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DECEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Unadjusted Data

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that Wisconsin's unemployment rate for December was 5.8 percent, up 0.5 percentage points from 5.3 percent in November and 1.2 percentage points up from the 4.6 percent rate in December of 2007. The nation's unadjusted rate for December was 7.1 percent, up 0.6 percentage points from November, and up 2.3 percentage points from December 2007.

"We continue to see further impact from the national recession that began a year ago: a higher unemployment rate and lower job counts across most industries," Secretary Gassman said. "While our rate is below the national unemployment rate, we face major challenges. With a talented workforce and diverse economy, we will get through this. At DWD, we will do all that we can to strengthen Wisconsin's workforce, connect employers and skilled workers, and help spur an economic recovery."

From November to December, total Wisconsin non-farm jobs decreased by an estimated 33,600 to 2,833,400. Private sector jobs shrank by 28,000. Construction was down 10,900 jobs and Professional and Business Services were down 6,200 in December compared to November.

Over the year, December 2008 showed a decline of 62,600 Wisconsin non-farm jobs. Manufacturing was down 26,500, while the Professional and Business Services sector was down 14,200 over the year. The Educational and Health Services sector added 5,900 over the year.

The December survey of Wisconsin households showed 25,000 fewer employed compared to November and 36,400 fewer employed than one year ago.

Adjusted Data

The seasonally adjusted Wisconsin unemployment rate for December 2008 was 6.2 percent, up 0.6 percentage points from November 2008 and up 1.4 percentage points from December 2007.

Total state employment was down 16,600 from last month, and down 37,800 compared to one year ago.

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. DEC 08	FINAL NOV 08	YEAR AGO DEC 07	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3081.8	3090.4	3080.5	-8.6	1.3
UNEMPLOYMENT	179.6	163.3	142.1	16.3	37.5
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.8	5.3	4.6	0.5	1.2
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2902.1	2927.1	2938.5	-25.0	-36.4
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>					
TOTAL PRIVATE	2833.4	2867	2896	-33.6	-62.6
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	2400.5	2428.5	2466.8	-28.0	-66.3
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	584.2	600.9	619.8	-16.7	-35.6
CONSTRUCTION	3.1	3.6	3.5	-0.5	-0.4
MANUFACTURING	111.6	122.5	120.3	-10.9	-8.7
Durable Goods	469.5	474.8	496	-5.3	-26.5
Nondurable Goods	294.9	298.2	313.3	-3.3	-18.4
<i>SERVICE PRODUCING</i>	174.6	176.6	182.7	-2.0	-8.1
TRADE	2249.2	2266.1	2276.2	-16.9	-27.0
Wholesale Trade	441.2	439.4	451.3	1.8	-10.1
Retail Trade	120.7	121.2	122.3	-0.5	-1.6
Retail Trade	320.5	318.2	329	2.3	-8.5
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	108.2	110.8	112.7	-2.6	-4.5
Utilities	10.6	10.7	10.9	-0.1	-0.3
INFORMATION	50.3	50.3	50.7	0.0	-0.4
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	162.4	162.9	163.2	-0.5	-0.8
Finance and Insurance	136.2	136.6	135.9	-0.4	0.3
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	26.2	26.3	27.3	-0.1	-1.1
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	263.9	270.1	278.1	-6.2	-14.2
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	97.8	97.9	98.3	-0.1	-0.5
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	43.9	43.8	43.1	0.1	0.8
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	122.2	128.4	136.7	-6.2	-14.5
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	410	410.9	404.1	-0.9	5.9
Educational Services	52.6	53.2	50.9	-0.6	1.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	357.4	357.7	353.2	-0.3	4.2
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	244.7	248	249.1	-3.3	-4.4
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	27.6	27.4	29.1	0.2	-1.5
Accommodation & Food Services	217.1	220.6	220	-3.5	-2.9
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	135.6	135.2	137.8	0.4	-2.2
GOVERNMENT	432.9	438.5	429.2	-5.6	3.7
Federal Government	28.8	28.7	29.4	0.1	-0.6
State Government	108.9	111	104	-2.1	4.9
Local Government	295.2	298.8	295.8	-3.6	-0.6
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3094.3	3093.9	3090.5	0.4	3.8
UNEMPLOYMENT	191.4	174.4	149.8	17.0	41.6
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.2	5.6	4.8	0.6	1.4
EMPLOYMENT	2902.9	2919.5	2940.7	-16.6	-37.8

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section.