

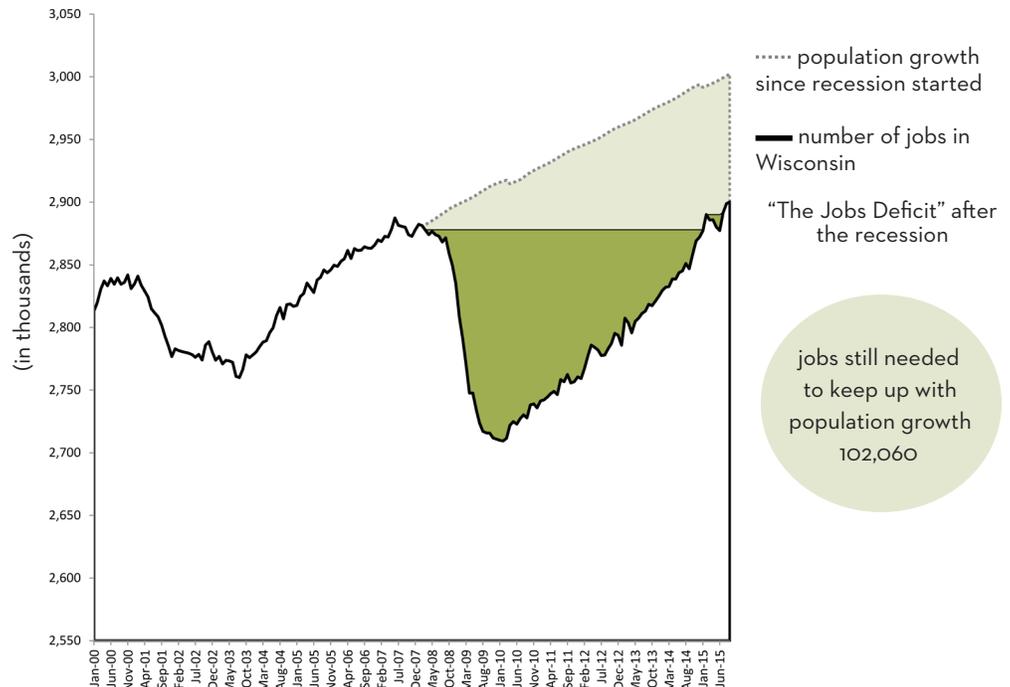
## Wisconsin jobs at its highest this year

Wisconsin jobs continue on gradual growth trajectory

### WISCONSIN'S JOBS DEFICIT

The upward trend in Wisconsin continued in September. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that Wisconsin added 1,400 jobs that month. The pace of job growth in September was much slower than that established in the previous two months when Wisconsin added 14,000 (in July) and 7,000 jobs (in August). Still it is good to see consistently positive numbers, even if a slow pace. In Wisconsin, eight years after the beginning of the Great Recession, the number of jobs is, at last, definitely and consistently above the pre-recession level.

However, since the population of the state has grown steadily since the end of the recession, our labor market still has not fully recovered. If we aspire to the same level of opportunity that Wisconsin had before the recession we need to create jobs on pace with population growth. As our job market has not kept pace, Wisconsin still shows a deficit of 102,000 jobs.

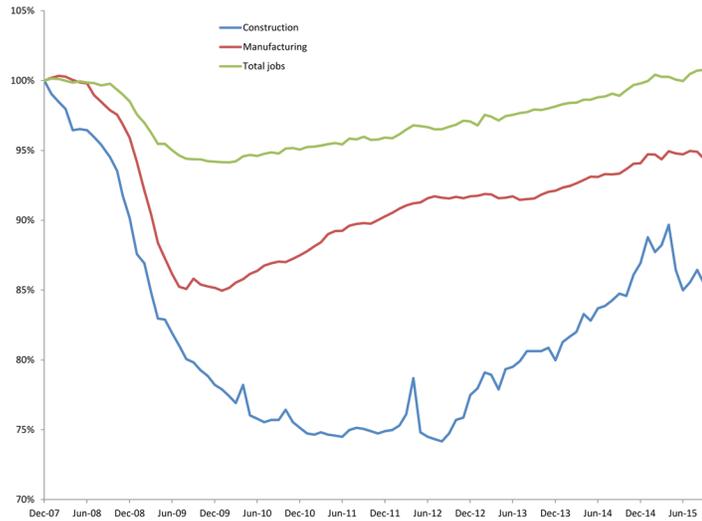


	Wisconsin	U.S.
Start of the recession	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2007
Number of jobs	2,878,000	138,350,000
Labor market trough	Feb. 2010	Feb. 2010
Number of jobs	2,709,400	129,649,000
Peak-to-trough shortfall	-168,600	-8,701,000
Current month	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2015
Number of jobs	2,900,200	142,371,000
Change from previous month	1,400	142,000
Jobs above pre-recession level (Dec. 2007)	22,200	4,021,000
Population growth since the recession began	4.3%	7.8%
Jobs Deficit	102,060	6,760,113

All of Wisconsin’s net job change was generated in the private sector in September. The private sector grew by 2,700 jobs while the public sector lost 1,300 resulting in a net gain of 1,400 jobs. In terms of industries, both construction and manufacturing lost jobs in September. Construction was down 1,300 jobs, and manufacturing lost 2,700. The contrast here is noteworthy. While the overall job count for the state has increased steadily since July, construction and manufacturing have actually been in decline over the same period. Both sectors stand significantly below the level where they were at the beginning of the year. These numbers reflect a very difficult year for these important industries in the state.

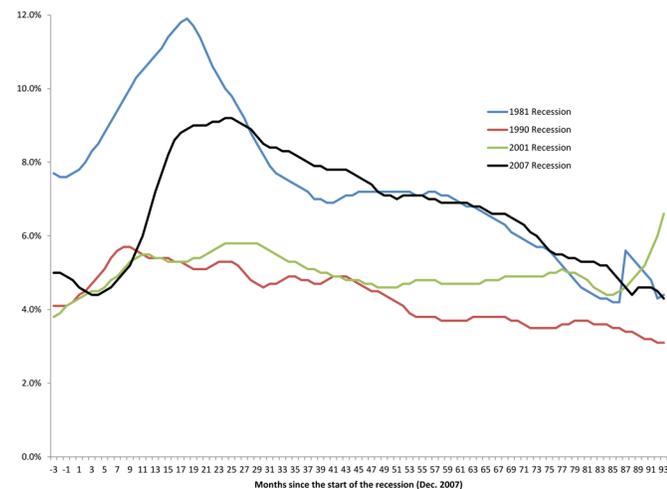
**JOB LOSS IN CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING**

Manufacturing	
September 2015 employment	470,500
Change from previous month	-2700
Percent change this recession	-5.6%
Construction	
September 2015 employment	105,800
Change from previous month	-1300
Percent change this recession	-14.6%



Unemployment edged slightly down in September, registering 4.3 percent (compared to 4.5 percent in August, and 4.6 percent in previous months). While this is generally good news, Figure 2 puts this numbers in historical perspective. The steady decline in the unemployment rate in Wisconsin since last year is a good thing, but, as we have pointed out in the past, the rate of unemployment is not entirely a good indicator of the state of the economy. Unemployment rises or falls for both good and bad reasons. When jobs are created and more people are employed, unemployment goes down. But also, when a large number of individuals leave the labor force (because they retire, they give up their job search, they move to a different state, etc.), unemployment goes down as well. Unfortunately, Wisconsin is at the top of the list of the states where people has left the labor force in great proportions in 2015. While seeing low levels of unemployment rate is a good thing, the reasons for this decline might not be related to a good and healthy economy.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STILL DECLINING**



Unemployment	
September 2015 unemployment rate	4.3%
Change since last month	-0.2%
Change since start of recession	-0.5%
Peak unemployment rate during recession	9.2%
Unemployment rate before recession	4.8%

Wisconsin Job Watch, a monthly publication of COWS, provides a snapshot of Wisconsin’s job picture and reports on key trends. The numbers provided in this report are based on seasonally-adjusted Bureau of Labor Statistics data compiled by the Economic Policy Institute ([www.epi.org](http://www.epi.org)).

Based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, COWS is a national think-and-do tank that promotes “high road” solutions to social problems. These treat shared growth and opportunity, environmental sustainability, and resilient democratic institutions as necessary and achievable complements in human development. COWS is nonpartisan but values-based. We seek a world of equal opportunity and security for all.