

Economic conditions continued to show modest improvements as the unemployment rate for Milwaukee County residents went down for the second month -- from 10.5% in March, to 9.0% in May. The estimated number of residents with employment increased by 6,098 and the number of city of Milwaukee residents with jobs increased by 3,568.

The number of laid-off workers receiving unemployment insurance payments instead of pay checks declined each week in June -- down to 43,702, the week ending June 26<sup>th</sup> as workers found new employment and others ran out of UI benefits. No new plant closings or mass layoffs were reported by Milwaukee County firms in June.

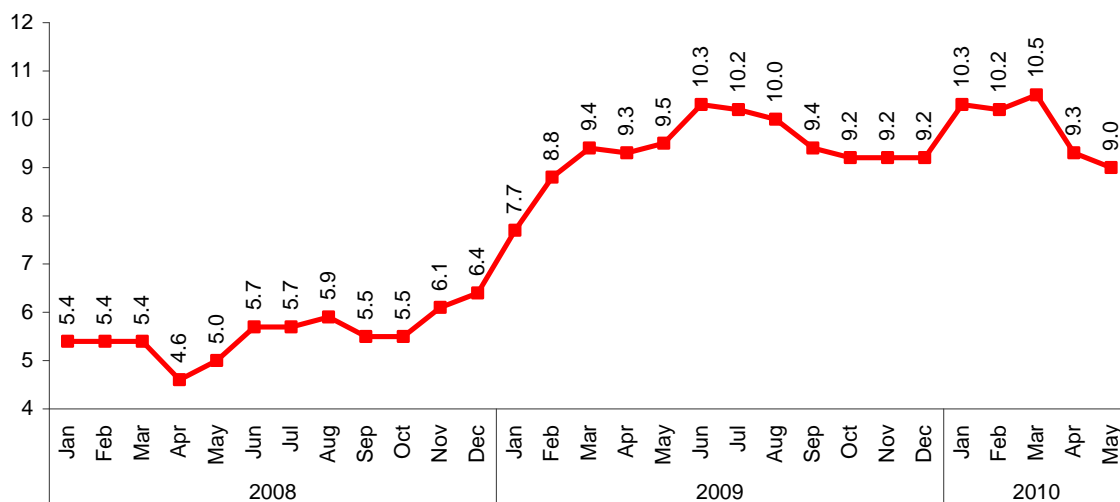
Home foreclosure filings slowed in June 2010. Foreclosure filings in Milwaukee County in the first six months of 2010 were down 7% over last year (January-June).

The increasing reliance on government safety nets is seen in the growth of BadgerCare Plus, where 58,000 residents have been added to the program since January 2008. Currently, 1 out of every 2 children/youth (under age 19) in Milwaukee County is without private health insurance and using the BadgerCare Plus health insurance program subsidized by federal and state funds.

**The unemployment rate for Milwaukee County declined to 9.0% in May 2010, down from above 10% in January-March. An estimated 6,098 more workers were employed in May than in March.**

The unemployment rate in Milwaukee County improved for the second month. The unemployment rate improved in the city of Milwaukee (down to 10.7% in May, compared to 12.3% in March) and in the suburbs (down to 6.5% in May, compared to 7.7% in March).

Unemployment Rate: Milwaukee County Residents

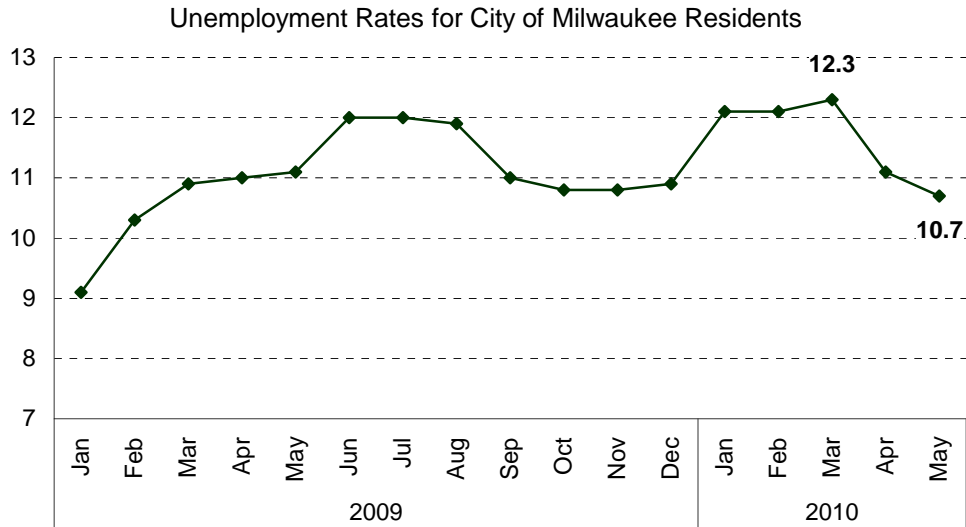


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, unadjusted rates. Some rates may show state modifications of original postings.

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is a family of over 1,000 individual charitable funds, each created by donors to serve the charitable causes of their choice. Grants from these funds serve people throughout Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties and beyond. Started in 1915, the Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the world.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute addresses workforce training, transportation, and education needs of low-income and unemployed workers in Wisconsin through applied research, policy development, and technical assistance.

In the city of Milwaukee unemployment was estimated at 10.7% in May 2010, down from rates of over 12% in January-March. The state estimates that 3,568 more city residents had jobs in May than in March.

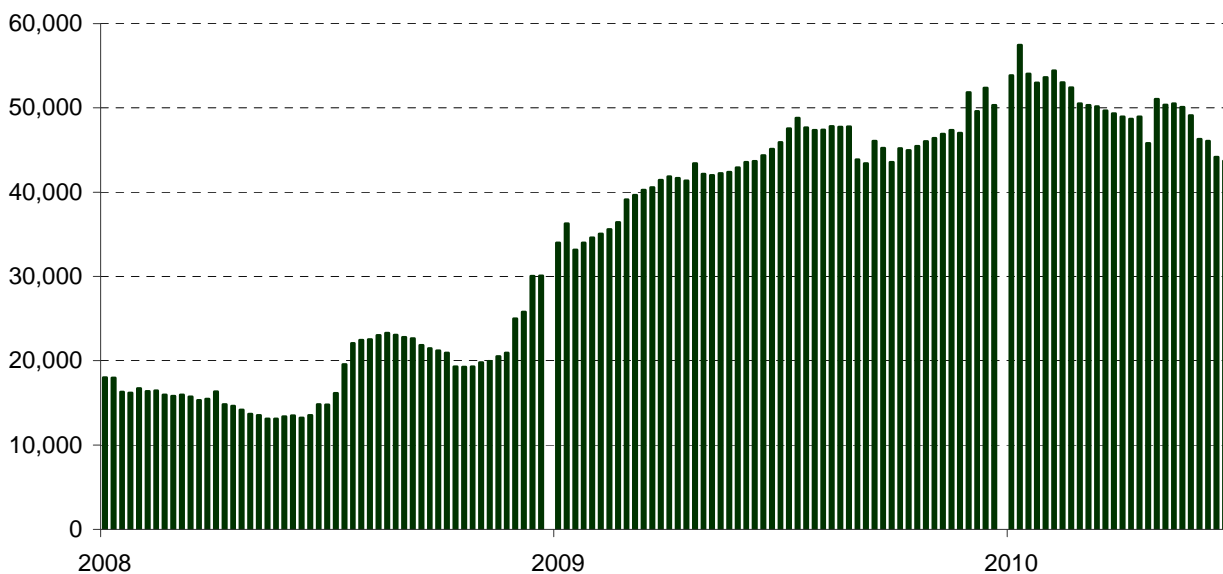


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, rates as posted on 5/31/2010.

**43,700 laid-off workers received unemployment insurance payments at the end of June, down from 53,600 in January.**

The number of workers in Milwaukee County laid off from their jobs and receiving weekly unemployment insurance benefits rather than paychecks dropped from 50,086 in mid-May to 43,702 at the end of June as workers found employment and others exhausted their UI benefits. *The lack of jobs is one of the most critical issues facing the community. Across the Milwaukee area a job gap continues between the number of residents looking for work and the number of full-time jobs available. According to employer surveys, in Milwaukee’s inner city there are 25 job seekers for every available full-time job opening; in Milwaukee County as a whole the job gap is 13 to 1.*

Laid-Off Workers Receiving Unemployment Insurance Payments

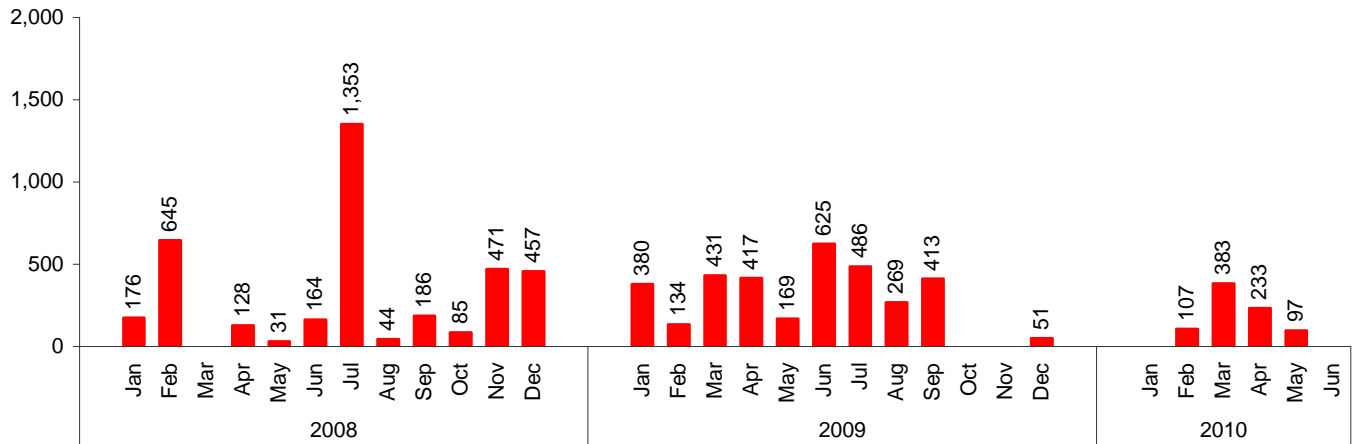


Data sources: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; UWM Employment and Training Institute May 2009 job openings survey.

**No plant layoff or mass closing notices were reported in June 2010.**

A total of 7,935 mass layoff and plant closing notices were reported to the state by firms in Milwaukee County from January 2008 through May 2010. The largest numbers of layoffs have been in Milwaukee, Oak Creek, Wauwatosa, and West Allis. In June 2010 no new notices were issued. *Generally, business establishments (with at least 50 workers) must report anticipated worker reductions under a “mass layoff” (i.e., a reduction of at least 25% of its workforce) or “plant closing” (i.e., a permanent or temporary shutdown of an establishment).*

New Plant Closings and Mass Layoff Notices

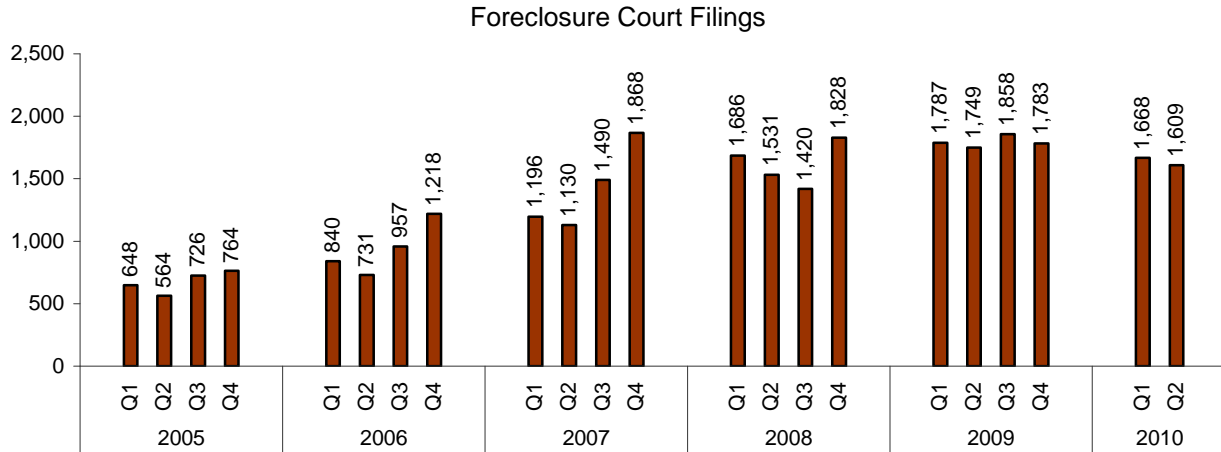


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Historic data is updated.

**The housing crisis continues. Since January 2008 there have been 16,919 court foreclosure filings.**

Circuit court foreclosure filings on homes in Milwaukee County totaled 6,465 in 2008, 7,177 in 2009, and 3,277 from January through June of 2010. There has been a modest slowdown (3.8%) in total foreclosure filings in the first six months of 2010 compared to the same period in 2009. Milwaukee County had 74% of the June foreclosure cases in the four-county area, with Waukesha County showing 16% of foreclosure.

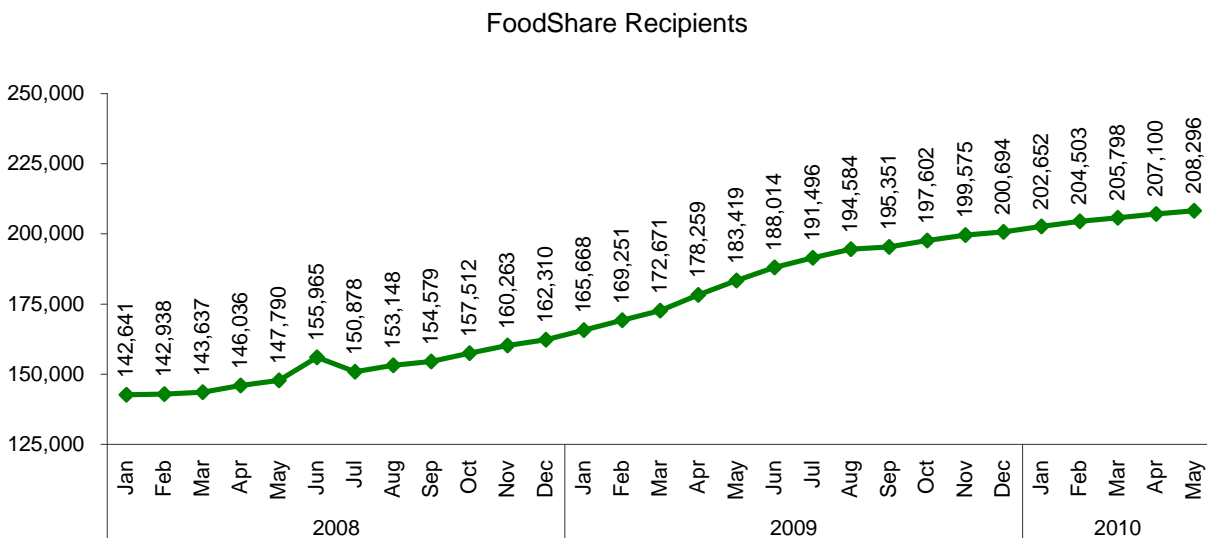
Several factors are exacerbating the housing crisis: high numbers of residents out of work, low housing prices, families and landlords with unaffordable mortgages (many subprime), interest rates still increasing on ARMs (adjustable rate mortgages), and the inability of many owners to refinance their loans.



Data source: Wisconsin Consolidated Court Automation Program (CCAP). Some of these homes do not ultimately result in foreclosure and some properties may have multiple court filings listed.

**The number of Milwaukee County residents using food stamps has passed 208,000.**

One in five Milwaukee County residents is now using FoodShare benefits (the federal food stamp program) to help meet their basic food needs. In May of 2010, enrollments reached 208,296 – once again their highest level in the last quarter century in Milwaukee County. The average FoodShare benefit is \$120 per recipient.

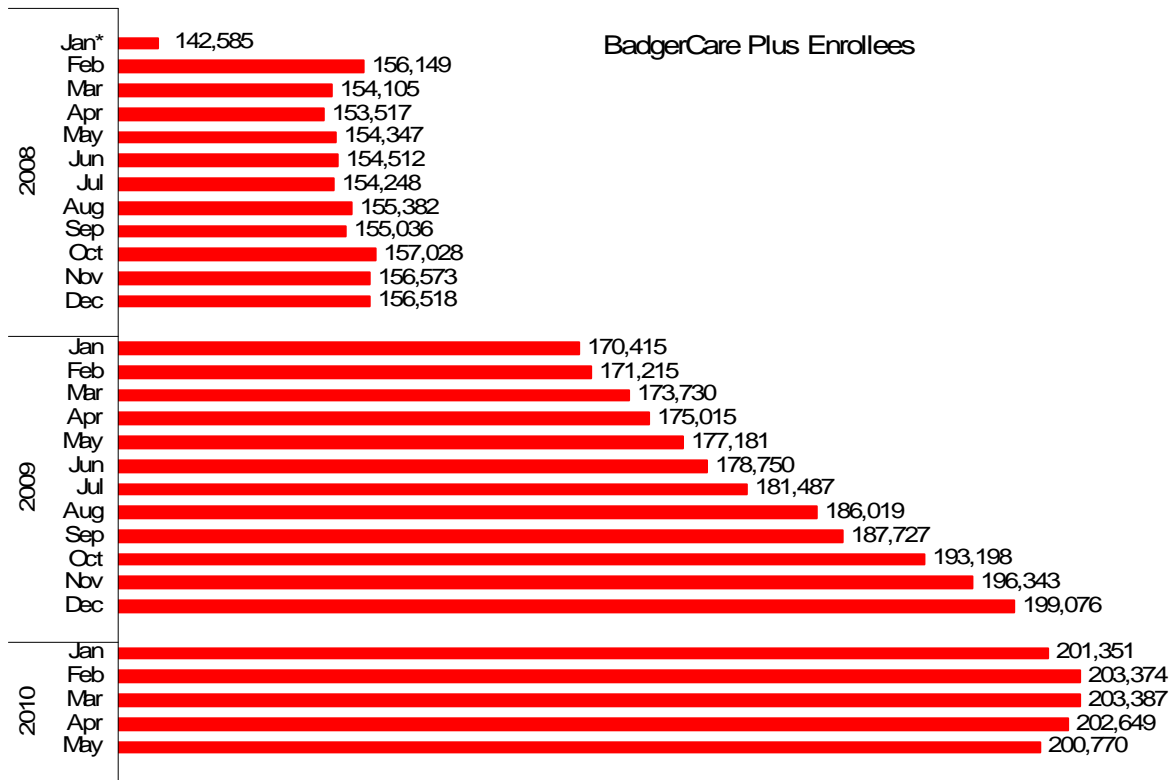


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

**One out of every 2 children is enrolled in BadgerCare Plus.**

In May 2010 a total of 200,770 Milwaukee County residents were enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus health care insurance program. One in 5 Milwaukee County residents and 1 in 2 children (under age 19) does not have private health insurance and now relies on this federal/state health insurance program. Enrollments are down from February and March due to temporary statewide caps on the number of single adults eligible for the program’s Core Plan. Recent legislation signed by the governor at the end of April will open up enrollments for single adults, with coverage beginning in July.

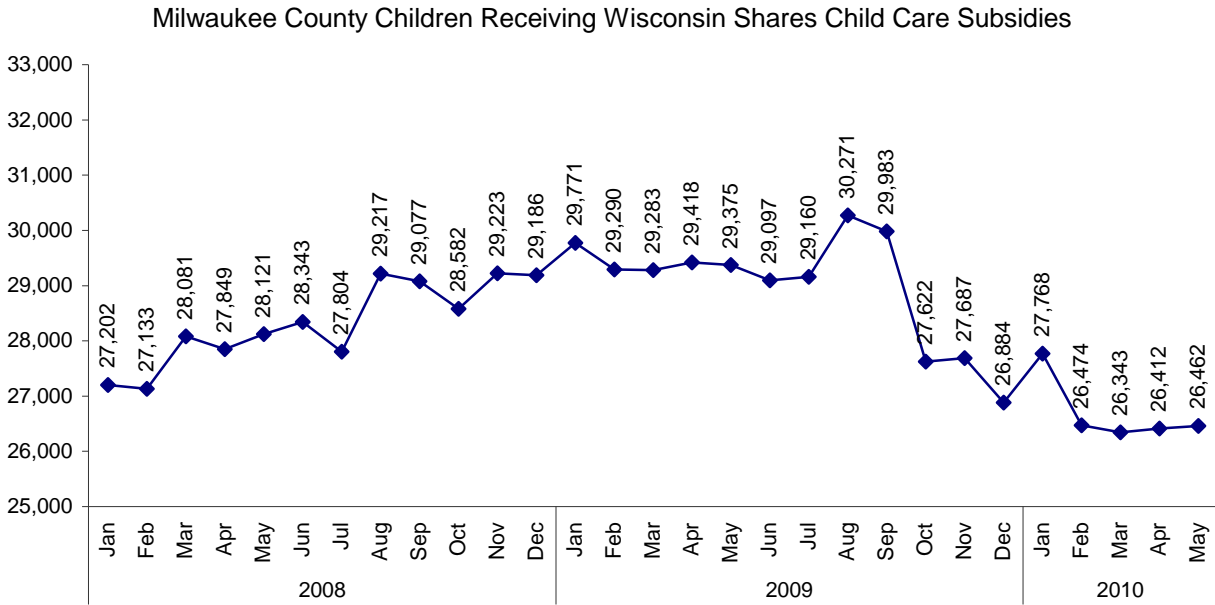
The BadgerCare Plus enrollments include 122,743 children, 55,710 adult caretakers, 4,510 pregnant women, and 17,807 single (i.e., non-caretaker) adults. Given the current caps on the Core Plan, the number of single adults on BadgerCare Plus declined by 22% since the beginning of the year while all other categories (children, caretakers and pregnant women) showed increases since January.



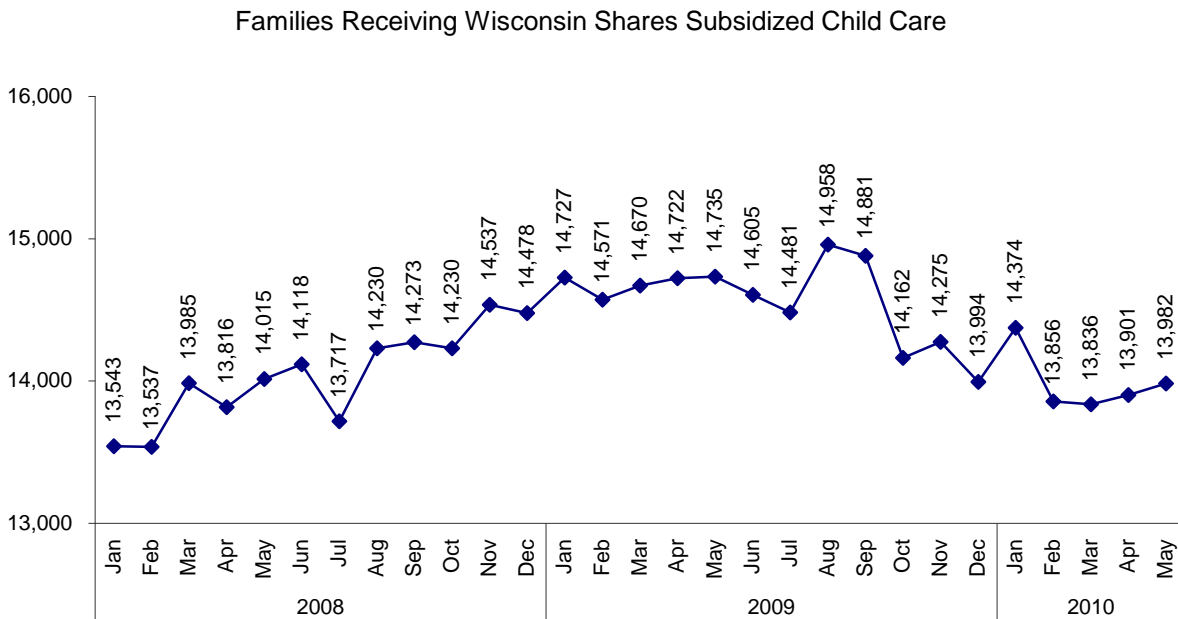
Data source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services. \*January 2008 totals are for period before the BC+ program was implemented.

**26,462 Milwaukee County children received Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies in May 2010.**

As of May a total of 26,462 children in 13,982 families in Milwaukee County were participating in the Wisconsin Shares program. The number of children in subsidized care is down by 3,521 (12%) from last September, as fewer single parents remain employed during the recession.



As of May 2010 13,982 families in the county were receiving child care subsidies, down from a high of 14,958 families receiving child care support in August 2009.

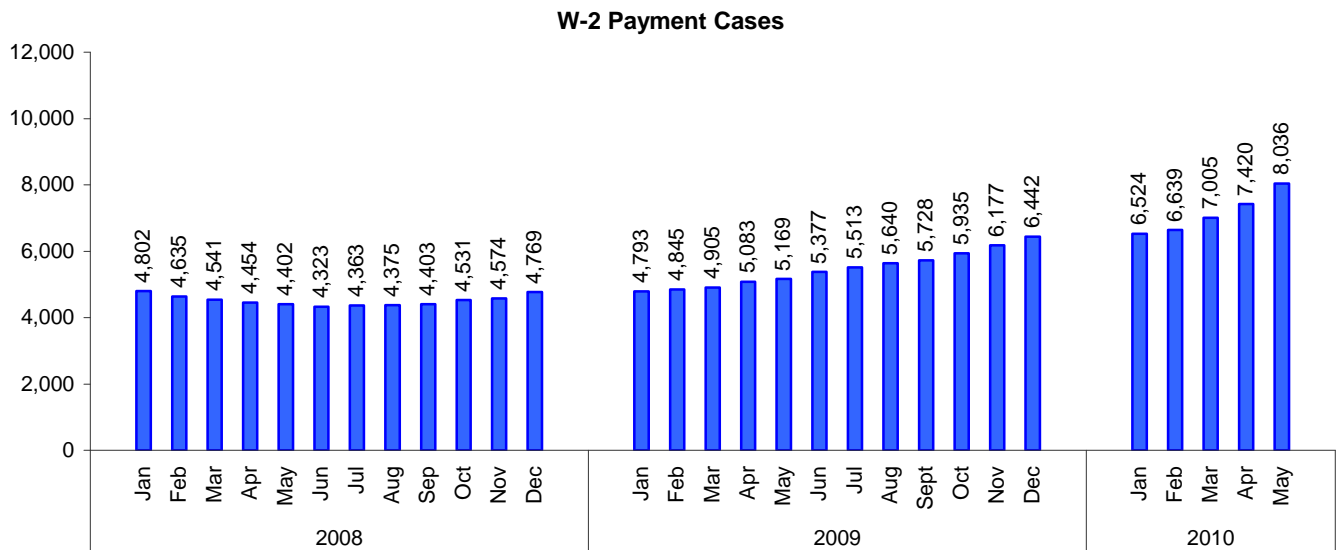


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

**W-2 income support cases are up by 67% since January 2008, but still low compared to the unemployment rolls.**

In May Milwaukee County 8,036 families received “W-2” cash income under the federal TANF program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) replacing AFDC. Still, relatively few families receive monthly income support under W-2 compared to the numbers of laid-off workers receiving weekly unemployment insurance checks (over 44,000).

Many unemployed single parents do not qualify for UI checks because they had exhausted their UI benefits or they had left their jobs voluntarily and then were unable to find other work, had not worked a sufficient number of weeks and hours prior to layoff, or their prior employment was informal and not part of the UI system.



Data source: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

**Prepared for the Greater Milwaukee Foundation by Lois Quinn, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute (7/6/2010).**

“Vital Signs” are updated monthly at [www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org](http://www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org). For additional research on labor force needs and safety nets, see the Employment and Training Institute website at [www.eti.uwm.edu](http://www.eti.uwm.edu).