
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 19, 2016

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

BLS Data: Wisconsin Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.4%

New quarterly data also show 12-month gain of 35,565 private-sector jobs through Dec. 2015

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for March and preliminary estimates for April covering unemployment and employment statistics for the state of Wisconsin. In brief, the seasonally adjusted estimates show:

- **Place of residence data:** A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.4 percent in April 2016, down from 4.5 percent in March 2016. The 4.4 percent rate is lower than the 4.6 percent rate in April 2015 and lower than the national unemployment rate, which remained at 5.0 percent in April 2016. Based on preliminary estimates, Wisconsin's total employment remained at a record high in April, growing by a statistically significant 61,100 year-over-year. The state's labor force also remained at an all-time high in April 2016, and the labor force participation rate held at 68.8 percent, outpacing the U.S. rate of 62.8 percent.
- **Place of work data:** The state added a statistically significant 39,600 private sector jobs and 42,000 total non-farm jobs from April 2015 to April 2016 on a preliminary basis, including a significant gain of 8,800 jobs in construction. While preliminary April numbers estimate a one-month decline by 11,500 private-sector jobs, the March 2016 estimates were revised upward by 1,600 to show a one-month gain of 14,700 from February.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen issued the following statement: "The latest monthly jobs and unemployment report continues to show an encouraging trend of long-term improvement, with the highest one-year gain in employment since September 1995 and record highs in both the number of people employed and the size of the labor force. Other previously cited indicators, such as 2016 initial Unemployment Insurance running at their lowest level since 1989 and an unemployment rate consistently below the U.S., show Wisconsin has made great progress and is well-positioned for even more gains."

New Quarterly Jobs & Wage Data

DWD today also released the latest Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) covering the fourth quarter of 2015. Highlights from the actual job counts, when compared to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) published data for 2014, include:

- Wisconsin added 35,565 private-sector jobs from December 2014 to December 2015.
- Construction led industries in year-over-year job gains with a 6.2 percent growth rate.
- Quarterly wages by covered private-sector employers grew by 7.1 percent year over year.

Secretary Allen issued the following statement on the latest QCEW numbers: "The latest available hard count of private-sector jobs show a steady gain of over 35,500 jobs last year, with all private-sector industries posting increases and construction growing the fastest at 6.2 percent. Total private wages grew by 7.1 percent as well."

Wisconsin has received the BLS' sign-off on the state quarterly data covering the fourth quarter of 2015. The BLS will incorporate the data in its next QCEW release scheduled for June 8, 2016. Information about the QCEW, including data through 2015 third quarter, can be accessed through the BLS website at <http://bls.gov/cew/>. DWD will post the fourth-quarter data on its WORKnet site in the coming weeks.

Other indicators of 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 number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in the first four months of 2016 grew by 3.5% compared to same period in 2015, according to data compiled by the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI). As of April 30, 2016, new business filings totaled 15,179 compared to 14,669 in the same period in 2015.
- Year 2016 initial UI claims are running at their lowest level since 1989.
- Wisconsin ranks 11th out of 50 states in Chief Executive magazine's 2016 "Best and Worst States for Business" survey of CEOs.

###

Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
MARCH – APRIL 2016

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM MARCH 2016

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,143,000	3,143,200	200	3,115,200	3,115,600	400
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.8%	68.8%	0.0%	68.2%	68.2%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,002,600	3,002,600	0	2,958,500	2,958,700	200
UNEMPLOYMENT	140,500	140,600	100	156,700	156,900	200
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.5%	4.5%	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	5.1%	5.1%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,934,400	2,936,200	1,800	2,882,300	2,883,900	1,600
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,520,600	2,522,200	1,600	2,458,700	2,460,100	1,400
GOODS PRODUCING	593,500	593,100	-400	574,400	574,000	-400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	3,600	3,600	0
CONSTRUCTION	114,900	114,600	-300	100,500	100,200	-300
MANUFACTURING	474,600	474,500	-100	470,300	470,200	-100
Durable Goods	286,300	285,500	-800	283,500	282,700	-800
Nondurable Goods	188,300	189,000	700	186,800	187,500	700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,340,900	2,343,100	2,200	2,307,900	2,309,900	2,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,927,100	1,929,100	2,000	1,884,300	1,886,100	1,800
TRADE	431,700	433,700	2,000	419,800	421,700	1,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,800	110,400	-400	108,700	108,300	-400
INFORMATION	48,700	48,700	0	48,000	48,000	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,200	152,600	400	150,700	151,100	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	316,000	315,100	-900	307,800	306,900	-900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	444,200	444,000	-200	444,900	444,700	-200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	273,100	274,000	900	255,500	256,400	900
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,400	150,600	200	148,900	149,000	100
GOVERNMENT	413,800	414,000	200	423,600	423,800	200
Federal Government	28,900	28,900	0	28,700	28,700	0
State Government	98,900	98,900	0	103,500	103,500	0
Local Government	286,000	286,200	200	291,400	291,600	200

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR APRIL 2016

Place of Residence Data	Apr-16 (P)	Mar-16 (R)	Net Change	Apr-16 (P)	Mar-16 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,143,500	3,143,200	300	3,104,000	3,115,600	-11,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.8%	68.8%	0.0%	67.9%	68.2%	-0.3%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,006,100	3,002,600	3,500	2,970,000	2,958,700	11,300
UNEMPLOYMENT	137,400	140,600	-3,200	134,000	156,900	-22,900
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.4%	4.5%	-0.1%	4.3%	5.0%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.7%	5.1%	-0.4%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,923,600	2,936,200	-12,600	2,905,700	2,883,900	21,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,510,700	2,522,200	-11,500	2,479,500	2,460,100	19,400
GOODS PRODUCING	592,400	593,100	-700	583,500	574,000	9,500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	3,800	3,600	200
CONSTRUCTION	118,100	114,600	3,500	112,400	100,200	12,200
MANUFACTURING	470,300	474,500	-4,200	467,300	470,200	-2,900
Durable Goods	283,100	285,500	-2,400	281,500	282,700	-1,200
Nondurable Goods	187,200	189,000	-1,800	185,800	187,500	-1,700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,331,200	2,343,100	-11,900	2,322,200	2,309,900	12,300
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,918,300	1,929,100	-10,800	1,896,000	1,886,100	9,900
TRADE	430,400	433,700	-3,300	423,100	421,700	1,400
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,400	110,400	0	108,700	108,300	400
INFORMATION	48,500	48,700	-200	47,800	48,000	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	152,500	152,600	-100	151,800	151,100	700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	311,400	315,100	-3,700	309,000	306,900	2,100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	441,100	444,000	-2,900	443,100	444,700	-1,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	274,000	274,000	0	262,400	256,400	6,000
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,000	150,600	-600	150,100	149,000	1,100
GOVERNMENT	412,900	414,000	-1,100	426,200	423,800	2,400
Federal Government	28,800	28,900	-100	28,800	28,700	100
State Government	97,300	98,900	-1,600	102,600	103,500	-900
Local Government	286,800	286,200	600	294,800	291,600	3,200

*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 2016	(200)	+7,200	+7,400	(1,400)	+5,800	+7,200
February 2016	+7,200	+11,600	+4,400	+8,000	+10,500	+2,500
March 2016	+11,500	+13,300	+1,800	+13,100	+14,700	+1,600
April 2016						
May 2016						
June 2016						
July 2016						
August 2016						
September 2016						
October 2016						
November 2016						
December 2016						

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.

Table 4

QUALIFIED

4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2014 Employment*			2015 Employment†			Dec-Dec Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	Number	Percent	Q4:2014*	Q4:2015†	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,797,592	2,803,958	2,791,001	2,829,352	2,825,090	2,824,416	33,415	1.2%	\$32,515,340	\$34,678,895	\$2,163,555	6.7%
Total Private	2,407,974	2,406,626	2,401,138	2,442,923	2,438,776	2,436,703	35,565	1.5%	\$28,023,925	\$30,020,605	\$1,996,680	7.1%
Natural Resources & Mining	32,101	29,979	28,187	33,269	31,098	29,386	1,199	4.3%	\$301,287	\$312,032	\$10,745	3.6%
Construction	111,325	108,171	101,908	116,262	113,303	108,264	6,356	6.2%	\$1,658,932	\$1,797,854	\$138,922	8.4%
Manufacturing	461,572	461,383	462,173	465,089	464,738	465,075	2,902	0.6%	\$6,676,812	\$7,006,055	\$329,243	4.9%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	520,962	531,552	534,970	536,665	545,542	548,152	13,182	2.5%	\$5,133,191	\$5,593,978	\$460,787	9.0%
Retail Trade (NAICS 44-45)	301,170	310,693	312,481	308,097	316,384	317,197	4,716	1.5%	\$1,973,478	\$2,167,716	\$194,238	9.8%
Information	48,060	48,325	48,385	49,587	49,789	49,646	1,261	2.6%	\$832,324	\$951,153	\$118,829	14.3%
Financial Activities	144,868	144,902	145,868	146,964	146,784	147,413	1,545	1.1%	\$2,251,762	\$2,440,190	\$188,428	8.4%
Professional & Business Services	311,886	311,629	308,010	318,968	317,797	317,683	9,673	3.1%	\$4,525,908	\$4,907,571	\$381,663	8.4%
Education & Health Services	407,356	408,893	410,330	416,826	418,180	420,446	10,116	2.5%	\$4,754,724	\$5,178,002	\$423,278	8.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	261,626	253,599	252,314	271,819	264,282	262,292	9,978	4.0%	\$1,058,979	\$1,153,066	\$94,087	8.9%
Other Services	83,246	82,697	83,321	83,328	82,918	84,020	699	0.8%	\$568,178	\$614,344	\$46,166	8.1%
Unclassified	24,972	25,496	25,672	4,146	4,345	4,326	-21,346	-83.1%	\$261,829	\$66,361	-\$195,468	-74.7%
Total Government	389,618	397,332	389,863	386,429	386,314	387,713	-2,150	-0.6%	\$4,491,415	\$4,658,291	\$166,876	3.7%

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

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

†Data as will be published at 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.