Prior Quarterly Earnings of 20,539 Laid-Off Milwaukee County Workers in Manufacturing, Construction, and Retail Trade

Unemployment: The improvement in the unemployment rate for the City of Milwaukee (from 12.4% in June to 11.9% in August) resulted from a lower state estimate of out-of-work residents seeking jobs rather than an increase in employed workers. The suburban unemployment rate decline (from 7.8% in June to 7.2% in August) similarly resulted from a lower estimated unemployed job-seeking pool.

Workers on UI: By the end of September, 45,240 Milwaukee County workers were receiving weekly unemployment insurance checks, down from 47,770 at the end of August, as some workers likely exhausted their benefits.

Firm closings and layoffs: In August 2009, 4 firms in Milwaukee County reported 413 anticipated layoffs to the state: Midwest Airlines (175), Unilever (118), Lowe’s Home Centers (73), and J.P. Morgan Chase & Co (43).

Families receiving W-2: The W-2 program continues to show little movement toward enrolling unemployed single parents. In August 5,640 Milwaukee County families received W-2 cash support, up by only 127 over July. The August total included 4,958 cases in some type of work program (88%) and 682 parents of newborns (12%).

Wisconsin Shares: The number of Milwaukee County children in subsidized child care increased from 29,097 in June to an all-time high of 30,271 in August. Enrollments are typically higher near the end of the summer.

FoodShare: Enrollments in FoodShare are at an all-time high in Milwaukee County, with 194,584 children and adults receiving benefits in August, up by over 41,000 from a year ago.

BadgerCare Plus: Nearly as many Milwaukee County residents are now enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as in FoodShare. In August 186,019 residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, up by 4,500 in the last month alone.