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BLS Data: Wisconsin's April Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.2%, Lowest Since February 2000

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

- Place of residence data: A preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.2 percent in April 2017, down a significant 0.2 percent from March and at its lowest rate since February 2000. The rate remains lower than the national unemployment rate, which was 4.4 percent in April 2017. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate increased 0.2 percentage points to 68.6 percent and continues to outpace the U.S. rate which decreased to 62.9 percent in April. Both total labor force and employment in Wisconsin remained at all-time high in April, while the number of unemployed individuals was its lowest point since April 2000.
- Place of work data: Based on preliminary data, the state added a significant 37,600 total non-farm jobs and a significant 29,300 private-sector jobs from April 2016 to April 2017. Wisconsin also added 7,500 private sector jobs and a significant 14,800 total non-farm jobs from March 2017 to April 2017. Other significant month-over-month gains include 5,100 jobs in Manufacturing.

DWD Secretary Ray Allen issued the following statement: "Wisconsin's unemployment rate declined to a new 17-year low of 3.2 percent as the labor force and number of employed Wisconsinites have reached new all-time highs. The bottom line is Wisconsin's economy is growing and adding jobs, and our biggest challenge now is finding enough skilled talent to fill openings employers have available. Under Governor Walker's leadership, we will continue our aggressive talent development agenda to meet the needs of the labor market."

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:

- Initial UI claims ended 2016 at their lowest level in their last 30 years. Year 2017 initial UI claims are running at the lowest in at least the past 30 years.
- Continuing unemployment claims ended 2016 at their lowest level since 1973. Continuing unemployment claims in Wisconsin are running at the lowest in at least the past 30 years.

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Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
MARCH – APRIL 2017

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM MARCH 2017

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,137,100	3,136,900	-200	3,111,100	3,110,600	-500
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.4%	68.4%	0.0%	67.9%	67.9%	0.0%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,029,900	3,029,800	-100	2,995,800	2,995,400	-400
UNEMPLOYMENT	107,100	107,100	0	115,300	115,100	-200
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.4%	3.4%	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.5%	0.0%	4.6%	4.6%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,948,100	2,947,100	-1,000	2,902,900	2,901,900	-1,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,535,300	2,535,600	300	2,478,700	2,479,000	300
GOODS PRODUCING	586,300	585,900	-400	569,000	568,600	-400
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,900	3,900	0	3,600	3,600	0
CONSTRUCTION	113,800	114,100	300	100,300	100,600	300
MANUFACTURING	468,600	467,900	-700	465,100	464,400	-700
Durable Goods	282,200	281,800	-400	280,000	279,600	-400
Nondurable Goods	186,400	186,100	-300	185,100	184,800	-300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,361,800	2,361,200	-600	2,333,900	2,333,300	-600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,949,000	1,949,700	700	1,909,700	1,910,400	700
TRADE	437,100	437,400	300	425,700	426,000	300
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	106,300	106,300	0	104,300	104,300	0
INFORMATION	47,800	47,900	100	47,200	47,300	100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,600	153,700	100	152,200	152,300	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	326,300	326,300	0	318,600	318,600	0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	449,500	450,100	600	451,500	452,100	600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	276,000	275,900	-100	258,800	258,700	-100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	152,400	152,100	-300	151,400	151,100	-300
GOVERNMENT	412,800	411,500	-1,300	424,200	422,900	-1,300
Federal Government	29,200	29,200	0	29,100	29,100	0
State Government	95,000	94,000	-1,000	101,000	100,000	-1,000
Local Government	288,600	288,300	-300	294,100	293,800	-300

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR APRIL 2017

Place of Residence Data	Apr-17 (P)	Mar-17 (R)	Net Change	Apr-17 (P)	Mar-17 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,147,300	3,136,900	10,400	3,121,800	3,110,600	11,200
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	68.6%	68.4%	0.2%	68.1%	67.9%	0.2%
EMPLOYMENT (1)	3,046,900	3,029,800	17,100	3,028,500	2,995,400	33,100
UNEMPLOYMENT	100,500	107,100	-6,600	93,300	115,100	-21,800
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.2%	3.4%	-0.2%	3.0%	3.7%	-0.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.5%	-0.1%	4.1%	4.6%	-0.5%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,961,900	2,947,100	14,800	2,941,500	2,901,900	39,600
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,543,100	2,535,600	7,500	2,510,000	2,479,000	31,000
GOODS PRODUCING	592,500	585,900	6,600	583,200	568,600	14,600
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3,900	3,900	0	3,800	3,600	200
CONSTRUCTION	115,600	114,100	1,500	110,300	100,600	9,700
MANUFACTURING	473,000	467,900	5,100	469,100	464,400	4,700
Durable Goods	283,800	281,800	2,000	282,200	279,600	2,600
Nondurable Goods	189,200	186,100	3,100	186,900	184,800	2,100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,369,400	2,361,200	8,200	2,358,300	2,333,300	25,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,950,600	1,949,700	900	1,926,800	1,910,400	16,400
TRADE	437,600	437,400	200	430,200	426,000	4,200
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	106,200	106,300	-100	104,900	104,300	600
INFORMATION	47,900	47,900	0	46,900	47,300	-400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,800	153,700	100	152,900	152,300	600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	324,700	326,300	-1,600	320,600	318,600	2,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	450,000	450,100	-100	452,000	452,100	-100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	277,400	275,900	1,500	266,800	258,700	8,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	153,000	152,100	900	152,500	151,100	1,400
GOVERNMENT	418,800	411,500	7,300	431,500	422,900	8,600
Federal Government	29,000	29,200	-200	29,000	29,100	-100
State Government	99,100	94,000	5,100	105,600	100,000	5,600
Local Government	290,700	288,300	2,400	296,900	293,800	3,100

*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 2017	+200	+5,400	+5,200	+5,800	+10,400	+4,600
February 2017	+11,100	+11,100	+0	+7,600	+8,300	+700
March 2017	(2,700)	(3,700)	(1,000)	+500	+800	+300
April 2017						
May 2017						
June 2017						
July 2017						
August 2017						
September 2017						
October 2017						
November 2017						
December 2017						

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			Sep - Sep Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Number	Percent	Q3:2015	Q3:2016	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,809,787	2,815,552	2,820,647	2,843,145	2,850,891	2,850,076	29,429	1.0%	\$30,502,958	\$32,782,841	\$2,279,883	7.5%
<i>Total Private</i>	2,471,399	2,476,433	2,444,869	2,503,530	2,503,151	2,470,431	25,562	1.0%	\$26,736,520	\$28,608,614	\$1,872,094	7.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	31,767	31,956	32,511	32,189	32,259	32,895	384	1.2%	\$279,408	\$295,213	\$15,805	5.7%
Construction	119,958	119,281	116,638	121,517	121,506	118,887	2,249	1.9%	\$1,716,885	\$1,812,408	\$95,523	5.6%
Manufacturing	474,373	473,595	467,412	470,845	469,700	463,378	-4,034	-0.9%	\$6,209,148	\$6,512,945	\$303,797	4.9%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	530,433	532,779	531,788	538,781	538,697	534,891	3,103	0.6%	\$4,959,945	\$5,241,990	\$282,045	5.7%
Information	49,522	49,900	48,954	49,289	49,498	48,381	-573	-1.2%	\$768,382	\$2,064,540	\$1,296,158	168.7%
Financial Activities	149,181	148,785	146,788	149,720	149,564	147,769	981	0.7%	\$2,166,848	\$820,054	-\$1,346,794	-62.2%
Professional & Business Services	317,788	320,267	316,130	325,783	326,931	324,669	8,539	2.7%	\$4,045,000	\$2,311,131	-\$1,733,869	-42.9%
Education & Health Services	412,189	412,984	413,095	422,027	422,379	423,351	10,256	2.5%	\$4,757,628	\$4,475,266	-\$282,362	-5.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	292,398	293,265	279,581	299,337	298,714	283,336	3,755	1.3%	\$1,176,760	\$5,135,635	\$3,958,875	336.4%
Other Services	85,326	84,865	83,522	85,236	84,845	83,897	375	0.4%	\$572,337	\$1,286,881	\$714,544	124.8%
Unclassified	8,464	8,756	8,450	8,806	9,058	8,977	527	6.2%	\$84,178	\$611,805	\$527,627	626.8%
<i>Total Government</i>	338,388	339,119	375,778	339,615	347,740	379,645	3,867	1.0%	\$3,766,438	\$105,286	-\$3,661,152	-97.2%

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.