42,000 Milwaukee County workers receive unemployment compensation; 5,600 more apply

415,455 Milwaukee County residents were reported employed in March 2009 and 43,175 unemployed.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS
42,158 Milwaukee County workers received unemployment insurance payments for the week ending May 2, 2009 (up by 25,539 since January 2007). Another 5,602 workers filed initial claims for UI. Over half (58%) of new claimants are men, and of these 58% are white, 38% African American, and 3% Latino. For women, 51% of new claimants are African American, 45% white, and 3% Latina.

FIRM CLOSINGS AND LAYOFFS
In April 2009, 2 firms in Milwaukee County (GE Healthcare Monitoring Solutions and T-Shirt International) reported anticipated layoffs to the state for a loss of 273 jobs.

SAFETY NETS FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY FAMILIES
The number of Milwaukee County residents receiving FoodShares reached 172,671 in March 2009, up by 31,970 from January 2007.

As of March, 161,816 residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus with numbers continuing to increase.

“W-2” cash assistance cases in March 2009 totaled 4,905, including 4,288 cases with CSJ and transition jobs. The number of families receiving W-2 income support is up by only 365 over January 2007.

14,722 families received Shares child care subsidies in April 2009, up by 1,599 from January 2007. A total of 29,418 children are in care.

2,315 construction trade apprentices
Apprenticeships are down in the construction trades, with a total of 2,315 apprentices in 17 committees with workers in the Milwaukee area. Sharp drops were seen for the carpenters, iron workers, and construction craft laborers.

In Spring 2009, 171 (7%) of the apprentices were African American, and 138 (6%) were Hispanic. Females held 3% of the training jobs.

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (5/11/09)