



Monthly Employment Watch:

Milwaukee and the Nation's Largest Cities

A monthly report on employment trends in the nation's largest cities

Prepared by:

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Each month, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development, drawing on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, monitors employment trends in Milwaukee and the nation's fifty largest cities. In addition, the Center also compares employment trends in Milwaukee to a smaller and more directly comparable group of "peer" cities, the twenty largest cities of the Northeast-Midwest "Frostbelt" region. Each month, the data compiled by the Center display year-over-year total employment for three different time periods: a) the most recent year (2006-2007); b) the past three years (2004-2007); and since 2000. By looking at three different time periods, and two different samples of cities, we hope to provide a fuller sense of how Milwaukee's employment growth stacks up against other big cities over time, and how Milwaukee's position has changed over time.

The most recent monthly employment data for cities (July) reveal that in the last year the number of employed residents in the city of Milwaukee increased by 2,191, or 0.9%. This places Milwaukee 39th among the nation's 50 largest cities in rate of employment growth over the past year (Table 1), and 10th among the nation's 20 largest "Frostbelt" cities (Table 4). These rankings represent improvements from June, when Milwaukee ranked 42nd among the 50 largest cities, and 11th in the Frostbelt.

Since 2004, July employment in Milwaukee has increased by 3,212 (1.3%), placing the city 46th among the nation's 50 largest cities (Table 2) and 13th among the 20 largest Frostbelt cities (Table 5) during this time period. These rankings remain unchanged since June. Clearly, although employment has increased in Milwaukee since 2004, the pace of growth remains much less robust than in most big cities, both in the nation as a whole as well as in the Frostbelt.

Moreover, the improvements of recent years have not compensated for the massive employment loss experienced in Milwaukee since 2000. Since July 2000, Milwaukee's employment has declined by 16,092, or 6.0%. This decline places Milwaukee 46th among the nation's 50 largest cities in employment growth since 2000 (Table 3), and 18th among the 20 largest Frostbelt cities (Table 6).

**Table 1: Employment Growth in the Nation's Fifty Largest Cities:
2006-2007**

Rank	City	July 2006	July 2007	%change
1	Las Vegas	272,006	283,510	4.2%
2	Tucson	243,960	254,135	4.2%
3	Seattle	342,985	355,437	3.6%
4	Wichita	179,333	185,781	3.6%
5	Phoenix	793,896	821,884	3.5%
6	Mesa City (AZ)	241,226	249,730	3.5%
7	Miami	159,492	164,802	3.3%
8	Nashville	303,205	312,976	3.2%
9	Jacksonville	391,987	404,063	3.1%
10	Memphis	296,620	305,684	3.1%
11	Atlanta	210,906	217,294	3.0%
12	Denver	295,959	304,917	3.0%
13	Albuquerque	251,509	258,458	2.8%
14	Austin	394,276	404,114	2.5%
15	Houston	948,772	970,879	2.3%
16	Charlotte	324,699	332,073	2.3%
17	San Francisco	403,712	412,818	2.3%
18	El Paso	233,517	238,403	2.1%
19	Kansas City	224,086	228,704	2.1%
20	Oklahoma City	252,048	257,142	2.0%
21	Long Beach	221,105	225,534	2.0%
22	Los Angeles	1,784,627	1,820,374	2.0%
23	Louisville	342,267	349,042	2.0%
24	Omaha	219,800	224,011	1.9%
25	Sacramento	202,828	206,697	1.9%
26	Virginia Beach	221,730	225,914	1.9%
27	Fort Worth	288,996	293,940	1.7%
28	San Jose	416,483	423,583	1.7%
29	Columbus	396,738	403,201	1.6%
30	Colorado Springs	206,041	209,315	1.6%
31	Dallas	577,669	585,892	1.4%
32	Chicago	1,271,168	1,288,317	1.3%
33	St. Louis	149,126	151,091	1.3%
34	Boston	276,561	280,194	1.3%
35	Portland	283,261	286,716	1.2%
36	Oakland	179,916	181,968	1.1%
37	San Diego	650,228	656,262	0.9%
38	San Antonio	585,810	591,168	0.9%
39	Milwaukee	250,568	252,759	0.9%
40	Philadelphia	590,869	593,665	0.5%
41	Honolulu	439,660	441,687	0.5%
42	Detroit	317,659	317,974	0.1%
43	Minneapolis	212,871	212,936	0.0%
44	Tulsa	202,297	202,288	0.0%
45	Washington, D.C.	304,827	303,922	-0.3%
46	Baltimore	264,847	263,982	-0.3%
47	New York	3,635,872	3,623,639	-0.3%
48	Fresno	208,877	208,039	-0.4%
49	Indianapolis	419,230	416,340	-0.7%
50	Cleveland	179,331	177,563	-1.0%

**Table 2: Employment Growth in the Nation's Fifty Largest Cities:
2004-2007**

Rank	City	July 2004	July 2007	% change
1	Mesa City (AZ)	223,142	249,730	11.9%
2	Phoenix	734,381	821,884	11.9%
3	Atlanta	196,195	217,294	10.8%
4	Fort Worth	265,510	293,940	10.7%
5	Miami	149,662	164,802	10.1%
6	Seattle	323,195	355,437	10.0%
7	Albuquerque	235,690	258,458	9.7%
8	Jacksonville	369,335	404,063	9.4%
9	Memphis	280,351	305,684	9.0%
10	Charlotte	306,783	332,073	8.2%
11	Wichita	173,098	185,781	7.3%
12	Nashville	291,736	312,976	7.3%
13	Colorado Springs	195,540	209,315	7.0%
14	Denver	285,006	304,917	7.0%
15	San Antonio	553,819	591,168	6.7%
16	Tucson	238,496	254,135	6.6%
17	Las Vegas	268,492	283,510	5.6%
18	Sacramento	196,265	206,697	5.3%
19	Honolulu	419,512	441,687	5.3%
20	Louisville	331,599	349,042	5.3%
21	Long Beach	214,296	225,534	5.2%
22	Los Angeles	1,729,668	1,820,374	5.2%
23	San Jose	403,701	423,583	4.9%
24	Washington, D.C.	290,319	303,922	4.7%
25	Virginia Beach	216,227	225,914	4.5%
26	Chicago	1,234,076	1,288,317	4.4%
27	Omaha	214,734	224,011	4.3%
28	Columbus	387,332	403,201	4.1%
29	Austin	388,817	404,114	3.9%
30	New York	3,489,055	3,623,639	3.9%
31	San Francisco	397,662	412,818	3.8%
32	Portland	276,757	286,716	3.6%
33	Fresno	201,248	208,039	3.4%
34	San Diego	635,198	656,262	3.3%
35	Kansas City	221,450	228,704	3.3%
36	Tulsa	196,266	202,288	3.1%
37	Oklahoma City	249,620	257,142	3.0%
38	Baltimore	256,927	263,982	2.7%
39	El Paso	232,583	238,403	2.5%
40	Oakland	177,550	181,968	2.5%
41	Philadelphia	583,900	593,665	1.7%
42	Dallas	576,943	585,892	1.6%
43	Houston	956,138	970,879	1.5%
44	Boston	276,491	280,194	1.3%
45	Indianapolis	410,889	416,340	1.3%
46	Milwaukee	249,547	252,759	1.3%
47	Minneapolis	211,038	212,936	0.9%
48	St. Louis	150,411	151,091	0.5%
49	Detroit	321,818	317,974	-1.2%
50	Cleveland	181,214	177,563	-2.0%

**Table 3: Employment Growth in the Nation's Fifty Largest Cities:
2000-2007**

Rank	City	July 2000	July 2007	% change
1	Phoenix	655,518	821,884	25.4%
2	Mesa City (AZ)	199,180	249,730	25.4%
3	Las Vegas	230,854	283,510	22.8%
4	Fort Worth	255,724	293,940	14.9%
5	Sacramento	180,622	206,697	14.4%
6	San Antonio	519,368	591,168	13.8%
7	Tucson	223,896	254,135	13.5%
8	Albuquerque	228,833	258,458	12.9%
9	Atlanta	193,134	217,294	12.5%
10	San Diego	584,717	656,262	12.2%
11	Colorado Springs	187,253	209,315	11.8%
12	Virginia Beach	202,778	225,914	11.4%
13	Miami	148,383	164,802	11.1%
14	Charlotte	299,015	332,073	11.1%
15	Seattle	321,271	355,437	10.6%
16	El Paso	218,897	238,403	8.9%
17	Jacksonville	372,732	404,063	8.4%
18	Fresno	192,303	208,039	8.2%
19	Wichita	172,600	185,781	7.6%
20	Los Angeles	1,700,872	1,820,374	7.0%
21	Long Beach	210,729	225,534	7.0%
22	Houston	911,524	970,879	6.5%
23	Honolulu	415,358	441,687	6.3%
24	Omaha	210,996	224,011	6.2%
25	New York	3,469,315	3,623,639	4.4%
26	Oklahoma City	246,341	257,142	4.4%
27	Austin	387,532	404,114	4.3%
28	Memphis	294,416	305,684	3.8%
29	Columbus	389,922	403,201	3.4%
30	Nashville	303,510	312,976	3.1%
31	Denver	296,613	304,917	2.8%
32	Washington, D.C.	297,421	303,922	2.2%
33	Kansas City	228,099	228,704	0.3%
34	Indianapolis	415,378	416,340	0.2%
35	Louisville	349,841	349,042	-0.2%
36	Tulsa	202,807	202,288	-0.3%
37	Baltimore	266,164	263,982	-0.8%
38	Dallas	592,703	585,892	-1.1%
39	Philadelphia	602,584	593,665	-1.5%
40	Chicago	1,316,078	1,288,317	-2.1%
41	Oakland	186,510	181,968	-2.4%
42	Portland	293,896	286,716	-2.4%
43	Minneapolis	219,574	212,936	-3.0%
44	St. Louis	156,690	151,091	-3.6%
45	Boston	296,111	280,194	-5.4%
46	Milwaukee	268,851	252,759	-6.0%
47	Cleveland	192,090	177,563	-7.6%
48	San Francisco	456,996	412,818	-9.7%
49	Detroit	353,727	317,974	-10.1%
50	San Jose	478,178	423,583	-11.4%

**Table 4: Employment Growth in the Twenty Largest Frostbelt Cities
2006-2007**

Rank	City	July 2006	July 2007	% change
1	Wichita	179,333	185,781	3.6%
2	Houston	948,772	970,879	2.3%
3	Kansas City	224,086	228,704	2.1%
4	Omaha	219,800	224,011	1.9%
5	Columbus	396,738	403,201	1.6%
6	Chicago	1,271,168	1,288,317	1.3%
7	Cincinnati	147,276	149,233	1.3%
8	St. Louis	149,126	151,091	1.3%
9	Boston	276,561	280,194	1.3%
10	Milwaukee	250,568	252,759	0.9%
11	Philadelphia	590,869	593,665	0.5%
12	Detroit	317,659	317,974	0.1%
13	Minneapolis	212,871	212,936	0.0%
14	St. Paul, (MN)	142,704	142,747	0.0%
15	Washington, D.C.	304,827	303,922	-0.3%
16	Baltimore	264,847	263,982	-0.3%
17	New York	3,635,872	3,623,639	-0.3%
18	Buffalo	117,379	116,728	-0.6%
19	Indianapolis	419,230	416,340	-0.7%
20	Cleveland	179,331	177,563	-1.0%

**Table 5: Employment Growth in the Twenty Largest Frostbelt Cities
2004-2007**

Rank	City	July 2004	July 2007	% change
1	Wichita	173,098	185,781	7.3%
2	Washington, D.C.	290,319	303,922	4.7%
3	Chicago	1,234,076	1,288,317	4.4%
4	Omaha	214,734	224,011	4.3%
5	Columbus	387,332	403,201	4.1%
6	New York	3,489,055	3,623,639	3.9%
7	Kansas City	221,450	228,704	3.3%
8	Baltimore	256,927	263,982	2.7%
9	Philadelphia	583,900	593,665	1.7%
10	Houston	956,138	970,879	1.5%
11	Boston	276,491	280,194	1.3%
12	Indianapolis	410,889	416,340	1.3%
13	Milwaukee	249,547	252,759	1.3%
14	Cincinnati	147,343	149,233	1.3%
15	Minneapolis	211,038	212,936	0.9%
16	St. Paul, (MN)	141,791	142,747	0.7%
17	St. Louis	150,411	151,091	0.5%
18	Buffalo	117,156	116,728	-0.4%
19	Detroit	321,818	317,974	-1.2%
20	Cleveland	181,214	177,563	-2.0%

**Table 6: Employment Growth in the Twenty Largest Frostbelt Cities
2000-2007**

Rank	City	July 2000	July 2007	%change
1	Wichita	172,600	185,781	7.6%
2	Houston	911,524	970,879	6.5%
3	Omaha	210,996	224,011	6.2%
4	New York	3,469,315	3,623,639	4.4%
5	Columbus	389,922	403,201	3.4%
6	Washington, D.C.	297,421	303,922	2.2%
7	Kansas City	228,099	228,704	0.3%
8	Indianapolis	415,378	416,340	0.2%
9	Baltimore	266,164	263,982	-0.8%
10	Philadelphia	602,584	593,665	-1.5%
11	Chicago	1,316,078	1,288,317	-2.1%
12	Cincinnati	152,993	149,233	-2.5%
13	Minneapolis	219,574	212,936	-3.0%
14	Buffalo	120,688	116,728	-3.3%
15	St. Louis	156,690	151,091	-3.6%
16	St.Paul, (MN)	149,468	142,747	-4.5%
17	Boston	296,111	280,194	-5.4%
18	Milwaukee	268,851	252,759	-6.0%
19	Cleveland	192,090	177,563	-7.6%
20	Detroit	353,727	317,974	-10.1%

