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BLS Data: State Labor Force Participation Rate Grows in January

Wisconsin's employment also increased by 35,100 year over year

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) latest monthly job and unemployment estimates for Wisconsin. The release includes preliminary estimates for January 2016 as well as updated monthly estimates for 2015.

Highlights of today's release of BLS estimates for January 2016 include:

- Wisconsin's January 2016 Labor Force Participation Rate increased to 68.4% and was 5.7 percentage points higher than the national rate of 62.7% during the month.
- Total employment increased by 35,100 over the year, meaning more people were employed than ever before in Wisconsin in January.
- A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.6% in January, down from 4.7% in January 2015 and below the national rate of 4.9%. The state's 4.6% rate in January is unchanged from the updated 4.6% unemployment rate in December 2015.
- Wisconsin added an estimated 22,900 private sector jobs and 27,000 total nonfarm jobs from January 2015 to January 2016, according to seasonally adjusted data.

DWD today also released BLS' updated monthly employment estimates covering 2015 and previous years showing Wisconsin added 168,200 private-sector jobs since December 2010. 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 from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). The latest available QCEW data shows Wisconsin added nearly 30,000 private-sector jobs between September 2014 and September 2015.

Secretary Allen issued the following statement about today's report:

"The state's January 2016 unemployment rate is, in large part, a reflection that Wisconsinites are seeing opportunity and entering the labor market," Secretary Allen said. "The state's labor force participated at a higher rate and more Wisconsinites entered the job market in January when compared to December. At the Department of Workforce Development, our focus will remain on equipping workers with skills to fill openings as the private sector continues to add tens of thousands of jobs every year."

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 985 households and unemployment insurance claims. Measures the labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate.

(more)

- **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:

- Wisconsin was one of only 10 states with an annual average unemployment rate in 2015 lower than 2007, the year that the Great Recession began. The state's average annual unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in 2015 (not seasonally adjusted).
- Wisconsin's average weekly private-sector wages increased by 3.6 percent in the third quarter of 2015 over the same quarter in 2014, representing the 5th highest rate of growth in the nation, tied with Tennessee.
- The average weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for 2015 dropped to the lowest level since 1989.
- Department of Financial Institutions new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in 2015 grew by 3.6 percent compared to 2014. As of December 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 40,827, compared to 39,395 in 2014.

Attached are tables that show the (1) December-January LAUS and CES revisions; (2) preliminary January estimates and updated December estimates for CES and LAUS; (3) the CES revision history for calendar year 2015; and (4) QCEW data for the third quarter of 2015, which is the most recent data available.

Benchmarked CES and LAUS estimates for 2015 and earlier will be accessible [online](#).

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
DECEMBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM DECEMBER 2015

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,107,100	3,108,700	1,600	3,103,000	3,098,500	-4,500
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.0%	68.1%	0.1%	67.9%	67.9%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,972,100	2,965,500	-6,600	2,971,200	2,967,200	-4,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	135,000	143,200	8,200	131,800	131,300	-500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.3%	4.6%	0.3%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,897,700	2,904,100	6,400	2,908,200	2,915,700	7,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,483,300	2,491,200	7,900	2,484,300	2,492,700	8,400
GOODS PRODUCING	587,800	588,000	200	582,900	583,000	100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,100	3,900	-200	3,900	3,800	-100
CONSTRUCTION	110,200	112,700	2,500	106,500	108,900	2,400
MANUFACTURING	473,500	471,400	-2,100	472,500	470,300	-2,200
Durable Goods	281,100	282,900	1,800	280,800	282,100	1,300
Nondurable Goods	192,400	188,500	-3,900	191,700	188,200	-3,500
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,309,900	2,316,100	6,200	2,325,300	2,332,700	7,400
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,895,500	1,903,200	7,700	1,901,400	1,909,700	8,300
TRADE	427,500	426,000	-1,500	440,600	439,700	-900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	102,700	108,100	5,400	104,500	110,400	5,900
INFORMATION	50,800	49,200	-1,600	51,300	49,500	-1,800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,800	150,900	-4,900	156,100	151,300	-4,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	312,400	311,800	-600	311,500	310,800	-700
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	445,000	440,600	-4,400	447,100	443,100	-4,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	263,900	268,100	4,200	252,900	255,900	3,000
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	137,400	148,500	11,100	137,400	149,000	11,600
GOVERNMENT	414,400	412,900	-1,500	423,900	423,000	-900
Federal Government	29,100	28,900	-200	29,200	29,100	-100
State Government	96,300	98,000	1,700	100,300	102,500	2,200
Local Government	289,000	286,000	-3,000	294,400	291,400	-3,000

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR JANUARY 2016

Place of Residence Data	Jan-16 (P)	Dec-15 (R)	Net Change	Jan-16 (P)	Dec-15 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,123,000	3,108,700	14,300	3,103,900	3,098,500	5,400
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.1%	0.3%	68.0%	67.9%	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,978,300	2,965,500	12,800	2,941,300	2,967,200	-25,900
UNEMPLOYMENT	144,700	143,200	1,500	162,600	131,300	31,300
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	5.2%	4.2%	1.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	5.0%	-0.1%	5.3%	4.8%	0.5%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,903,900	2,904,100	-200	2,839,800	2,915,700	-75,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,489,800	2,491,200	-1,400	2,431,300	2,492,700	-61,400
GOODS PRODUCING	586,700	588,000	-1,300	568,800	583,000	-14,200
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	3,900	100	3,500	3,800	-300
CONSTRUCTION	111,700	112,700	-1,000	96,400	108,900	-12,500
MANUFACTURING	471,000	471,400	-400	468,900	470,300	-1,400
Durable Goods	282,000	282,900	-900	281,000	282,100	-1,100
Nondurable Goods	189,000	188,500	500	187,900	188,200	-300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,317,200	2,316,100	1,100	2,271,000	2,332,700	-61,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,903,100	1,903,200	-100	1,862,500	1,909,700	-47,200
TRADE	426,000	426,000	0	422,100	439,700	-17,600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	107,100	108,100	-1,000	105,700	110,400	-4,700
INFORMATION	48,200	49,200	-1,000	48,300	49,500	-1,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	151,000	150,900	100	150,100	151,300	-1,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	313,600	311,800	1,800	304,900	310,800	-5,900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	440,200	440,600	-400	434,200	443,100	-8,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	268,500	268,100	400	249,800	255,900	-6,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	148,500	148,500	0	147,400	149,000	-1,600
GOVERNMENT	414,100	412,900	1,200	408,500	423,000	-14,500
Federal Government	28,800	28,900	-100	28,800	29,100	-300
State Government	97,800	98,000	-200	94,000	102,500	-8,500
Local Government	287,500	286,000	1,500	285,700	291,400	-5,700

*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

Month-Over-Month Changes Seasonally Adjusted	TNF			Private		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
January 2015	+1,600	+5,900	+4,300	+200	+7,100	+6,900
February 2015	+15,000	+3,900	(11,100)	+10,900	+2,800	(8,100)
March 2015	+4,900	+2,400	(2,500)	+1,300	+3,400	+2,100
April 2015	+6,300	(1,600)	(7,900)	+3,300	(2,000)	(5,300)
May 2015	(4,300)	+2,000	+6,300	(4,200)	+3,400	+7,600
June 2015	(1,600)	+1,000	+2,600	(5,300)	+600	+5,900
July 2015	+5,000	+3,100	(1,900)	(2,000)	+3,900	+5,900
August 2015	+10,900	+1,900	(9,000)	+2,200	+2,200	+0
September 2015	+10,600	(2,400)	(13,000)	(600)	(2,200)	(1,600)
October 2015	+21,700	+19,400	(2,300)	+11,000	+15,400	+4,400
November 2015	(7,700)	(3,500)	+4,200	(6,700)	(2,000)	+4,700
December 2015	(5,400)	+1,000	+6,400	(9,100)	(1,200)	+7,900

Note: Prelim = original month-over-month change. Revised = updated month-over-month change. The "Change" column represents the difference between the prelim month-over-month change and the revised month-over-month change.

4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2014 Employment			2015 Employment			Sep-Sep Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Number	Percent	Q3:2014	Q3:2015	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,770,472	2,783,949	2,789,287	2,805,783	2,811,632	2,815,728	26,441	0.9%	\$29,151,686	\$30,490,053	\$1,338,367	4.6%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,431,839	2,440,220	2,410,318	2,467,308	2,472,462	2,439,934	29,616	1.2%	\$25,480,402	\$26,723,430	\$1,243,028	4.9%
Natural Resources & Mining	30,138	30,486	31,081	31,690	31,864	32,410	1,329	4.3%	\$263,896	\$278,742	\$14,846	5.6%
Construction	112,817	113,755	111,706	119,541	118,931	116,255	4,549	4.1%	\$1,582,708	\$1,714,909	\$132,201	8.4%
Manufacturing	469,834	469,219	463,271	474,077	473,297	467,087	3,816	0.8%	\$6,041,908	\$6,206,022	\$164,114	2.7%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	518,527	519,295	516,376	529,573	531,916	530,768	14,392	2.8%	\$4,699,776	\$4,950,800	\$251,024	5.3%
Information	47,949	48,297	47,290	49,437	49,842	48,860	1,570	3.3%	\$710,129	\$767,347	\$57,218	8.1%
Financial Activities	146,646	146,900	145,449	148,907	148,547	146,480	1,031	0.7%	\$2,020,827	\$2,164,002	\$143,175	7.1%
Professional & Business Services	307,755	310,303	308,409	316,292	318,570	313,945	5,536	1.8%	\$3,756,116	\$4,038,924	\$282,808	7.5%
Education & Health Services	403,298	404,707	405,160	411,522	412,375	412,416	7,256	1.8%	\$4,530,948	\$4,755,850	\$224,902	5.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	283,240	284,138	270,713	291,859	292,810	279,093	8,380	3.1%	\$1,123,701	\$1,174,920	\$51,219	4.6%
Other Services	85,214	84,958	83,742	85,109	84,724	83,236	-506	-0.6%	\$544,318	\$571,440	\$27,122	5.0%
Unclassified	26,421	28,162	27,121	9,301	9,586	9,384	-17,737	-65.4%	\$206,077	\$100,473	-\$105,604	-51.2%
<i>Total Government</i>	338,633	343,729	378,969	338,475	339,170	375,794	-3,175	-0.8%	\$3,671,284	\$3,766,623	\$95,339	2.6%

Total wages are in thousands (Totals may not equal due to rounding)

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.