The City unemployment rate is still rising – up to 12.3% in June.

Employment levels remain down in both goods-producing and services-providing private companies compared to last year, according to DWD estimates.

**Unemployment:** In June 2009 the estimated unemployment rate for the City of Milwaukee was 12.3%, approaching double the 6.7% rate a year ago. Unemployment in the suburbs rose to 7.8%. An estimated 34,242 City workers and 14,735 suburban workers in Milwaukee County were unemployed in June. [Note: Unemployment rates shown here are the latest revisions from DWD/BLS. Rates are unadjusted.]

**Workers on UI:** The state reported 47,650 Milwaukee County workers receiving weekly unemployment insurance checks at the end of July, up from 45,130 at the end of June. On average over 4,800 workers applied for new UI benefits each week in July.

**Private sector job losses:** Jobs in private companies providing services were down by 27,500 in July 2009, compared to May 2008 for the four-county metro area. In the goods producing sectors, jobs were down by 18,100.

**Firm closings and layoffs:** In July 2009, 3 firms in Milwaukee County reported anticipated layoffs to the state: Harley-Davidson Motor Company (433 anticipated layoffs), US Airways (34 anticipated layoffs), and Stroh Die Casting (19 anticipated layoffs).

**Families receiving W-2:** 5,513 Milwaukee County families received W-2 cash support in July. Of these, 2,707 (49%) had placements in community service jobs, 2,094 (38%) in transition jobs, 23 in “Real Work Real Pay” and trial jobs, and 689 (13%) were parents of newborns receiving aid. The W-2 agencies provided another 1,949 families with case management services but no income support.

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**Wisconsin Shares:** 14,603 Milwaukee County families received Shares child care subsidies for 29,097 children in June 2009

**FoodShares:** In June 2009, 188,014 children and adults in the Milwaukee County received food stamps, up by 4,600 from the previous month.

**BadgerCare Plus:** 167,141 county residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as in June. In July 2009 those numbers had reached 181,487.

**Drilldown Data Sources:** Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (8/17/09)