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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO REACH RECORD HIGHS IN OSHKOSH METRO AREA**

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** The Oshkosh-Neenah Metropolitan (MSA) unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in March, down 0.9 percent from March 2016. Out of 12 metropolitans, the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for the lowest unemployment rate in March 2017. Wisconsin had an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent while the U.S. unemployment rate was 4.6 percent, not seasonally adjusted.

The total civilian labor force in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA increased from 92,734 in March 2016 to 93,456 in March 2017, with total employment rising from 89,021 to 90,543. Over the same period, the total number of unemployed persons dropped from 3,713 to 2,913.

The number of unemployed persons in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA, as well as the unemployment percentage, are the lowest for a March since 2000. Additionally, the total employment number is the highest of any March since 1999.

The Oshkosh-Neenah MSA experienced another economic milestone in March 2017—the average hourly earnings reached \$21.83—the highest of any March since the Bureau of Labor Statistics started tracking in 2007. The average weekly earnings also increased to \$746.59 in March 2017 from \$701.72 in March 2016. This increase represents the 5<sup>th</sup> largest weekly earnings growth over that period (out of 12 metropolitans).

The Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation utilizes data from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to track economic indicators in the greater Oshkosh region.

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

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