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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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BLS Data: Wisconsin's Private Sector Employment Reaches All-Time High, Unemployment Rate Drops to 3 Percent

Wisconsin's 3 percent unemployment rate tied for lowest on record

MADISON – Today, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for November and preliminary estimates for December covering the employment and job statistics for the state of Wisconsin. The data shows that the number of individuals employed in Wisconsin's private sector set a new record in December, total employment set another new record, the size of the state's labor force reached another all-time high and the state's unemployment rate dropped to 3.0 percent, matching the lowest rate on record and setting a new record for the lowest December unemployment rate.

In brief, the seasonally adjusted estimates also show:

- **Place of work data:** Based on preliminary data, Wisconsin added a significant 40,200 total non-farm jobs and 43,500 private sector jobs from December 2016 to December 2017, including a significant 11,500 manufacturing jobs. The state also gained 1,300 private sector jobs from November 2017 to December 2017, including 1,200 construction jobs. November private sector jobs gains were also revised up by 2,100, showing that Wisconsin gained a total of 4,900 private sector jobs from October 2017 to November 2017.
- **Place of residence data:** A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.0 percent in December matches the lowest rate on record, and sets a new record for lowest December unemployment rate. The unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percent from November's rate of 3.2 percent and is 1.1 percent lower than the national unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, which was unchanged from November. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate of 68.9 percent was unchanged from November, but the total labor force continued its strong growth, reaching another all-time high in December, preliminary estimates show.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen issued the following statement: "Wisconsin's economy continues to perform exceptionally, with our unemployment rate decreasing to 3 percent, tied for the lowest rate on record, and our total labor force and employment once again reaching all-time highs. As we move forward, we will continue to develop comprehensive plans and programs that prepare all individuals, regardless of age, education and barriers to employment, to enter into one of the thousands of gainful employment opportunities Wisconsin has to offer."

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 2017 at their lowest level in the last 30 years.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2017 at their lowest level since 1973.
- Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the state's 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
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2017

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM NOVEMBER 2017

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,168,100	3,168,300	200	3,172,600	3,172,900	300
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.9%	68.9%	0.0%	69.0%	69.0%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,065,700	3,065,800	100	3,086,900	3,087,100	200
UNEMPLOYMENT	102,400	102,500	100	85,700	85,900	200
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.2%	3.2%	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%	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	2,974,400	2,976,200	1,800	3,001,100	3,002,900	1,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,556,200	2,558,300	2,100	2,570,100	2,572,200	2,100
GOODS PRODUCING	598,900	598,500	-400	602,000	601,600	-400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	4,100	4,100	0
CONSTRUCTION	111,800	111,700	-100	115,600	115,500	-100
MANUFACTURING	483,100	482,800	-300	482,300	482,000	-300
Durable Goods	291,200	290,700	-500	290,100	289,600	-500
Nondurable Goods	191,900	192,100	200	192,200	192,400	200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,375,500	2,377,700	2,200	2,399,100	2,401,300	2,200
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,957,300	1,959,800	2,500	1,968,100	1,970,600	2,500
TRADE	435,700	436,200	500	448,600	449,100	500
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	108,300	108,300	0	110,600	110,600	0
INFORMATION	46,700	46,700	0	46,800	46,800	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,600	151,800	200	151,800	152,000	200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	326,700	327,200	500	330,000	330,500	500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	451,900	451,900	0	455,900	455,900	0
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	283,400	284,800	1,400	271,800	273,200	1,400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	153,000	152,900	-100	152,600	152,500	-100
GOVERNMENT	418,200	417,900	-300	431,000	430,700	-300
Federal Government	29,100	29,100	0	29,100	29,100	0
State Government	102,000	102,000	0	106,600	106,600	0
Local Government	287,100	286,800	-300	295,300	295,000	-300

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR DECEMBER 2017

Place of Residence Data	Dec-17 (P)	Nov-17 (R)	Net Change	Dec-17 (P)	Nov-17 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,170,600	3,168,300	2,300	3,150,300	3,172,900	-22,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.9%	68.9%	0.0%	68.5%	69.0%	-0.5%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,075,000	3,065,800	9,200	3,066,200	3,087,100	-20,900
UNEMPLOYMENT	95,700	102,500	-6,800	84,100	85,900	-1,800
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.0%	3.2%	-0.2%	2.7%	2.7%	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	2,974,500	2,976,200	-1,700	2,982,600	3,002,900	-20,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,559,600	2,558,300	1,300	2,556,900	2,572,200	-15,300
GOODS PRODUCING	596,700	598,500	-1,800	592,100	601,600	-9,500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,900	4,000	-100	3,800	4,100	-300
CONSTRUCTION	112,900	111,700	1,200	109,600	115,500	-5,900
MANUFACTURING	479,900	482,800	-2,900	478,700	482,000	-3,300
Durable Goods	289,900	290,700	-800	288,900	289,600	-700
Nondurable Goods	190,000	192,100	-2,100	189,800	192,400	-2,600
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,377,800	2,377,700	100	2,390,500	2,401,300	-10,800
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,962,900	1,959,800	3,100	1,964,800	1,970,600	-5,800
TRADE	433,900	436,200	-2,300	446,400	449,100	-2,700
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	111,500	108,300	3,200	113,500	110,600	2,900
INFORMATION	46,700	46,700	0	47,200	46,800	400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	150,600	151,800	-1,200	150,700	152,000	-1,300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	329,100	327,200	1,900	327,500	330,500	-3,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	452,500	451,900	600	455,000	455,900	-900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	286,800	284,800	2,000	272,100	273,200	-1,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	151,800	152,900	-1,100	152,400	152,500	-100
GOVERNMENT	414,900	417,900	-3,000	425,700	430,700	-5,000
Federal Government	29,200	29,100	100	29,400	29,100	300
State Government	94,700	102,000	-7,300	100,500	106,600	-6,100
Local Government	291,000	286,800	4,200	295,800	295,000	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 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	+2,500	+4,300	+1,800	+2,800	+4,900	+2,100
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%
<i>Total Private</i>	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%
<i>Total Government</i>	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.