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## **BLS Data: State Unemployment Rate Declines to 4 Percent**

*Unemployment rate at lowest point since Jan. 2001; fewest number unemployed since Feb. 2001*

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 employment and job statistics for the state of Wisconsin. In brief, the seasonally adjusted estimates show:

- Place of residence data: A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.0 percent in December 2016, down 0.1 percent from November and the state's lowest rate since January 2001. The rate remains lower than the national unemployment rate, which increased to 4.7 percent in December 2016. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.3 percent continues to outpace the U.S. rate, which was 62.7 percent in December. Additionally, the number of unemployed Wisconsinites declined by 2,300 to 125,000 in December, which is the lowest number of unemployed Wisconsinites since February 2001.
- Place of work data: Based on preliminary data, the state added a statistically significant 28,700 total non-farm jobs and 28,900 private-sector jobs from December 2015 to December 2016, with a one-month gain of 900 private-sector jobs and significant one-month gains of 3,000 in Manufacturing and 2,700 in Construction.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen issued the following statement: "Wisconsin's unemployment rate and the number of unemployed Wisconsinites are at their lowest points since 2001, and the state's labor force participation rate continues to outpace the national rate. While these indicators show the Governor's focus on developing the workforce is working for millions of men and women across the state, it also underscores the challenge to find enough people to fill job openings that employers have available today. This is why the Governor is making developing the workforce a top priority this year and beyond."

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:

- Wisconsin had the nation's 12<sup>th</sup> highest growth in average weekly private-sector wages from June 2015 to June 2016, according to state-by-state Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) data.
- Year 2016 initial UI claims are running at their lowest level since 1988.
- 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 5.6 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.

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**Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report**  
**NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2016**

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

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,136,700	3,137,200	500	3,133,000	3,134,300	1,300
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,009,600	3,009,900	300	3,020,500	3,021,400	900
UNEMPLOYMENT	127,100	127,300	200	112,400	112,900	500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	3.6%	3.6%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,933,500	2,936,500	3,000	2,966,800	2,969,800	3,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,517,700	2,519,200	1,500	2,535,400	2,536,900	1,500
GOODS PRODUCING	588,300	588,800	500	593,100	593,600	500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	113,600	114,000	400	118,400	118,800	400
MANUFACTURING	470,900	471,000	100	470,700	470,800	100
Durable Goods	281,000	281,200	200	280,900	281,100	200
Nondurable Goods	189,900	189,800	-100	189,800	189,700	-100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,345,200	2,347,700	2,500	2,373,700	2,376,200	2,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,929,400	1,930,400	1,000	1,942,300	1,943,300	1,000
TRADE	430,100	431,300	1,200	442,600	443,900	1,300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	113,100	113,200	100	115,300	115,400	100
INFORMATION	47,500	47,700	200	47,900	48,100	200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,500	153,500	0	153,600	153,600	0
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	316,200	317,100	900	320,100	321,000	900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	443,400	442,600	-800	446,900	446,100	-800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	275,000	274,300	-700	265,100	264,300	-800
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,600	150,700	100	150,800	150,900	100
GOVERNMENT	415,800	417,300	1,500	431,400	432,900	1,500
Federal Government	29,000	29,000	0	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	97,300	97,300	0	104,900	104,900	0
Local Government	289,500	291,000	1,500	297,500	299,000	1,500

**2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR DECEMBER 2016**

Place of Residence Data	Dec-16 (P)	Nov-16 (R)	Net Change	Dec-16 (P)	Nov-16 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,132,900	3,137,200	-4,300	3,108,600	3,134,300	-25,700
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.3%	68.4%	-0.1%	67.8%	68.4%	-0.6%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,007,900	3,009,900	-2,000	<b>2,992,900</b>	3,021,400	<b>-28,500</b>
UNEMPLOYMENT	125,000	127,300	-2,300	115,800	112,900	2,900
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.0%	4.1%	-0.1%	3.7%	3.6%	0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.6%	0.1%	4.5%	4.4%	0.1%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,932,800	2,936,500	-3,700	2,938,200	2,969,800	<b>-31,600</b>
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,520,100	2,519,200	900	2,514,800	2,536,900	<b>-22,100</b>
GOODS PRODUCING	594,600	588,800	<b>5,800</b>	584,500	593,600	<b>-9,100</b>
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,900	3,800	<b>100</b>	3,800	4,000	<b>-200</b>
CONSTRUCTION	116,700	114,000	<b>2,700</b>	109,600	118,800	<b>-9,200</b>
MANUFACTURING	474,000	471,000	<b>3,000</b>	471,100	470,800	300
Durable Goods	283,800	281,200	<b>2,600</b>	281,900	281,100	800
Nondurable Goods	190,200	189,800	400	189,200	189,700	-500
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,338,200	2,347,700	-9,500	2,353,700	2,376,200	-22,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,925,500	1,930,400	-4,900	1,930,300	1,943,300	<b>-13,000</b>
TRADE	426,400	431,300	-4,900	441,700	443,900	-2,200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	113,300	113,200	100	115,000	115,400	-400
INFORMATION	47,700	47,700	0	48,000	48,100	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,300	153,500	800	154,200	153,600	600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	317,200	317,100	100	315,300	321,000	<b>-5,700</b>
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	440,700	442,600	-1,900	444,600	446,100	-1,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	273,400	274,300	-900	259,700	264,300	<b>-4,600</b>
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	152,500	150,700	1,800	151,800	150,900	900
GOVERNMENT	412,700	417,300	-4,600	423,400	432,900	-9,500
Federal Government	29,100	29,000	100	29,400	29,000	400
State Government	97,700	97,300	400	103,000	104,900	-1,900
Local Government	285,900	291,000	-5,100	291,000	299,000	-8,000

\*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

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	(2,900)	+100	+3,000	(6,200)	(2,700)	+3,500
September 2016	(10,500)	(9,100)	+1,400	(8,500)	(2,700)	+5,800
October 2016	+10,400	+10,800	+400	+6,000	+6,600	+600
November 2016	(1,900)	+1,100	+3,000	(5,200)	(3,700)	+1,500
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			Jun-Jun Change	
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,774,695	2,810,091	2,843,981	2,816,992	2,838,400	2,869,100	25,119	0.9%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,381,832	2,420,653	2,459,397	2,423,615	2,451,498	2,484,502	25,105	1.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	29,808	30,907	31,594	30,312	31,341	32,002	408	1.3%
Construction	105,244	112,313	117,311	109,011	114,296	119,107	1,796	1.5%
Manufacturing	461,535	463,184	471,111	459,749	460,884	468,376	-2,735	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	516,896	525,109	530,551	530,529	535,619	538,042	7,491	1.4%
Information	47,813	48,097	48,217	48,839	48,766	48,738	521	1.1%
Financial Activities	145,465	146,565	148,299	146,295	146,893	148,433	134	0.1%
Professional & Business Services	308,366	310,382	313,533	320,137	319,954	322,955	9,422	3.0%
Education & Health Services	411,798	412,849	412,961	421,595	421,386	420,731	7,770	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	261,609	276,655	289,469	267,579	281,667	293,337	3,868	1.3%
Other Services	83,181	84,006	85,539	82,958	83,205	84,624	-915	-1.1%
Unclassified	10,117	10,586	10,812	6,611	7,487	8,157	-2,655	-24.6%
<i>Total Government</i>	392,863	389,438	384,584	393,377	386,902	384,598	14	0.0%

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

Data as published by 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.