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 layout 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).

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

Drilldown Data Sources:
Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (8/16/2010).