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BLS Data: Wisconsin Employment Reaches All-Time High in November

State unemployment rate holds steady at 4.1%, lowest in 15 years

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

- **Place of residence data:** Employment in Wisconsin reached an all-time high in November with 3,009,600 people working, while unemployment is at its lowest since 2001. A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.1 percent in November 2016, unchanged from October and at its lowest rate since February 2001. The rate remains lower than the national unemployment rate of 4.6 percent in November 2016. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate also remained unchanged at 68.4 percent and continues to outpace the U.S. rate which dropped to 62.7 percent in November.
- **Place of work data:** Based on preliminary data, the state added a statistically significant 30,400 total non-farm jobs and 25,300 private-sector jobs from November 2015 to November 2016, with a significant one-month gain of 5,100 jobs in Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen issued the following statement: "With employment at an all-time high, unemployment at its lowest point in 15 years and an increasing labor force, Wisconsin's economy is headed in the right direction. Wisconsin's November unemployment rate is half a percentage point lower than the nation and our labor force participation rate outpaces the national rate by 5.7 percentage points showing signs of strength as we close 2016."

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 percent of Wisconsin employers). CES data has been shown to be volatile and subject to 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.
- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW):** compiled quarterly based on Unemployment Insurance records from some 96% 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 of the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Year 2016 initial UI claims are running at their lowest level since 1989.
- Continuing unemployment claims in Wisconsin are running the lowest in at least the past 30 years.
- Wisconsin's labor force participation rate outpaces the national rate by 5.7 percentage points.

- 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.
- Wisconsin had the nation's twelve-highest growth in average weekly private-sector wages from June 2015 to June 2016, according to state-by-state Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) data.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2016

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM OCTOBER 2016

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,135,000	3,135,100	100	3,134,500	3,134,700	200
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,005,700	3,005,700	0	3,024,600	3,024,500	-100
UNEMPLOYMENT	129,300	129,400	100	109,900	110,300	400
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	3.5%	3.5%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	4.7%	4.7%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,935,000	2,935,400	400	2,968,300	2,968,700	400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,522,300	2,522,900	600	2,543,300	2,543,900	600
GOODS PRODUCING	591,500	591,900	400	598,100	598,500	400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	113,900	113,900	0	121,900	121,900	0
MANUFACTURING	473,800	474,200	400	472,200	472,600	400
Durable Goods	281,800	282,100	300	281,100	281,400	300
Nondurable Goods	192,000	192,100	100	191,100	191,200	100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,343,500	2,343,500	0	2,370,200	2,370,200	0
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,930,800	1,931,000	200	1,945,200	1,945,400	200
TRADE	431,700	431,700	0	436,200	436,200	0
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	113,000	113,100	100	114,700	114,800	100
INFORMATION	48,200	48,100	-100	48,300	48,200	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,400	154,300	-100	154,200	154,100	-100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	318,200	318,600	400	323,100	323,500	400
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	440,500	440,900	400	443,500	443,900	400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	275,500	275,200	-300	275,600	275,300	-300
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	149,300	149,100	-200	149,600	149,400	-200
GOVERNMENT	412,700	412,500	-200	425,000	424,800	-200
Federal Government	29,200	29,200	0	29,100	29,100	0
State Government	96,800	96,800	0	104,200	104,200	0
Local Government	286,700	286,500	-200	291,700	291,500	-200

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR NOVEMBER 2016

Place of Residence Data	Nov-16 (P)	Oct-16 (R)	Net Change	Nov-16 (P)	Oct-16 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,136,700	3,135,100	1,600	3,133,000	3,134,700	-1,700
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,009,600	3,005,700	3,900	3,020,500	3,024,500	-4,000
UNEMPLOYMENT	127,100	129,400	-2,300	112,400	110,300	2,100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%	3.6%	3.5%	0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.9%	-0.3%	4.4%	4.7%	-0.3%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,933,500	2,935,400	-1,900	2,966,800	2,968,700	-1,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,517,700	2,522,900	-5,200	2,535,400	2,543,900	-8,500
GOODS PRODUCING	588,300	591,900	-3,600	593,100	598,500	-5,400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,800	3,800	0	4,000	4,000	0
CONSTRUCTION	113,600	113,900	-300	118,400	121,900	-3,500
MANUFACTURING	470,900	474,200	-3,300	470,700	472,600	-1,900
Durable Goods	281,000	282,100	-1,100	280,900	281,400	-500
Nondurable Goods	189,900	192,100	-2,200	189,800	191,200	-1,400
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,345,200	2,343,500	1,700	2,373,700	2,370,200	3,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,929,400	1,931,000	-1,600	1,942,300	1,945,400	-3,100
TRADE	430,100	431,700	-1,600	442,600	436,200	6,400
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	113,100	113,100	0	115,300	114,800	500
INFORMATION	47,500	48,100	-600	47,900	48,200	-300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,500	154,300	-800	153,600	154,100	-500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	316,200	318,600	-2,400	320,100	323,500	-3,400
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	443,400	440,900	2,500	446,900	443,900	3,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	275,000	275,200	-200	265,100	275,300	-10,200
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	150,600	149,100	1,500	150,800	149,400	1,400
GOVERNMENT	415,800	412,500	3,300	431,400	424,800	6,600
Federal Government	29,000	29,200	-200	29,000	29,100	-100
State Government	97,300	96,800	500	104,900	104,200	700
Local Government	289,500	286,500	3,000	297,500	291,500	6,000

*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	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	(12,600)	(10,400)	+2,200	(11,500)	(11,500)	+0
May 2016	+5,500	+1,300	(4,200)	+9,700	+3,400	(6,300)
June 2016	+5,300	(1,100)	(6,400)	+10,900	+5,600	(5,300)
July 2016	+9,100	+7,600	(1,500)	+5,000	+2,000	(3,000)
August 2016	(2,900)	+100	+3,000	(6,200)	(2,700)	+3,500
September 2016	(10,500)	(9,100)	+1,400	(8,500)	(2,700)	+5,800
October 2016	+10,400	+10,800	+400	+6,000	+6,600	+600
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.

4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2015 Employment			2016 Employment			Jun-Jun Change	
	Apr	May	Jun	Apr	May	Jun	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,774,695	2,810,091	2,843,981	2,816,992	2,838,400	2,869,100	25,119	0.9%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,381,832	2,420,653	2,459,397	2,423,615	2,451,498	2,484,502	25,105	1.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	29,808	30,907	31,594	30,312	31,341	32,002	408	1.3%
Construction	105,244	112,313	117,311	109,011	114,296	119,107	1,796	1.5%
Manufacturing	461,535	463,184	471,111	459,749	460,884	468,376	-2,735	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	516,896	525,109	530,551	530,529	535,619	538,042	7,491	1.4%
Information	47,813	48,097	48,217	48,839	48,766	48,738	521	1.1%
Financial Activities	145,465	146,565	148,299	146,295	146,893	148,433	134	0.1%
Professional & Business Services	308,366	310,382	313,533	320,137	319,954	322,955	9,422	3.0%
Education & Health Services	411,798	412,849	412,961	421,595	421,386	420,731	7,770	1.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	261,609	276,655	289,469	267,579	281,667	293,337	3,868	1.3%
Other Services	83,181	84,006	85,539	82,958	83,205	84,624	-915	-1.1%
Unclassified	10,117	10,586	10,812	6,611	7,487	8,157	-2,655	-24.6%
<i>Total Government</i>	392,863	389,438	384,584	393,377	386,902	384,598	14	0.0%

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.

QUARTERLY WAGES

	Total Wages		Change	
	Q2:2015	Q2:2016	Number	Percent
TOTAL	\$30,530,151	\$31,633,487	\$1,103,336	3.6%
<i>Total Private</i>	\$25,806,986	\$26,947,924	\$1,140,938	4.4%
<i>Total Government</i>	\$4,723,165	\$4,685,562	-\$37,603	-0.8%

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.