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BLS Data: Wisconsin's 12-Month Gain of 41,100 Total Non-Farm Jobs is Significant; Unemployment Rate Remains at 15-Year Low

State also sees a significant year-over-year private sector job gain of 34,300

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for July and preliminary estimates for August 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 posted a statistically significant net gain of 41,100 total non-farm jobs and 34,300 private sector jobs from August 2015 to August 2016. Other significant 12-month increases include Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities by 7,600 and Financial Activities by 4,100.
- **Place of residence data:** A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.2 percent in August 2016, unchanged from July and holding at its lowest rate since March 2001. The rate remains lower than the national unemployment rate of 4.9 percent in August 2016. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate remained at 68.3 percent and continues to outpace the U.S. rate of 62.8 percent.

"Wisconsin's unemployment rate continues at 4.2 percent, its lowest point in 15 years, our state's labor force is consistently in the top 10 in the nation, and the number of employed Wisconsinites has reached a record high in 2016," DWD Secretary Ray Allen said. "We also know employers continue to say they can't find enough skilled workers to fill open positions, which means we need to redouble our focus on finding and training the talent needed to help employers fill those open positions. Employers that have confidence in a robust talent pool in Wisconsin will have more confidence expanding and adding jobs in Wisconsin."

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 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
JULY – AUGUST 2016

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM JULY 2016

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,125,500	3,125,500	0	3,172,600	3,172,500	-100
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.3%	68.3%	0.0%	69.3%	69.3%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,995,600	2,995,500	-100	3,041,000	3,040,700	-300
UNEMPLOYMENT	129,900	130,000	100	131,600	131,800	200
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	4.1%	4.2%	0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	5.1%	5.1%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,935,100	2,933,600	-1,500	2,953,600	2,952,100	-1,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,524,700	2,521,700	-3,000	2,575,100	2,572,200	-2,900
GOODS PRODUCING	595,000	592,800	-2,200	613,200	611,000	-2,200
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,700	3,700	0	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	117,300	117,200	-100	128,400	128,300	-100
MANUFACTURING	474,000	471,900	-2,100	480,800	478,700	-2,100
Durable Goods	284,200	282,300	-1,900	288,200	286,300	-1,900
Nondurable Goods	189,800	189,600	-200	192,600	192,400	-200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,340,100	2,340,800	700	2,340,400	2,341,100	700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,929,700	1,928,900	-800	1,961,900	1,961,200	-700
TRADE	432,000	431,800	-200	434,900	434,700	-200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	114,300	114,600	300	112,700	113,000	300
INFORMATION	48,400	48,400	0	48,900	48,900	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,100	154,100	0	156,000	156,000	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	318,600	317,300	-1,300	323,400	322,100	-1,300
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	437,800	438,300	500	434,700	435,200	500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	274,700	274,400	-300	300,100	299,900	-200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	149,800	150,000	200	151,200	151,400	200
GOVERNMENT	410,400	411,900	1,500	378,500	379,900	1,400
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	0	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	95,100	95,100	0	82,400	82,400	0
Local Government	286,500	288,000	1,500	267,100	268,500	1,400

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR AUGUST 2016

Place of Residence Data	Aug-16 (P)	Jul-16 (R)	Net Change	Aug-16 (P)	Jul-16 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,127,300	3,125,500	1,800	3,164,000	3,172,500	-8,500
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.3%	68.3%	0.0%	69.1%	69.3%	-0.2%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,996,200	2,995,500	700	3,037,700	3,040,700	-3,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	131,100	130,000	1,100	126,400	131,800	-5,400
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	4.0%	4.2%	-0.2%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	5.0%	5.1%	-0.1%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,930,700	2,933,600	-2,900	2,955,400	2,952,100	3,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,515,500	2,521,700	-6,200	2,575,700	2,572,200	3,500
GOODS PRODUCING	586,600	592,800	-6,200	607,000	611,000	-4,000
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,600	3,700	-100	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	115,600	117,200	-1,600	127,700	128,300	-600
MANUFACTURING	467,400	471,900	-4,500	475,300	478,700	-3,400
Durable Goods	279,800	282,300	-2,500	283,500	286,300	-2,800
Nondurable Goods	187,600	189,600	-2,000	191,800	192,400	-600
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,344,100	2,340,800	3,300	2,348,400	2,341,100	7,300
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,928,900	1,928,900	0	1,968,700	1,961,200	7,500
TRADE	431,100	431,800	-700	435,700	434,700	1,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	113,800	114,600	-800	114,000	113,000	1,000
INFORMATION	49,200	48,400	800	49,700	48,900	800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,000	154,100	900	156,400	156,000	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	318,000	317,300	700	325,600	322,100	3,500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	438,800	438,300	500	435,400	435,200	200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	272,600	274,400	-1,800	300,700	299,900	800
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,400	150,000	400	151,200	151,400	-200
GOVERNMENT	415,200	411,900	3,300	379,700	379,900	-200
Federal Government	29,000	28,800	200	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	92,500	95,100	-2,600	81,400	82,400	-1,000
Local Government	293,700	288,000	5,700	269,300	268,500	800

*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	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	+9,100	+7,600	(1,500)	+5,000	+2,000	(3,000)
August 2016						
September 2016						
October 2016						
November 2016						
December 2016						

Revised = originally revised month-over-month change. Benchmark: New benchmark values. The "Change" column represents the difference between the revised and benchmarked numbers.

4. Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)/UI Admin Data

(Census of all UI covered employers; approximately 96% of all employers)

EMPLOYMENT NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Mar 2016*	Mar 2015	Y/Y Change Number	Y/Y Change Percent	Change from Mar 2013 to Mar 2015	Change from Mar 2014 to Mar 2015	Change from Dec 2010 to Mar 2016*
Total Jobs	2,771,350	2,734,604	36,746	1.3%	67,945	39,863	101,336
Private Sector	2,386,611	2,349,445	37,166	1.6%	69,395	40,168	115,626
Manufacturing	459,772	460,281	-509	-0.1%	9,491	6,696	25,049
Retail	300,277	294,043	6,234	2.1%	6,918	1,853	-6,850
Construction	100,673	94,875	5,798	6.1%	10,123	6,313	10,448
Government	384,739	385,159	-420	-0.1%	-1,450	-305	-14,290
State Government	76,092	78,296	-2,204	-2.8%	1,439	588	-2,463

*Data published by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is preliminary and may be subject to revisions.