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## Wisconsin's Unemployment Rate at 6.1% in February

*In line with other indicators, including No. 6 in private-sector wage growth in third quarter of 2013 over 2012*

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) unemployment and employment estimates showing Wisconsin's unemployment rate declined from a revised rate of 6.2 percent in January 2014 to a preliminary rate of 6.1 percent in February 2014. The rate is Wisconsin's lowest monthly rate since November 2008, down from a high point of 9.2 percent in 2010, and below the national unemployment rate of 6.7 percent.

DWD today also released BLS' preliminary February 2014 employment estimates showing Wisconsin gained 28,900 private sector jobs from February 2013 to February 2014 (seasonally adjusted), including 6,000 jobs in manufacturing. Total seasonally adjusted nonfarm job growth was 30,000 jobs year over year.

DWD Secretary Reggie Newson issued the following statement, "Wisconsin's labor force and employment are up over the month and unemployment is down. Additionally, the job estimates show thousands of private sector jobs were created during the 12 months ending in February 2014, with over 100,000 estimated to have been added since December 2010. This follows the loss of over 133,000 private sector jobs in the preceding four years according to actual job counts. A longer term view of the job estimates, along with many other economic indicators, shows Wisconsin's economy has continued to improve."

Other highlights of February 2014 estimates, when compared to January 2014, include gains in educational and health services, construction and manufacturing (non-durable goods). A decline in seasonally adjusted estimated government jobs by 7,900 followed a notable gain in government jobs the previous month.

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.

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

- QCEW: Wisconsin ranked 8th highest in the country in average weekly wage growth (total covered jobs) for the third quarter of 2013 when compared to the third quarter of 2012, and 6th highest over this time for private sector average weekly wage growth.
- QCEW data 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 two-year gains in over a decade.

(more)

- [Department of Revenue](#) state general fund revenue collections through February: up by 3.9 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.
- Initial weekly Unemployment Insurance claims for the first 12 weeks of 2014 dropped to the lowest point since 2000.
- The year-to-date average weekly UI claims are at a 12-year low.
- Wisconsin's exports exceeded \$23 billion in 2013.

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**Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report**  
**JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2014**

**1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM JANUARY 2014**

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,077,900	3,078,600	700	3,053,400	3,055,000	1,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.0%	68.0%	0.0%	67.5%	67.5%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,888,800	2,888,900	100	2,850,100	2,850,300	200
UNEMPLOYMENT	189,100	189,700	600	203,400	204,700	1,300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.1%	6.2%	0.1%	6.7%	6.7%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.6%	6.6%	0.0%	7.0%	7.0%	0.0%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,855,200	2,855,400	200	2,780,100	2,780,300	200
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,431,400	2,431,200	-200	2,367,400	2,367,200	-200
GOODS PRODUCING	568,200	568,300	100	544,800	544,900	100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	3,300	3,300	0
CONSTRUCTION	98,900	98,400	-500	82,300	81,800	-500
MANUFACTURING	465,300	465,900	600	459,200	459,800	600
Durable Goods	283,300	283,400	100	279,900	280,000	100
Nondurable Goods	182,000	182,500	500	179,300	179,800	500
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,287,000	2,287,100	100	2,235,300	2,235,400	100
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,863,200	1,862,900	-300	1,822,600	1,822,300	-300
TRADE	423,800	423,600	-200	418,800	418,600	-200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	97,600	97,600	0	96,700	96,700	0
INFORMATION	47,300	46,700	-600	47,200	46,600	-600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	159,700	159,800	100	158,500	158,600	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	307,100	307,500	400	295,400	295,800	400
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	425,500	426,000	500	422,300	422,800	500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	263,100	262,400	-700	246,300	245,600	-700
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	139,100	139,300	200	137,400	137,600	200
GOVERNMENT	423,800	424,200	400	412,700	413,100	400
Federal Government	28,200	28,400	200	28,400	28,600	200
State Government	104,600	104,600	0	96,400	96,400	0
Local Government	291,000	291,200	200	287,900	288,100	200

**2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR FEBRUARY 2014**

Place of Residence Data	Feb-14 (P)	Jan-14 (R)	Net Change	Feb-14 (P)	Jan-14 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,082,500	3,078,600	3,900	3,064,800	3,055,000	9,800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.1%	68.0%	0.1%	67.7%	67.5%	0.2%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,895,900	2,888,900	7,000	2,849,300	<b>2,850,300</b>	-1,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	186,700	189,700	-3,000	<b>215,500</b>	<b>204,700</b>	10,800
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.1%	<b>6.2%</b>	-0.1%	7.0%	<b>6.7%</b>	0.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.7%	6.6%	0.1%	7.0%	7.0%	0.0%
<b>Place of Work Data</b>						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,845,900	2,855,400	<b>-9,500</b>	2,786,200	2,780,300	5,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,429,600	2,431,200	-1,600	2,361,400	2,367,200	-5,800
GOODS PRODUCING	567,100	568,300	-1,200	545,300	544,900	400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,100	4,000	100	3,300	3,300	0
CONSTRUCTION	99,300	98,400	900	82,400	81,800	600
MANUFACTURING	463,700	465,900	-2,200	459,600	459,800	-200
Durable Goods	279,800	283,400	<b>-3,600</b>	278,700	280,000	-1,300
Nondurable Goods	183,900	182,500	1,400	180,900	179,800	1,100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,278,800	2,287,100	-8,300	2,240,900	2,235,400	5,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,862,500	1,862,900	-400	1,816,100	1,822,300	-6,200
TRADE	422,100	423,600	-1,500	409,800	418,600	-8,800
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	98,400	97,600	800	96,000	96,700	-700
INFORMATION	45,800	46,700	<b>-900</b>	45,500	46,600	-1,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	160,300	159,800	500	158,400	158,600	-200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	302,500	307,500	<b>-5,000</b>	294,100	295,800	-1,700
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	430,200	426,000	<b>4,200</b>	429,700	422,800	6,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	263,100	262,400	700	244,500	245,600	-1,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	140,100	139,300	800	138,100	137,600	500
GOVERNMENT	416,300	424,200	-7,900	424,800	413,100	11,700
Federal Government	28,500	28,400	100	28,400	28,600	-200
State Government	101,300	104,600	-3,300	103,900	96,400	7,500
Local Government	286,500	291,200	-4,700	292,500	288,100	4,400

\*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

	TNF			Private		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
January 2014	+6,200	+6,400	+200	+0	(200)	(200)
February 2014						
March 2014						
April 2014						
May 2014						
June 2014						
July 2014						
August 2014						
September 2014						
October 2014						
November 2014						
December 2014						

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	2,730,315	2,741,495	2,752,732	31,033	1.1%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,362,343	2,368,550	2,345,956	2,391,912	2,402,843	2,374,307	28,351	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	108,224	109,474	106,888	6,821	6.8%
Manufacturing	463,837	463,344	457,471	462,598	462,610	456,723	-748	-0.2%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	507,077	508,634	507,352	513,967	515,932	513,011	5,659	1.1%
Information	46,646	46,903	46,353	47,354	47,582	46,728	375	0.8%
Financial Activities	150,655	150,707	148,957	150,198	150,000	148,048	-909	-0.6%
Professional & Business Services	292,226	293,468	293,365	301,712	304,042	302,420	9,055	3.1%
Education & Health Services	393,843	395,931	396,872	399,995	402,469	402,739	5,867	1.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	278,866	279,319	267,611	282,911	284,692	271,672	4,061	1.5%
Other Services	89,019	88,652	87,350	86,299	86,109	85,381	-1,969	-2.3%
Unclassified	10,362	10,994	11,183	9,344	10,185	10,601	-582	-5.2%
<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.

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.

Updated 03/19/2014