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 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                     | Sr mgrs         | Mid-level mgrs  | Sales workers   | Office/clerical | Technicians     | Operatives (semi-skilled) |
|                                     | -935            | -1,411          | -2,526         | -3,396          | -3,481          | -4,248           |
|                                     | -6,046          | -1,421          | -3,481         | -4,248          | -4,689          | -6,000           |
|                                     | -7,000          | -7,000          | -7,000         | -7,000          | -7,000          | -7,000           |

- 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).