
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 17, 2015
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

Monthly BLS Estimates: State Adds 7,200 Private-Sector Jobs in August

Wisconsin's unemployment rate declines to 4.5%, represents significant 12-month decrease

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

- Place of work data: Wisconsin added 7,200 private-sector jobs from July 2015 to August 2015, and a statistically significant 47,800 private sector jobs and 47,600 total non-farm jobs from August 2014 to August 2015 (seasonally adjusted). Wisconsin also realized significant year-over-year gains of 7,200 jobs in manufacturing, 5,400 jobs in financial activities and 12,800 jobs in education and health services.
- Place of residence data: A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.5 percent in August 2015, down from 4.6 percent in July 2015. The 4.5 percent rate is below the national unemployment rate of 5.1 percent for the month and below the state's rate of 5.3 percent in August 2014. Additionally, the state's labor force participation rate of 67.4 percent in August outpaced the national rate of 62.6 percent.

"Under Governor Walker's leadership, the opportunities for Wisconsin's workforce continue to grow, with the addition of 47,800 private sector jobs over the year," Secretary Reggie Newson said. "With a higher labor force participation rate and lower unemployment rate than the nation, Wisconsin also continues to experience robust hiring and employment activity."

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:

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 37 weeks of 2015 dropped to the lowest point since 1990, and the annual average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in the first eight months of 2015 grew by 3.5% percent compared to same period in 2014. As of August 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 27,900, compared to 26,945 in the same period in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) ranked Wisconsin the "12th Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's, an increase of 2 spots over the 2014 ranking, and a big increase over 2010, when the state ranked 41st.

###

Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
JULY – AUGUST 2015

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM JULY 2015

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,072,500	3,072,900	400	3,118,500	3,119,600	1,100
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.4%	67.4%	0.0%	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,930,200	2,930,400	200	2,976,900	2,977,600	700
UNEMPLOYMENT	142,300	142,500	200	141,600	142,100	500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%	4.5%	4.6%	0.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.3%	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,889,600	2,891,500	1,900	2,917,100	2,918,900	1,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,473,100	2,474,000	900	2,530,700	2,531,600	900
GOODS PRODUCING	583,900	583,500	-400	602,000	601,600	-400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	4,400	4,400	0
CONSTRUCTION	105,900	106,000	100	116,900	117,000	100
MANUFACTURING	474,000	473,500	-500	480,700	480,200	-500
Durable Goods	285,600	285,400	-200	289,400	289,200	-200
Nondurable Goods	188,400	188,100	-300	191,300	191,000	-300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,305,700	2,308,000	2,300	2,315,100	2,317,300	2,200
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,889,200	1,890,500	1,300	1,928,700	1,930,000	1,300
TRADE	425,600	426,300	700	431,000	431,700	700
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	100,400	100,200	-200	100,500	100,300	-200
INFORMATION	49,700	49,700	0	50,200	50,200	0
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,600	156,100	500	157,300	157,800	500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	314,400	314,100	-300	320,000	319,700	-300
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	439,300	440,000	700	436,600	437,300	700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	267,900	267,800	-100	295,300	295,200	-100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	136,300	136,300	0	137,800	137,800	0
GOVERNMENT	416,500	417,500	1,000	386,400	387,300	900
Federal Government	28,800	28,800	0	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	98,600	98,600	0	89,100	89,100	0
Local Government	289,100	290,100	1,000	268,300	269,200	900

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR AUGUST 2015

Place of Residence Data	Aug-15 (P)	Jul-15 (R)	Net Change	Aug-15 (P)	Jul-15 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,071,700	3,072,900	-1,200	3,102,000	3,119,600	-17,600
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.4%	67.4%	0.0%	68.0%	68.4%	-0.4%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2,934,300	2,930,400	3,900	2,979,900	2,977,600	2,300
UNEMPLOYMENT	137,400	142,500	-5,100	122,100	142,100	-20,000
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.5%	4.6%	-0.1%	3.9%	4.6%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.3%	-0.2%	5.2%	5.6%	-0.4%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,898,600	2,891,500	7,100	2,923,300	2,918,900	4,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,481,200	2,474,000	7,200	2,538,600	2,531,600	7,000
GOODS PRODUCING	583,100	583,500	-400	602,400	601,600	800
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,000	4,000	0	4,400	4,400	0
CONSTRUCTION	106,800	106,000	800	118,700	117,000	1,700
MANUFACTURING	472,300	473,500	-1,200	479,300	480,200	-900
Durable Goods	285,600	285,400	200	288,100	289,200	-1,100
Nondurable Goods	186,700	188,100	-1,400	191,200	191,000	200
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,315,500	2,308,000	7,500	2,320,900	2,317,300	3,600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,898,100	1,890,500	7,600	1,936,200	1,930,000	6,200
TRADE	428,000	426,300	1,700	432,700	431,700	1,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	102,400	100,200	2,200	102,300	100,300	2,000
INFORMATION	49,900	49,700	200	50,300	50,200	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	155,800	156,100	-300	157,100	157,800	-700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	314,500	314,100	400	321,700	319,700	2,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	441,900	440,000	1,900	438,300	437,300	1,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	270,900	267,800	3,100	297,600	295,200	2,400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	134,700	136,300	-1,600	136,200	137,800	-1,600
GOVERNMENT	417,400	417,500	-100	384,700	387,300	-2,600
Federal Government	28,900	28,800	100	28,800	29,000	-200
State Government	96,500	98,600	-2,100	89,000	89,100	-100
Local Government	292,000	290,100	1,900	266,900	269,200	-2,300

*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

	TNF			Private		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
January 2015	+600	+5,000	+4,400	+300	+4,500	+4,200
February 2015	+14,900	+13,000	(1,900)	+13,600	+11,800	(1,800)
March 2015	(4,300)	(4,200)	+100	(5,000)	(5,000)	+0
April 2015	+3,700	+100	(3,600)	+5,400	+2,000	(3,400)
May 2015	(8,600)	(5,800)	+2,800	(6,100)	(3,500)	+2,600
June 2015	+1,900	(2,900)	(4,800)	(300)	(4,600)	(4,300)
July 2015	+12,400	+14,300	+1,900	+8,200	+9,100	+900
August 2015						
September 2015						
October 2015						
November 2015						
December 2015						

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

	2014 Employment*			2015 Employment†			Mar-Mar Change	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,675,059	2,679,742	2,694,725	2,714,807	2,720,098	2,734,324	39,599	1.5%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,296,857	2,295,876	2,309,261	2,336,795	2,333,765	2,348,913	39,652	1.7%
Natural Resources & Mining	24,796	24,866	25,653	26,376	26,411	27,321	1,668	6.5%
Construction	86,611	85,633	88,563	93,527	92,297	94,637	6,074	6.9%
Manufacturing	452,962	451,838	453,585	459,700	459,080	459,878	6,293	1.4%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	507,584	503,248	505,850	512,283	506,954	510,018	4,168	0.8%
Information	47,176	47,032	46,784	48,103	47,748	47,440	656	1.4%
Financial Activities	143,147	142,946	143,209	144,295	144,077	144,363	1,154	0.8%
Professional & Business Services	296,315	297,339	296,957	300,675	301,166	301,798	4,841	1.6%
Education & Health Services	401,326	403,312	404,687	405,593	407,951	409,733	5,046	1.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	240,925	242,294	245,114	245,275	246,379	250,771	5,657	2.3%
Other Services	82,014	82,287	82,794	81,674	81,539	82,403	-391	-0.5%
Unclassified	14,001	15,081	16,065	19,294	20,163	20,551	4,486	27.9%
<i>Total Government</i>	378,202	383,866	385,464	378,012	386,333	385,411	-53	0.0%

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

†Data as published on 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.