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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GREATER OSHKOSH EMPLOYMENT NEARS 90K**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016:** The Oshkosh-Neenah MSA monthly unemployment rate decreased to 3.8 percent in December from 4.4 percent in December 2014, according to figures released from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Wisconsin's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in December from a revised 4.7 percent in December 2014. The U.S. unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in December. Total employment in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA increased slightly to 89,965 in December from 88,299 in December 2014 – an increase of 1.9 percent.

“Employment continues to rise, with the private sector in particular up by 2.5 percent in the past year”, said Jason White, CEO of Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation. “Manufacturing sector employment has had little variability recently, but added jobs in the last month - hopefully a good sign that not only are jobs being created, but that employers are finding qualified workers, too.”

The last time the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA region reached a 90,000 employment base was November 2008. The recent historical peak was in July 2008 at 91,335.

The Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation tracks economic indicators in the greater Oshkosh region and is assisted by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development in analyzing the data.

*Greater Oshkosh EDC provides leadership, direction, coordination and services to advance economic development in the greater Oshkosh, Wisconsin region.*

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