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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

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

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On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

## Statement by DWD Secretary Newson on BLS Report of State's Average 2013 Unemployment Rate

*Average rate of 6.7% lower than Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, ranking 20th lowest in nation*

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today issued the following statement on today's U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report. The report shows Wisconsin's average annual unemployment rate in 2013 ranked 20<sup>th</sup> best in the country, and the state ranked 17<sup>th</sup> best in the nation in the BLS' broadest measure of labor underutilization.

"Today's U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report shows that Wisconsin's 6.7 percent annual average unemployment rate for 2013 ranked 20<sup>th</sup> best in the country and below the national rate of 7.4 percent," Secretary Newson said. "Additionally, our state ranked 17<sup>th</sup> best in the country in the BLS' broadest measure of labor underutilization covering the unemployed, part-time workers and those who are marginally attached to the workforce."

Highlights of today's BLS report include (all based on seasonally adjusted data):

- Wisconsin's average unemployment rate in 2013 was 6.7%, well below the national average for the same time period of 7.3% and below the rates of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.
- All six measures of labor underutilizations trended downward in Wisconsin in 2013, making Wisconsin one of 33 states in which all six measures went down during 2013.
- The broadest measure of labor underutilization, the U-6 rate, decreased from 13.1% to 12.1% in 2013, well below the annual average for the nation at 13.8%.

The BLS' full report, *Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization, Wisconsin*, is available [online](#).