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BLS Data: Wisconsin's Labor Force, Total Employment Reach Record Highs in June; 41,500 More Employed Over Year

WI's unemployment rate remains at historic low levels, under 3 percent for 5th consecutive month

MADISON – Today, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revisions for May 2018 and preliminary estimates for June covering the employment and job statistics for the state of Wisconsin. The number of people employed in Wisconsin as well as the number of active participants in the state's labor force reached record highs in June, and the data showed that Wisconsin gained both total non-farm (+7,400) and private-sector (+5,500) jobs from May 2018 to June, and a significant 17,600 manufacturing jobs over the year. Since December 2010, Wisconsin has added over 48,000 manufacturing positions. May 2018 data was revised, from a loss of 4,700 total non-farm jobs to a gain of 100, and a loss of 5,300 private-sector jobs to a loss of 800. Wisconsin's labor force increased by 3,300 people over the month, bringing the number of active participants in Wisconsin's labor force to 3,092,100. This increase in active job seekers contributed to the slight increase in Wisconsin's unemployment rate, from a record low of 2.8 percent in April and May to 2.9 percent in June. For the first time in state history, Wisconsin's unemployment rate has remained under 3.0 percent for five consecutive months.

In brief, the seasonally adjusted estimates show:

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June 2018 increased slightly from the record-low of 2.8 percent in April and May, to 2.9 percent in June, due to 3,300 individuals entering the labor force. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate remained at 68.9 percent in June, a full 6 percentage points higher than the national rate of 62.9 percent. A significant 41,500 more people were employed in June 2018 when compared to June 2017. Wisconsin again set a new state record for number of people employed in June 2018, with 3,092,100 people employed.
- **Place of Work Data:** From June 2017 to June 2018, Wisconsin added 25,900 private-sector jobs, a significant 30,000 total non-farm jobs and a significant 17,600 manufacturing jobs. Over the month, Wisconsin added 5,500 private sector jobs and 7,400 total non-farm jobs. Through the first six months of 2018, Wisconsin has added 12,100 manufacturing jobs.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen released the following statement about today's report:

"Wisconsin continues to add jobs, which means more opportunities for Wisconsin job seekers," Secretary Allen said. "Over 3,000 individuals entered the labor force from May 2018 to June, growing the pool of available workers to fill some of the 90,000-plus job openings available on JobCenterofWisconsin.com. Although the unemployment rate ticked up slightly from the record low rate of 2.8 percent that we experienced in April and May, it increased for the right reason – Wisconsinites are excited about the career opportunities that are being

created by new and existing employers throughout the state and entering the labor force."

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% of Wisconsin employers). CES data has been shown to be subject to significant 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 on a quarterly basis from Unemployment Insurance records from some 96 percent 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:

- Initial UI claims ended 2017 at their lowest level in the last 30 years.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2017 at their lowest level since 1973.
- Moody's investor Service upgraded the state's credit rating, noting that "(T)he stable outlook reflects the expectation that the state will experience moderate economic growth and will continue its prudent fiscal management practices."

Today's full report can be viewed on WisConomy.com

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
MAY – JUNE 2018

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM MAY 2018

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
Place of Residence Data	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,179,400	3,179,800	400	3,167,300	3,169,700	2,400
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.9%	68.9%	0.0%	68.6%	68.7%	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,090,200	3,090,600	400	3,085,100	3,087,400	2,300
UNEMPLOYMENT	89,200	89,200	0	82,200	82,300	100
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%	3.6%	3.6%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,963,900	2,968,700	4,800	2,977,700	2,981,400	3,700
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,555,100	2,559,600	4,500	2,559,000	2,562,700	3,700
GOODS PRODUCING	606,500	608,200	1,700	609,400	609,400	0
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,500	4,500	0	4,700	4,700	0
CONSTRUCTION	120,200	121,600	1,400	123,900	124,300	400
MANUFACTURING	481,800	482,100	300	480,800	480,400	-400
Durable Goods	291,300	291,900	600	291,900	291,900	0
Nondurable Goods	190,500	190,200	-300	188,900	188,500	-400
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,357,400	2,360,500	3,100	2,368,300	2,372,000	3,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,948,600	1,951,400	2,800	1,949,600	1,953,300	3,700
TRADE	430,200	431,200	1,000	426,800	427,800	1,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,800	110,500	-300	111,000	110,500	-500
INFORMATION	46,500	46,600	100	46,200	46,400	200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	150,000	150,300	300	149,200	149,600	400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	328,800	328,300	-500	327,400	327,900	500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	452,000	451,600	-400	452,400	452,100	-300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	278,400	281,100	2,700	285,200	287,800	2,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	151,900	151,800	-100	151,400	151,200	-200
GOVERNMENT	408,800	409,100	300	418,700	418,700	0
Federal Government	29,100	29,100	0	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	93,900	94,000	100	97,100	97,100	0
Local Government	285,800	286,000	200	292,600	292,600	0

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR JUNE 2018

Place of Residence Data	Jun-18 (P)	May-18 (R)	Net Change	Jun-18 (P)	May-18 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,183,100	3,179,800	3,300	3,228,000	3,169,700	58,300
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.9%	68.9%	0.0%	69.9%	68.7%	1.2%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,092,100	3,090,600	1,500	3,117,200	3,087,400	29,800
UNEMPLOYMENT	91,000	89,200	1,800	110,900	82,300	28,600
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.9%	2.8%	0.1%	3.4%	2.6%	0.8%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.0%	3.8%	0.2%	4.2%	3.6%	0.6%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,976,100	2,968,700	7,400	3,017,700	2,981,400	36,300
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,565,100	2,559,600	5,500	2,615,200	2,562,700	52,500
GOODS PRODUCING	612,100	608,200	3,900	628,900	609,400	19,500
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	4,500	4,500	0	4,800	4,700	100
CONSTRUCTION	122,900	121,600	1,300	133,600	124,300	9,300
MANUFACTURING	484,700	482,100	2,600	490,500	480,400	10,100
Durable Goods	293,900	291,900	2,000	298,900	291,900	7,000
Nondurable Goods	190,800	190,200	600	191,600	188,500	3,100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,364,000	2,360,500	3,500	2,388,800	2,372,000	16,800
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,953,000	1,951,400	1,600	1,986,300	1,953,300	33,000
TRADE	432,000	431,200	800	433,800	427,800	6,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	111,100	110,500	600	111,500	110,500	1,000
INFORMATION	46,300	46,600	-300	46,300	46,400	-100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	149,900	150,300	-400	151,100	149,600	1,500
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	324,800	328,300	-3,500	327,400	327,900	-500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	451,400	451,600	-200	450,100	452,100	-2,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	285,200	281,100	4,100	312,400	287,800	24,600
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	152,300	151,800	500	153,700	151,200	2,500
GOVERNMENT	411,000	409,100	1,900	402,500	418,700	-16,200
Federal Government	29,000	29,100	-100	29,000	29,000	0
State Government	94,300	94,000	300	80,400	97,100	-16,700
Local Government	287,700	286,000	1,700	293,100	292,600	500

*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 2018	+9,200	+8,200	(1,000)	+8,000	+7,100	(900)
February 2018	+1,500	+5,600	+4,100	(300)	+3,700	+4,000
March 2018	+6,800	+6,400	(400)	+8,900	+8,200	(700)
April 2018	(1,000)	(4,900)	(3,900)	(3,100)	(5,600)	(2,500)
May 2018	(4,700)	+100	+4,800	(5,300)	(800)	+4,500
June 2018						
July 2018						
August 2018						
September 2018						
October 2018						
November 2018						
December 2018						

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

	2016 Employment			2017 Employment			Dec-Dec Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	Number	Percent	Q4:2016	Q4:2017	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,855,516	2,862,144	2,843,872	2,874,160	2,873,213	2,872,568	28,696	1.0%	\$34,253,602	\$35,520,319	\$1,266,717	3.7%
Total Private	2,467,014	2,462,139	2,452,152	2,487,684	2,486,421	2,484,411	32,259	1.3%	\$29,850,878	\$31,078,521	\$1,227,643	4.1%
Natural Resources & Mining	33,906	31,882	29,936	34,963	32,840	31,184	1,248	4.2%	\$313,427	\$340,157	\$26,730	8.5%
Construction	118,772	116,573	109,265	123,709	121,204	116,146	6,881	6.3%	\$1,833,355	\$1,970,879	\$137,524	7.5%
Manufacturing	461,315	460,624	461,421	467,541	467,567	469,453	8,032	1.7%	\$6,638,358	\$7,002,004	\$363,646	5.5%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	539,593	548,530	551,786	541,757	552,930	556,747	4,961	0.9%	\$5,467,357	\$5,775,347	\$307,990	5.6%
Information	48,614	48,804	48,735	46,848	47,172	47,180	-1,555	-3.2%	\$914,115	\$897,993	-\$16,122	-1.8%
Financial Activities	147,806	147,699	148,134	148,781	148,306	148,816	682	0.5%	\$2,488,740	\$2,552,572	\$63,832	2.6%
Professional & Business Services	325,636	325,119	322,464	328,483	328,107	327,319	4,855	1.5%	\$5,082,749	\$5,174,030	\$91,281	1.8%
Education & Health Services	424,949	425,887	426,161	431,199	432,878	434,116	7,955	1.9%	\$5,206,967	\$5,433,462	\$226,495	4.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	275,595	266,565	263,457	278,725	270,198	267,445	3,988	1.5%	\$1,180,505	\$1,246,728	\$66,223	5.6%
Other Services	84,181	83,719	84,182	83,767	83,226	83,969	-213	-0.3%	\$617,193	\$643,780	\$26,587	4.3%
Unclassified	6,647	6,737	6,611	1,911	1,993	2,036	-4,575	-69.2%	\$108,111	\$41,568	-\$66,543	-61.6%
Total Government	388,502	400,005	391,720	386,476	386,792	388,157	-3,563	-0.9%	\$4,402,724	\$4,441,798	\$39,074	0.9%

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.