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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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**BLS Data: State Adds 8,900 Private Sector Jobs, 2,100 Manufacturing Jobs in March: Unemployment Rate Holds at Historically Low 2.9%**

*February data also revised up showing Wisconsin gained 3,700 private sector jobs from January to February 2018*

MADISON – Today, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for February 2018 and preliminary estimates for March 2018 covering the employment and job statistics for the state of Wisconsin. The data showed that Wisconsin's unemployment rate remained at a historic low of 2.9 percent, while the state added 8,900 private sector jobs from February 2018 to March 2018. Additionally, previously reported private sector job losses of 300 from January 2018 to February 2018 were revised upward to a gain of 3,700. The data now shows a two-month increase of 12,600 private sector jobs.

In brief, the seasonally adjusted estimates show:

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2018 maintained its historically low level of 2.9 percent for the second consecutive month and remained 1.2 percent below the national rate of 4.1 percent. Wisconsin also reached a record high for the number of people employed in the state for the third consecutive month. The size of the state's civilian labor force increased to 3,168,500, reaching an all-time high for the second consecutive month. The state's labor force participation rate also increased from February 2018 to March by 0.1 percent to 68.7 percent, while the national rate decreased 0.1 percent to 62.9 percent over the same time period.
- **Place of Work Data:** Based on preliminary data, Wisconsin gained 8,900 private sector jobs over the month and a significant 27,800 private sector jobs and 13,200 manufacturing jobs over the year. Wisconsin also added 6,800 total non-farm jobs over the month and a significant 29,700 total non-farm jobs over the year. Additionally, the state's previously reported loss of 300 private sector jobs from January 2018 to February 2018 was revised upward to a gain of 3,700 private sector jobs, showing a 2 month increase of 12,600 private sector jobs from January 2018 through March 2018.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen released the following statement about today's report:

"Wisconsin's working families, employees and communities are benefiting as Wisconsin's labor market economy sets new records across numerous measurements," Secretary Allen said. "Our unemployment rate remains at a record low of 2.9 percent, the number of people employed is at a record high and our civilian labor force is larger than ever before in our state's history. Under Governor Walker's leadership, Wisconsin's strong alignment between workforce, education and economic development partners will enable Wisconsin to attract, train and retain even more workers through an all-hands-on-deck approach that draws talent from outside the state and helps those already here skill up and skill in to good-paying opportunities."

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% of Wisconsin employers). CES data has been shown to be subject to significant 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 on a quarterly basis from Unemployment Insurance records from some 96 percent 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 investor Service 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**  
**FEBRUARY – MARCH 2018**

**1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM FEBRUARY 2018**

**Seasonally Adjusted**

**Not Seasonally Adjusted**

Place of Residence Data	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,161,000	3,161,200	200	3,165,900	3,167,100	1,200
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.6%	68.6%	0.0%	68.7%	68.7%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,068,200	3,068,400	200	3,060,200	3,061,100	900
UNEMPLOYMENT	92,800	92,800	0	105,700	106,000	300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.9%	2.9%	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,963,000	2,967,100	4,100	2,912,300	2,915,800	3,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,553,800	2,557,800	4,000	2,491,500	2,494,500	3,000
GOODS PRODUCING	601,300	602,400	1,100	581,900	582,300	400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,600	4,600	0	4,200	4,200	0
CONSTRUCTION	118,900	119,700	800	105,000	105,100	100
MANUFACTURING	477,800	478,100	300	472,700	473,000	300
Durable Goods	290,000	290,200	200	286,900	287,300	400
Nondurable Goods	187,800	187,900	100	185,800	185,700	-100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,361,700	2,364,700	3,000	2,330,400	2,333,500	3,100
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,952,500	1,955,400	2,900	1,909,600	1,912,200	2,600
TRADE	431,800	432,400	600	422,300	422,900	600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	109,600	109,900	300	107,900	108,200	300
INFORMATION	46,900	46,700	-200	46,700	46,500	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,500	151,500	0	150,300	150,400	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	324,400	326,200	1,800	316,900	318,700	1,800
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	453,700	453,600	-100	454,500	454,400	-100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	282,000	282,500	500	259,000	259,200	200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	152,600	152,600	0	152,000	151,900	-100
GOVERNMENT	409,200	409,300	100	420,800	421,300	500
Federal Government	29,100	29,100	0	28,900	28,900	0
State Government	93,900	93,600	-300	100,500	100,500	0
Local Government	286,200	286,600	400	291,400	291,900	500

**2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR MARCH 2018**

Place of Residence Data	Mar-18 (P)	Feb-18 (R)	Net Change	Mar-18 (P)	Feb-18 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,168,500	3,161,200	7,300	3,177,900	<b>3,167,100</b>	10,800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.7%	68.6%	0.1%	68.9%	<b>68.7%</b>	0.2%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	<b>3,078,100</b>	<b>3,068,400</b>	<b>9,700</b>	3,076,800	<b>3,061,100</b>	15,700
UNEMPLOYMENT	90,400	<b>92,800</b>	-2,400	101,100	106,000	-4,900
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.9%	<b>2.9%</b>	0.0%	3.2%	3.3%	-0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	4.1%	4.4%	-0.3%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,973,900	2,967,100	6,800	2,929,700	2,915,800	<b>13,900</b>
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,566,700	2,557,800	8,900	2,512,200	2,494,500	<b>17,700</b>
GOODS PRODUCING	606,800	602,400	4,400	589,500	582,300	<b>7,200</b>
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,600	4,600	0	4,300	4,200	100
CONSTRUCTION	122,000	119,700	2,300	109,200	105,100	<b>4,100</b>
MANUFACTURING	480,200	478,100	2,100	476,000	473,000	3,000
Durable Goods	291,600	290,200	1,400	289,400	287,300	2,100
Nondurable Goods	188,600	187,900	700	186,600	185,700	900
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,367,100	2,364,700	2,400	2,340,200	2,333,500	6,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,959,900	1,955,400	4,500	1,922,700	1,912,200	<b>10,500</b>
TRADE	433,200	432,400	800	423,200	422,900	300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	111,500	109,900	1,600	109,300	108,200	1,100
INFORMATION	46,700	46,700	0	46,300	46,500	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	150,700	151,500	-800	149,300	150,400	-1,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	329,000	326,200	2,800	323,200	318,700	<b>4,500</b>
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	452,800	453,600	-800	454,500	454,400	100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	283,000	282,500	500	264,600	259,200	<b>5,400</b>
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	153,000	152,600	400	152,300	151,900	400
GOVERNMENT	407,200	409,300	-2,100	417,500	421,300	-3,800
Federal Government	29,000	29,100	-100	28,900	28,900	0
State Government	92,700	93,600	-900	97,800	100,500	-2,700
Local Government	285,500	286,600	-1,100	290,800	291,900	-1,100

\*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 2018	+9,200	+8,200	(1,000)	+8,000	+7,100	(900)
February 2018	+1,500	+5,600	+4,100	(300)	+3,700	+4,000
March 2018						
April 2018						
May 2018						
June 2018						
July 2018						
August 2018						
September 2018						
October 2018						
November 2018						
December 2018						

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			Sep-Sep Change		Total Wages*		Change	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Number	Percent	Q3:2016	Q3:2017	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,843,463	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	14,956	0.5%	\$32,792,507	\$32,599,507	-\$193,000	-0.6%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,503,778	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	17,670	0.7%	\$28,617,717	\$28,506,813	-\$110,904	-0.4%
Natural Resources & Mining	32,376	32,507	33,161	33,363	33,752	34,185	1,024	3.1%	\$296,639	\$312,977	\$16,338	5.5%
Construction	121,938	121,987	119,458	127,497	127,109	124,387	4,929	4.1%	\$1,817,251	\$1,896,205	\$78,954	4.3%
Manufacturing	470,962	469,840	463,548	474,952	474,321	468,164	4,616	1.0%	\$6,511,793	\$6,449,516	-\$62,277	-1.0%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	539,309	539,218	535,537	540,423	541,419	537,407	1,870	0.3%	\$5,246,468	\$5,246,758	\$290	0.0%
Information	49,348	49,564	48,447	47,886	47,737	46,965	-1,482	-3.1%	\$821,025	\$830,868	\$9,843	1.2%
Financial Activities	149,991	149,858	148,094	150,988	150,774	148,878	784	0.5%	\$2,313,566	\$2,267,481	-\$46,085	-2.0%
Professional & Business Services	326,189	327,456	325,361	329,481	329,858	326,815	1,454	0.4%	\$4,483,344	\$4,408,845	-\$74,499	-1.7%
Education & Health Services	422,140	422,493	423,581	427,000	427,785	429,083	5,502	1.3%	\$5,136,053	\$5,111,762	-\$24,291	-0.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	299,084	299,397	283,777	304,719	304,048	286,764	2,987	1.1%	\$1,289,355	\$1,309,537	\$20,182	1.6%
Other Services	85,567	85,224	84,360	85,366	85,132	84,054	-306	-0.4%	\$614,188	\$617,080	\$2,892	0.5%
Unclassified	6,874	7,056	6,834	3,079	3,201	3,126	-3,708	-54.3%	\$88,035	\$55,784	-\$32,251	-36.6%
<b>Total Government</b>	339,685	347,937	379,745	335,119	336,655	377,031	-2,714	-0.7%	\$4,174,790	\$4,092,693	-\$82,097	-2.0%

\* Total wages are in thousands (Totals may not equal due to rounding)  
 Data as published by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, subject to revision.  
 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.