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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WISCONSIN FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STEADY AT 6.9 PERCENT**

### ***Preliminary BLS estimates: State gains 8,300 total jobs from January to February***

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary data for February, showing Wisconsin's unemployment rate remained at 6.9 percent (seasonally adjusted) from January. Wisconsin also added an estimated 8,300 total jobs over the month.

"Wisconsin's preliminary February unemployment rate remains below 7 percent, the lowest it's been since December of 2008, and well below the national rate," DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. "In addition, the preliminary monthly estimates indicate continued job growth overall."

### **Unemployment Rate**

Based on unemployment insurance claims and a monthly survey of 1,400 households, BLS said Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 6.9 percent, unchanged from January, but down from 7.6 percent in February 2011. The unemployment rates encompass Wisconsinites who are available for work and actively seeking jobs and are generated by BLS from Wisconsin household surveys and other input.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.3 percent, also unchanged from January and down from 9.0 percent in February 2011.

Wisconsin unemployment rates remain below the national rates and, through January, below rates of other major manufacturing Midwest states including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

The BLS place of residence data also estimated that more people are working and fewer are unemployed, when comparing data either month to month or year to year. The over-the-year comparison shows an estimated 12,800 more people employed, and a 24,200 decrease in those unemployed. The corresponding over-the-month estimates show 5,100 more people employed, and slightly fewer unemployed.

### **Place of Work Data**

Based on a monthly survey of employers, preliminary seasonally adjusted data show a gain of 4,000 in private sector jobs from January to February. Sectors with job growth and their one-month gains were: education and health services, 2,500; construction, 2,100, and professional and business services, 1,400.

Seasonally adjusted data also show that, compared to January, total nonfarm employment increased 8,300, including the private sector and a 4,300 increase in government jobs. Compared to February 2011 data, government employment was down 17,400.

## WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-12	Jan-12	Feb-11	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,059,300	3,054,600	3,070,800	4,700	-11,500
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,849,600	2,844,500	2,836,800	5,100	12,800
UNEMPLOYMENT	209,800	210,100	234,000	-300	-24,200
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.9%	6.9%	7.6%	0.0%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.3%	8.3%	9.0%	0.0%	-0.7%

### PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY</i>	2,733,300	2,725,000	2,750,200	8,300	-16,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,331,700	2,327,700	2,331,200	4,000	500
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	535,900	533,100	529,800	2,800	6,100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,000	3,100	3,000	-100	0
CONSTRUCTION	92,300	90,200	93,100	2,100	-800
MANUFACTURING	446,600	446,000	439,700	600	6,900
Durable Goods	274,600	274,100	266,000	500	8,600
Nondurable Goods	172,000	171,900	173,700	100	-1,700
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,197,400	2,191,900	2,220,400	5,500	-23,000
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,795,800	1,794,600	1,801,400	1,200	-5,600
TRADE	407,600	409,800	407,800	-2,200	-200
Wholesale Trade	115,400	116,000	113,700	-600	1,700
Retail Trade	292,200	293,800	294,100	-1,600	-1,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	101,000	100,800	101,400	200	-400
Utilities					
INFORMATION	45,900	45,800	46,900	100	-1,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156,500	156,200	159,100	300	-2,600
Finance and Insurance					
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	23,900	23,800	24,300	100	-400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	283,400	282,000	282,400	1,400	1,000
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	91,900	92,800	95,400	-900	-3,500
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises					
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	140,100	137,600	136,900	2,500	3,200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	415,200	412,700	408,800	2,500	6,400
Educational Services	50,200	49,700	50,100	500	100
Health Care & Social Assistance	365,000	363,000	358,700	2,000	6,300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	245,900	246,700	251,900	-800	-6,000
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	33,700	33,900	34,900	-200	-1,200
Accommodation & Food Services	212,200	212,800	217,000	-600	-4,800
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	134,300	134,400	137,100	-100	-2,800
GOVERNMENT	401,600	397,300	419,000	4,300	-17,400
Federal Government	28,500	28,600	29,500	-100	-1,000
State Government	92,200	87,900	98,800	4,300	-6,600
Local Government	280,900	280,800	290,700	100	-9,800

\*Differences in total may occur as a result of rounding.

(1) Includes L-M Disputes

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

**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.

## WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-12	Jan-12	Feb-11	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,050,500	3,026,700	3,055,100	23,800	-4,600
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,809,700	2,797,300	2,790,900	12,400	18,800
UNEMPLOYMENT	240,800	229,400	264,300	11,400	-23,500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	7.9%	7.6%	8.6%	0.3%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.7%	8.8%	9.5%	-0.1%	-0.8%

### PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,666,600	2,654,900	2,688,900	11,700	-22,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,258,200	2,260,600	2,262,300	-2,400	-4,100
GOODS PRODUCING	513,600	514,200	512,500	-600	1,100
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	2,400	2,400	2,500	0	-100
CONSTRUCTION	72,400	72,700	76,800	-300	-4,400
MANUFACTURING	438,800	439,100	433,200	-300	5,600
Durable Goods	270,300	270,100	262,800	200	7,500
Nondurable Goods	168,500	169,000	170,400	-500	-1,900
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,153,000	2,140,700	2,176,400	12,300	-23,400
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,744,600	1,746,400	1,749,800	-1,800	-5,200
TRADE	396,800	405,300	396,200	-8,500	600
Wholesale Trade	113,800	114,600	111,600	-800	2,200
Retail Trade	283,000	290,700	284,600	-7,700	-1,600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	98,500	98,500	99,400	0	-900
Utilities	10,800	10,800	10,800	0	0
INFORMATION	45,700	45,700	46,600	0	-900
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,700	154,400	157,900	300	-3,200
Finance and Insurance	131,700	131,300	134,400	400	-2,700
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	23,000	23,100	23,500	-100	-500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	273,900	271,000	274,700	2,900	-800
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	92,200	91,200	97,100	1,000	-4,900
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	50,800	51,400	49,600	-600	1,200
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	130,900	128,400	128,000	2,500	2,900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	415,400	411,100	407,500	4,300	7,900
Educational Services	51,900	49,000	50,800	2,900	1,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	363,500	362,100	356,700	1,400	6,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	226,000	227,000	232,400	-1,000	-6,400
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	28,300	28,100	28,400	200	-100
Accommodation & Food Services	197,700	198,900	204,000	-1,200	-6,300
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	133,600	133,400	135,100	200	-1,500
GOVERNMENT	408,400	394,300	426,600	14,100	-18,200
Federal Government	28,300	28,500	29,300	-200	-1,000
State Government	95,100	86,600	101,700	8,500	-6,600
Local Government	285,000	279,200	295,600	5,800	-10,600
PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR/MGT. DISP	0	185	0	-185	0

\*Differences in total may occur as a result of rounding.

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

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