

## JOBS AT A GLANCE

	March 2017	Change over Q1 2017	Average monthly change in Q1 2017	Change in the last 12 months
Total Jobs	<b>2,947,100</b>	12,800	4,267	0.82%
Manufacturing	<b>467,900</b>	-500	-167	0.49%
Construction	<b>114,100</b>	1,300	433	0.62%
Private Sector	<b>2,535,600</b>	19,500	6,500	0.89%
Public Sector	<b>411,500</b>	-6,700	-2,233	0.41%
Unemployment	<b>3.4%</b>	-0.7%	-0.23%	-0.7%

### A Modest but Positive First Quarter for Wisconsin

After an inconsistent 2016, Wisconsin started off 2017 with a modest job growth across the first quarter. January through March, the state added 12,800 jobs. The growth was concentrated in January and February and offset job losses of 3700 jobs in March. Over the quarter, private sector creation compensated for the loss of almost 7000 jobs in the public sector. Additionally, the unemployment rate continues to edge down nationally and in Wisconsin. Unemployment in Wisconsin stands now at 3.4%, significantly below the level of the end of 2016.

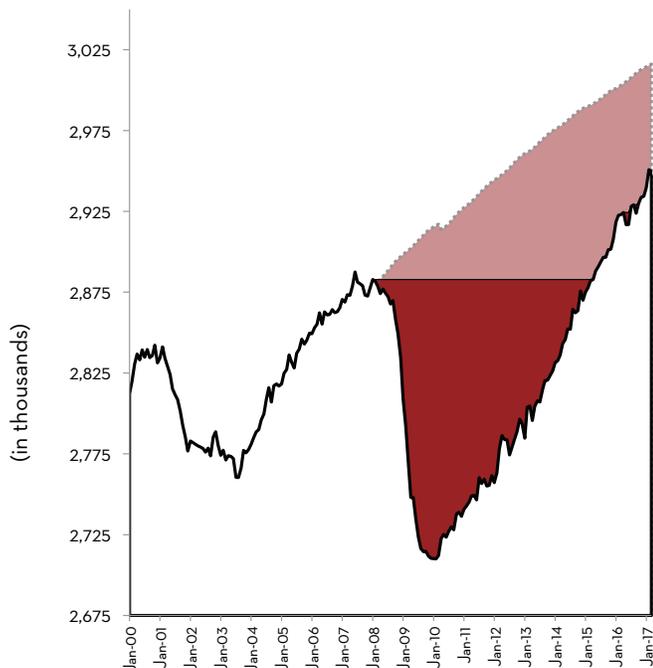
## WISCONSIN JOBS DEFICIT

..... population growth since recession started

— number of jobs in Wisconsin

“The Jobs Deficit”:

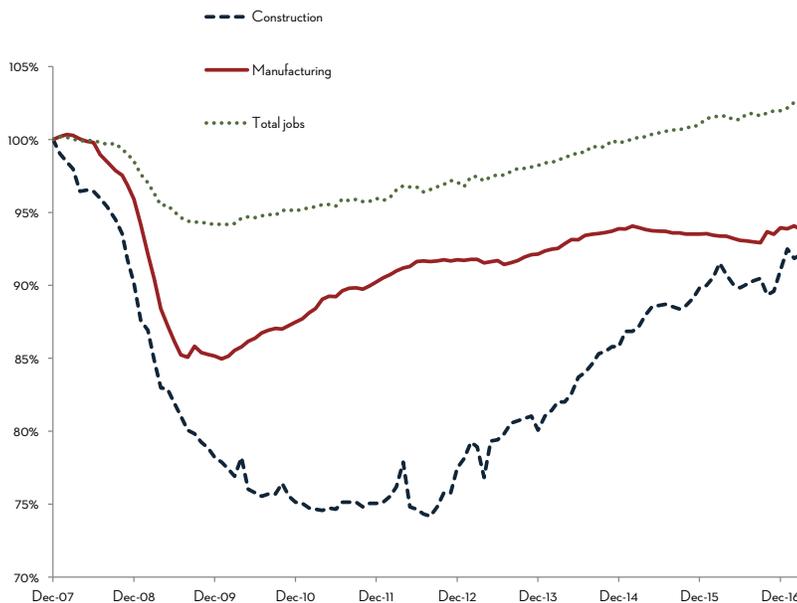
jobs still needed to keep up with population growth  
**69,039**



### Job Deficit is Closing but Still Substantial

Wisconsin's labor market is growing and is well above 2007 levels, but current opportunity lags behind the level established for workers in 2007. These dynamics are clear in the job deficit figure. If the state's labor market had grown as fast as the population of potential workers, the state would have 69,039 more jobs today than it does. Until that job deficit is closed, the level of opportunity for workers is below that before the Great Recession.

# CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING



## Slow Growth in Construction and Manufacturing

In the first quarter of 2017 the manufacturing sector in Wisconsin lost 500 jobs. At the end of the quarter there were about 468,000 manufacturing jobs in the state, roughly the number of jobs the state registered at the end of 2014. There has been a relatively weak job growth in manufacturing since mid-2012, and the sector remains 6 percent below 2007 levels. In construction, job growth puts the sector at almost 114,100 jobs in March of 2017. Although the sector added more than 1000 jobs in this first quarter, growth is slow and construction remains 7 percent below the level in 2007.

Manufacturing		Construction	
March 2017 employment	467,900	March 2017 employment	114,100
Change over Q1 2017	-500	Change over Q1 2017	1300
Average monthly change in Q1 2017	-167	Average monthly change in Q1 2017	433.3
Percent change this recession	-6.2%	Percent change this recession	-7.9%

# WISCONSIN IN PERSPECTIVE

	March 17	Percent change in Q1 2017	Change in the last 12 months (%)	Change since Dec. 2007 (%)
United States	<b>145,852,000</b>	0.36%	1.52%	5.37%
Wisconsin	<b>2,947,100</b>	0.44%	0.82%	2.42%
Rest of the Midwest				
Illinois	<b>6,036,500</b>	0.25%	0.44%	0.86%
Indiana	<b>3,117,800</b>	0.45%	1.42%	4.16%
Iowa	<b>1,580,200</b>	0.53%	0.49%	3.61%
Michigan	<b>4,378,500</b>	0.22%	1.86%	3.14%
Minnesota	<b>2,929,300</b>	0.27%	1.55%	5.76%
Ohio	<b>5,518,500</b>	0.27%	0.66%	1.85%

## Relatively Large Job Growth for Wisconsin in the Region

Compared to other states in the Midwest and the nation, Wisconsin grew at a faster pace in the first quarter of 2017. Only Indiana and Iowa posted larger growth numbers. However, considering the last twelve months, Wisconsin remains one of the slowest growing states in the region, standing above only Illinois and Ohio. The same is true when one considers the pace of job growth since the beginning of the 2007 recession.

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.