400	280,900	1,500
Nondurable Goods	187,800	187,700	-100	187,000	186,900	-100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,331,900	2,334,900	3,000	2,296,900	2,299,900	3,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,918,400	1,919,500	1,100	1,873,900	1,875,000	1,100
TRADE	430,800	431,900	1,100	418,500	419,600	1,100
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,300	110,000	-300	108,000	107,700	-300
INFORMATION	48,700	48,500	-200	48,300	48,100	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,300	152,400	100	150,900	151,000	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	311,100	311,900	800	304,200	305,000	800
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	444,900	444,000	-900	445,100	444,200	-900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	270,100	270,700	600	250,100	250,700	600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,200	150,100	-100	148,800	148,700	-100
GOVERNMENT	413,500	415,400	1,900	423,000	424,900	1,900
Federal Government	28,700	28,700	0	28,600	28,600	0
State Government	97,800	99,100	1,300	102,700	104,000	1,300
Local Government	287,000	287,600	600	291,700	292,300	600

**2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR MARCH 2016**

Place of Residence Data	Mar-16 (P)	Feb-16 (R)	Net Change	Mar-16 (P)	Feb-16 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,143,000	3,137,100	5,900	3,115,200	3,127,600	-12,400
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.8%	68.7%	0.1%	68.2%	68.5%	-0.3%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,002,600	2,992,200	10,400	2,958,500	2,955,400	3,100
UNEMPLOYMENT	140,500	144,800	-4,300	<b>156,700</b>	172,200	<b>-15,500</b>
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.5%	4.6%	-0.1%	<b>5.0%</b>	5.5%	<b>-0.5%</b>
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.9%	0.1%	5.1%	5.2%	-0.1%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,934,400	2,922,900	<b>11,500</b>	2,882,300	2,868,400	<b>13,900</b>
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,520,600	2,507,500	<b>13,100</b>	2,458,700	2,443,500	<b>15,200</b>
GOODS PRODUCING	593,500	588,000	<b>5,500</b>	574,400	568,500	<b>5,900</b>
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	3,600	3,500	<b>100</b>
CONSTRUCTION	114,900	113,600	1,300	100,500	97,200	<b>3,300</b>
MANUFACTURING	474,600	470,400	<b>4,200</b>	470,300	467,800	<b>2,500</b>
Durable Goods	286,300	282,700	<b>3,600</b>	283,500	280,900	<b>2,600</b>
Nondurable Goods	188,300	187,700	600	186,800	186,900	-100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,340,900	2,334,900	6,000	2,307,900	2,299,900	8,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,927,100	1,919,500	<b>7,600</b>	1,884,300	1,875,000	<b>9,300</b>
TRADE	431,700	431,900	-200	419,800	419,600	200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,800	110,000	800	108,700	107,700	1,000
INFORMATION	48,700	48,500	200	48,000	48,100	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,200	152,400	-200	150,700	151,000	-300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	316,000	311,900	<b>4,100</b>	307,800	305,000	2,800
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	444,200	444,000	200	444,900	444,200	700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	273,100	270,700	2,400	255,500	250,700	<b>4,800</b>
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,400	150,100	300	148,900	148,700	200
GOVERNMENT	413,800	415,400	-1,600	423,600	424,900	-1,300
Federal Government	28,900	28,700	200	28,700	28,600	100
State Government	98,900	99,100	-200	103,500	104,000	-500
Local Government	286,000	287,600	-1,600	291,400	292,300	-900

\*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

Month-Over-Month Changes Seasonally Adjusted	TNF			Private		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
January 2016	(200)	+7,200	+7,400	(1,400)	+5,800	+7,200
February 2016	+7,200	+11,600	+4,400	+8,000	+10,500	+2,500
March 2016						
April 2016						
May 2016						
June 2016						
July 2016						
August 2016						
September 2016						
October 2016						
November 2016						
December 2016						

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			Sep-Sep Change	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,770,472	2,783,949	2,789,287	2,805,783	2,811,632	2,815,728	26,441	0.9%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,431,839	2,440,220	2,410,318	2,467,308	2,472,462	2,439,934	29,616	1.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	30,138	30,486	31,081	31,690	31,864	32,410	1,329	4.3%
Construction	112,817	113,755	111,706	119,541	118,931	116,255	4,549	4.1%
Manufacturing	469,834	469,219	463,271	474,077	473,297	467,087	3,816	0.8%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	518,527	519,295	516,376	529,573	531,916	530,768	14,392	2.8%
Information	47,949	48,297	47,290	49,437	49,842	48,860	1,570	3.3%
Financial Activities	146,646	146,900	145,449	148,907	148,547	146,480	1,031	0.7%
Professional & Business Services	307,755	310,303	308,409	316,292	318,570	313,945	5,536	1.8%
Education & Health Services	403,298	404,707	405,160	411,522	412,375	412,416	7,256	1.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	283,240	284,138	270,713	291,859	292,810	279,093	8,380	3.1%
Other Services	85,214	84,958	83,742	85,109	84,724	83,236	-506	-0.6%
Unclassified	26,421	28,162	27,121	9,301	9,586	9,384	-17,737	-65.4%
<i>Total Government</i>	338,633	343,729	378,969	338,475	339,170	375,794	-3,175	-0.8%

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.