

## JOBS AT A GLANCE

	May 2016	Change since last month	Change in last 12 months	Change since Dec. 2007
Total Jobs	<b>2,931,300</b>	5,500	1.65%	1.87%
Manufacturing	<b>471,400</b>	500	0.92%	-5.46%
Construction	<b>114,600</b>	-3,200	4.37%	-7.51%
Private Sector	<b>2,520,400</b>	9,700	1.85%	2.46%
Public Sector	<b>410,900</b>	-4,200	0.44%	-1.60%
Unemployment	<b>4.2%</b>	-0.2%	-0.4%	-0.6%

### Jobs Up in Wisconsin

Last month we reported a dramatic job loss of more than 10,000 jobs. This month, the labor market brings better news, with increases that move us back in the right direction. Since last month, Wisconsin added 5,500 jobs. This increase was driven by private sector job growth where 9,700 jobs were added. At the same time, some 4,200 government jobs were lost between April and May. The unemployment rate in Wisconsin dropped two tenths of percentage points and stands now at 4.2%.

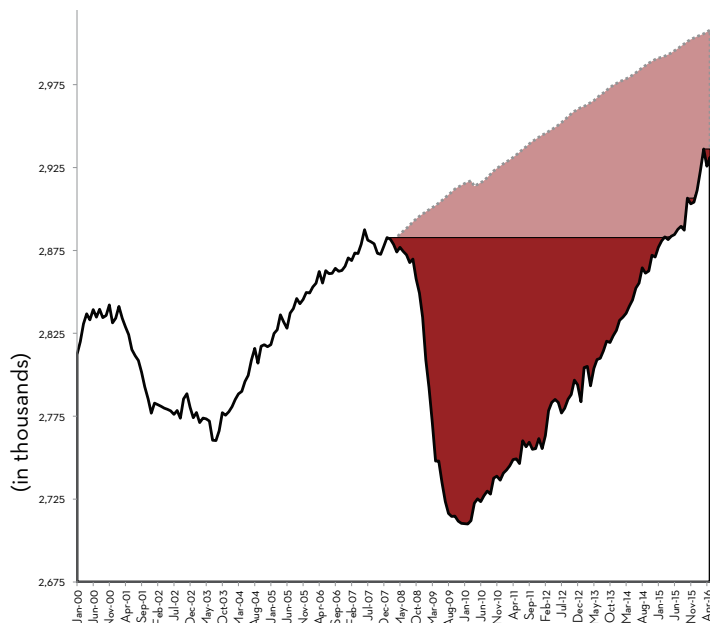
## WISCONSIN JOBS DEFICIT

..... population growth since recession started

— number of jobs in Wisconsin

“The Jobs Deficit” after the recession:

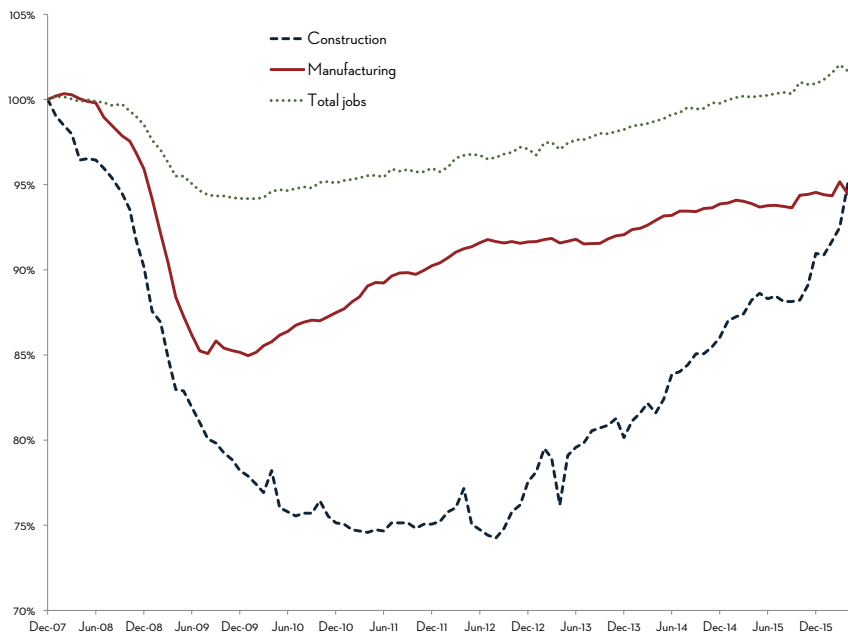
jobs still needed to keep up with population growth  
**76,650**



### Shrinking Jobs Deficit

In February of 2015, after a long process of economic recovery, Wisconsin got back to the number of jobs that it had at the beginning of the recession of 2007. Even so, more than a year after that mark, and eight years after the recession started, the labor market does not provide the same opportunities that it did in 2007. That is because the working age population in Wisconsin is growing. We need more jobs just to keep up with that growth. When population growth is taken into consideration, a gap appears between the number of jobs that Wisconsin has and the number of jobs that it should have to accommodate its larger potential workforce. The gap, which we call the “jobs deficit”, stands now at 76,650 jobs.

# CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING



## Meager Gain in Manufacturing and Losses in Construction

Last month the manufacturing sector in Wisconsin added 500 jobs, which puts it practically at the same level compared to October of 2015. In general, over the last year manufacturing has grown at a very slow pace (less than 1%) as the table shows. Manufacturing is almost 5.5% below the number of jobs it had at the end of 2007. The construction sector lost 3,200 jobs last month, which puts it at a level comparable to the levels of 2008. Over the last year the industry has grown at a pace of about 4.4%.

Manufacturing		Construction	
May 2016 employment	471,400	May 2016 employment	114,600
Change from previous month	500	Change from previous month	-3200
Percent change this recession	-5.5%	Percent change this recession	-7.5%

## Wisconsin's Recovery in Context

In the context of the Midwest region, with the exception of Ohio and Wisconsin, all other states lost jobs last month. As the table shows, every state experienced a significant decrease in the number of jobs in May, although the setback was more dramatic for Michigan which lost 12,700 jobs. Over the last year, Wisconsin's job growth lags behind some of its Midwest neighbors: while Michigan and Indiana have grown at a pace of 1.9% and 1.3%, respectively, Wisconsin has grown at a pace of 1.7%. And this contrast is even more striking when one takes a longer time frame to compare. In the period of economic recovery post-recession, Wisconsin has grown at a pace of 1.9%, while many of the other Midwestern states have maintained a stronger pace over these last eight years (look at the table to compare). The same is true when one compares Wisconsin with the US. The national labor market has grown by 4% over the recovery, which is more than twice as fast the rate of growth of the Badger State.

# WISCONSIN IN PERSPECTIVE

	May 2016	Change since last month (jobs)	Change in the last 12 months (%)	Change since Dec. 2007 (%)
United States	<b>143,894,000</b>	38,000	1.69%	4.01%
Wisconsin	<b>2,931,300</b>	5,500	1.65%	1.87%
Rest of the Midwest				
Illinois	<b>6,004,800</b>	-2,500	0.78%	0.33%
Indiana	<b>3,067,300</b>	-7,600	1.28%	2.48%
Iowa	<b>1,577,900</b>	-4,200	1.15%	3.48%
Michigan	<b>4,318,400</b>	-12,700	1.89%	1.72%
Minnesota	<b>2,888,600</b>	-1,900	1.06%	4.23%
Ohio	<b>5,486,800</b>	9,200	1.31%	1.24%

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.