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.

![Graph showing estimated monthly employment by job location](image)

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%).

![Graph showing estimated monthly employment of Milwaukee MSA and balance of state residents](image)

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

**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 Statistics 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.