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BLS Data: Wisconsin Unemployment Rate Remains at or Below 3 percent for Record 9th Straight Month

WI adds significant 32,000 private-sector jobs, 20,000 manufacturing jobs over year

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for September and preliminary estimates for October covering employment and job statistics for the state. The data showed that Wisconsin's unemployment rate remained at 3 percent in October, marking the 9th straight month that Wisconsin unemployment rate was at or below 3 percent, a state record. Wisconsin also added a statistically significant 32,000 private-sector jobs from October 2017 to October 2018. The state also added a significant 20,000 manufacturing jobs over the same time period.

In brief, seasonally adjusted estimates show:

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October remained unchanged at 3 percent. This was the 9th straight month that the state's unemployment rate stood at 3 percent or less. Earlier in 2018, Wisconsin's achieved its lowest unemployment rate in the history of the state, 2.8 percent. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate was 68.4 percent, more than five percentage points higher than the national rate of 62.9 percent.
- **Place of Work Data:** From October 2017 to October 2018, Wisconsin added 32,000 private sector jobs and 20,000 manufacturing jobs. Both increases were deemed as statistically significant by BLS. Since 2010, Wisconsin has added 53,700 manufacturing jobs and 32,400 construction jobs.

"Wisconsin's employment situation continues to create more and more opportunities for Wisconsin workers, and with roughly 100,000 available jobs on the state's JobCenterofWisconsin.com website, DWD stands ready to help anyone who is still looking for work, find not only work, but a rewarding career," DWD Secretary Ray Allen said. "With an unemployment rate of 3 percent, the 9th straight month the state's unemployment rate has remained at or below the 3 percent threshold, there is no better time to be a job seeker 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 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 strength 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."

Today's full report can be viewed on WisConomy.com.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2018

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

Seasonally Adjusted

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Place of Residence Data	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,170,500	3,170,500	0	3,147,400	3,147,200	-200
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.6%	68.6%	0.0%	68.1%	68.1%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,075,500	3,075,400	-100	3,067,000	3,066,500	-500
UNEMPLOYMENT	95,100	95,100	0	80,400	80,700	300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%	3.6%	3.6%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,985,200	2,982,200	-3,000	2,999,100	2,996,900	-2,200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,570,900	2,572,200	1,300	2,587,900	2,590,600	2,700
GOODS PRODUCING	619,400	619,400	0	627,500	627,600	100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,600	4,600	0	4,800	4,800	0
CONSTRUCTION	125,100	124,900	-200	132,500	132,200	-300
MANUFACTURING	489,700	489,900	200	490,200	490,600	400
Durable Goods	296,500	296,800	300	296,200	296,600	400
Nondurable Goods	193,200	193,100	-100	194,000	194,000	0
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,365,800	2,362,800	-3,000	2,371,600	2,369,300	-2,300
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,951,500	1,952,800	1,300	1,960,400	1,963,000	2,600
TRADE	429,000	427,700	-1,300	425,900	425,800	-100
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	112,400	112,500	100	114,300	114,300	0
INFORMATION	46,500	46,600	100	46,800	46,800	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	149,000	149,600	600	148,900	149,400	500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	323,200	323,200	0	326,800	326,800	0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	455,600	457,800	2,200	454,200	457,100	2,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	284,500	284,000	-500	293,000	292,000	-1,000
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	151,300	151,400	100	150,500	150,800	300
GOVERNMENT	414,300	410,000	-4,300	411,200	406,300	-4,900
Federal Government	29,300	29,300	0	29,300	29,300	0
State Government	94,200	94,100	-100	97,300	97,300	0
Local Government	290,800	286,600	-4,200	284,600	279,700	-4,900

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR OCTOBER 2018

Place of Residence Data	Oct-18 (P)	Sep-18 (R)	Net Change	Oct-18 (P)	Sep-18 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,163,800	3,170,500	-6,700	3,148,800	3,147,200	1,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.6%	-0.2%	68.1%	68.1%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,068,700	3,075,400	-6,700	3,067,200	3,066,500	700
UNEMPLOYMENT	95,100	95,100	0	81,700	80,700	1,000
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%	3.5%	3.6%	-0.1%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,978,700	2,982,200	-3,500	3,011,000	2,996,900	14,100
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,570,600	2,572,200	-1,600	2,591,400	2,590,600	800
GOODS PRODUCING	620,000	619,400	600	626,800	627,600	-800
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,600	4,600	0	4,800	4,800	0
CONSTRUCTION	125,500	124,900	600	131,500	132,200	-700
MANUFACTURING	489,900	489,900	0	490,500	490,600	-100
Durable Goods	296,700	296,800	-100	295,800	296,600	-800
Nondurable Goods	193,200	193,100	100	194,700	194,000	700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,358,700	2,362,800	-4,100	2,384,200	2,369,300	14,900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,950,600	1,952,800	-2,200	1,964,600	1,963,000	1,600
TRADE	423,500	427,700	-4,200	426,000	425,800	200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	112,900	112,500	400	114,500	114,300	200
INFORMATION	47,100	46,600	500	47,500	46,800	700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,100	149,600	1,500	151,000	149,400	1,600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	322,900	323,200	-300	328,000	326,800	1,200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	458,000	457,800	200	462,000	457,100	4,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	284,300	284,000	300	284,500	292,000	-7,500
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,800	151,400	-600	151,100	150,800	300
GOVERNMENT	408,100	410,000	-1,900	419,600	406,300	13,300
Federal Government	29,300	29,300	0	29,300	29,300	0
State Government	93,500	94,100	-600	100,400	97,300	3,100
Local Government	285,300	286,600	-1,300	289,900	279,700	10,200

*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	(4,700)	+100	+4,800	(5,300)	(800)	+4,500
June 2018	+7,400	+7,600	+200	+5,500	+6,700	+1,200
July 2018	+8,700	+8,400	(300)	+9,100	+7,200	(1,900)
August 2018	+3,000	+1,600	(1,400)	(100)	(1,700)	(1,600)
September 2018	(1,100)	(4,100)	(3,000)	(900)	+400	+1,300
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

	2017 Employment			2018 Employment			Mar-Mar Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Number	Percent	Q1:2017	Q1:2018	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,779,763	2,786,070	2,804,549	2,811,277	2,818,638	2,831,734	27,185	1.0%	\$33,825,523	\$35,490,920	\$1,665,397	4.9%
Total Private	2,401,677	2,401,438	2,418,291	2,431,840	2,432,417	2,445,408	27,117	1.1%	\$29,125,397	\$30,694,678	\$1,569,281	5.4%
Natural Resources & Mining	27,969	28,238	29,398	28,966	29,127	30,163	765	2.6%	\$262,400	\$286,962	\$24,562	9.4%
Construction	101,697	101,960	104,270	108,021	107,891	111,301	7,031	6.7%	\$1,472,948	\$1,605,265	\$132,317	9.0%
Manufacturing	459,901	458,878	460,989	467,843	467,798	468,902	7,913	1.7%	\$6,761,064	\$6,962,620	\$201,556	3.0%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	532,862	527,870	529,295	535,080	530,035	532,312	3,017	0.6%	\$5,256,771	\$5,515,008	\$258,237	4.9%
Information	48,538	48,231	47,930	47,379	47,010	46,853	-1,077	-2.2%	\$891,917	\$935,914	\$43,997	4.9%
Financial Activities	147,337	147,299	147,755	147,515	147,248	147,282	-473	-0.3%	\$3,030,066	\$3,239,726	\$209,660	6.9%
Professional & Business Services	313,035	313,721	316,948	321,091	323,715	323,604	6,656	2.1%	\$4,763,740	\$5,207,668	\$443,928	9.3%
Education & Health Services	421,983	424,732	425,974	429,103	431,362	432,475	6,501	1.5%	\$4,888,555	\$5,129,202	\$240,647	4.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	259,112	260,377	264,316	263,260	264,348	267,861	3,545	1.3%	\$1,099,238	\$1,170,580	\$71,342	6.5%
Other Services	82,203	82,533	83,530	82,195	82,327	83,126	-404	-0.5%	\$586,506	\$615,423	\$28,917	4.9%
Unclassified	7,040	7,599	7,886	1,387	1,556	1,529	-6,357	-80.6%	\$112,194	\$26,311	-\$85,883	-76.5%
Total Government	378,086	384,632	386,258	379,437	386,221	386,326	68	0.0%	\$4,700,126	\$4,796,242	\$96,116	2.0%

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.