

Economic conditions continue to challenge Waukesha County residents. Home foreclosure filings in circuit court are up 17% (January-June 2010) compared to the first six months of 2009. By May 2010, over 20,500 residents lacking private health insurance had enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, and 13,750 residents were using the FoodShare program to help meet their grocery costs. At the same time the number of families receiving “W-2” payments remains very low.

One positive note: An estimated 2,836 more county residents had jobs in May compared to March 2010. The unemployment rate, which was estimated at 8.8% in March (the highest level in the last 20 years), improved to 7.1% in May. No new plant closings or mass layoffs were announced in the county in June.

The unemployment rate for Waukesha County was 7.1% in May 2010, the second month of improvements in unemployment since October 2009.



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

The estimated unemployment rate for city of Waukesha residents improved from 11.4% in March to 9.3% in May.

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.

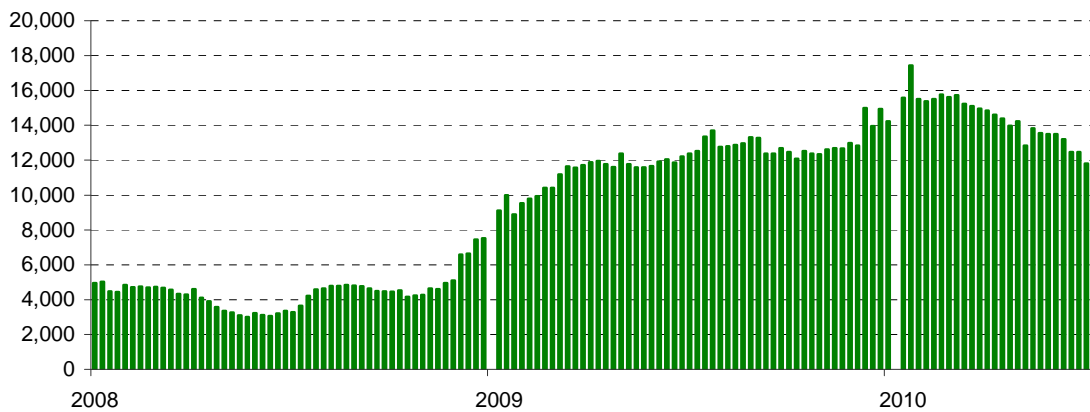
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute addresses workforce training, transportation, and education needs of low-income and unemployed workers in Wisconsin through applied research, policy development, and technical assistance.

11,600 laid-off workers received weekly unemployment insurance payments at the end of June.

The number of Waukesha County workers laid off from their jobs and receiving weekly unemployment insurance benefits rather than paychecks has fluctuated from 14,392 at the beginning of April to 11,659 the last week in June. The number of workers receiving UI had tripled since January of 2008, due to widespread worker layoffs, extensions of the months workers can receive UI benefits, broadening of the qualifications for eligibility, and the lack of available jobs for those out of work. There has been a recent decline in workers receiving UI due to the combination of some workers returning to work or finding new employment and others exhausting 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, there are 12 job seekers for every full-time job available in the WOW (Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington) counties.

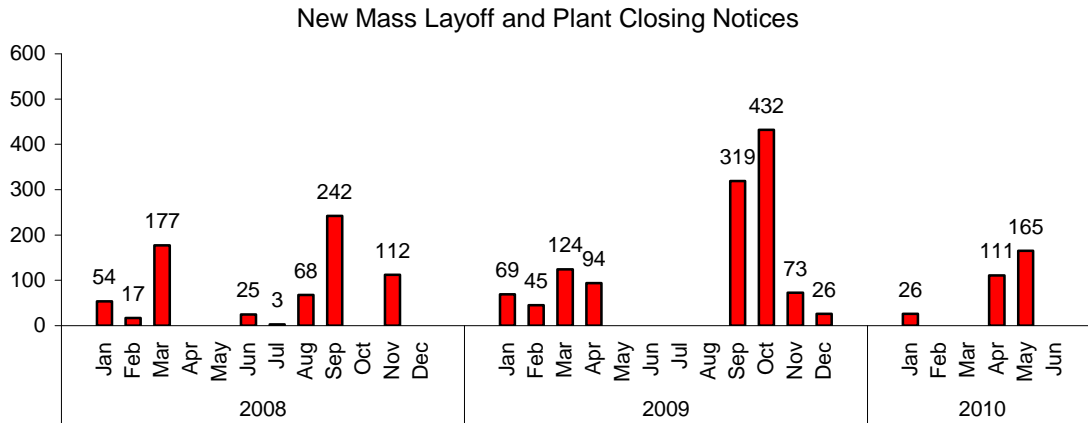
Workers Receiving Unemployment Insurance Payments



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

No new mass layoffs or plant closings were announced in June.

Since January 2008 companies in Waukesha County have reported anticipated plant closings and mass layoffs to the state affecting 2,182 workers. Mass job losses have been reported in Menomonee Falls, Waukesha, Brookfield, Pewaukee, New Berlin, Muskego and Hartland. *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 the workforce) or a “plant closing” (i.e., a permanent or temporary shutdown of an establishment).*

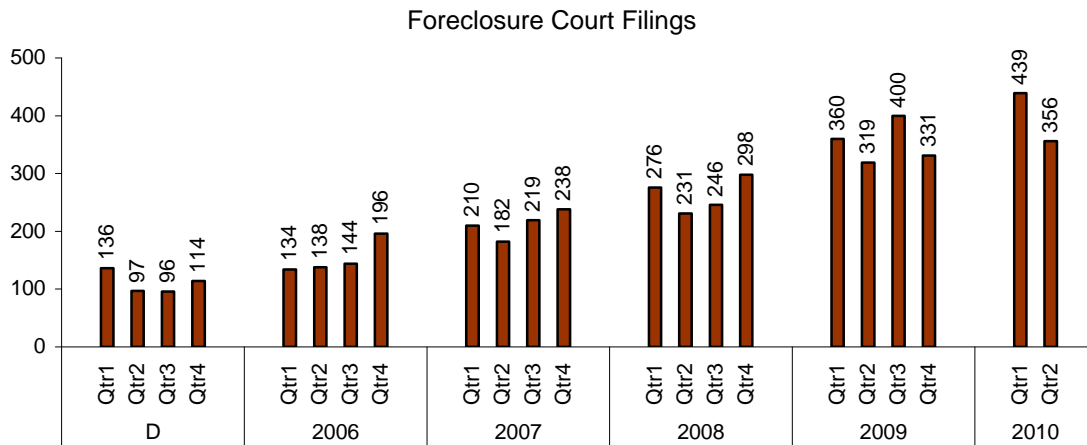


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Historic data is updated.

The housing crisis is worsening in Waukesha County with court foreclosure filings up 17% over last year at this time. Since January 2008 there have been 3,256 court foreclosure filings.

Circuit court foreclosure filings on homes in Waukesha County totaled 1,051 in 2008; 1,410 in 2009; and 795 from January through June of 2010. There were 116 more foreclosure filings this year to date than in January-June of 2009. By contrast, Ozaukee, Milwaukee and Washington counties are showing fewer foreclosures than in 2009 (year to date).

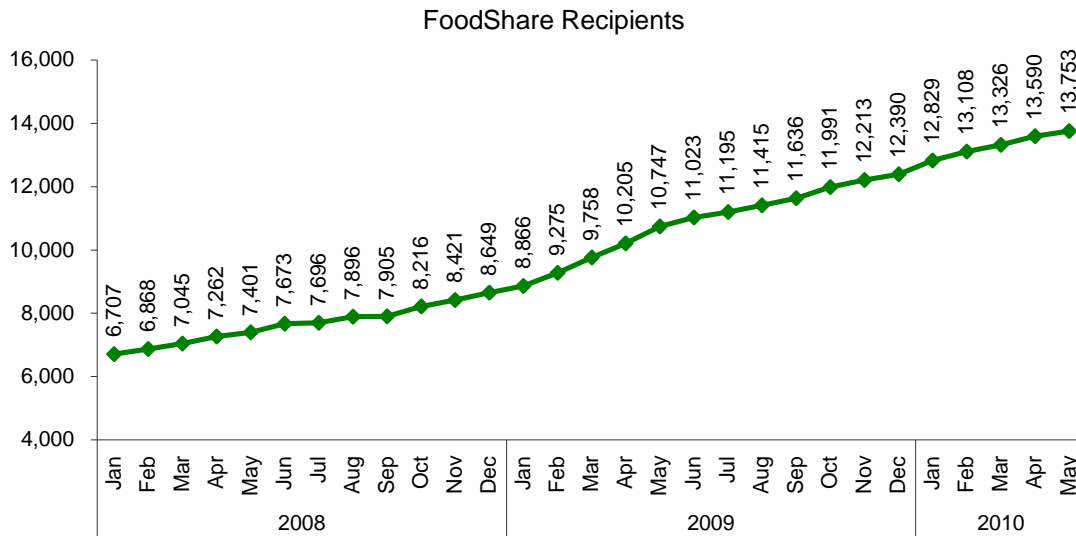
Several factors are exacerbating the housing crisis: high numbers of residents out of work, low housing prices, families and landlords with unaffordable mortgages (many subprime), interest rates still increasing on ARMs (adjustable rate mortgages), and the inability of many owners to refinance their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

13,753 Waukesha County residents are using FoodShare benefits, double the number in January 2008.

Increasing numbers of Waukesha County residents are requesting FoodShare benefits (formerly food stamps) to help meet their basic food needs. The number of residents receiving food stamp benefits has increased every month in the past 2 years. Enrollments are at their highest level in the last quarter century in Waukesha County. FoodShare benefits averaged \$104 per recipient in Waukesha County in May.

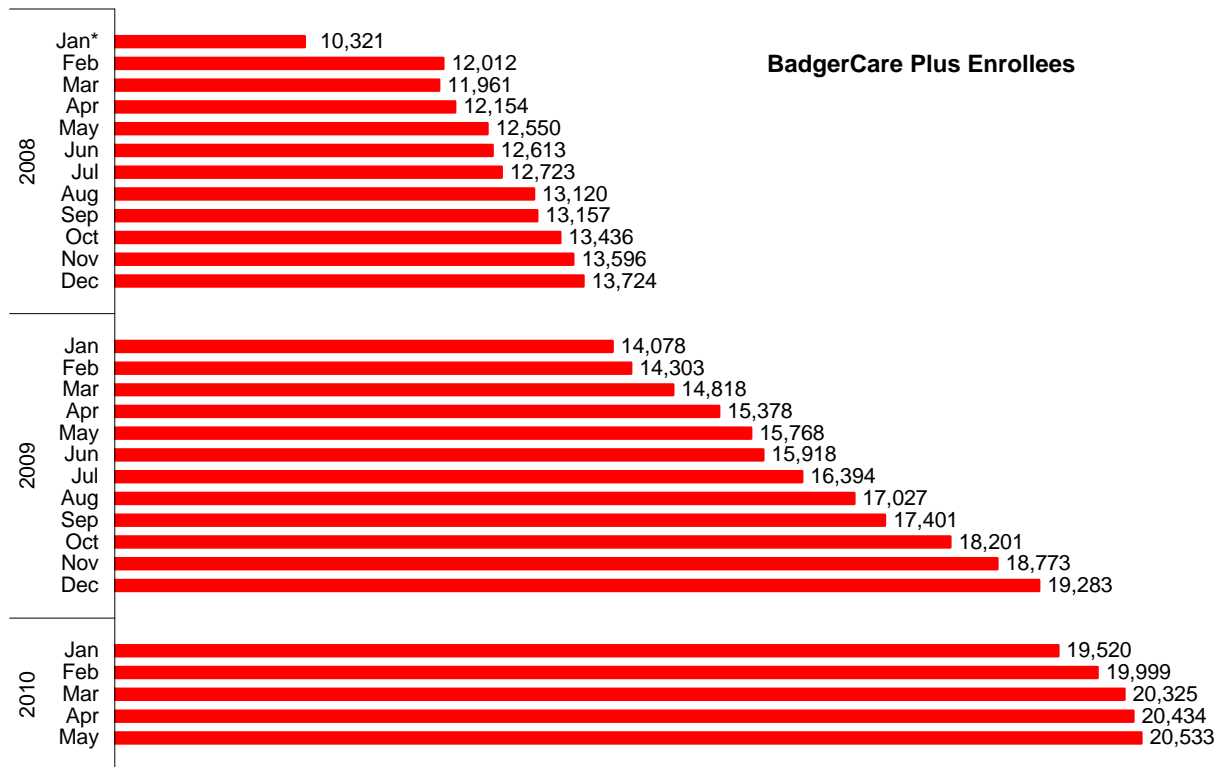


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

BadgerCare Plus enrollments rose to 20,533 residents in May. 1 in 8 children in the county is enrolled in the program.

In May BadgerCare Plus enrollments included 11,658 children, 6,685 parents and caretakers, 508 pregnant women, and 1,682 single (i.e., non-caretaker) adults in the Core Plan. Since January 2008, 10,200 more Waukesha County residents have been added to the BadgerCare Plus health care insurance program. Enrollments of single adults in the Core Plan dropped by 2% since January given temporary statewide caps on enrollment in the Core Plan.

One out of every 8 children (under age 19) in Waukesha County has no private health insurance and is now enrolled in BadgerCare Plus.

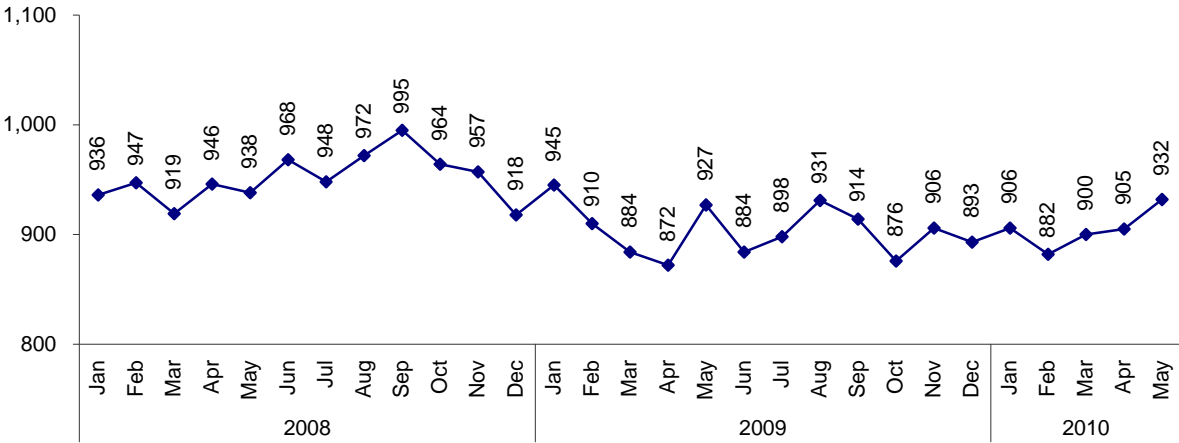


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services. *January 2008 totals are for period before the BC+ program was implemented.

932 Waukesha County families receive child care subsidies.

In May 2010 932 families in Washington County received child care subsidies under the Wisconsin Shares program, the highest level in the last year.

Families Receiving Wisconsin Shares Subsidized Child Care

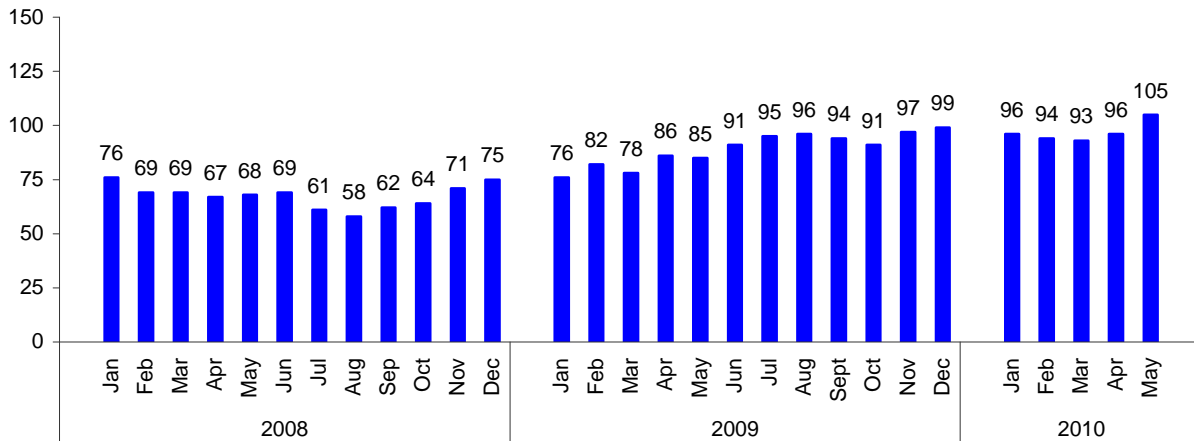


Data source: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Very few Waukesha County families receive W-2 income support.

Relatively few families receive monthly income support under W-2 (Wisconsin’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program replacing AFDC). Only 105 families were on W-2 cash assistance in May 2010 compared to over ten thousand laid-off workers receiving weekly unemployment insurance checks. Many unemployed single parents do not qualify for UI checks because they have 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.

W-2 Payment Cases



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 (7/7/2010).

“Vital Signs” are updated monthly at 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.