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BLS data: Wisconsin's Unemployment Rate Remains at Record-Low 2.8 percent, over 45,000 Manufacturing Jobs Added Since 2010

WI's labor force participation rate increases to 68.9 percent

MADISON – Today, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for April 2018 and preliminary estimates for May covering the employment and job statistics for the state of Wisconsin. The data showed that Wisconsin's unemployment rate remained at a record-low 2.8 percent while the state's labor force participation rate increased by 0.1 percent from April's revised rate of 68.8 percent to 68.9 percent. Additionally, the data showed that Wisconsin has added over 45,000 jobs in the manufacturing industry since December 2010, and a statistically significant 15,100 manufacturing jobs since May 2017.

In brief, the seasonally adjusted estimates show:

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2018 remained at a record-low of 2.8 percent. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate also increased to 68.9 percent, from April's revised rate of 68.8 percent, while the national rate decreased to 62.7 percent. The data also showed that Wisconsin had 42,800 more individuals employed in May 2018 compared to May 2017, a statistically significant increase as defined by BLS. Wisconsin set another state record for the number of people employed in the state in May 2018, with 3,090,200 individuals employed.
- **Place of Work Data:** From May 2017 to May 2018, Wisconsin added 21,600 private-sector jobs and 20,200 total non-farm jobs, and over the month the manufacturing sector added 1,200 jobs. Over the month, Wisconsin's private-sector job number declined by 5,300 and total non-farm jobs declined by 4,700. In 2018, Wisconsin has added 9,200 manufacturing jobs through May 2018.

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

"With over 94,000 jobs available on the state's JobCenterofWisconsin.com website, Wisconsin's open for business economy is creating thousands of opportunities for Wisconsin's working families each and every-day," Secretary Allen said. "It is important to look at all economic indicators when gauging the strength of Wisconsin's economy – our unemployment rate is at a record low for the second consecutive month and more people are employed today than ever before in our state's history. Governor Walker's investment in workforce development is working, and at DWD, we stand ready to help workers find gainful employment in one of Wisconsin's many high-growth industry sectors."

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
APRIL – MAY 2018

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM APRIL 2018

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,175,600	3,175,400	-200	3,171,200	3,170,200	-1,000
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.9%	68.8%	-0.1%	68.8%	68.7%	-0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,086,100	3,085,900	-200	3,085,900	3,084,900	-1,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	89,500	89,500	0	85,200	85,300	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.9%	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,972,500	2,968,600	-3,900	2,958,700	2,954,900	-3,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,562,900	2,560,400	-2,500	2,533,000	2,531,400	-1,600
GOODS PRODUCING	604,600	605,400	800	597,700	598,400	700
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,600	4,600	0	4,500	4,500	0
CONSTRUCTION	119,700	120,200	500	115,600	116,200	600
MANUFACTURING	480,300	480,600	300	477,600	477,700	100
Durable Goods	291,400	291,200	-200	290,400	290,400	0
Nondurable Goods	188,900	189,400	500	187,200	187,300	100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,367,900	2,363,200	-4,700	2,361,000	2,356,500	-4,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,958,300	1,955,000	-3,300	1,935,300	1,933,000	-2,300
TRADE	432,500	432,200	-300	425,100	425,300	200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,600	110,500	-100	109,000	108,800	-200
INFORMATION	46,700	46,700	0	46,300	46,300	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,500	150,700	-800	150,800	150,200	-600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	330,700	330,000	-700	327,200	326,500	-700
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	452,500	452,100	-400	454,100	453,500	-600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	282,000	281,200	-800	271,100	270,800	-300
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	151,800	151,600	-200	151,700	151,600	-100
GOVERNMENT	409,600	408,200	-1,400	425,700	423,500	-2,200
Federal Government	29,000	29,000	0	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	93,500	93,700	200	100,900	100,900	0
Local Government	287,100	285,500	-1,600	295,800	293,600	-2,200

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR MAY 2018

Place of Residence Data	May-18 (P)	Apr-18 (R)	Net Change	May-18 (P)	Apr-18 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,179,400	3,175,400	4,000	3,167,300	3,170,200	-2,900
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.9%	68.8%	0.1%	68.6%	68.7%	-0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,090,200	3,085,900	4,300	3,085,100	3,084,900	200
UNEMPLOYMENT	89,200	89,500	-300	82,200	85,300	-3,100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%	2.6%	2.7%	-0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.9%	-0.1%	3.6%	3.7%	-0.1%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,963,900	2,968,600	-4,700	2,977,700	2,954,900	22,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,555,100	2,560,400	-5,300	2,559,000	2,531,400	27,600
GOODS PRODUCING	606,500	605,400	1,100	609,400	598,400	11,000
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,500	4,600	-100	4,700	4,500	200
CONSTRUCTION	120,200	120,200	0	123,900	116,200	7,700
MANUFACTURING	481,800	480,600	1,200	480,800	477,700	3,100
Durable Goods	291,300	291,200	100	291,900	290,400	1,500
Nondurable Goods	190,500	189,400	1,100	188,900	187,300	1,600
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,357,400	2,363,200	-5,800	2,368,300	2,356,500	11,800
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,948,600	1,955,000	-6,400	1,949,600	1,933,000	16,600
TRADE	430,200	432,200	-2,000	426,800	425,300	1,500
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,800	110,500	300	111,000	108,800	2,200
INFORMATION	46,500	46,700	-200	46,200	46,300	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	150,000	150,700	-700	149,200	150,200	-1,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	328,800	330,000	-1,200	327,400	326,500	900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	452,000	452,100	-100	452,400	453,500	-1,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	278,400	281,200	-2,800	285,200	270,800	14,400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	151,900	151,600	300	151,400	151,600	-200
GOVERNMENT	408,800	408,200	600	418,700	423,500	-4,800
Federal Government	29,100	29,000	100	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	93,900	93,700	200	97,100	100,900	-3,800
Local Government	285,800	285,500	300	292,600	293,600	-1,000

*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 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	+6,800	+6,400	(400)	+8,900	+8,200	(700)
April 2018	(1,000)	(4,900)	(3,900)	(3,100)	(5,600)	(2,500)
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			Dec-Dec Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	Number	Percent	Q4:2016	Q4:2017	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,855,516	2,862,144	2,843,872	2,874,160	2,873,213	2,872,568	28,696	1.0%	\$34,253,602	\$35,520,319	\$1,266,717	3.7%
Total Private	2,467,014	2,462,139	2,452,152	2,487,684	2,486,421	2,484,411	32,259	1.3%	\$29,850,878	\$31,078,521	\$1,227,643	4.1%
Natural Resources & Mining	33,906	31,882	29,936	34,963	32,840	31,184	1,248	4.2%	\$313,427	\$340,157	\$26,730	8.5%
Construction	118,772	116,573	109,265	123,709	121,204	116,146	6,881	6.3%	\$1,833,355	\$1,970,879	\$137,524	7.5%
Manufacturing	461,315	460,624	461,421	467,541	467,567	469,453	8,032	1.7%	\$6,638,358	\$7,002,004	\$363,646	5.5%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	539,593	548,530	551,786	541,757	552,930	556,747	4,961	0.9%	\$5,467,357	\$5,775,347	\$307,990	5.6%
Information	48,614	48,804	48,735	46,848	47,172	47,180	-1,555	-3.2%	\$914,115	\$897,993	-\$16,122	-1.8%
Financial Activities	147,806	147,699	148,134	148,781	148,306	148,816	682	0.5%	\$2,488,740	\$2,552,572	\$63,832	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	325,636	325,119	322,464	328,483	328,107	327,319	4,855	1.5%	\$5,082,749	\$5,174,030	\$91,281	1.8%
Education & Health Services	424,949	425,887	426,161	431,199	432,878	434,116	7,955	1.9%	\$5,206,967	\$5,433,462	\$226,495	4.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	275,595	266,565	263,457	278,725	270,198	267,445	3,988	1.5%	\$1,180,505	\$1,246,728	\$66,223	5.6%
Other Services	84,181	83,719	84,182	83,767	83,226	83,969	-213	-0.3%	\$617,193	\$643,780	\$26,587	4.3%
Unclassified	6,647	6,737	6,611	1,911	1,993	2,036	-4,575	-69.2%	\$108,111	\$41,568	-\$66,543	-61.6%
Total Government	388,502	400,005	391,720	386,476	386,792	388,157	-3,563	-0.9%	\$4,402,724	\$4,441,798	\$39,074	0.9%

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.