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SECRETARY GASSMAN ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT DROP IN MAY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment rate continues downward trend, reaches lowest point in over a year

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that Wisconsin's May unemployment rate dropped significantly to 7.7 percent, its lowest level since early 2009, and that Wisconsin added over 40,000 jobs in May, demonstrating its continued economic recovery.

"For the second month in a row, Wisconsin has experienced a decrease in its unemployment rate, and the drop in May was significant," Secretary Gassman said. "We have worked hard to help add tens of thousands of jobs to the state in recent months. As a result, we continue to see steady gains and positives signs of economic recovery throughout the state. We will continue working hard to add jobs and help businesses and workers recover from the worst national economic crisis since the Great Depression."

Unemployment Rate Drops

Wisconsin's unemployment rate dropped by 0.5 percent to 7.7 percent in May from 8.2 percent in April, lower than the May 2009 rate of 8.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted) and at its lowest level since January 2009. Adjusting for seasonal factors, the state unemployment rate fell to 8.2 percent from 8.5 percent in April, lower than the May 2009 rate of 8.9 percent and at its lowest level since March 2009.

Wisconsin remains under the national unemployment rate of 9.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted) and 9.7 percent (seasonally adjusted). Wisconsin's rates are not only lower, but declining faster than the national rates. The state unadjusted rate declined by 0.5 percent compared to 0.2 percent nationally.

Wisconsin's unemployment rate has consistently been much lower than all other manufacturing-heavy Midwest states including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. While the May rates for other states are unavailable for a comparison, Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted April rate of 8.5 percent was 1.5 percent below Indiana's rate, 2.4 percent below Ohio's rate, 2.7 percent below Illinois' rate and 5.5 percent below Michigan's rate.

Jobs Numbers

Wisconsin added 40,200 jobs in May, including 6,500 construction jobs and 3,300 manufacturing jobs, without seasonal adjustment. Approximately 29,900 jobs were gained in service sectors including trade, transportation, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services.

Wisconsin held steady on total job numbers, with seasonal adjustment, reflecting the addition of 32,000 jobs since January 2010. On a seasonally adjusted basis, Wisconsin's job growth has outpaced the nation since late 2009. Wisconsin has added jobs at a rate of 1.3 percent, compared to 0.8 percent nationally from December through May.

"For Governor Doyle, nothing is more important than helping our businesses create jobs and giving our workers the opportunities to get those jobs," Secretary Gassman said. "With some of the most powerful economic development tools in the country, he is helping Wisconsin companies expand and create thousands of new jobs in communities across the state. The addition of tens of thousands of jobs in the first months of 2010 clearly demonstrates these tools' success."

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM. MAY 10	FINAL APR 10	YEAR AGO MAY 09	NET CHANGE FROM MONTH	YEAR
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,035,000	3,027,900	3,093,500	7,100	-58,500
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,801,900	2,778,700	2,826,800	23,200	-24,900
UNEMPLOYMENT	233,100	249,200	266,700	-16,100	-33,600
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	7.7%	8.2%	8.6%	-0.5%	-0.9%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	9.3%	9.5%	9.1%	-0.2%	0.2%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,746,500	2,706,300	2,777,400	40,200	-30,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,296,700	2,264,700	2,336,600	32,000	-39,900
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	528,700	518,400	540,800	10,300	-12,100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,200	2,700	3,100	500	100
CONSTRUCTION	101,500	95,000	105,800	6,500	-4,300
MANUFACTURING	424,000	420,700	431,900	3,300	-7,900
Durable Goods	256,900	255,500	260,800	1,400	-3,900
Nondurable Goods	167,100	165,200	171,100	1,900	-4,000
<i>SERVICE PRODUCING</i>	2,217,800	2,187,900	2,236,600	29,900	-18,800
TRADE	399,200	395,600	413,200	3,600	-14,000
Wholesale Trade	113,100	112,800	116,400	300	-3,300
Retail Trade	286,100	282,800	296,800	3,300	-10,700
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	99,200	95,900	104,400	3,300	-5,200
Utilities	10,900	10,900	11,200	0	-300
INFORMATION	47,000	46,700	48,000	300	-1,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157,300	156,400	161,000	900	-3,700
Finance and Insurance	132,200	131,800	135,300	400	-3,100
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	25,100	24,600	25,700	500	-600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	253,400	251,100	255,300	2,300	-1,900
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	87,700	89,900	94,400	-2,200	-6,700
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	43,600	44,000	45,000	-400	-1,400
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	122,100	117,200	115,900	4,900	6,200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	420,100	420,000	413,400	100	6,700
Educational Services	52,900	53,500	49,900	-600	3,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	367,200	366,500	363,500	700	3,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	254,400	243,700	261,900	10,700	-7,500
Arts, Entertn., & Recreation	32,700	29,300	38,000	3,400	-5,300
Accommodation & Food Services	221,700	214,400	223,900	7,300	-2,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	137,400	136,900	138,600	500	-1,200
GOVERNMENT	449,800	441,600	440,800	8,200	9,000
Federal Government	37,700	33,600	31,800	4,100	5,900
State Government	107,300	104,400	110,300	2,900	-3,000
Local Government	304,800	303,600	298,700	1,200	6,100
PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR/MGT. DISP	32	32	58	0	-26

*Differences I total may occur as a result of rounding.

(1) Includes L-M Disputes

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

	PRELIM. MAY 10	FINAL APR 10	YEAR AGO MAY 09	NET CHANGE FROM MONTH AGO	NET CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,053,900	3,052,300	3,110,500	1,600	-56,600
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,803,600	2,792,000	2,835,200	11,600	-31,600
UNEMPLOYMENT	250,200	260,300	275,300	-10,100	-25,100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	8.2%	8.5%	8.9%	-0.3%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	9.7%	9.9%	9.4%	-0.2%	0.3%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,732,700	2,732,700	2,760,600	0	-27,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,294,500	2,302,400	2,331,900	-7,900	-37,400
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	525,700	527,300	535,900	-1,600	-10,200
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,000	2,900	3,000	100	0
CONSTRUCTION	98,100	101,600	102,400	-3,500	-4,300
MANUFACTURING	430,600	428,600	436,500	2,000	-5,900
Durable Goods	261,000	259,900	263,100	1,100	-2,100
Nondurable Goods	169,600	168,700	173,400	900	-3,800
<i>SERVICE PRODUCING</i>	2,207,000	2,205,400	2,224,700	1,600	-17,700
TRADE	401,600	403,900	414,900	-2,300	-13,300
Wholesale Trade	113,500	114,300	116,200	-800	-2,700
Retail Trade	288,100	289,600	298,700	-1,500	-10,600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	98,900	97,200	103,600	1,700	-4,700
Utilities					
INFORMATION	47,200	47,000	48,200	200	-1,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157,400	157,000	160,900	400	-3,500
Finance and Insurance					
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	24,900	25,000	25,600	-100	-700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	253,600	255,200	256,500	-1,600	-2,900
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	88,600	89,100	95,900	-500	-7,300
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises					
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	121,100	121,300	115,600	-200	5,500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	419,100	419,100	413,100	0	6,000
Educational Services	52,400	52,500	49,300	-100	3,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	366,700	366,600	363,800	100	2,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	247,900	251,600	254,600	-3,700	-6,700
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	29,200	31,900	34,700	-2,700	-5,500
Accommodation & Food Services	218,700	219,700	219,900	-1,000	-1,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	137,100	138,300	138,200	-1,200	-1,100
GOVERNMENT	438,200	430,300	428,700	7,900	9,500
Federal Government	37,700	33,900	31,800	3,800	5,900
State Government	103,700	100,600	105,700	3,100	-2,000
Local Government	296,800	295,800	291,200	1,000	5,600

*Differences in total may occur as a result of rounding.

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Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section.