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## **BLS Data: Wisconsin Unemployment Rate Remains at 15-Year Low in July; State Adds 45,700 Private-Sector Jobs During Year**

*State sees significant year-over-year gains in manufacturing and construction industries*

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

- **Place of work data:** Based on preliminary data, the state added a statistically significant 45,700 private sector jobs from July 2015 to July 2016, including a one-month gain of 5,000 jobs in July. Other significant changes include year-over-year increases in manufacturing by 6,400 jobs, construction by 7,700 jobs, transportation, warehousing and utilities by 9,100 jobs, and total non-farm jobs at 47,400. The total nonfarm jobs growth of 9,100 over the month was also significant.
- **Place of residence data:** A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.2 percent in July 2016, unchanged from June and holding at its lowest rate since March 2001. The rate remains lower than the national unemployment rate of 4.9 percent in July 2016. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate decreased slightly to 68.3 percent, but continues to outpace the U.S. rate of 62.8 percent in July.

"In July, we continued to see a significant year-over-year increase in private sector employment and our state's unemployment rate was unchanged in July at 4.2 percent," DWD Secretary Ray Allen said. "In fact, July marked the third consecutive month in which our state's unemployment rate was at 4.2 percent, a level not seen in Wisconsin since 2001. Additionally, the 12-month gain of 45,700 private-sector jobs demonstrates that our pro-business policies are helping to create new employment opportunities for working families across Wisconsin. For our part, DWD will continue connecting workers with the skills training necessary for good-paying, in-demand jobs today, even as we set our sights on long-term strategies to attract and retain skilled talent and keep Wisconsin's economy growing."

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.

(more)

### **New Quarterly Job & Wage Data – First Quarter 2016**

Today, DWD also released the latest available QCEW figures covering the first quarter of 2016. Key highlights of 12-month changes through March 2016 include:

- A gain of 37,432 private-sector jobs.
- An increase of 37,012 total jobs.
- The strongest percentage gain in the construction industry, at 6 percent job growth (+5,689).

Wisconsin has received the BLS' sign-off on the state quarterly data covering the first quarter of 2016. The BLS will incorporate the data in its next QCEW release scheduled for September 7. Information about the QCEW, including data through 2015 fourth quarter, can be accessed through the BLS website at <http://bls.gov/cew/>. DWD will post the first-quarter data on its WORKnet site in the coming days.

Other indicators of the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- The unemployment rate in Wisconsin is lower than the national rate by 0.7 percentage points.
- 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 1989.
- Continuing unemployment claims in Wisconsin are running the lowest in at least the past 30 years.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate outpaces the national rate by 5.5 percentage points.
- Wisconsin had the sixth-highest rate of growth in average weekly private sector wages from December 2014 to December 2015, according to Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages data.

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**Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report**  
**JUNE – JULY 2016**

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

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,132,800	3,132,100	-700	3,167,600	3,166,000	-1,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.5%	68.5%	0.0%	69.3%	69.2%	-0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,001,700	3,000,900	-800	3,027,300	3,025,500	-1,800
UNEMPLOYMENT	131,100	131,200	100	140,300	140,600	300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	5.1%	5.1%	0.0%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,932,400	2,926,000	-6,400	2,973,100	2,966,200	-6,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,525,000	2,519,700	-5,300	2,570,900	2,565,100	-5,800
GOODS PRODUCING	594,300	593,800	-500	609,600	609,100	-500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,700	3,700	0	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	116,500	116,000	-500	126,200	125,700	-500
MANUFACTURING	474,100	474,100	0	479,400	479,400	0
Durable Goods	284,700	284,700	0	289,200	289,200	0
Nondurable Goods	189,400	189,400	0	190,200	190,200	0
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,338,100	2,332,200	-5,900	2,363,500	2,357,100	-6,400
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,930,700	1,925,900	-4,800	1,961,300	1,956,000	-5,300
TRADE	431,000	431,600	600	431,800	432,400	600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	112,400	112,100	-300	113,300	113,000	-300
INFORMATION	49,000	49,000	0	48,900	48,900	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,800	154,200	400	154,900	155,300	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	314,400	315,600	1,200	319,200	320,400	1,200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	440,900	440,200	-700	440,400	439,700	-700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	279,600	274,200	-5,400	301,100	295,200	-5,900
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	149,600	149,000	-600	151,700	151,100	-600
GOVERNMENT	407,400	406,300	-1,100	402,200	401,100	-1,100
Federal Government	28,900	28,800	-100	29,100	29,000	-100
State Government	94,100	94,100	0	80,600	80,600	0
Local Government	284,400	283,400	-1,000	292,500	291,500	-1,000

**2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR JULY 2016**

Place of Residence Data	July-16 (P)	Jun-16 (R)	Net Change	July-16 (P)	Jun-16 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,125,500	3,132,100	-6,600	3,172,600	<b>3,166,000</b>	6,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.3%	68.5%	-0.2%	69.3%	<b>69.2%</b>	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,995,600	3,000,900	-5,300	3,041,000	<b>3,025,500</b>	15,500
UNEMPLOYMENT	129,900	131,200	-1,300	131,600	<b>140,600</b>	-9,000
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	4.1%	<b>4.4%</b>	-0.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	5.1%	5.1%	0.0%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,935,100	2,926,000	<b>9,100</b>	2,953,600	2,966,200	<b>-12,600</b>
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,524,700	2,519,700	5,000	2,575,100	2,565,100	<b>10,000</b>
GOODS PRODUCING	595,000	593,800	1,200	613,200	609,100	<b>4,100</b>
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,700	3,700	0	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	117,300	116,000	1,300	128,400	125,700	<b>2,700</b>
MANUFACTURING	474,000	474,100	-100	480,800	479,400	1,400
Durable Goods	284,200	284,700	-500	288,200	289,200	-1,000
Nondurable Goods	189,800	189,400	400	192,600	190,200	<b>2,400</b>
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,340,100	2,332,200	7,900	2,340,400	2,357,100	-16,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,929,700	1,925,900	3,800	1,961,900	1,956,000	5,900
TRADE	432,000	431,600	400	434,900	432,400	2,500
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	114,300	112,100	<b>2,200</b>	112,700	113,000	-300
INFORMATION	48,400	49,000	-600	48,900	48,900	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,100	154,200	-100	156,000	155,300	700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	318,600	315,600	3,000	323,400	320,400	3,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	437,800	440,200	-2,400	434,700	439,700	<b>-5,000</b>
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	274,700	274,200	500	300,100	295,200	<b>4,900</b>
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	149,800	149,000	800	151,200	151,100	100
GOVERNMENT	410,400	406,300	4,100	378,500	401,100	-22,600
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	0	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	95,100	94,100	1,000	82,400	80,600	1,800
Local Government	286,500	283,400	3,100	267,100	291,500	-24,400

\*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	+11,500	+13,300	+1,800	+13,100	+14,700	+1,600
April 2016	(12,600)	(10,400)	+2,200	(11,500)	(11,500)	+0
May 2016	+5,500	+1,300	(4,200)	+9,700	+3,400	(6,300)
June 2016	+5,300	(1,100)	(6,400)	+10,900	+5,600	(5,300)
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

	2015 Employment*			2016 Employment†			Mar-Mar Change	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,714,370	2,720,066	2,734,604	2,754,698	2,762,330	2,771,616	37,012	1.4%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,336,629	2,334,013	2,349,445	2,375,950	2,376,661	2,386,877	37,432	1.6%
Natural Resources & Mining	26,400	26,437	27,375	27,253	27,400	28,079	704	2.6%
Construction	93,722	92,475	94,875	97,720	97,574	100,564	5,689	6.0%
Manufacturing	460,051	459,454	460,281	460,731	458,819	459,772	-509	-0.1%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	513,214	507,933	511,113	526,599	523,078	524,886	13,773	2.7%
Retail Trade (NAICS 44-45)	296,944	292,192	294,043	302,592	299,173	300,427	6,384	2.2%
Information	48,090	47,760	47,477	49,039	48,911	48,727	1,250	2.6%
Financial Activities	144,517	144,318	144,613	145,771	145,515	145,698	1,085	0.8%
Professional & Business Services	300,445	301,151	301,542	313,361	314,406	313,496	11,954	4.0%
Education & Health Services	405,861	408,238	410,174	415,718	418,772	419,804	9,630	2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	245,577	246,797	251,307	254,356	256,420	258,849	7,542	3.0%
Other Services	81,857	81,694	82,615	81,415	81,495	82,624	9	0.0%
Unclassified	16,895	17,756	18,073	3,987	4,271	4,378	-13,695	-75.8%
<i>Total Government</i>	377,741	386,053	385,159	378,748	385,669	384,739	-420	-0.1%

*Total wages are in thousands (Totals may not equal due to rounding)*

\*Data as published by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

†Data as will be published at [worknet.wisconsin.gov](http://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.