
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WISCONSIN JANUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 6.9 PERCENT

State gains an estimated 15,700 private-sector jobs between Dec. '11 and Jan. '12

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary data for January 2012, showing Wisconsin's unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent (seasonally adjusted) from a revised 7.0 percent in December 2011 and 7.7 percent in January 2011. Wisconsin also added 15,700 private-sector jobs on a preliminary basis from December 2011 to January 2012.

"Wisconsin's preliminary January unemployment rate of 6.9 percent is now the lowest it has been since December of 2008, and it remains well below the national rate," Secretary Newson said. "In addition, the preliminary monthly job estimates show growth across most industry sectors."

Unemployment Rate

Based on unemployment insurance claims and a monthly survey of 1,400 households, BLS said Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 6.9 percent, down from a revised 7.0 percent in December 2011 and 7.7 percent in January 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, down from 8.5 percent in December 2011 and down from 9.1 percent in January 2011.

Wisconsin unemployment rates remain below the national rates and, through December 2011, 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 11,700 more people employed, and a 26,700 decrease in those unemployed. The corresponding over-the-month estimates show 1,600 more people employed, and 3,300 fewer unemployed.

Place of Work Data

Based on a monthly survey of employers, preliminary seasonally adjusted data show a gain of 15,700 in private sector jobs from December 2011 to January of this year. Sectors with job growth and their one-month gains were: construction, 4,200; manufacturing, 3,700; professional and business services, 3,600; leisure and hospitality, 3,300, and retail trade, 2,200. Total non-farm job growth was 12,500 for the same one-month period, reflecting a 3,200 decrease in government jobs.

Seasonally adjusted data also show that, compared to January 2011, the private sector had a net gain of 900 jobs. Within the mix of gains and losses, the manufacturing sector had year-to-year job growth of 8,900. Total nonfarm employment was down 12,500, and government employment, down 13,400 jobs. Please see the Labor Force Summary tables that accompany this release.

(more)

2011 Benchmark Revisions

Today's release of data also includes revised 2010 and 2011 monthly job totals that are "benchmarked," or adjusted by the BLS based on the availability of additional data. Data for place of residence data undergo benchmarking as well.

Job estimates for the last six months of 2010 and the first six months of 2011 have been revised to reflect the most recent Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data available. Data for the latter months of 2011 have been revised to be consistent with QCEW data, but will not be benchmarked by the BLS until March 2013. In addition, seasonally adjusted months have been revised to reflect updated estimates of seasonal patterns.

The following chart shows revision history for 2011 based on the new benchmarked data:

2011 Benchmark Revision History, Seasonally Adjusted						
Estimated change in employment, in thousands						
Month	Total Nonfarm			Private		
	Estimated	Benchmark	Revision	Estimated	Benchmark	Revision
January 2011	+7,700	+4,400	(3,700)	+11,300	+5,100	(6,200)
February 2011	+8,200	+5,400	(2,800)	+3,000	+2,500	(500)
March 2011	+7,700	+4,300	(3,400)	+7,600	+4,400	(3,200)
April 2011	+3,500	(1,100)	(4,600)	+3,600	(500)	(4,100)
May 2011	+700	(1,900)	(2,600)	+900	+500	(400)
June 2011	+11,000	(9,000)	(20,000)	+14,800	+0	(14,800)
July 2011	(6,400)	(3,700)	+2,700	(10,800)	(12,300)	(1,500)
August 2011	(500)	(9,800)	(9,300)	(200)	(1,800)	(1,600)
September 2011	(11,000)	+5,000	+16,000	(800)	+300	+1,100
October 2011	(2,400)	(2,800)	(400)	(1,400)	(300)	+1,100
November 2011	(13,600)	(11,800)	+1,800	(10,600)	(7,300)	+3,300
December 2011	(1,700)	+400	+2,100	(3,900)	(300)	+3,600
January 2012	+12,500*	N/A	N/A	+15,700*	N/A	N/A

Note: Yellow-shaded areas represent months for which Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data were available and used for benchmarking.

* Preliminary estimates

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	FINAL	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Jan-12	Dec-11	Jan-11	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,054,700	3,056,400	3,069,700	-1,700	-15,000
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,844,800	2,843,200	2,833,100	1,600	11,700
UNEMPLOYMENT	209,900	213,200	236,600	-3,300	-26,700
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6.9%	7.0%	7.7%	-0.1%	-0.8%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.3%	8.5%	9.1%	-0.2%	-0.8%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,732,300	2,719,800	2,744,800	12,500	-12,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,329,600	2,313,900	2,328,700	15,700	900
GOODS PRODUCING	532,800	525,100	527,600	7,700	5,200
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,200	3,000	3,000	200	200
CONSTRUCTION	90,000	85,800	93,500	4,200	-3,500
MANUFACTURING	446,000	442,300	437,100	3,700	8,900
Durable Goods	274,000	269,800	263,500	4,200	10,500
Nondurable Goods	172,000	172,500	173,600	-500	-1,600
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,199,500	2,194,700	2,217,200	4,800	-17,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,796,800	1,788,800	1,801,100	8,000	-4,300
TRADE	412,000	409,600	407,200	2,400	4,800
Wholesale Trade	116,300	116,100	113,400	200	2,900
Retail Trade	295,700	293,500	293,800	2,200	1,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	100,100	99,600	101,900	500	-1,800
Utilities					
INFORMATION	45,800	45,800	46,900	0	-1,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	156,100	156,100	159,100	0	-3,000
Finance and Insurance					
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	23,800	24,100	24,400	-300	-600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	283,100	279,500	283,000	3,600	100
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	93,300	93,400	95,200	-100	-1,900
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises					
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	138,000	134,600	137,100	3,400	900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	412,600	413,300	407,900	-700	4,700
Educational Services	49,700	51,400	49,300	-1,700	400
Health Care & Social Assistance	362,900	361,900	358,600	1,000	4,300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	246,800	243,500	251,900	3,300	-5,100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	33,900	33,000	34,700	900	-800
Accommodation & Food Services	212,900	210,500	217,200	2,400	-4,300
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	133,900	135,400	137,200	-1,500	-3,300
GOVERNMENT	402,700	405,900	416,100	-3,200	-13,400
Federal Government	28,600	28,900	29,500	-300	-900
State Government	93,400	97,100	97,300	-3,700	-3,900
Local Government	280,700	279,900	289,300	800	-8,600

*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	
	Jan-12	Dec-11	Jan-11	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,027,000	3,038,400	3,043,400	-11,400	-16,400
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,797,900	2,838,900	2,785,800	-41,000	12,100
UNEMPLOYMENT	229,100	199,500	257,600	29,600	-28,500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	7.6%	6.6%	8.5%	1.0%	-0.9%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.8%	8.3%	9.8%	0.5%	-1.0%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,662,200	2,724,200	2,681,600	-62,000	-19,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,262,500	2,308,900	2,269,500	-46,400	-7,000
GOODS PRODUCING	514,100	523,500	515,000	-9,400	-900
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	2,500	2,800	2,500	-300	0
CONSTRUCTION	72,500	80,600	79,200	-8,100	-6,700
MANUFACTURING	439,100	440,100	433,300	-1,000	5,800
Durable Goods	270,000	269,700	262,200	300	7,800
Nondurable Goods	169,100	170,400	171,100	-1,300	-2,000
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,148,100	2,200,700	2,166,600	-52,600	-18,500
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,748,400	1,785,400	1,754,500	-37,000	-6,100
TRADE	407,500	422,900	402,400	-15,400	5,100
Wholesale Trade	114,900	116,500	111,800	-1,600	3,100
Retail Trade	292,600	306,400	290,600	-13,800	2,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	97,800	100,600	99,700	-2,800	-1,900
Utilities	10,700	10,800	10,800	-100	-100
INFORMATION	45,700	46,000	46,900	-300	-1,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	154,300	156,100	158,100	-1,800	-3,800
Finance and Insurance	131,200	132,200	134,500	-1,000	-3,300
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	23,100	23,900	23,600	-800	-500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	272,100	277,700	274,400	-5,600	-2,300
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	91,700	93,800	95,500	-2,100	-3,800
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	51,600	51,000	49,500	600	2,100
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	128,800	132,900	129,400	-4,100	-600
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	411,000	415,500	405,200	-4,500	5,800
Educational Services	49,000	51,900	48,300	-2,900	700
Health Care & Social Assistance	362,000	363,600	356,900	-1,600	5,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	227,100	232,900	232,700	-5,800	-5,600
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	28,100	28,500	28,100	-400	0
Accommodation & Food Services	199,000	204,400	204,600	-5,400	-5,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	132,900	133,700	135,100	-800	-2,200
GOVERNMENT	399,700	415,300	412,100	-15,600	-12,400
Federal Government	28,500	29,000	29,400	-500	-900
State Government	92,100	100,700	94,800	-8,600	-2,700
Local Government	279,100	285,600	287,900	-6,500	-8,800
PERSONS INVOLVED IN LABOR/MGT. DISP	185	0	0	185	185

*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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