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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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BLS Data: State Unemployment Drops to 3.2 Percent in November

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for October and preliminary estimates for November 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, Wisconsin added a significant 40,600 total non-farm jobs and 42,900 private-sector jobs from November 2016 to November 2017, with a significant year-over-year gain of 16,900 manufacturing jobs. The state also gained 2,500 total non-farm, 2,800 private sector jobs and 2,000 manufacturing jobs from October to November 2017. The number of total non-farm and private-sector jobs in Wisconsin reached all-time highs, according to the preliminary numbers.
- **Place of residence data:** A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.2 percent in November 2017, down 0.2 percent from 3.4 percent in October and below the national unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. Wisconsin's 3.2 percent unemployment rate is the lowest November rate since November 1999. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate increased in November to 68.9 percent and continues to be above the U.S. rate of 62.7 percent. Wisconsin's total labor force also reached an all-time high in November, based on preliminary estimates.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen issued the following statement: "With our lowest November unemployment rate since 1999 and our total labor force reaching an all-time high, we will continue to pursue strategies that ensure that everyone who wants a job can find a job right here 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:

- Initial UI claims ended 2016 at their lowest level in their last 30 years. Year 2017 initial UI claims are running at the lowest in at least the past 30 years.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2016 at their lowest level since 1973. Continuing unemployment claims in Wisconsin are running at the lowest in at least the past 30 years.
- Additionally, 2017 YTD totals for both initial and continuing claims through week 49 are both below 2016 YTD totals for the same time period.
- Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the states credit rating, noting that "(T)he stable outlook reflects the expectation that the state will experience moderate economic growth and will continue its prudent fiscal management practices."

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2017

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM OCTOBER 2017

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,162,100	3,162,200	100	3,165,300	3,165,400	100
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.8%	68.8%	0.0%	68.9%	68.9%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,054,200	3,054,100	-100	3,076,500	3,076,300	-200
UNEMPLOYMENT	107,900	108,100	200	88,800	89,100	300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.4%	3.4%	0.0%	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	3.9%	3.9%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,972,500	2,971,900	-600	3,004,300	3,003,700	-600
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,553,900	2,553,400	-500	2,575,000	2,574,500	-500
GOODS PRODUCING	596,600	597,500	900	603,100	604,000	900
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	4,200	4,200	0
CONSTRUCTION	112,500	112,400	-100	119,200	119,100	-100
MANUFACTURING	480,100	481,100	1,000	479,700	480,700	1,000
Durable Goods	288,700	289,000	300	287,700	288,000	300
Nondurable Goods	191,400	192,100	700	192,000	192,700	700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,375,900	2,374,400	-1,500	2,401,200	2,399,700	-1,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,957,300	1,955,900	-1,400	1,971,900	1,970,500	-1,400
TRADE	433,700	434,000	300	438,400	438,700	300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	108,800	108,800	0	110,100	110,100	0
INFORMATION	46,700	46,600	-100	46,900	46,800	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,600	152,000	400	151,500	151,900	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	327,900	326,600	-1,300	333,300	332,000	-1,300
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	452,700	452,500	-200	456,000	455,800	-200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	281,700	281,200	-500	282,000	281,500	-500
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	154,200	154,200	0	153,700	153,700	0
GOVERNMENT	418,600	418,500	-100	429,300	429,200	-100
Federal Government	29,100	29,100	0	29,100	29,100	0
State Government	99,300	99,300	0	105,200	105,200	0
Local Government	290,200	290,100	-100	295,000	294,900	-100

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR NOVEMBER 2017

Place of Residence Data	Nov-17 (P)	Oct-17 (R)	Net Change	Nov-17 (P)	Oct-17 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,168,100	3,162,200	5,900	3,172,600	3,165,400	7,200
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.9%	68.8%	0.1%	69.0%	68.9%	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,065,700	3,054,100	11,600	3,086,900	3,076,300	10,600
UNEMPLOYMENT	102,400	108,100	-5,700	85,700	89,100	-3,400
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.2%	3.4%	-0.2%	2.7%	2.8%	-0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	3.9%	3.9%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,974,400	2,971,900	2,500	3,001,100	3,003,700	-2,600
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,556,200	2,553,400	2,800	2,570,100	2,574,500	-4,400
GOODS PRODUCING	598,900	597,500	1,400	602,000	604,000	-2,000
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	4,100	4,200	-100
CONSTRUCTION	111,800	112,400	-600	115,600	119,100	-3,500
MANUFACTURING	483,100	481,100	2,000	482,300	480,700	1,600
Durable Goods	291,200	289,000	2,200	290,100	288,000	2,100
Nondurable Goods	191,900	192,100	-200	192,200	192,700	-500
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,375,500	2,374,400	1,100	2,399,100	2,399,700	-600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,957,300	1,955,900	1,400	1,968,100	1,970,500	-2,400
TRADE	435,700	434,000	1,700	448,600	438,700	9,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	108,300	108,800	-500	110,600	110,100	500
INFORMATION	46,700	46,600	100	46,800	46,800	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,600	152,000	-400	151,800	151,900	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	326,700	326,600	100	330,000	332,000	-2,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	451,900	452,500	-600	455,900	455,800	100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	283,400	281,200	2,200	271,800	281,500	-9,700
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	153,000	154,200	-1,200	152,600	153,700	-1,100
GOVERNMENT	418,200	418,500	-300	431,000	429,200	1,800
Federal Government	29,100	29,100	0	29,100	29,100	0
State Government	102,000	99,300	2,700	106,600	105,200	1,400
Local Government	287,100	290,100	-3,000	295,300	294,900	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	TNF			Private		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
January 2017	+200	+5,400	+5,200	+5,800	+10,400	+4,600
February 2017	+11,100	+11,100	+0	+7,600	+8,300	+700
March 2017	(2,700)	(3,700)	(1,000)	+500	+800	+300
April 2017	+14,800	+13,100	(1,700)	+7,500	+6,000	(1,500)
May 2017	(3,100)	(3,700)	(600)	(1,700)	(2,600)	(900)
June 2017	(1,300)	(5,400)	(4,100)	+3,600	+1,300	(2,300)
July 2017	+3,600	+5,800	+2,200	+100	(500)	(600)
August 2017	(8,800)	(7,100)	+1,700	(5,200)	(2,500)	+2,700
September 2017	+8,600	+12,200	+3,600	+5,900	+7,100	+1,200
October 2017	+10,500	+9,900	(600)	+9,500	+9,000	(500)
November 2017						
December 2017						

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

	2016 Employment			2017 Employment			Jun-Jun Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Number	Percent	Q2:2016	Q2:2017	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,819,691	2,841,355	2,873,099	2,833,043	2,864,341	2,905,292	32,193	1.1%	\$31,651,982	\$32,643,715	\$991,733	3.1%
Total Private	2,425,585	2,453,737	2,487,739	2,441,978	2,475,984	2,519,880	32,141	1.3%	\$26,959,706	\$28,000,710	\$1,041,004	3.9%
Natural Resources & Mining	30,375	31,418	32,053	31,394	32,598	33,484	1,431	4.5%	\$277,720	\$298,421	\$20,701	7.5%
Construction	109,198	114,489	119,397	112,713	119,561	124,974	5,577	4.7%	\$1,584,906	\$1,702,703	\$117,797	7.4%
Manufacturing	459,943	460,938	468,486	461,696	462,784	472,257	3,771	0.8%	\$6,187,834	\$6,380,259	\$192,425	3.1%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	530,619	535,746	538,124	531,893	538,272	540,940	2,816	0.5%	\$5,061,095	\$5,194,977	\$133,882	2.6%
Information	48,839	48,767	48,741	47,570	47,570	47,697	-1,044	-2.1%	\$804,788	\$804,628	-\$160	0.0%
Financial Activities	146,218	146,802	148,584	147,878	148,387	150,236	1,652	1.1%	\$2,242,242	\$2,381,730	\$139,488	6.2%
Professional & Business Services	320,391	320,101	323,150	320,866	322,835	326,455	3,305	1.0%	\$4,326,143	\$4,385,554	\$59,411	1.4%
Education & Health Services	421,722	421,583	421,078	427,141	427,361	429,023	7,945	1.9%	\$4,707,322	\$4,976,141	\$268,819	5.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	267,633	281,970	293,847	270,875	285,522	301,809	7,962	2.7%	\$1,102,859	\$1,166,495	\$63,636	5.8%
Other Services	83,060	83,310	84,789	83,698	84,476	86,345	1,556	1.8%	\$574,306	\$609,838	\$35,532	6.2%
Unclassified	7,587	8,613	9,490	6,254	6,618	6,660	-2,830	-29.8%	\$90,491	\$99,964	\$9,473	10.5%
Total Government	394,106	387,618	385,360	391,065	388,357	385,412	52	0.0%	\$4,692,276	\$4,643,005	-\$49,271	-1.1%

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.