
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute prepared graphs of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) and “W-2” (“Wisconsin Works,” the replacement family income support program using federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds) caseloads along with unemployment rates by county for the period from July 1986 through December 1998 when Wisconsin implemented its welfare reform initiatives. The graphs show the monthly unemployment rates and AFDC (and "W-2" TANF support) caseloads for each of Wisconsin's 72 counties.

The Employment and Training Institute evaluations of Wisconsin welfare reform efforts during the period from 1987-1991 showed the strong impact of a rapidly improving labor market, which accounted for most of the caseload reduction during the 1986-1991 period. See, John Pawasarat and Lois M. Quinn, Wisconsin Welfare Employment Experiments: An Evaluation of the WEJT and CWEP Programs (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute, September 1993). Additional months of AFDC and unemployment data are presented for the period 1991-1998, but statistical testing has not been conducted for this most recent period.

Unemployment rates are presented using moving averages to adjust for seasonal fluctuations. The “W-2” TANF caseloads include only cases receiving income payments. Note: Two AFDC programs are now funded separately through TANF and not part of Wisconsin's “W-2” program -- Kinship Care support for children living with non-legally responsible relatives (formerly AFDC/NLRR), and Caretaker Supplement payments for children in cases headed by parent(s) on SSI (formerly included under AFDC). Monthly data were not available for numbers of TANF cases in Kinship Care or C-Supp and public assistance trendlines do not include these families.
Adams County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee-1999.

Ashland County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee-1999.
Brown County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Welfare Waiver Experiments Begin

AFDC/W-2 Cases

Unemployment Rate


Buffalo County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Welfare Waiver Experiments Begin

AFDC/W-2 Cases

Unemployment Rate

Burnett County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates


Calumet County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Florence County
Monthly AFDCM-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates


Fond du Lac County
Monthly AFDCM-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Forest County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates


Grant County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Green County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates


Green Lake County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Iowa County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Iron County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Jackson County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Jefferson County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Juneau County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates


Kenosha County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Kewaunee County
Monthly AFDCMW-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates


La Crosse County
Monthly AFDCMW-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Lafayette County
Monthly AFDC/M-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates


Langlade County
Monthly AFDC/M-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Marquette County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Menominee County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Milwaukee County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Monroe County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Outagamie County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Ozaukee County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Pepin County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Pierce County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999
Polk County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Portage County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999
Rusk County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Sauk County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999
Taylor County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Trempealeau County

Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999
Walworth County
Monthly AFDC Cases and Unemployment Rates

Washburn County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates
Washington County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999

Waukesha County
Monthly AFDC/W-2 Cases and Unemployment Rates

Source: Employment and Training Institute - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee - 1999
