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BLS Data: Wisconsin Unemployment Rate Drops to 2.9 Percent in February

Wisconsin adds 11,400 total non-farm, 19,300 private-sector jobs from Feb. 2018 – Feb. 2019

MADISON — The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary employment estimates for the month of February. The data show that Wisconsin added 11,400 total non-farm jobs and 19,300 private-sector jobs from Feb. 2018 to Feb. 2019. Wisconsin's unemployment rate dropped to 2.9 percent in February from 3 percent in January. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate was 67.5 percent in February, over 4 percentage points higher than the national rate.

In brief:

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's preliminary, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February was 2.9 percent, down from 3 percent in January. The national unemployment rate in February was 3.8 percent, down from 4 percent in January. Wisconsin's labor force participation rate for February was 67.5 percent.
- **Place of Work Data:** Wisconsin added 11,400 total non-farm jobs and 19,300 private-sector jobs from Feb. 2018 to Feb. 2019. Wisconsin private-sector employment decreased 300 from Jan. 2019 to Feb. 2019. Total non-farm employment decreased by 3,400, mostly due to the loss of 3,100 government jobs, over the same time period.

"Wisconsin's unemployment rate dropping to 2.9 percent is indicative of an historically tight labor market," DWD Secretary-designee Caleb Frostman said. "We look forward to working with our statewide partners, fellow agencies, and the legislature to deliver targeted training, expand the labor force by removing barriers to employment, and advocating for quality of life gains for the vast majority of Wisconsinites in the workforce who are working hard to make ends meet."

Today's full report can be viewed on DWD's premier source for labor market information, WisConomy.com

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Feb-19	Jan-19	Feb-18	1-Month	1-Year
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,126,900	3,127,200	3,141,700	-300	-14,800
EMPLOYMENT	3,036,000	3,033,500	3,049,300	2,500	-13,300
UNEMPLOYMENT	90,900	93,700	92,400	-2,800	-1,500
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	-0.1%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%	-0.2%	-0.3%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,985,200	2,988,600	2,973,800	-3,400	11,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,584,300	2,584,600	2,565,000	-300	19,300
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	607,100	608,100	599,500	-1,000	7,600
MINING & LOGGING	4,800	4,700	4,800	100	0
CONSTRUCTION	125,700	125,900	121,200	-200	4,500
MANUFACTURING	476,600	477,500	473,500	-900	3,100
Durable Goods	286,300	287,700	284,900	-1,400	1,400
Nondurable Goods	190,300	189,800	188,600	500	1,700
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,378,100	2,380,500	2,374,300	-2,400	3,800
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,977,200	1,976,500	1,965,500	700	11,700
TRADE	439,400	436,700	434,900	2,700	4,500
Wholesale Trade	128,000	128,700	127,000	-700	1,000
Retail Trade	311,400	308,000	307,900	3,400	3,500
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,300	111,900	110,500	-1,600	-200
INFORMATION	47,600	47,700	47,200	-100	400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,600	153,600	152,500	0	1,100
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	27,700	27,000	26,700	700	1,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	325,200	324,000	330,500	1,200	-5,300
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	111,800	111,600	111,200	200	600
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	146,600	146,000	150,200	600	-3,600
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	456,400	458,600	454,800	-2,200	1,600
Educational Services	52,400	53,300	51,400	-900	1,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	404,000	405,300	403,400	-1,300	600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	290,700	289,700	283,200	1,000	7,500
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	48,600	47,400	42,500	1,200	6,100
Accommodation & Food Services	242,100	242,300	240,700	-200	1,400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	154,000	154,300	151,900	-300	2,100
GOVERNMENT	400,900	404,000	408,800	-3,100	-7,900
Federal Government	29,100	29,000	29,000	100	100
State Government	91,700	91,800	94,300	-100	-2,600
Local Government	280,100	283,200	285,500	-3,100	-5,400

Note: Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support.

Numbers in **blue** are statistically significant changes.

Wisconsin Employment and Unemployment Report
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019

1. REVISIONS TO ESTIMATES FROM JANUARY 2019

Place of Residence Data	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Prelim	Revised	Change	Prelim	Revised	Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,127,100	3,127,200	100	3,103,300	3,104,100	800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.6%	67.6%	0.0%	67.0%	67.1%	0.1%
EMPLOYMENT	3,033,400	3,033,500	100	2,994,900	2,995,700	800
UNEMPLOYMENT	93,700	93,700	0	108,400	108,400	0
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.5%	3.5%	0.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.0%	0.0%	4.4%	4.4%	0.0%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,989,400	2,988,600	-800	2,922,400	2,923,800	1,400
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,584,500	2,584,600	100	2,524,300	2,525,600	1,300
GOODS PRODUCING	609,600	608,100	-1,500	591,600	590,100	-1,500
MINING & LOGGING	4,800	4,700	-100	4,400	4,300	-100
CONSTRUCTION	126,200	125,900	-300	113,100	113,000	-100
MANUFACTURING	478,600	477,500	-1,100	474,100	472,800	-1,300
Durable Goods	288,600	287,700	-900	286,200	285,500	-700
Nondurable Goods	190,000	189,800	-200	187,900	187,300	-600
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,379,800	2,380,500	700	2,330,800	2,333,700	2,900
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,974,900	1,976,500	1,600	1,932,700	1,935,500	2,800
TRADE	436,500	436,700	200	433,400	433,400	0
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	111,900	111,900	0	109,700	109,700	0
INFORMATION	47,000	47,700	700	46,800	47,600	800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,600	153,600	0	152,500	152,800	300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	323,400	324,000	600	315,000	315,900	900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	458,300	458,600	300	454,200	455,500	1,300
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	290,100	289,700	-400	267,200	266,400	-800
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	154,100	154,300	200	153,900	154,200	300
GOVERNMENT	404,900	404,000	-900	398,100	398,200	100
Federal Government	29,100	29,000	-100	29,000	28,800	-200
State Government	92,400	91,800	-600	87,200	87,200	0
Local Government	283,400	283,200	-200	281,900	282,200	300

2. MONTHLY ESTIMATES FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Place of Residence Data	Feb-19 (P)	Jan-19 (R)	Net Change	Feb-19 (P)	Jan-19 (R)	Net Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3,126,900	3,127,200	-300	3,117,900	3,104,100	13,800
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	67.5%	67.6%	-0.1%	67.3%	67.1%	0.2%
EMPLOYMENT	3,036,000	3,033,500	2,500	3,014,200	2,995,700	18,500
UNEMPLOYMENT	90,900	93,700	-2,800	103,700	108,400	-4,700
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2.9%	3.0%	-0.1%	3.3%	3.5%	-0.2%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.0%	-0.2%	4.1%	4.4%	-0.3%
Place of Work Data						
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,985,200	2,988,600	-3,400	2,934,300	2,923,800	10,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,584,300	2,584,600	-300	2,522,100	2,525,600	-3,500
GOODS PRODUCING	607,100	608,100	-1,000	587,000	590,100	-3,100
MINING & LOGGING	4,800	4,700	100	4,400	4,300	100
CONSTRUCTION	125,700	125,900	-200	111,300	113,000	-1,700
MANUFACTURING	476,600	477,500	-900	471,300	472,800	-1,500
Durable Goods	286,300	287,700	-1,400	283,400	285,500	-2,100
Nondurable Goods	190,300	189,800	500	187,900	187,300	600
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,378,100	2,380,500	-2,400	2,347,300	2,333,700	13,600
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,977,200	1,976,500	700	1,935,100	1,935,500	-400
TRADE	439,400	436,700	2,700	430,800	433,400	-2,600
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	110,300	111,900	-1,600	108,300	109,700	-1,400
INFORMATION	47,600	47,700	-100	47,400	47,600	-200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	153,600	153,600	0	152,900	152,800	100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	325,200	324,000	1,200	318,100	315,900	2,200
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	456,400	458,600	-2,200	456,900	455,500	1,400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	290,700	289,700	1,000	266,800	266,400	400
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	154,000	154,300	-300	153,900	154,200	-300
GOVERNMENT	400,900	404,000	-3,100	412,200	398,200	14,000
Federal Government	29,100	29,000	100	28,900	28,800	100
State Government	91,700	91,800	-100	98,000	87,200	10,800
Local Government	280,100	283,200	-3,100	285,300	282,200	3,100

Note: Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding. (P) = Prelim; (R) = Revised Numbers in blue are statistically significant changes.
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Bureau of Workforce Information and Technical Support.

4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2017 Employment			2018 Employment			Sep-Sep Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep	Number	Percent	Q3:2017	Q3:2018	Number	Percent
TOTAL	2,862,037	2,864,444	2,869,912	2,884,436	2,895,894	2,888,858	18,946	0.7%	\$32,615,793	\$33,848,407	\$1,232,614	3.8%
Total Private	2,526,879	2,527,803	2,492,701	2,548,431	2,551,158	2,511,735	19,034	0.8%	\$28,522,822	\$29,823,989	\$1,301,167	4.6%
Natural Resources & Mining	33,443	33,792	34,218	33,654	33,845	34,449	231	0.7%	\$312,812	\$328,127	\$15,315	4.9%
Construction	127,699	127,323	124,612	132,251	132,313	129,485	4,873	3.9%	\$1,898,126	\$2,016,779	\$118,653	6.3%
Manufacturing	475,048	474,419	468,305	483,772	483,918	477,683	9,378	2.0%	\$6,451,884	\$6,752,477	\$300,593	4.7%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	540,963	541,995	537,774	543,138	544,083	537,976	202	0.0%	\$5,254,348	\$5,486,550	\$232,202	4.4%
Information	47,978	47,832	47,255	47,527	47,469	46,940	-315	-0.7%	\$831,829	\$832,866	\$1,037	0.1%
Financial Activities	151,255	151,037	149,153	150,935	150,918	149,140	-13	0.0%	\$2,270,231	\$2,355,297	\$85,066	3.7%
Professional & Business Services	330,098	330,562	327,573	331,613	332,345	327,236	-337	-0.1%	\$4,418,750	\$4,653,147	\$234,397	5.3%
Education & Health Services	427,292	428,164	429,418	432,284	433,783	433,963	4,545	1.1%	\$5,116,878	\$5,323,770	\$206,892	4.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	305,106	304,662	287,366	306,671	305,783	289,355	1,989	0.7%	\$1,311,246	\$1,409,037	\$97,791	7.5%
Other Services	85,623	85,362	84,237	85,427	85,350	84,049	-188	-0.2%	\$618,550	\$645,966	\$27,416	4.4%
Unclassified	2,374	2,655	2,790	1,159	1,351	1,459	-1,331	-47.7%	\$38,167	\$19,974	-\$18,193	-47.7%
Total Government	335,158	336,641	377,211	336,005	344,736	377,123	-88	0.0%	\$4,092,970	\$4,024,418	-\$68,552	-1.7%

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.