THE YEAR IN REVIEW: The City of Milwaukee unemployment rate ended the year at 11%, up from 7.7% in December of 2008.

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.

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

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.