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CONTACT: DWD Communications, CommunicationsOffice@dwd.wisconsin.gov

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BLS Data: Wisconsin Adds 4,100 Nonfarm Jobs in January, Statewide Unemployment Rate Falls to 2.9%

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 2023, which showed Wisconsin added 4,100 nonfarm jobs over the month and 55,800 jobs over the year.

The data also showed that Wisconsin's unemployment rate fell to 2.9% for January, down 0.1 percentage point from the revised 3% in December 2022. The state's labor force participation rate for January was 64.5%. Nationwide for the month of January, the unemployment rate was 3.4% with a labor force participation rate of 62.4%.

- **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's unemployment rate for December 2022 was adjusted lower – from the initially reported 3.2% to 3% – as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics completed its annual benchmarking to update the data underlying the unemployment rate model. Following the benchmarking process, the statewide unemployment rate just released for January 2023 was lower still, coming in 2.9%, 0.5 percentage points below the national rate for January of 3.4%. Following the benchmarking process, the statewide unemployment rate for February also will be released in March.
- **Place of Work Data:** Over the year, Wisconsin added 55,800 nonfarm jobs, with gains of 9,300 manufacturing jobs, 8,100 leisure and hospitality jobs, and 5,400 construction jobs. Over the month for January, Wisconsin nonfarm jobs increased by 4,100.

"Wisconsin's historically low unemployment rate, combined with strong job growth across multiple sectors, continues to signal the vitality and resilience of our workforce and economy," said DWD Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek. "While these numbers are incredibly positive, they also call out the need for continued efforts to remove employment barriers and equip workers with in-demand skills. DWD and its partners are hard at work on these strategies, building and strengthening Wisconsin's workforce for the 21st century and beyond."

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

ABOUT DWD

Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development efficiently delivers effective and inclusive services to meet Wisconsin's diverse workforce needs now and for the future. The department advocates for and invests in the protection and economic advancement of all Wisconsin workers, employers and job seekers through six divisions – Employment and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, Unemployment Insurance, Equal Rights,

Worker's Compensation and Administrative Services. To keep up with DWD announcements and information, [sign up for news releases](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

Seasonally Adjusted

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Jan-23	Dec-22	Jan-22	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,067,800	3,068,600	3,091,700	-800	-23,900
Employment	2,979,900	2,976,700	3,004,200	3,200	-24,300
Unemployment	88,000	91,900	87,500	-3,900	500
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	3.0%	2.8%	-0.1%	0.1%
US Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.5%	4.0%	-0.1%	-0.6%
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.5%	64.6%	65.4%	-0.1%	-0.9%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.4%	62.3%	62.2%	0.1%	0.2%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2,987,900	2,983,800	2,932,100	4,100	55,800
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,589,200	2,584,400	2,537,900	4,800	51,300
GOODS PRODUCING	622,000	617,600	607,200	4,400	14,800
MINING & LOGGING	3,700	3,800	3,600	-100	100
CONSTRUCTION	134,500	132,100	129,100	2,400	5,400
MANUFACTURING	483,800	481,700	474,500	2,100	9,300
Durable Goods	287,100	284,600	279,100	2,500	8,000
Nondurable Goods	196,700	197,100	195,400	-400	1,300
SERVICE PROVIDING	2,365,900	2,366,200	2,324,900	-300	41,000
PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING	1,967,200	1,966,800	1,930,700	400	36,500
TRADE	426,900	425,200	416,100	1,700	10,800
Wholesale Trade	129,900	129,200	125,000	700	4,900
Retail Trade	297,000	296,000	291,100	1,000	5,900
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	124,300	126,600	124,400	-2,300	-100
INFORMATION	46,200	46,600	45,500	-400	700
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	160,300	159,700	157,400	600	2,900
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	28,300	28,100	27,000	200	1,300
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	325,300	326,300	324,400	-1,000	900
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	127,100	126,600	122,100	500	5,000
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	132,400	133,500	138,500	-1,100	-6,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	464,600	464,200	453,900	400	10,700
Private Educational Services	57,300	57,000	55,800	300	1,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	407,300	407,200	398,100	100	9,200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	272,100	271,100	264,000	1,000	8,100
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	40,100	40,600	40,100	-500	0
Accommodation & Food Services	232,000	230,500	223,900	1,500	8,100
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	147,500	147,100	145,000	400	2,500
GOVERNMENT	398,700	399,400	394,200	-700	4,500
Federal Government	29,700	29,600	29,700	100	0
State Government	92,700	93,300	92,000	-600	700
Local Government	276,300	276,500	272,500	-200	3,800

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

PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	PRELIM.	REVISED	YEAR AGO	NET CHANGE OVER	
	Jan-23	Dec-22	Jan-22	1-Month	1-Year
Labor Force	3,039,100	3,045,800	3,063,600	-6,700	-24,500
Employment	2,958,000	2,977,500	2,965,600	-19,500	-7,600
Unemployment	81,100	68,300	98,100	12,800	-17,000
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.2%	3.2%	0.5%	-0.5%
US Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.3%	4.4%	0.6%	-0.5%
Labor Force Participation Rate	63.9%	64.1%	64.8%	-0.2%	-0.9%
US Labor Force Participation Rate	62.1%	62.0%	61.9%	0.1%	0.2%

PLACE OF WORK DATA

<i>NONFARM WAGE & SALARY</i>	2,926,900	2,984,700	2,873,900	-57,800	53,000
TOTAL PRIVATE	2,534,700	2,578,000	2,489,100	-43,300	45,600
<i>GOODS PRODUCING</i>	606,800	614,100	592,300	-7,300	14,500
MINING & LOGGING	3,500	3,700	3,400	-200	100
CONSTRUCTION	121,600	127,600	116,800	-6,000	4,800
MANUFACTURING	481,700	482,800	472,100	-1,100	9,600
Durable Goods	285,600	284,900	278,400	700	7,200
Nondurable Goods	196,100	197,900	193,700	-1,800	2,400
<i>SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	2,320,100	2,370,600	2,281,600	-50,500	38,500
<i>PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDING</i>	1,927,900	1,963,900	1,896,800	-36,000	31,100
TRADE	425,500	432,200	414,200	-6,700	11,300
Wholesale Trade	129,400	129,000	123,900	400	5,500
Retail Trade	296,100	303,200	290,300	-7,100	5,800
TRANS., WAREHOUSING, & UTILITIES	122,800	130,300	125,200	-7,500	-2,400
Utilities	8,100	8,200	8,100	-100	0
INFORMATION	45,900	46,400	45,400	-500	500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	159,700	159,700	156,300	0	3,400
Finance and Insurance	132,000	131,800	130,300	200	1,700
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	27,700	27,900	26,000	-200	1,700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	315,000	324,500	317,600	-9,500	-2,600
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	125,700	125,400	121,600	300	4,100
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	65,100	66,100	63,700	-1,000	1,400
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	124,200	133,000	132,300	-8,800	-8,100
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICE	460,000	466,500	451,500	-6,500	8,500
Private Educational Services	55,200	59,700	55,300	-4,500	-100
Health Care & Social Assistance	404,800	406,800	396,200	-2,000	8,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	252,600	257,200	243,600	-4,600	9,000
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	33,700	34,400	33,700	-700	0
Accommodation & Food Services	218,900	222,800	209,900	-3,900	9,000
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin.	146,400	147,100	143,000	-700	3,400
GOVERNMENT	392,200	406,700	384,800	-14,500	7,400
Federal Government	29,700	29,800	29,600	-100	100
State Government	87,200	97,700	85,500	-10,500	1,700
Local Government	275,300	279,200	269,700	-3,900	5,600

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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