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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wisconsin Adds Almost 40,000 Private-Sector Jobs During Year Ending in March 2015

*New quarterly data also show private sector wages grew by 4.5% compared to the first quarter of 2014*

MADISON – New quarterly census job count data shows Wisconsin gained almost 40,000 private-sector jobs from March 2014 to March 2015, including almost 6,300 jobs in manufacturing. In addition, quarterly wages by covered private-sector employers grew by 4.5 percent over the same quarter in 2014.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released the state's Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) covering the first quarter of 2015. The data is based on actual job reports from over 135,000 Wisconsin employers. Highlights from the actual job counts, when compared to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) published data for 2014, include:

- Wisconsin added 39,652 private-sector jobs from March 2014 to March 2015.
- Quarterly wages by covered private-sector employers grew by 4.5 percent year over year.
- Wisconsin's manufacturing sector added close to 6,300 jobs over the 12-month period.
- Construction wages grew by 11.5 percent from the first quarter 2014.

Other indicators that help illustrate the state of Wisconsin's economy include:

- Average Initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims for the first 32 weeks of 2015 dropped to the lowest point since 1990, and the annual average weekly continued UI claims are at their lowest levels since 2000.
- [Department of Financial Institutions](#) new business formation: The number of new business entities formed in Wisconsin in the first seven months of 2015 grew by 3.4% percent compared to same period in 2014. As of July 31, 2015, new business filings totaled 24,625, compared to 23,875 in the same period in 2014.
- [Chief Executive Magazine](#) ranked Wisconsin the "12<sup>th</sup> Best State for Business" in its annual survey of CEO's, an increase of 2 spots over the 2014 ranking, and a big increase over 2010, when the state ranked 41<sup>st</sup>.
- [Manpower Employment Outlook Survey](#) gave Wisconsin a better outlook than the nation and our second best outlook since the end of the recession for the 3rd quarter.

"The private sector is creating employment opportunities for tens of thousands of working families across our state year after year," DWD Secretary Reggie Newson said. "We are working aggressively with employers, economic development entities, technical colleges and other partners to advance innovative programs that ensure workers are prepared for these new opportunities as the state's economy grows and adds more jobs."

Every quarter, all employers covered under state or federal unemployment insurance are required to submit tax reports on monthly employment, quarterly total and taxable wages, and contributions for hourly and salaried employees. Wisconsin has nearly 170,000 business establishments employing some 2.7 million workers that are required by state and federal statutes to submit this information to DWD. DWD sends the data to the BLS, which incorporates the information when it publishes the QCEW.

Wisconsin has received the BLS's sign-off on state data covering the first quarter of 2015 and will post the first-quarter data on its [WORKnet](#) site in the coming days. The BLS will incorporate the data in its next QCEW release scheduled for September 17, 2015. Information about the QCEW, including data for the 2014 quarters and 2015 first quarter, can be accessed through the BLS website at <http://bls.gov/cew/>.

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## EMPLOYMENT AND TOTAL WAGES

### 4. LATEST QUARTERLY DATA: CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

	2014 Employment*			2015 Employment†			Mar-Mar Change		Total Wages		Change	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Number	Percent	Q1:2014*	Q1:2015†	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,675,059	2,679,742	2,694,725	2,714,807	2,720,098	2,734,324	39,599	1.5%	\$29,851,635	\$31,039,982	\$1,188,347	4.0%
<b>Total Private</b>	2,296,857	2,295,876	2,309,261	2,336,795	2,333,765	2,348,913	39,652	1.7%	\$25,585,432	\$26,731,734	\$1,146,302	4.5%
Natural Resources & Mining	24,796	24,866	25,653	26,376	26,411	27,321	1,668	6.5%	\$213,398	\$236,361	\$22,963	10.8%
Construction	86,611	85,633	88,563	93,527	92,297	94,637	6,074	6.9%	\$1,109,236	\$1,236,908	\$127,672	11.5%
Manufacturing	452,962	451,838	453,585	459,700	459,080	459,878	6,293	1.4%	\$6,260,325	\$6,382,737	\$122,412	2.0%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities (Total)	507,584	503,248	505,850	512,283	506,954	510,018	4,168	0.8%	\$4,694,312	\$4,807,205	\$112,893	2.4%
Retail Trade (NAICS 44-45)	295,158	290,795	292,192	296,641	291,861	293,662	1,470	0.5%	\$1,765,684	\$1,806,856	\$41,172	2.3%
Information	47,176	47,032	46,784	48,103	47,748	47,440	656	1.4%	\$761,915	\$838,060	\$76,145	10.0%
Financial Activities	143,147	142,946	143,209	144,295	144,077	144,363	1,154	0.8%	\$2,680,725	\$2,805,393	\$124,668	4.7%
Professional & Business Services	296,315	297,339	296,957	300,675	301,166	301,798	4,841	1.6%	\$3,959,667	\$4,273,580	\$313,913	7.9%
Education & Health Services	401,326	403,312	404,687	405,593	407,951	409,733	5,046	1.2%	\$4,355,357	\$4,481,807	\$126,450	2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	240,925	242,294	245,114	245,275	246,379	250,771	5,657	2.3%	\$899,055	\$940,222	\$41,167	4.6%
Other Services	82,014	82,287	82,794	81,674	81,539	82,403	-391	-0.5%	\$510,805	\$527,535	\$16,730	3.3%
Unclassified	14,001	15,081	16,065	19,294	20,163	20,551	4,486	27.9%	\$140,637	\$201,925	\$61,288	43.6%
<b>Total Government</b>	378,202	383,866	385,464	378,012	386,333	385,411	-53	0.0%	\$4,266,203	\$4,308,249	\$42,046	1.0%

Total wages are in thousands (Totals may not equal due to rounding)

\*Data as published by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

†Data as will be published at [worknet.wisconsin.gov](http://worknet.wisconsin.gov).

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.