
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIWorkforce>

On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

Updated First Quarter '12 Job Counts Now Available on WORKnet

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics declares sign-off on actual jobs data submitted for January-March 2012

MADISON – Actual jobs data for the first three months of 2012, based on reports from 96 percent of Wisconsin business establishments and submitted this month by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), has been reviewed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and is now accessible online through [WORKnet](#), the DWD's labor market information system.

Key highlights of the data, which will be released by BLS as Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data, include:

- **QCEW data show Wisconsin added 37,464 private-sector jobs from March 2011 to March 2012, matching the DWD-submitted numbers.**
- **The net job gain from March 2011 to March 2012 also includes an increase of 12,088 manufacturing jobs.**
- **Wages by covered employers grew by 7.2% year over year.**

The BLS will incorporate the data in its next QCEW release for all states, slated for Sept. 27. As with all such QCEW updates, the data will undergo additional revision by BLS and, when posted on the [BLS website](#), will differ slightly from the numbers posted on [WORKnet](#).

The QCEW is considered by most economists to be the most accurate measure of jobs because it is compiled on a quarterly basis from Unemployment Insurance records submitted by 160,000 (over 96%) of Wisconsin business establishments. The **QCEW is one of three data sets** that BLS uses to measure employment and unemployment. The other two include:

- **Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):** compiled from a monthly **survey of 1,450 households**. Measures the labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate.
- **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 volatile and subject to major revisions.

The three BLS job measures were relatively consistent in Wisconsin until June 2011, when the CES began to show results inconsistent with QCEW and LAUS data and other economic indicators. This inconsistency has continued with each quarterly release of actual jobs data, including the release of data for the first quarter of 2012.

- END -

Comparison of BLS and WORKnet Information for First Quarter

	BLS 2011(1)			WORKnet 2012(1)			Difference		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar
Total	2,593,358	2,593,428	2,610,854	2,616,252	2,617,157	2,638,954	22,894	23,729	28,100
Federal	29,409	29,301	29,267	28,893	28,763	28,904	-516	-538	-363
State	77,869	78,132	78,232	75,465	76,104	76,348	-2,404	-2,028	-1,884
Local	280,496	287,620	289,122	273,936	278,964	282,005	-6,560	-8,656	-7,117
Private Total	2,205,584	2,198,375	2,214,233	2,237,958	2,233,326	2,251,697	32,374	34,951	37,464
Natural Resources and Mining	21,257	21,384	22,158	22,647	22,732	24,012	1,390	1,348	1,854
Construction	79,128	76,565	79,364	79,525	77,705	81,089	397	1,140	1,725
Manufacturing	432,499	432,273	434,278	444,933	444,272	446,366	12,434	11,999	12,088
TTU	496,840	490,444	492,922	501,108	494,249	496,183	4,268	3,805	3,261
Information	46,829	46,517	46,337	46,212	45,817	45,641	-617	-700	-696
Financial Activities	148,686	148,313	148,366	148,281	147,977	148,051	-405	-336	-315
Professional and Business Services	273,152	273,428	276,273	278,630	280,116	283,882	5,478	6,688	7,609
Education and Health Services	385,820	388,054	389,347	389,899	392,083	393,094	4,079	4,029	3,747
Leisure and Hospitality	232,240	231,993	234,476	233,253	234,167	238,627	1,013	2,174	4,151
Other Services	85,554	85,404	86,489	85,867	86,198	86,399	313	794	-90
Unclassified	3,579	4,000	4,223	7,603	8,010	8,353	4,024	4,010	4,130

This table is an over the year comparison with data published on BLS site (2011_1) and with data to be published on WORKnet (2012_1)

	BLS	WORKnet		
	Q1 2011 total wages	Q1 2012 total wages	OTY Change	Percent
Total wages (all ownerships)	\$26,315,981	\$28,201,302	\$1,885,321	7.2%
Total wages (private ownership)	\$22,173,765	\$28,201,302	\$6,027,537	27.2%
Total wages (all government)	\$4,142,216	\$4,250,137	\$107,921	2.6%

reported in thousands

This table represents 2012/1 data as signed off on by BLS and posted to WORKnet.

Wisconsin Employment Data Y/Y Change

	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11	Dec 11	Mar 12
LAUS Employment (Household Survey)	20,600	14,600	11,900	23,100	12,900
CES (Tot. Nonfarm., Bus. Establishment Survey)	36,600	21,000	4,100	-33,900	-22,700
QCEW (Employment, All Ownerships)	42,506	25,308	39,719	19,551	28,100

Updated 8/28/12 to include monthly QCEW changes through March 2012.

