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## Wisconsin's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.1 Percent

*BLS' revised job estimates show Wisconsin added over 106,000 private sector jobs in 2011-13*

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary state employment and unemployment estimates for January 2014, showing Wisconsin's unemployment rate dropped to 6.1 percent, its lowest point since November 2008.

DWD today also released BLS' revised employment estimates for each month in 2013 and previous years showing Wisconsin added 106,100 private sector jobs from December 2010 through December 2013. BLS adjusted the monthly job estimates through an annual process called "benchmarking" to bring the sample-based series into closer alignment with actual job counts.

Highlights of today's release of BLS estimates include:

- **A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.1 percent in January**, down from a revised 6.3 percent in December and 6.9 percent in January 2013. The 6.1 percent January 2014 rate is the lowest since November 2008, and it remains below the national rate of 6.6 percent.
- **A preliminary total nonfarm job gain of 6,200 seasonally adjusted in January 2014** from December 2013, including increases in manufacturing, construction and other sectors that made up for decreases in other areas such as education and health services. Compared to the January 2013 total, the private sector gained 40,900 jobs. Total nonfarm employment increased by 56,100 from January 2013.
- **Wisconsin added an estimated 39,700 private sector jobs from December 2012 to December 2013, for a total of 106,100 private sector jobs added since December 2010.** The state's total nonfarm job gain was an estimated 46,500 jobs from December 2012 to December 2013, for a total of 109,100 nonfarm jobs gained since December 2010.
- **Manufacturing gained an estimated 6,900 jobs over the year** and 28,300 manufacturing jobs since December 2010, an increase of 6.5 percent to a 2013 benchmark total of 464,100.

Secretary Newson issued the following statement in response to the latest job numbers:

"The January 2014 unemployment rate and adjusted estimates for 2013 are in closer alignment with actual job counts showing Wisconsin has added tens of thousands of private sector jobs since 2011 following the loss of 134,000 private sector jobs during the preceding four years. The investments we are making to develop the workforce and grow the state's economy are creating opportunities and moving our state in the right direction."

(more)

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 1,450 households. 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.

The benchmarked jobs data historically have been more consistent with actual job counts from the QCEW than preliminary and revised estimates. Wisconsin QCEW data for **calendar years 2011-12** show Wisconsin added over 63,000 private-sector jobs in 2011-12. The back-to-back, 2011 and 2012 calendar year QCEW private sector job creation totals are the best of any Governor in over a decade.

Other indicators that help illustrate the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- [Department of Revenue](#) state general fund revenue collections through January: up by 4.8 percent in fiscal year 2014 over the prior year.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: up 8.3 percent YTD in 2014 over previous year.
- Average initial weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims are at a 12-year low, and 2014 UI claims through week 8 are running at lowest level since 1998.
- Wisconsin's exports exceeded \$23 billion in 2013.

Attached to this report are tables that show the (1) December-January LAUS and CES revisions; (2) preliminary January estimates and benchmarked December estimates for CES and LAUS; (3) the CES revision history for calendar year 2013; and (4) QCEW data for the third quarter of 2013, which is the most recent data available.

A bar graph showing the QCEW and benchmarked LAUS and CES is also attached.

Benchmarked CES and LAUS estimates for 2013 and earlier will be accessible at [WORKnet](#).

**Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report**  
**DECEMBER 2013 – JANUARY 2014**

**1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM DECEMBER 2013**

**Seasonally Adjusted**

**Not Seasonally Adjusted**

| Place of Residence Data              | Prelim    | Revised   | Change  | Prelim    | Revised   | Change  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE                 | 3,071,700 | 3,073,000 | 1,300   | 3,061,800 | 3,059,200 | -2,600  |
| LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE       | 67.9%     | 67.9%     | 0.0%    | 67.7%     | 67.6%     | -0.1%   |
| EMPLOYMENT (1)                       | 2,880,300 | 2,878,300 | -2,000  | 2,883,300 | 2,880,900 | -2,400  |
| UNEMPLOYMENT                         | 191,400   | 194,600   | 3,200   | 178,500   | 178,300   | -200    |
| UNEMPLOYMENT RATE                    | 6.2%      | 6.3%      | 0.1%    | 5.8%      | 5.8%      | 0.0%    |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate               | 6.7%      | 6.7%      | 0.0%    | 6.5%      | 6.5%      | 0.0%    |
| Place of Work Data                   |           |           |         |           |           |         |
| NONFARM WAGE & SALARY                | 2,840,500 | 2,849,000 | 8,500   | 2,843,900 | 2,852,500 | 8,600   |
| TOTAL PRIVATE                        | 2,425,900 | 2,431,400 | 5,500   | 2,421,300 | 2,424,900 | 3,600   |
| GOODS PRODUCING                      | 566,200   | 565,200   | -1,000  | 559,000   | 556,900   | -2,100  |
| NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING           | 3,700     | 3,800     | 100     | 3,500     | 3,500     | 0       |
| CONSTRUCTION                         | 94,300    | 97,300    | 3,000   | 89,400    | 92,000    | 2,600   |
| MANUFACTURING                        | 468,200   | 464,100   | -4,100  | 466,100   | 461,400   | -4,700  |
| Durable Goods                        | 289,400   | 282,000   | -7,400  | 288,000   | 280,300   | -7,700  |
| Nondurable Goods                     | 178,800   | 182,100   | 3,300   | 178,100   | 181,100   | 3,000   |
| SERVICE PROVIDING                    | 2,274,300 | 2,283,800 | 9,500   | 2,284,900 | 2,295,600 | 10,700  |
| PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING            | 1,859,700 | 1,866,200 | 6,500   | 1,862,300 | 1,868,000 | 5,700   |
| TRADE                                | 413,100   | 420,100   | 7,000   | 425,800   | 433,800   | 8,000   |
| TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES     | 100,200   | 99,300    | -900    | 101,000   | 100,200   | -800    |
| INFORMATION                          | 46,700    | 46,800    | 100     | 47,100    | 47,000    | -100    |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES                 | 159,600   | 160,000   | 400     | 159,700   | 159,800   | 100     |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES     | 304,200   | 306,000   | 1,800   | 303,100   | 303,500   | 400     |
| EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES        | 421,200   | 430,600   | 9,400   | 422,600   | 431,800   | 9,200   |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY                | 276,200   | 263,700   | -12,500 | 264,500   | 252,600   | -11,900 |
| OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin. | 138,500   | 139,700   | 1,200   | 138,500   | 139,300   | 800     |
| GOVERNMENT                           | 414,600   | 417,600   | 3,000   | 422,600   | 427,600   | 5,000   |
| Federal Government                   | 28,200    | 28,600    | 400     | 28,200    | 28,700    | 500     |
| State Government                     | 101,600   | 99,500    | -2,100  | 104,300   | 103,600   | -700    |
| Local Government                     | 284,800   | 289,500   | 4,700   | 290,100   | 295,300   | 5,200   |

**2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR JANUARY 2014**

| Place of Residence Data              | Jan-14 (P) | Dec-13 (R) | Net Change    | Jan-14 (P) | Dec-13 (R) | Net Change     |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE                 | 3,077,900  | 3,073,000  | 4,900         | 3,053,400  | 3,059,200  | -5,800         |
| LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE       | 68.0%      | 67.9%      | 0.1%          | 67.5%      | 67.6%      | -0.1%          |
| EMPLOYMENT (1)                       | 2,888,800  | 2,878,300  | 10,500        | 2,850,100  | 2,880,900  | -30,800        |
| UNEMPLOYMENT                         | 189,100    | 194,600    | -5,500        | 203,400    | 178,300    | 25,100         |
| UNEMPLOYMENT RATE                    | 6.1%       | 6.3%       | -0.2%         | 6.7%       | 5.8%       | 0.9%           |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate               | 6.6%       | 6.7%       | -0.1%         | 7.0%       | 6.5%       | 0.5%           |
| Place of Work Data                   |            |            |               |            |            |                |
| NONFARM WAGE & SALARY                | 2,855,200  | 2,849,000  | 6,200         | 2,780,100  | 2,852,500  | <b>-72,400</b> |
| TOTAL PRIVATE                        | 2,431,400  | 2,431,400  | 0             | 2,367,400  | 2,424,900  | <b>-57,500</b> |
| GOODS PRODUCING                      | 568,200    | 565,200    | 3,000         | 544,800    | 556,900    | <b>-12,100</b> |
| NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING           | 4,000      | 3,800      | <b>200</b>    | 3,300      | 3,500      | -200           |
| CONSTRUCTION                         | 98,900     | 97,300     | 1,600         | 82,300     | 92,000     | <b>-9,700</b>  |
| MANUFACTURING                        | 465,300    | 464,100    | 1,200         | 459,200    | 461,400    | -2,200         |
| Durable Goods                        | 283,300    | 282,000    | 1,300         | 279,900    | 280,300    | -400           |
| Nondurable Goods                     | 182,000    | 182,100    | -100          | 179,300    | 181,100    | -1,800         |
| SERVICE PROVIDING                    | 2,287,000  | 2,283,800  | 3,200         | 2,235,300  | 2,295,600  | -60,300        |
| PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING            | 1,863,200  | 1,866,200  | -3,000        | 1,822,600  | 1,868,000  | <b>-45,400</b> |
| TRADE                                | 423,800    | 420,100    | 3,700         | 418,800    | 433,800    | -15,000        |
| TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES     | 97,600     | 99,300     | <b>-1,700</b> | 96,700     | 100,200    | -3,500         |
| INFORMATION                          | 47,300     | 46,800     | 500           | 47,200     | 47,000     | 200            |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES                 | 159,700    | 160,000    | -300          | 158,500    | 159,800    | -1,300         |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES     | 307,100    | 306,000    | 1,100         | 295,400    | 303,500    | -8,100         |
| EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES        | 425,500    | 430,600    | <b>-5,100</b> | 422,300    | 431,800    | <b>-9,500</b>  |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY                | 263,100    | 263,700    | -600          | 246,300    | 252,600    | -6,300         |
| OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin. | 139,100    | 139,700    | -600          | 137,400    | 139,300    | -1,900         |
| GOVERNMENT                           | 423,800    | 417,600    | 6,200         | 412,700    | 427,600    | -14,900        |
| Federal Government                   | 28,200     | 28,600     | -400          | 28,400     | 28,700     | -300           |
| State Government                     | 104,600    | 99,500     | 5,100         | 96,400     | 103,600    | -7,200         |
| Local Government                     | 291,000    | 289,500    | 1,500         | 287,900    | 295,300    | -7,400         |

\*Differences in total may occur as a result of rounding. (1) Includes Labor Market Disputes (P) = Prelim; (R) = Revised **Orange** 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

|                | TNF     |         |         | Private |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | Prelim  | Revised | Change  | Prelim  | Revised | Change  |
| January 2013   | -12,500 | -3,400  | +9,100  | 3,700   | -1,200  | (4,900) |
| February 2013  | 10,800  | 16,800  | +6,000  | 1,600   | 10,200  | +8,600  |
| March 2013     | -11,600 | -5,000  | +6,600  | -6,700  | 1,700   | +8,400  |
| April 2013     | -29,200 | -7,300  | +21,900 | -29,800 | -5,600  | +24,200 |
| May 2013       | -9,300  | 6,500   | +15,800 | -9,700  | 6,700   | +16,400 |
| June 2013      | 700     | 4,100   | +3,400  | -2,700  | 2,600   | +5,300  |
| July 2013      | -200    | 700     | +900    | -1,700  | 200     | +1,900  |
| August 2013    | 7,000   | 6,000   | (1,000) | 3,500   | 4,300   | +800    |
| September 2013 | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     | N/A     |
| October 2013   | 6,200   | 15,100  | +8,900  | 4,500   | 10,100  | +5,600  |
| November 2013  | -5,600  | 1,500   | +7,100  | 700     | 3,400   | +2,700  |
| December 2013  | -800    | 7,700   | +8,500  | 500     | 6,000   | +5,500  |

Note: Preliminary data for September is not available.

### 4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

|                                  | 2012 Employment* |           |           | 2013 Employment† |           |           | Sept-Sept Change |         |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|---------|
|                                  | July             | Aug       | Sept      | July             | Aug       | Sept      | Number           | Percent |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | 2,693,740        | 2,708,381 | 2,721,699 | 2,730,442        | 2,741,707 | 2,753,000 | 31,301           | 1.2%    |
| <i>Total Private</i>             | 2,362,343        | 2,368,550 | 2,345,956 | 2,392,039        | 2,403,055 | 2,374,575 | 28,619           | 1.2%    |
| Natural Resources & Mining       | 28,419           | 28,737    | 29,375    | 29,310           | 29,748    | 30,096    | 721              | 2.5%    |
| Construction                     | 101,393          | 101,861   | 100,067   | 108,233          | 109,485   | 106,901   | 6,834            | 6.8%    |
| Manufacturing                    | 463,837          | 463,344   | 457,471   | 462,688          | 462,701   | 456,812   | -659             | -0.1%   |
| Trade, Transportation, Utilities | 507,077          | 508,634   | 507,352   | 513,980          | 515,951   | 513,030   | 5,678            | 1.1%    |
| Information                      | 46,646           | 46,903    | 46,353    | 47,364           | 47,592    | 46,738    | 385              | 0.8%    |
| Financial Activities             | 150,655          | 150,707   | 148,957   | 150,199          | 150,001   | 148,054   | -903             | -0.6%   |
| Professional & Business Services | 292,226          | 293,468   | 293,365   | 301,713          | 304,043   | 302,421   | 9,056            | 3.1%    |
| Education & Health Services      | 393,843          | 395,931   | 396,872   | 400,033          | 402,519   | 402,787   | 5,915            | 1.5%    |
| Leisure & Hospitality            | 278,866          | 279,319   | 267,611   | 282,943          | 284,821   | 271,867   | 4,256            | 1.6%    |
| Other Services                   | 89,019           | 88,652    | 87,350    | 86,327           | 86,134    | 85,406    | -1,944           | -2.2%   |
| Unclassified                     | 10,362           | 10,994    | 11,183    | 9,249            | 10,060    | 10,463    | -720             | -6.4%   |
| <i>Total Government</i>          | 331,397          | 339,831   | 375,743   | 338,403          | 338,652   | 378,425   | 2,682            | 0.7%    |

\*Data as published by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

†Data as published at [worknet.wisconsin.gov](http://worknet.wisconsin.gov).

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.

**Wisconsin Employment Data Y/Y Change**

|             | Mar-11 | Jun-11 | Sep-11 | Dec-11 | Mar-12 | Jun-12 | Sep-12 | Dec-12 | Mar-13 | Jun-13 | Sep-13 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>LAUS</b> | 24,392 | 2,704  | 9,557  | 23,453 | 10,150 | 22,353 | 14,542 | 5,475  | 8,696  | 19,075 | 20,834 |
| <b>CES</b>  | 34,900 | 23,800 | 36,600 | 28,000 | 35,000 | 38,100 | 26,200 | 34,600 | 26,600 | 24,900 | 32,400 |
| <b>QCEW</b> | 42,506 | 25,315 | 39,592 | 21,662 | 30,557 | 40,244 | 20,779 | 33,353 | 25,501 | 15,790 | 31,301 |

**Note:** Actual Job Numbers include QCEW data and 2013 Q3 data that has been submitted to BLS for processing; BLS' next QCEW release is March 19, 2014. QCEW data, with the exception of Sept 13 are based on published BLS total employment.

