**In May 2011 there were 4.7 unemployed jobseekers per job opening in the U.S. The last Milwaukee area job openings survey (in May 2009) found 13 jobseekers per FT opening.**

The Department of Labor’s monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) showed 4.7 unemployed persons seeking work for every 1 full- and part-time job opening reported in May 2011. The department surveys 16,000 U.S. employers monthly to estimate job demand. National job shortages reached a peak in July of 2009 when the job gap was estimated at 6.9 to 1.

The Employment and Training Institute has conducted job vacancy studies since 1993 in collaboration with MAWIB (and formerly the PIC). The last survey, conducted in May 2009, found a full-time job gap of 13 to 1 for the seven-county region, with 13 job seekers for every 1 full-time job opening, and a job gap in the Milwaukee innercity of 25 to 1. The largest numbers of openings were in the health fields. (The ETI survey draws on responses from a large sample of over 3,800 employers in the region.)

The Milwaukee County unemployment rate in May 2011 was estimated at 8.9%, back up after an improvement to 8.4% in April.

Unemployment insurance: About 32,500 laid-off workers in the county are receiving weekly UI payments. The rolls are 14,000 lower than last year, as some workers returned to work and many have exhausted their benefits.

Families receiving W-2: 10,738 Milwaukee County families received W-2 cash assistance in June 2011, the highest W-2 number to date.

Wisconsin Shares: 25,002 children from 13,584 Milwaukee County families received $10.7 million in subsidized child care in June. In spite of the summer season, enrollments are down from May.

FoodShare: 220,860 county residents (a monthly high) received $26.3 million in FoodShare benefits in May.

BadgerCare Plus: 202,045 county residents were in the BC+ program in June. 10,420 non-parent adults were enrolled in the Core Plan, down from 22,963 in January 2010.