



**CONTACT:**

Jason E. White

Chief Executive Officer

2380 Hwy 44, Suite B, Oshkosh, WI 54904

(920) 230-3322

Jason.White@GreaterOshkosh.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CONTINUES TO DECREASE IN OSHKOSH-NEENAH MSA**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** The Oshkosh-Neenah Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unemployment rate was 2.4 percent in December 2017, down 0.8 percent from December 2016. Wisconsin had an unemployment rate of 2.7 percent while the U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, not seasonally adjusted.

The total civilian labor force in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA climbed from 92,525 in December 2016 to 93,518 in December 2017, a 1.1 percent increase, while total employment grew from 89,546 to 91,292, a 2.0 percent increase. Over that same period, the total number of unemployed persons dropped 25.3 percent, from 2,979 in December 2016 to 2,226 in December 2017.

The unemployment rate and the number of unemployed persons in the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA are the lowest since October 2000.

The average hourly earnings for the Oshkosh-Neenah MSA reached \$23.10, while the average weekly earnings increased to \$796.95 in December. Both the hourly and weekly earnings are the highest of any month since the Bureau of Labor Statistics started tracking in 2007.

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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