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BLS Data: Wisconsin Adds 11,100 Total Non-Farm Jobs in January; Unemployment Rate Declined to 3.8 Percent

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) preliminary employment estimates for the month of January 2021. The data shows that Wisconsin added 11,100 total non-farm and 7,000 private-sector jobs in the month of January. Wisconsin's unemployment rate in January was 3.8 percent, down from 4.0 percent in December 2020.

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's labor force participation rate in January was 65.5, 4.1 percent higher than the national rate of 61.4 percent. Wisconsin's unemployment rate in January was 3.8 percent, while the national unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in the same month.
- **Place of Work Data:** Wisconsin added 7,000 private-sector and 11,100 total non-farm jobs from December 2020 to January 2021. Both non-farm and private sector jobs were lower in January 2021 than they were in January 2020.

"The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged workers and businesses across Wisconsin and the nation," DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek said. "Our unemployment rate in January was 3.8 percent, approaching pre-pandemic levels, and that should be celebrated. However, we also know impact of this pandemic is not over. Looking ahead to recovery in 2021, DWD will continue working tirelessly to help people gain employment or enter training programs that match their skills and career goals, focusing resources to align with emerging opportunities we are seeing in the post-pandemic job market trends."

BLS also recently published "benchmarked" estimates for the monthly employment and unemployment data sets covering 2020 and prior years. The benchmarking process is designed to bring the sample-based series into closer alignment with the actual job counts from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

"Benchmarking is a process that realigns the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey data with the actual data as supplied by the latest Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data," said Dennis Winters, Chief Labor Economist. "The CES is a sample of jobs at employers conducted across the nation. The QCEW are data as reported to UI by all firms in Wisconsin covered by the unemployment insurance system."

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	
	Jan-21	Dec-20	Jan-20	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,056,500	3,053,800	3,085,000	2,700	-28,500
Employment	2,939,500	2,932,200	2,982,800	7,300	-43,300
Unemployment	116,900	121,600	102,200	-4,700	14,700
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.0%	3.3%	-0.2%	0.5%
US Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.7%	3.5%	-0.4%	2.8%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.5%	65.5%	66.4%	0.0%	-0.9%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.4%	61.5%	63.4%	-0.1%	-2.0%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,842,200	2,831,100	2,995,100	11,100	-152,900
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,459,900	2,452,900	2,585,600	7,000	-125,700
GOODS PRODUCING	596,100	597,300	610,300	-1,200	-14,200
MINING & LOGGING	3,600	3,500	4,000	100	-400
CONSTRUCTION	123,700	126,700	126,700	-3,000	-3,000
MANUFACTURING	468,800	467,100	479,600	1,700	-10,800
Durable Goods	271,100	271,200	285,000	-100	-13,900
Nondurable Goods	197,700	195,900	194,600	1,800	3,100
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,246,100	2,233,800	2,384,800	12,300	-138,700
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,863,800	1,855,600	1,975,300	8,200	-111,500
TRADE	414,400	410,400	421,500	4,000	-7,100
Wholesale Trade	119,200	117,800	123,300	1,400	-4,100
Retail Trade	295,200	292,600	298,200	2,600	-3,000
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	114,800	115,400	114,800	-600	0
INFORMATION	45,600	44,400	47,000	1,200	-1,400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	150,600	150,900	154,800	-300	-4,200
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	25,400	25,800	27,500	-400	-2,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	318,600	316,500	327,300	2,100	-8,700
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	112,200	111,500	115,900	700	-3,700
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	141,300	139,900	145,300	1,400	-4,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	449,700	448,300	468,200	1,400	-18,500
Educational Services	50,600	49,600	55,400	1,000	-4,800
Health Care & Social Assistance	399,100	398,700	412,800	400	-13,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	225,500	224,000	288,300	1,500	-62,800
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	30,300	29,700	44,800	600	-14,500
Accommodation & Food Services	195,200	194,300	243,500	900	-48,300
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	144,600	145,700	153,400	-1,100	-8,800
GOVERNMENT	382,300	378,200	409,500	4,100	-27,200
Federal Government	29,900	30,100	29,600	-200	300
State Government	90,100	86,700	94,400	3,400	-4,300
Local Government	262,300	261,400	285,500	900	-23,200

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 LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	PRELIM. Jan-21	REVISED Dec-20	YEAR AGO Jan-20	NET CHANGE OVER	
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA				1-Month	1-Year

Labor Force	3,031,300	3,038,300	3,057,300	-7,000	-26,000
Employment	2,894,600	2,915,400	2,950,000	-20,800	-55,400
Unemployment	136,700	122,900	107,300	13,800	29,400
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.0%	3.5%	0.5%	1.0%
US Unemployment Rate	6.8%	6.5%	4.0%	0.3%	2.8%
Labor Force Participation Rate	65.0%	65.2%	65.8%	-0.2%	-0.8%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	61.0%	61.3%	63.0%	-0.3%	-2.0%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,782,800	2,834,400	2,935,300	-51,600	-152,500
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,406,300	2,447,500	2,533,200	-41,200	-126,900
GOODS PRODUCING	580,200	591,300	594,300	-11,100	-14,100
MINING & LOGGING	3,300	3,400	3,600	-100	-300
CONSTRUCTION	111,300	121,900	114,600	-10,600	-3,300
MANUFACTURING	465,600	466,000	476,100	-400	-10,500
Durable Goods	269,400	270,200	283,600	-800	-14,200
Nondurable Goods	196,200	195,800	192,500	400	3,700
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,202,600	2,243,100	2,341,000	-40,500	-138,400
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,826,100	1,856,200	1,938,900	-30,100	-112,800
TRADE	411,500	419,400	417,800	-7,900	-6,300
Wholesale Trade	118,100	117,300	121,700	800	-3,600
Retail Trade	293,400	302,100	296,100	-8,700	-2,700
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	113,200	117,500	114,200	-4,300	-1,000
Utilities	8,200	8,400	8,600	-200	-400
INFORMATION	45,500	45,000	47,100	500	-1,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	149,400	150,900	153,500	-1,500	-4,100
Finance and Insurance	124,900	125,100	127,000	-200	-2,100
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	24,500	25,800	26,500	-1,300	-2,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	311,000	314,500	319,000	-3,500	-8,000
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	112,200	111,200	115,600	1,000	-3,400
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	65,000	65,200	65,800	-200	-800
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	133,800	138,100	137,600	-4,300	-3,800
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	446,600	452,100	465,900	-5,500	-19,300
Educational Services	48,100	52,200	54,400	-4,100	-6,300
Health Care & Social Assistance	398,500	399,900	411,500	-1,400	-13,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	205,400	210,700	269,800	-5,300	-64,400
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	22,700	24,000	38,600	-1,300	-15,900
Accommodation & Food Services	182,700	186,700	231,200	-4,000	-48,500
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	143,500	146,100	151,600	-2,600	-8,100
GOVERNMENT	376,500	386,900	402,100	-10,400	-25,600
Federal Government	29,900	30,400	29,500	-500	400
State Government	85,300	91,200	90,200	-5,900	-4,900
Local Government	261,300	265,300	282,400	-4,000	-21,100

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.

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