Half of African American men of prime working age (30-44 yr.) in Milwaukee County have been incarcerated in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections system.

Aiding ex-offender workers with prison records is one of the greatest employment challenges facing the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board for 2013. Wisconsin Department of Corrections records show incarceration rates at epidemic levels for African American males from Milwaukee County.

- At least 27,060 black males ages 20 through 64 with a Milwaukee County address (as the last found home address) have been incarcerated in the state DOC system. These included 5,571 men currently incarcerated (as of 2012) and another 21,489 previously incarcerated. The totals do not include those incarcerated in federal prisons, state juvenile correctional facilities, or county and city jails.

- The estimated incarceration rate for African American males has reached 58% for men in their early 30s from the county.

Est. percentage of African American males from Milwaukee County currently or previously incarcerated by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Wisconsin incarceration rates for black males are among the highest in the nation. Mass incarceration practices (including three-strike rules, mandatory sentencing, life without parole, and stricter drug laws) are under re-examination nationally and in many states.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

Unemployment insurance: 25,901 workers were on lay-off and receiving unemployment compensation in the week before Christmas.

Unemployment rate: Unemployment was estimated at 7.9% in November, up from 7.4% in Milwaukee County in October.

BadgerCare Plus: 204,685 county residents were covered in November. The number of single adults covered by the Core Plan is now at 6,420, down from 22,963 enrolled in January 2010.

FoodShare: 285,012 residents of Milwaukee County received federal assistance with their food costs in November.

“W-2”/TANF Income Support: 8,916 families received “W-2” cash assistance payments in November, down 14% from the start of 2012. Most single parents with current or recent employment are ineligible for “W-2” income assistance.

Data sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Corrections, Health Services, and Workforce Development (12/31/2012). Black male resident population counts are from the 2010 U.S. Census; ages of men in the DOC system are as of 1/1/2012.
**The job crisis among central city single parents: persistent labor force participation, but in low-wage, intermittent jobs.**

The 2011 Wisconsin income tax filing data by neighborhood revealed a continuing job gap crisis for Milwaukee single parents with dependents. The 2011 tax returns (filed in 2012) for 34,525 single parent filers in 9 Milwaukee central city zipcodes showed 59% earning less than $20,000 a year and 80% earning less than $30,000. Most (approximately 95%) of the single parents continued working during the recession.

**Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County**

**Unemployment rate:** Estimated unemployment in the county improved to 7.4% in October.

The estimated number of employed workers in the county (N=424,164 in October) is at its highest level this year.

**Layoff notices:** The Wyndham Airport closing is expected to affect 133 workers, and First Transit announced 29 new layoffs.

**Unemployment insurance:** 24,914 laid-off workers received UI in mid-November, a slight increase from last month.

**BadgerCare Plus:** 205,680 residents were covered in October, up by 641 over September. The number of single adults covered by the Core Plan is now down to 6,589 (from 22,963 in January 2010).

**Wisconsin Shares:** In October 23,576 children received child care subsides, 1,713 fewer than in September.

**FoodShare:** No FoodShare data updates have been posted since August.

**“W-2”/TANF Income Support:** 9,117 families received W-2 cash assistance payments in October, and 2,404 families received case management services without payments.

According to 2010 ACS Census data, single mothers in Milwaukee County have high concentrations of jobs in child care centers, hospitals, schools, nursing homes, department and discount stores, eating establishments, social service agencies, and temp agencies. Many of these jobs have variable or irregular hours and seasonal swings in employment.

**State tax credits (EIC) for central city “working poor” single parent families dropped by 26% in one year.**

The Wisconsin earned income tax credit established to help lower income employed families was reduced for families with more than 1 child under legislation passed in 2011. The state earned income tax credits for single parents in the 9 zipcodes dropped by 26% (from $15.1 million in 2010 to $11.2 million in 2011). Reductions in EIC support were also seen countywide, with a one-year 23% drop for single parent families and a 16% drop for married parent families.

**Income tax data source:** Employment and Training Institute analysis of tax return data of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue for Milwaukee zipcodes 53204, 53205, 53206, 53208, 53210, 53212, 53216, 53218 and 53233. Note: The DOR data are not adjusted for inflation; according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics purchasing power of the dollar decreased by 10.5% from 2007 to 2011 in the Milwaukee-Racine area. **Monthly drilldown data sources:** Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (11/26/2012).
Census data show the labor market for county workers to be local, not regional. 80% work within Milwaukee County.

The U.S. Census American Community Survey (2010) data on commuting patterns for workers in the Milwaukee Region continue to show a very distinct labor market for Milwaukee County workers with only 2% working in the southeast Wisconsin counties (Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Jefferson). These patterns have changed very little from a decade ago when a similar percentage of county residents (2%) were employed to the south.

Most of the Milwaukee County residents in the workforce are employed within the county (80%) while 14% work in Waukesha County, 3% in Ozaukee and Washington counties, and only 2% in the southern counties of Racine, Kenosha, Walworth and Jefferson. The labor market for the poorest neighborhoods in Milwaukee is even more concentrated and limited, with 94% of workers employed within the county, 4% in Waukesha County, and only 1.5% in the other 6 suburban/exurban counties.

Milwaukee County adults (ages 18-64) without private transportation are severely limited in finding employment. An estimated 71,116 Milwaukee County adults do not have a vehicle in their household and only 40% of these adults are employed, while 12% are unemployed, 1% have jobs but are not currently working, and nearly half (47%) are not in the labor force. The importance of private transportation access can be seen in the 2010 unemployment rate for workers without a vehicle in their household (22.5%), which was far higher than the rate for workers in households with a vehicle (8.2%).

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

Unemployment rate: The estimated unemployment dropped from 9.1% in August to 8.0% in September, the lowest rate since January 2009.

Layoff notices: No new announcements in September.

Unemployment insurance: 24,379 laid-off workers received UI in late-October, a slight increase from last month.

BadgerCare Plus: 205,039 residents were covered in September. The number of single adults covered by BC+ was down to 6,743 from 22,963 in Jan. 2010.

Wisconsin Shares: 25,289 children received $10 million in child care subsidies in September.

FoodShare: 282,775 residents received food assistance in August, another all-time monthly high.

“W-2”/TANF Income Support: 9,136 families received W-2 cash assistance payments in September.

Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (10/29/2012).
Larger Milwaukee area companies reported 12,049 more jobs in 2011 over 2010, with rebounds recorded in manufacturing, administrative firms (incl. temps), and finance and insurance.

Newly released EEO-1 data for companies in the four-county Milwaukee area with 100 or more workers showed the industrial sectors with increased employment in 2011 compared to 2010 led by manufacturing and administrative support (including temp agencies). In all, the larger companies reported a net jobs gain of 12,049 workers. Four major industrial sectors showed continuing job losses from 2010 to 2011: information, health care and social assistance, accommodations and food services, and construction. The EEO-1 reports are required from all private sector companies with 100 or more workers (and some financial institutions with 50+ workers). They have the advantage of providing full counts of actual workers (rather than survey data or labor force estimates).

### Larger Private Sector Companies on the Rebound
(Job Increases from 2010 to 2011, Milwaukee MSA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Industry</th>
<th>Jobs Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>7,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Support (incl. Temps)</td>
<td>4,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Insurance</td>
<td>1,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Companies</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, Scientific, Technical Services</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate, Rental and Leasing</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Larger Private Sector Companies with Recent Job Declines
(Job Decreases from 2010 to 2011, Milwaukee MSA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Industry</th>
<th>Jobs Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>-2,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care, Social Assistance</td>
<td>-1,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation, Food Service</td>
<td>-418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Warehousing</td>
<td>-365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>-296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the 2011 EEO-1 filings of larger private companies, the industrial sectors with the smallest percentages of minority workers are construction (11% of their workforce); wholesale trade (13%); professional/scientific/technical services (15%); real estate/rental/leasing (15%); and finance/insurance (17%). The sectors with the highest percentages of minority workers were administrative/support, including temps (38% of their workforce); accommodations/food service (36%); and transportation/warehousing (32%).

Source: EEO-1 reports submitted to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by private companies.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

**Unemployment rate:** The estimated unemployment dropped from 9.4% in July to 9.2% in August due to a decline in the number of county residents seeking work.

**Layoff notices in August:** American United Taxicab Company (39 layoffs) and Transit Express (100 new layoffs).

**Unemployment insurance:** 23,836 laid-off workers received benefits in mid-September, the lowest level since November of 2008. Some workers have returned to work, some have retired, and others have exhausted their UI benefits.

**BadgerCare Plus:** 205,483 residents were covered in August. The number of single adults covered by the program has dropped to 6,927 from 22,963 enrolled in January 2010.

**Wisconsin Shares:** 25,614 children received child care subsidies in June.

**FoodShare:** 280,196 residents received food assistance in July another all-time monthly high. Federal food support totaled $36.5 million, averaging $130 per person.

**“W-2”/TANF Income Support:** 9,375 families received W-2 cash assistance payments in August, down 10% from January.

**Data Sources:** Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (9/26/2012).

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

Milwaukee Drill photo courtesy of Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
Over 15,000 Milwaukee County teens ages 16-17 lack a driver’s license or instruction permit – even though the license is a critical asset for employment.

Wisconsin driver’s license records from the Department of Transportation were used to identify employment barriers faced by lower-income residents of Milwaukee County and particularly for African American and Hispanic teens in Milwaukee.

Over 12,000 Milwaukee Teens (Ages 16-17) and 3,000 Suburban Teens Lack a Driver’s License or Learner’s Permit (as of January 2012)

The driver’s license, while an essential asset for employment for most workers, is increasingly expensive to obtain for lower-income youth. The State of Wisconsin has discontinued state aids for driver’s education while requiring that school age youth participate in a school or commercial driving program as a condition for obtaining their license.

- As of January 2012, only 17% of African American male teens (ages 16-17) in the city of Milwaukee had a driver’s license, including 9% with an instruction permit and 8% with a probationary license. Only 22% of African American females (ages 16-17) were licensed.
- By contrast 64% of white male teens (ages 16-17) living in the suburbs of the county had a license, including 17% with a learner’s permit and 47% who already had their probationary license. The highest rate of licensing was noted for suburban white female teens (ages 16-17) where 70% were licensed, including 19% with an instruction permit and 51% with a probationary license.
- Both male and female Hispanic teens (ages 16-17) in Milwaukee had low licensing rates with only 17% of males and 19% of females licensed.

Paying for a driving course, maintaining a working vehicle, and securing insurance coverage for teenagers (particularly in inner city zipcodes where insurance rates are highest) is a costly undertaking for many financially strapped families. Unfortunately, thousands of Milwaukee teens drive even though they have not taken driver’s education, do not have a license, and cannot afford auto insurance. See www.eti.uwm.edu for more driver license research.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

July est. unemployment: 9.4%

Plant closing and mass layoff notices in July: Stark & Roth of St. Francis planned new layoffs (59 workers) and Fleet Transport (Milwaukee) a new closing.

Unemployment insurance: 26,990 laid-off workers received benefits in mid-August.

FoodShare: 280,196 residents received food assistance in July an all-time high.

BadgerCare Plus: 206,999 residents were covered in July.

Wisconsin Shares: 25,614 children received child care subsidies in June.

“W-2”/TANF Income Support: 9,355 families received W-2 cash assistance payments in July.

Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (8/27/2012).
African American males lost 24% of “blue collar” jobs with mid-size and large private companies during the first 2 years of the recession. To help identify occupational shifts, progress toward diversity, and job losses during the recession, employment patterns were examined for private companies in the four-county Milwaukee metro area using detailed EEO-1 reports filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission from 2008 to 2010. The advantages of these reports are that they cover over 380,000 private sector employees, show actual (rather than estimated) data on workers in all firms with at least 100 workers, and allow tracking of changes in employment by gender and race/ethnicity. While only companies with federal contracts of $50,000 or above are required to implement affirmative action plans, all companies with 100+ workers (and some other financial institutions) are required to report the race/ethnicity of their workers by occupational groupings.

- Milwaukee area companies reported a 9% drop in total employment over the 2-year period from 381,093 workers in 2008 to 347,527 workers in 2010. The largest drops in employment were for laborers, professionals, skilled craft workers, and semi-skilled operatives. The smallest job losses were for service workers and managers.

### Net Job Losses in Milwaukee Area Private Companies with 100+ Workers, 2008-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Net Job Losses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laborers (unskilled)</td>
<td>-6,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>-5,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft workers (skilled)</td>
<td>-4,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operatives (semi-skilled)</td>
<td>-4,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technicians</td>
<td>-3,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office/clerical</td>
<td>-3,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales workers</td>
<td>-2,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service work</td>
<td>-1,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-level mgrs</td>
<td>-1,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr mgrs</td>
<td>-935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- All racial/ethnic groups, including whites, suffered job losses from 2008 to 2010.
- In the first two years of the recession African American males saw the bottom drop out of their “blue collar” employment in private companies, with a 27% decrease in jobs as laborers, a 26% decrease in the jobs in the skilled trades (i.e., as craft workers), and a 19% decrease in jobs as semi-skilled operatives. Convincing African American youth to pursue vocational and technical training in skilled and semi-skilled fields will be far more challenging given the large numbers of men in the community who have recently lost jobs in these fields.
- African American women lost jobs in all occupational groupings with their highest losses as service workers. In the service occupational grouping, African American women absorbed 2/3 of all net job losses with the larger private companies.
- Hispanic men and women showed their greatest net job losses as laborers in the private companies.
- Asian Americans showed the smallest net job losses with private companies because of very modest gains in employment as senior managers, technicians, and service workers.

**Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County**

**Unemployment:** The est. unemployment rate among Milwaukee County workers jumped from 8.5% in May to 9.4% in June with the influx of summer job seekers and only a modest increase in hiring.

**Plant closing and mass layoff notices:** In June Dana Sealing Products announced a new closing to affect 150 workers.

**Unemployment insurance:** 29,084 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in mid-July, up over 2,000 from mid-June.

**FoodShare:** 276,551 residents received FoodShare benefits in May, averaging $130 per month.

**BadgerCare Plus:** 206,986 county residents were using BadgerCare Plus health insurance in June. Beginning July 1st BC coverage will be continued for many adults and children only if they make monthly premium payments. Enrollments in the Core Plan for adults without dependents are now down to 7,357, from 22,963 in January 2010.

**Wisconsin Shares:** 25,614 children from 14,160 Milwaukee County families received federal subsidies for full-time and part-time child care totaling $15.2 million in June 2012. (In the balance of Wisconsin, 28,150 children received June subsidies totaling $12.7 million.)

**“W-2”/TANF Income Support:** 9,520 Milwaukee County families received “W-2” cash assistance payments in June.

**Data Sources:** Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (7/25/2012).
Driver’s license revocations issued to county residents have dropped by 67% since 2009 under state legislative reforms. Suspensions for “failure to pay forfeiture” increased statewide during the recession.

Driver’s license revocations issued to Milwaukee County residents decreased by 17,000 from 2009 to 2011, with substantial drops in revocations to drivers in Milwaukee’s poorest neighborhoods. Under legislative reforms initiated by the Center for Driver’s License Recovery and Employability, mandatory revocations for OAR (operating after revocation) and for OWS (operating while suspended) were eliminated. Drug conviction suspensions (many unrelated to driving) have been nearly eliminated, which should reduce problems for released prisoners and unlicensed teens.

Suspensions for “failure to pay forfeiture” (FPFs) have risen in Wisconsin since the recession hit, with 220,453 issued statewide in 2011 (including 97,036 issued to Milwaukee County residents). Three-fourths of license suspensions in the county are for FPFs rather than for unsafe driving.

All ages of African American males showed large numbers with license suspensions and revocations. For men in their prime early work years more African Americans had suspensions and revocations than clear licenses. The highest numbers of suspensions and revocations were issued to those in their twenties (including to over 6,500 young men driving without a license or with an expired license). Prior ETI reports have shown the driver license to be essential for getting and keeping employment and exceeding high school completion as a predictor of sustained employment.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

Unemployment: The est. unemployment rate among Milwaukee County workers was 8.5% in May (with an estimated 419,784 residents employed and 38,832 unemployed).

Plant closing and mass layoff notices: In May Hostess Brand (in Greenfield) announced a plant closing to affect 33 workers and Shorehaven Behavioral Health (in Brown Deer) announced new layoffs for 71 workers.

Unemployment insurance: 26,961 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in mid-June, as growing numbers of laid-off workers exhaust their benefits.

FoodShare: 276,551 residents received FoodShare benefits in May, another monthly high.

BadgerCare Plus: 206,829 county residents are using BadgerCare Plus health insurance. Enrollments in the Core Plan for adults without dependents are down to 7,733, from 22,963 in January 2010.

Wisconsin Shares: 24,316 children from 13,492 Milwaukee County families received federal subsidies for full-time and part-time child care averaging $773 per family in April 2012.

“W-2”/TANF Income Support: 9,608 Milwaukee County families received “W-2” cash assistance payments in May, and 2,568 families received case management services without payments.

Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (6/25/2012).

Two new reports on driver’s license issues in Milwaukee County are available from the Employment and Training Institute at www.eti.uwm.edu.
State and local residents continue to rely on federal help for their food costs. Housing foreclosure filings have passed 40,000 in Milwaukee County (2005 to present).

Enrollments in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known in Wisconsin as FoodShare, remain very high as households throughout the state continue to rely on the program to help meet their grocery costs. Since the recession hit, Wisconsin has seen increases in the number of residents enrolling in the program in Milwaukee County and in the balance of the state.

- As of April 2012, 275,058 Milwaukee County residents and 558,158 residents in the balance of Wisconsin were enrolled in the FoodShare program.
- Statewide, residents are receiving $96 million a month in food support through this federal program.

Evidence that the recession and national housing crisis have not ended for local communities can be seen in the mortgage foreclosure filings in circuit court in Milwaukee County. There were 578 housing foreclosure filings in April 2012. In early May the county passed the 40,000 mark for foreclosures filed since January 2005.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

**Unemployment:** The unemployment rate among Milwaukee County workers was estimated at 8.4 percent in April, down from 8.6 percent estimated for the previous month.

**Plant closing and mass layoff notices:** In April two transportation firms announced expected new layoffs: Frontier Airlines (129 layoffs) and Talgo (35 layoffs).

**Unemployment insurance:** 27,354 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in mid-May of 2012. The number of workers receiving UI dropped by 15% in the last two months. (Extended benefits for the long-term unemployed ended in Wisconsin on April 7th.)

**BadgerCare Plus:** 206,985 county residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus in April. Enrollments in the Core Plan for adults without dependents (N=8,017) are less than half the number covered in January 2010 (N=22,963).

**Wisconsin Shares:** 24,316 children from 13,492 Milwaukee County families received child care subsidies totaling $10.4 million in April 2012.

**“W-2”/TANF Income Support:** 9,553 Milwaukee County families received “W-2”/TANF cash assistance payments in April, down 8% since the start of the year.

_Data Sources:_ Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (5/28/2012); Wisconsin Court System Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP).
March employment data show jobs still down from Fall 2011 levels in the Milwaukee metro area and in the balance of the state.

The Department of Labor Current Employment Statistics CES data (estimating employment by industrial sector) showed a very small gain (+0.15%) in employment among Milwaukee metro area establishments, compared to a small net job decline (-0.41%) in the balance of the state (Jan 2011 – March 2012). The CES data showed job declines in the balance of state starting earlier in 2011 and adversely affecting a higher portion of the employed workforce.

The Local Area Employment Statistics (LAUS) program estimated that 730,488 residents in the four-county Milwaukee area were employed in March 2012, down from the 733,884 estimate for February. The LAUS data showed a smaller net gain in total employment (Jan 2011 – March 2012) in the Milwaukee area (+1.06%) than in the balance of state (+1.26%).

Est. Monthly Employment of Milwaukee MSA and Balance of State Residents

( Local Area Unemployment Statistics, DOL/DWD)

Unemployment: The unemployment rate among Milwaukee County workers was estimated at 8.6 percent in March, down from 8.8 percent estimated for the previous month.

Plant closing and mass layoff notices: In March three firms announced new layoffs: Envirotest Wisconsin (63 layoffs in SE Wisconsin), Aramark Business Facilities (33 layoffs), and Tulip Molded Plastics Corporation (15 layoffs).

Unemployment insurance: 30,689 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in mid-April of 2012. (An estimated 39,300 workers in the county were unemployed.)

FoodShare: 272,661 county residents received FoodShare benefits in January. Monthly food support averaged $129 per person.

BadgerCare Plus: 207,088 county residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus in March. A majority (64%) of those enrolled are children under age 19. Enrollments in the Core Plan for adults without dependents are down by 4,600 since last year.

Wisconsin Shares: 24,488 children from 13,649 Milwaukee County families received child care subsidies totaling $10.7 million in March 2012.

“W-2”/TANF Income Support: 9,828 Milwaukee County families received “W-2”/TANF cash assistance payments in March.

Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (4/26/2012). The Current Employment Statistics and Local Area Unemployment Statistic surveys are conducted monthly by the Department of Workforce Development in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. The data shown here are not seasonally adjusted, but actual employment estimates for each month. The metro area includes Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee counties.
January-February 2012 employment in Milwaukee area establishments is back to early 2011 levels.

In February 2012 estimated employment in the four-county Milwaukee metro area establishments totaled 799,200, similar to the levels reported in February 2011 but down by 23,600 from employment totals last October, according to the CES (Current Employment Statistics) data. Since October, private sector (non-farm) employment was reported down by 21,400 and public sector employment down by 2,200. (See the April 2012 Drilldown for a similar graph for the rest of the state.)

Seasonal slowdowns were reported in the construction industry (down by 5,900 jobs since October), leisure and hospitality (down by 5,600), and retail trade (down by 2,500). Two major sectors showed employment increases since the fall: durable manufacturing (where CES estimated an increase from 80,800 jobs in October 2011 to 81,800 in February 2012) and private-sector educational services (where CES reported an increase of 2,400 jobs from 28,200 in October to 30,600 in February).

### Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

**Unemployment:** The estimated unemployment rate in Milwaukee County jumped up to 8.6 percent in January, reversing six consecutive months of declines.

**Plant closing and mass layoff notices:** In February Frontier Airlines announced additional planned layoffs of 446 workers. Other notices were issued for layoffs at Thermo Fisher Scientific, biological product manufacturing (43 workers); Sodexo, food service contractor (35 workers); HP Enterprise Services, computer related services (23 workers); and Ace Distribution Services, general warehousing and storage (15 workers).

**Unemployment insurance:** 32,248 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in mid-March of 2012 -- 6,500 fewer workers than a year ago.

**FoodShare:** 272,661 county residents received $35.2 million in FoodShare benefits in January. Enrollments were again up 7% over the previous month.

**BadgerCare Plus:** 206,220 county residents were enrolled in February. The number of single adults in the Core Plan dropped to below 8,500.

**Wisconsin Shares and “W-2”:** 23,984 children from 13,358 Milwaukee County families received child care subsidies totaling $10.16 million in February 2012. 10,000 Milwaukee County families received “W-2”/TANF cash assistance payments in February.
Enrollments of adults in the BadgerCare Plus “Core Plan” has dropped by 14,300 in the last two years in Milwaukee County.

The monthly data on BadgerCare Plus enrollments shows a continuing decline in the number of “childless” adults (i.e., without dependent children at home) in the program. Among Milwaukee County residents, enrollments in the Core Plan peaked in January 2010 when 22,963 adults were enrolled. Two years later in Jan. 2012 the state reported 8,636 enrolled in Milwaukee County, a 62% drop in the number of “childless” adults covered.

Individuals had been eligible to apply for the Core Plan if they were ages 19-64, did not have dependent children living with them, had income below 200% of poverty, and had gone for over 12 months without private health insurance coverage. This limited plan covers basic health care services, including primary and preventive care and generic drugs.

A total of 205,350 Milwaukee County residents were covered by BadgerCare Plus in January 2012, compared to 201,351 two years earlier.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

Unemployment: The unemployment rate in Milwaukee County was estimated at 7.8% in December 2011. The rate has improved every month since last summer. Since June, however, the est. employed workforce has dropped by 2,628 while the number of unemployed job seekers (including summer workers) is down by 10,225, for an estimated net decrease in the labor force of 12,853.

Plant closing and mass layoff notices: In January M&I Administrative Services Center (BMO Harris Bank) announced a planned layoff of 57 workers.

Unemployment insurance: 33,233 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in mid-February of 2012, down by 20% from a year ago.

FoodShare: 254,263 county residents received FoodShare benefits in December, up 7% over the previous month (the highest jump of the year).

BadgerCare Plus: 205,350 county residents were in the BC+ program in January. A majority (64%) of those insured are children (under age 19).

Wisconsin Shares: 24,128 children from 13,405 Milwaukee County families received child care subsidies totaling $10.5 million in January.

Families receiving “W-2”: 10,422 Milwaukee County families received “W-2”/TANF cash assistance payments in January 2012.

Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, Revenue, and Workforce Development (2/24/2012).

Prepared by the Employment & Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board
Military veterans bring technical training and OJT experience to the Milwaukee County labor force.

The newly released U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2006-2010) identified 25,444 veterans ages 18 through 64 in the Milwaukee County civilian labor force.

- The largest cohort of male veteran workers is the 55 to 64 year old population, while the female veteran workers are younger.

Veterans (Ages 18-64) in the Milwaukee County Workforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 35</td>
<td>Under 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 yr</td>
<td>55-64 yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 yr</td>
<td>55-64 yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 yr</td>
<td>45-54 yr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A fourth of male veteran workers and a fifth of female veteran workers are African Americans. 88% of the veteran workers are males.

- In addition to their technical and on-the-job training gained in the service, 93% of working-age veterans in the county have completed high school or an equivalency credential. Sixty percent have had postsecondary education, and 29% have earned associate, bachelor’s, master’s, or advanced professional degrees.

Educational Attainment of Veterans (ages 18-64) in Milwaukee County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced degree</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College associate degree</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, tech coursework</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school grad or equiv. cred.</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school grad</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year BA/BS degree</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- As a group, veterans showed lower unemployment rates than those without military experience but were still badly hit by the recession. According to ACS (2010), the unemployment rate for veterans (ages 18-64) was 10.8% in 2010, compared to a 12.3% unemployment rate for workers in the county without military service.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

**Unemployment:** The Milwaukee County unemployment rate was estimated at 8.2% in November 2011. The unemployment rate has improved every month since June. No new plant closings or mass layoffs were announced in December.

**Unemployment insurance:** 35,092 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in early January of 2012, down by 21% from a year ago.

**FoodShare:** 237,323 county residents received FoodShare (i.e., federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits in November, averaging $4.15 per person per day. Statewide, 40% of adult recipients of FoodShare are employed.

**BadgerCare Plus:** 204,636 county residents were in the BC+ program in December. The 2011 data show a growing gap between the number of residents qualifying for the FoodShare program and those receiving health care services under BadgerCare.

Growing Gap between Milwaukee County FoodShare and BadgerCare Enrollments

**Wisconsin Shares:** 25,388 children from 14,077 Milwaukee County families received child care subsidies totaling $14 million in December.

**Families receiving “W-2”:** 10,542 Milwaukee County families received “W-2”/TANF cash assistance payments in December 2011.

Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, Revenue, and Workforce Development (1/24/2012).