

JOBS AT A GLANCE

	Jan. 2016	Change since last month	Change in last 12 months	Change since Dec. 2007
Total Jobs	2,903,900	-200	0.94%	0.91%
Manufacturing	471,000	-400	0.58%	-5.54%
Construction	111,700	-1,000	3.62%	-9.85%
Private Sector	2,489,800	-1,400	0.93%	1.21%
Public Sector	414,100	1,200	1.00%	-0.84%
Unemployment	4.6%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%

Job Loss in the Private Sector

Wisconsin's labor market stalled at the start of 2016, losing 200 jobs according to federal data. Job losses were concentrated in the private sector with two – manufacturing (down 400 jobs) and construction (down 1000) – accounting for the entire private sector decline. Public sector growth of 1,200 jobs largely offset the private sector losses.

The state's job base is growing but only slowly. Compared to a year ago, Wisconsin has 27,000 more jobs today -- growth of less than 1%. The number of jobs available now is just slightly higher than it was in December 2007, just before the Great Recession.

Unemployment held steady at a 4.6%. Low unemployment rates imply greater labor market opportunity. There is some national evidence that those who had dropped out of the labor force are being tempted to rejoin it. Sustained low levels of unemployment make this dynamic more likely.

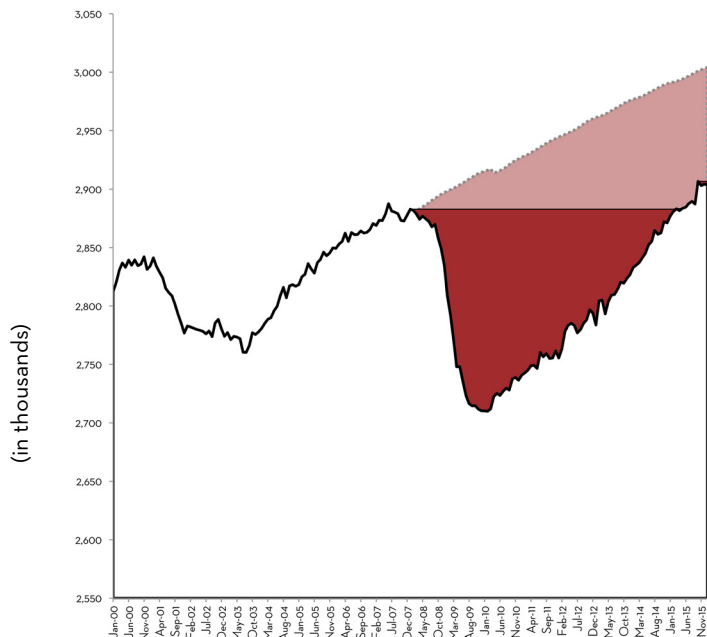
WISCONSIN JOBS DEFICIT

..... population growth since recession started

— number of jobs in Wisconsin

“The Jobs Deficit” after the recession:

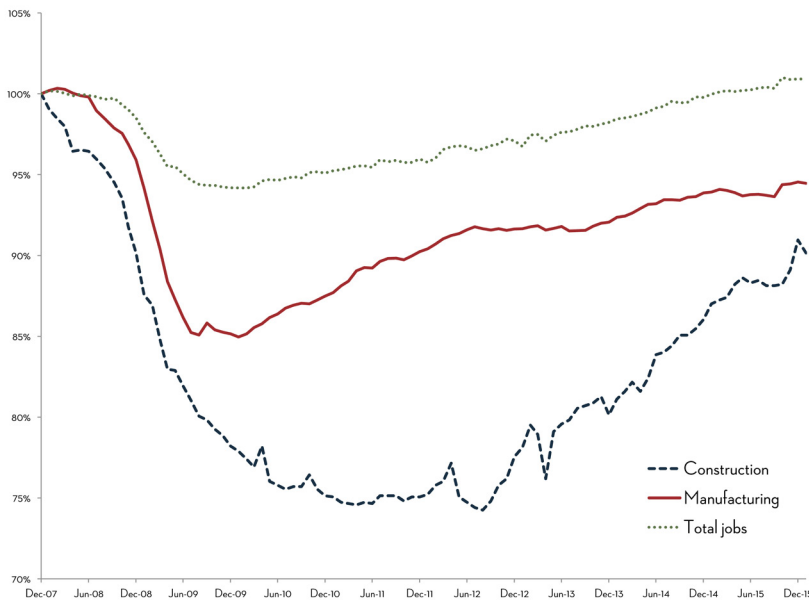
jobs still needed to keep up with population growth
100,194



Still More Jobs are Needed

This month, eight years after the beginning of the Great Recession, Wisconsin still needs more than 100,000 jobs to get back to levels of employment posted in 2007. Why? Wisconsin now has about 26,000 jobs more than it did in December of 2007. However, since the population of the state has grown at a steady pace, more jobs are needed to keep up with the increase in the size of the population. So, in spite of the fact that we have more jobs today than we did in 2007, we have fewer jobs per working adult than we did. To get back to 2007 levels of opportunity, Wisconsin needs to add 100,194 jobs.

CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING



January Losses in Construction and Manufacturing

Both construction and manufacturing reported losses this month. Construction lost 1,000 jobs while manufacturing lost 400. To put things in perspective, jobs in construction are just barely over the level a year ago (there are 3,900 more jobs in construction than in January of 2015), and the same is true for manufacturing (there are 2,700 more jobs in manufacturing now than twelve months ago). Both sectors have been hard hit by the recession. Construction and manufacturing are 10% and 6% below the level of December of 2007, respectively.

Manufacturing		Construction	
January 2016 employment	471,000	January 2016 employment	111,700
Change from previous month	400	Change from previous month	-1000
Percent change this recession	-5.5%	Percent change this recession	-9.8%

WISCONSIN IN PERSPECTIVE

	Jan-16	Change since last month (jobs)	Change in the last 12 months (%)	Change since Dec. 2007 (%)
United States	143,318,000	172,000	1.92%	3.59%
Wisconsin	2,903,900	-200	0.94%	0.91%
Rest of the Midwest				
Illinois	5,967,700	-6,500	0.84%	-0.29%
Indiana	3,062,300	2,600	1.52%	2.31%
Iowa	1,581,800	7,900	1.51%	3.73%
Michigan	4,307,400	18,800	2.07%	1.46%
Minnesota	2,868,900	-6,800	1.11%	3.52%
Ohio	5,475,500	100	1.50%	1.03%

Wisconsin grows more slowly

Wisconsin is not the only state that sustained job losses this month. Other states in the region saw losses in number of jobs as well. However, trends in job growth show that Wisconsin is growing more slowly compared to its regional neighbors. Over the last twelve months the badger state grew at a rate of 0.94 percent which is about two-thirds the rate of growth of Indiana, Iowa and Ohio, and less than half the rate of growth of Michigan. Wisconsin's growth rate is comparable to Minnesota's (1.11%) and slightly above that of Illinois (0.84%). Additionally, Wisconsin is also lagging behind the national rate of job growth. Over the last twelve months the country added 2.7 million jobs, which represents a job growth of 1.92%.

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). 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.