The unemployment rate for Milwaukee County was estimated at 8.7% in October – the lowest level in the last 20 months. The first week in December 42,000 laid-off workers in Milwaukee County received unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. The UI rolls are down by 5,000 from August when the federal government last extended benefits.

216,030 county residents (1 in 5) use FoodShare. Since January 2009, FoodShare enrollments have increased by 30% in Milwaukee County and twice that rate (63%) in the rest of the state. 9,800 families received W-2 income support, up 51% over January. Employed parents are ineligible for W-2 cash payments. 24,300 Milwaukee County children received child care subsidies in November, down from over 30,000 in August 2009. Closings/mass lay-offs are 58% lower in 2010 than 2009, yr-to-date.

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (12/17/2010).
Earned income credits to 66,000 families in Milwaukee County totaled $254 million for the 2009 tax year, up 27% over 2008.

The federal earned income tax credit (EIC) offers a refundable tax support to help reduce the payroll and social security tax burdens and to supplement wages for low and moderate income employed families and single persons. Wisconsin adds 4% to the federal credit for families with one qualifying child, 14% to the federal credit for families with two qualifying children, and 43% to the federal credit for families with three or more qualifying children. An examination by the UWM Employment and Training Institute of EIC usage in the 2009 tax year (based on Wisconsin returns filed in 2010) found substantial benefits for families in the county.

- State and federal earned income tax credits to Milwaukee County families increased by 27% in 2009 over 2008 as the federal government raised the payment schedule for families with three or more children and for married couple families.
- In 2009 state earned income tax credits totaled $35.9 million for 66,000 families in the county, and the federal EIC for families generated an estimated $219 million.

65% of employed single parent tax filers in the county receive income boosts under the federal and state EIC.

The earned income tax credit has a large impact on Milwaukee County families, particularly those headed by single parents.

- Of Milwaukee County tax filers (non-elderly) with dependents, 65% of single tax filers and 16% of married filers received the credit in 2009. Overall, the EIC helped an estimated 44% of employed tax-filing families with children.
- 80% of the single parents (and other qualifying caretakers with dependents) earning under $30,000 received the EIC.
- EIC payments were highest for families earning $10,000 to $19,999, where the combined federal and state payments averaged $5,343 for single filers and $6,843 for married families in 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjusted Gross Income</th>
<th>Single Filers</th>
<th>Married Filers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $10,000</td>
<td>$2,289</td>
<td>$3,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 – 19,999</td>
<td>$5,343</td>
<td>$6,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 – 29,999</td>
<td>$3,733</td>
<td>$5,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 – 39,999</td>
<td>$1,890</td>
<td>$3,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 and above</td>
<td>$983</td>
<td>$1,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL CLAIMANTS</td>
<td>$3,723</td>
<td>$4,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin Departments of Revenue, UWM Employment and Training Institute, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (11/19/2010)
Single parents from Milwaukee inner city neighborhoods continue working during the recession; only a 1% drop in earners in 2009 compared to 2007, according to state tax returns

Wisconsin state income tax data for 2009 showed single parents in nine inner city Milwaukee ZIP codes hard hit by the recession remaining in the labor force and continuing to work, although a majority (58%) earned less than $20,000 a year. In 2007 there were 36,407 single filers with dependents from the 9 ZIP codes. In 2009 that number had dropped by less than 300 (or 1%) to 36,114 in spite of record high unemployment. (At the same time the number of single tax filers without dependents declined by 5%.)

### Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

**Unemployment:** The City of Milwaukee unemployment rate was estimated at 11.5% for August 2010. Suburban unemployment was estimated at 6.7%.

**Workers on UI:** In the second week of October 2010, 41,804 Milwaukee County workers were laid-off and receiving weekly unemployment insurance checks, and 2,951 more claimants (54% males, 46% females) applied for benefits. Almost half (48%) of the new claimants were minorities.

**Firm closings and layoffs:** Two plant closings were announced in September: the J C Penny Outlet Store (expecting to lay off 120 workers) and American Concrete Pipe (expecting to lay off 10 workers).

**Families receiving W-2:** The W-2 program reported 9,491 Milwaukee County families receiving cash assistance in September 2010. Payment cases are up by 66% over a year ago and more than double the number receiving aid in September 2008.

**Wisconsin Shares:** The number of Milwaukee County children in subsidized child care in September 2010 totaled 25,837 children. 13,512 families are currently participating in the program.

**FoodShare:** Enrollments in FoodShare are at an all-time high in Milwaukee County, with 213,231 residents receiving benefits in August. One in 5 Milwaukee County residents is using the FoodShare program to help meet their food costs.

**BadgerCare Plus:** Enrollments totaled 200,778 Milwaukee County residents (including 123,848 children) in September 2010, up by over 58,000 since January 2008. One in 2 Milwaukee County children (under age 19) is now enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus program.

**Drilldown Data Sources:** Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (10/21/2010)
The Milwaukee metro area added 22,000 more private sector jobs from March to August 2010. 31% of the jobs were in construction, 24% in food service + drinking places, 14% in manufacturing, and 14% with temp agencies. With students and others seeking summer work, unemployment rose to 9.6% in June and July in the county.

With federal unemployment insurance extensions, over 45,000 laid-off workers in Milwaukee County received UI payments in September 2010.

1 out of every 2 children in Milwaukee County is now enrolled in BadgerCare Plus. In all, 201,000 residents are in the program.

213,000 county residents (1 in 5) use FoodShare program; usage is also up in rest of the state.

13,300 Milwaukee County families received child care subsidies for 25,700 children in August.

Only 9,055 families receive W-2 cash support.
The number of residents with jobs increased by 10,945 since March (by nearly 6,000 from March to May and by 4,950 from May to June) in Milwaukee County. These job gains were insufficient, however, to absorb 8,100 workers entering the labor force in June, including students and others seeking summer jobs.

The increases in residents seeking jobs in June drove the unemployment rate for Milwaukee County up to 9.6% for Milwaukee County (still down from the 10.3% high seen in June 2009) and up to 11.3% for City residents (again, lower than the 12.0% unemployment rate reported in June 2009).

Unemployment insurance (UI) aided 47,000 workers in early August.

The number of laid-off workers receiving federal and state UI payments dropped from March to July. With new federal extensions and catch-up payments, workers in the county receiving UI benefits jumped to 47,234 the first week of August.

Fewer plant closings and mass layoffs in 2010

New plant closings and mass layoff notices issued by Milwaukee County firms have slowed considerably. In the first 7 months of 2010 notices issued for 858 workers were a third of the levels reported in the first 7 months of 2009 (N=2,642).
Aging of the Milwaukee area workforce

Among the greatest challenges facing the 4-county metro area are the retirement of experienced, skilled workers and engagement of younger workers into the labor force. Age shifts are having dramatic impacts on the Milwaukee area labor force – with growing numbers of workers reaching retirement age and leaving the workforce. These changes (anticipated in ETI reports prepared two decades ago) are complicating Milwaukee’s transition out of the recession.

- According to the 2008 American Community Survey, 40% of adult males are aged 50 and over – approaching or already in retirement – up from 32% in 1990.
- In 1990 almost half (47%) of adult males in the metro area were in their 20s and 30s. Today only a third (35%) are in that younger adult age group.
- Nearly 300,000 metro area residents are ages 50 through 64 (including 153,700 women and 145,800 men).

Decline in laid-off workers receiving UI payments

The drop in workers receiving weekly unemployment insurance payments (to 43,700 the last week in June 2010) reflects improvements in employment for some and exhaustion of UI benefits for many others.

Safety Nets for Milwaukee County Residents: Jan. 2009 – June 2010

- FoodShare enrollments continued to climb.
- BadgerCare Plus enrollments decreased slightly under the temporary enrollment cap for single adults in the Core Plan.
- 13,837 families received Wisconsin Shares subsidies for 26,119 children.
- W-2 payment cases rose by over 500 in June.
Driver’s license recovery program continues to show high success rates; more clients are difficult-to-serve.

- Over 5,000 Milwaukee County residents received case management services or license recovery planning advice from the Center for Driver’s License Recovery & Employability from 2007 through 2009.
- The program continues to reach the hard-so-serve target populations -- 66% males, 92% minorities (83% African Americans), all low-income. Clients in 2009 showed higher unemployment, more referrals from the courts and state Department of Corrections, and 62% had 3 or more legal problem areas.
- Success rates remain high – at 57% for the 3 year period.

Milwaukee County unemployment rates dropped to 9.3% in April.
The unemployment rate for City of Milwaukee residents improved from 12.3% in March to 11.1% in April 2010.

46,280 laid-off workers on UI
The volatility of the rolls of laid-off workers receiving unemployment insurance (from 57,472 the 2nd week in Jan. 2010 to 46,280 the 1st week in June 2010) indicates that job security remains a critical concern for employed workers.
**Monthly Employment for Private Firms in the Milwaukee Metro Area: Jan. 2008-April 2010**

CES (Current Employment Statistics) data for Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties (non-govt, non-farm)

Total private sector employment is down by 55,000 since January 2009. CES estimated a 9,800 increase from March to April 2010.

Employment in health and educational services (non-govt.) has increased by 5% (6,900 jobs) since January 2008.

Temp agency jobs are rising but still well below their 2008 levels.

Unemployment: The March 2010 unemployment rate in Milwaukee County (10.5%) was at its highest level in the last 20 years. The rate in the city of Milwaukee was estimated at 12.3%, also a 20-year high.

Workers on UI: 51,020 laid-off workers in Milwaukee County were receiving unemployment insurance at the end of April.

Manufacturing employment dropped by 18% (24,200 jobs) from January 2008 to March 2010 and then rose by an estimated 1,400 jobs in April.

Jobs in retail trade are at their lowest level in the last 3 years.

Firm closings and layoffs: In April three firms in Milwaukee County reported 233 anticipated layoffs and plant closings to the state: KeHE Distributors in Milwaukee (97), Harley-Davidson Motor Company in Franklin (96), and Regional Elite Airline Services in Milwaukee (40).

Families receiving W-2: The W-2 program showed only modest movement toward enrolling unemployed single parents. In April 7,420 families in the county received W-2 cash support.

Wisconsin Shares: The number of Milwaukee County children in subsidized child care totaled 26,412, down by 3,570 from September.

FoodShare: Enrollments in FoodShare are at an all-time high in Milwaukee County, with 207,100 individuals (children and adults) receiving benefits in April.

BadgerCare Plus: One in 5 Milwaukee County residents is enrolled in BadgerCare Plus. Enrollments totaled 202,649 in April, down slightly from the prior month due to a 13% drop in single adults covered by the core plan.

**Drilldown Data Sources:** Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (5/18/2010)
The workforce faces major challenges. Unemployment in the city of Milwaukee (12.3% in March 2010) is at its highest level in the last 20 years. (Rates below from DWD as of 4/21/2010, not seasonally adjusted)

Unemployment is not just a Milwaukee problem. In the city of Waukesha unemployment (11.4% in Feb. and March 2010) also hit a 20-year high.

In spite of rising unemployment, the number of laid-off workers receiving weekly unemployment insurance dropped by 5,464 from February to mid-April, when 48,937 received UI.

Wisconsin Shares: Given increasing unemployment and tighter program enforcement, the number of Milwaukee County families receiving Shares child care subsidies in March 2010 (N=13,836) was down by 1,045 from last September.

Firm plant closings and mass layoffs: In March 2010, three firms reported anticipated plant closings affecting 386 workers: Super Steel in Milwaukee (284 workers), Best Buy, 8875 N. 76th in Milwaukee (62 workers), and Bluemound Restaurant Corp in Greenfield (37 workers).

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (4/21/2010).

One in 5 Milwaukee County residents is using a government safety net.

205,798 on FoodShare

BadgerCare Plus reaches 203,387

7,005 families receive W-2 cash aid
Milwaukee Drilldown, March 2010
for the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

Milwaukee’s unemployment back up to 12% in January 2010 (10.2% for Milwaukee County)

The number of workers receiving unemployment insurance is showing modest declines, likely due to expired benefits. 58% are on permanent layoff.

Firm plant closings and mass layoffs: In February 2010, 1 firm in Milwaukee County (Milwaukee Forge) reported an anticipated plant closing affecting 107 workers.

Safety Nets for Workers and Families

204,503 on FoodShares: One in 5 Milwaukee County residents relies on food stamps to help pay grocery bills. Numbers keep climbing.

BadgerCare Plus: 203,374 residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as of February 2010, including 54,439 parents/caretakers, 121,821 children, 4,276 pregnant women, and 22,838 single adults on the Core Plan.

Wisconsin Shares: 13,856 Milwaukee County families received Shares child care subsidies for 26,474 children in February 2010. These numbers are down from September.

Families receiving W-2: The numbers of families receiving income support under W-2 continue to rise but are far lower than the unemployment rolls. Only 6,639 Milwaukee County families received W-2 cash support in February 2010.

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (3/18/2010); John Pawasarat, Understanding the UI Population in Milwaukee County (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, March 2010).

Prepared by the Employment & Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board

Milwaukee Drill photo courtesy of Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
54,000 laid-off workers in Milwaukee County were receiving weekly unemployment insurance (UI) checks in February 2010.

Most laid-off workers are of prime working age. Only 8% are aged 60 and above.

No new mass layoffs or plant closings were announced by firms in Milwaukee County in January 2010.

Over 200,000 Milwaukee County residents are using FoodShare and BadgerCare Plus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety Net Usage in Milwaukee County</th>
<th>January 2009</th>
<th>January 2010</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FoodShare (individuals)</td>
<td>165,668</td>
<td>202,652</td>
<td>+36,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BadgerCare Plus (individuals)</td>
<td>170,415</td>
<td>201,351</td>
<td>+30,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wis. Shares child care subsidies (families)</td>
<td>14,727</td>
<td>13,374</td>
<td>-1,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-2 cash assistance (families)</td>
<td>4,793</td>
<td>6,524</td>
<td>+1,731</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (2/22/2010); Understanding the Unemployed Workforce in Milwaukee County (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute, 2009).

Layoffs are occurring in all industrial sectors. Laid-off UI workers were employed in manufacturing (22% of the total), administrative support- including temp agencies (20%), construction (9%), retail trade (9%), health and social services (8%), and food service and accommodations (7%), as of Qtr. 2, 2009.

63% of the new UI male claimants from Milwaukee County are whites. (Feb. 2010)

Half of new UI female claimants from Milwaukee County are African Americans.

At least 18,000 laid-off workers on UI are difficult-to-serve. (Qtr. 2, 2009)
**THE YEAR IN REVIEW:** The City of Milwaukee unemployment rate ended the year at 11%, up from 7.7% in December of 2008.

![Graph showing unemployment rates](image)

Private companies in the 4-county area employed 24,200 fewer workers in goods production and 30,300 fewer in services sectors in December 2009 than 2 years ago.

**Private sector employment losses:** Jobs in the goods producing sectors were down by 24,200 in December 2009, compared to January 2008 for the four-county metro area. Jobs in the services providing private sectors dropped even further – down by 30,300 since January 2008 and reversing improvements seen during much of 2008. The biggest declines were in manufacturing (down by 18,400 jobs) and in administrative services, including temp agencies, (down by 15,900 jobs). Health and education were among the few private sectors where employment totals increased (by 6,100 jobs).

**Firm closings and layoffs:** In 2009, 31 firms in Milwaukee County reported anticipated closings and layoffs to the state for a loss of 3,337 jobs. Largest losses were in Milwaukee (1,423), Wauwatosa (658), Oak Creek (654), and West Allis (215).

**Workers on UI:** Over 52,000 laid-off workers in Milwaukee County were receiving weekly unemployment insurance checks in December.

![Graph showing unemployment insurance claims](image)

**200,694 on FoodShare:** One in five Milwaukee County residents now relies on food stamps to help pay grocery bills.

![Graph showing FoodShare recipients](image)

**BadgerCare Plus:** 199,076 residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as of December 2009, including 52,757 parents/caretakers, 119,362 children, 4,383 pregnant women, and 22,574 single adults on the Core Plan.

**Wisconsin Shares:** 13,994 Milwaukee County families received Shares child care subsidies for 26,884 children in December 2009. These numbers are down from 12 months earlier when 14,478 families were receiving subsidies for 29,186 children.

**Families receiving W-2:** Only 6,442 Milwaukee County families received W-2 cash support in December 2009.

![Graph showing W-2 recipients](image)

**Drilldown Data Sources:** Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (1/28/2010)