

## JOBS AT A GLANCE

	Mar. 2016	Change since last month	Change in last 12 months	Change since Dec. 2007
Total Jobs	<b>2,934,400</b>	15,900	1.78%	1.97%
Manufacturing	<b>474,600</b>	5,600	1.24%	-4.81%
Construction	<b>114,900</b>	1,300	6.09%	-7.26%
Private Sector	<b>2,520,600</b>	15,600	1.92%	2.46%
Public Sector	<b>413,800</b>	300	0.90%	-0.91%
Unemployment	<b>4.5%</b>	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.3%

### Strong Job Growth

Wisconsin's labor market grew dramatically in March as nearly 16,000 jobs were added. This is a strong showing and reflects a very significant improvement in the opportunities in the state. The vast majority of new jobs were created in the private sector: private industries contributed about 15,600 jobs, while the public sector added just 300. The employment rate, which has been stable at 4.6% for a year, dropped one tenth of percentage points last month. The current unemployment rate in Wisconsin is 4.5%.

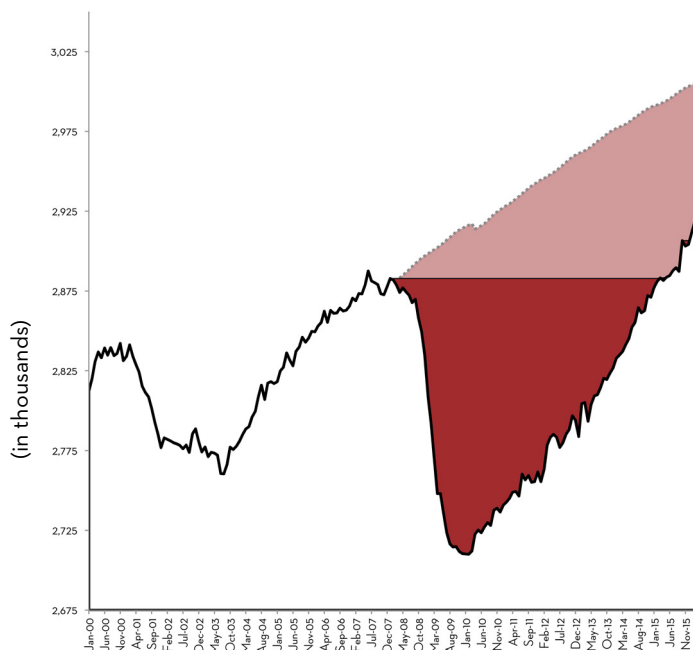
## WISCONSIN JOBS DEFICIT

..... population growth since recession started

— number of jobs in Wisconsin

“The Jobs Deficit” after the recession:

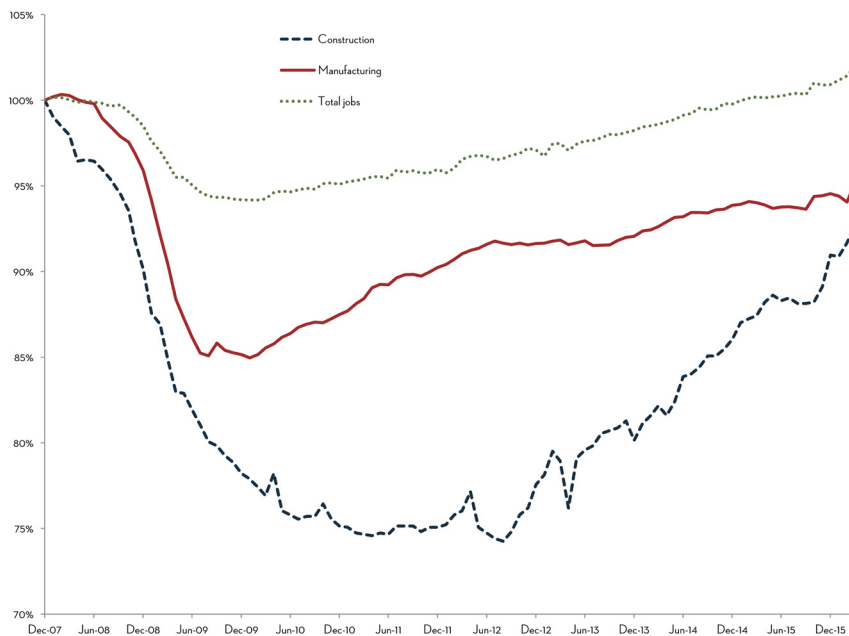
jobs still needed to keep up with population growth  
**71,367**



### Job Growth Reduces but does not Eliminate the Jobs Deficit

This job growth contributes to the process of economic recovery from the Great Recession which began nearly eight years ago. And while Wisconsin has more jobs today than it did in December of 2007, the level of opportunity in the state is actually lower than it was. That is because the population in Wisconsin has grown since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2007. When this population growth is taken into consideration, Wisconsin shows a still significant jobs deficit: the state needs some 71,367 jobs in order to have sufficient opportunity to absorb the increasing working age population.

# CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING



## Gains in Construction and Manufacturing

Both construction and manufacturing, two important sectors in the Wisconsin economy, added jobs last month. Construction grew by 1,300 jobs and manufacturing added 5,600. Relative to employment a year ago, construction has grown 6%. Growth in manufacturing is much slower – the sector has grown 1% over the last year. Both sectors were very hard hit by the recession and remain significantly smaller than they were when the recession began. Construction is still 7.3% under and manufacturing is 4.8% below the number of jobs posted in December 2007.

Manufacturing		Construction	
March 2016 employment	474,600	March 2016 employment	114,900
Change from previous month	5600	Change from previous month	1,300
Percent change this recession	-4.8%	Percent change this recession	-7.3%

# WISCONSIN IN PERSPECTIVE

	Mar. 2016	Change since last month (jobs)	Change in the last 12 months (%)	Change since Dec. 2007 (%)
United States	<b>143,774,000</b>	215,000	1.99%	3.92%
Wisconsin	<b>2,934,400</b>	15,900	1.78%	1.97%
Rest of the Midwest				
Illinois	<b>6,009,000</b>	15,200	1.35%	0.40%
Indiana	<b>3,058,500</b>	-14,300	1.29%	2.19%
Iowa	<b>1,575,400</b>	1,000	0.98%	3.31%
Michigan	<b>4,320,800</b>	7,900	2.30%	1.78%
Minnesota	<b>2,876,500</b>	-3,200	1.09%	3.80%
Ohio	<b>5,493,800</b>	16,100	1.75%	1.37%

## Wisconsin's Good Month

In the Midwest, Wisconsin is one of the big winners in terms of job creation last month. In the region, Wisconsin's increase was second only to Ohio – which added over 16,000 jobs last month. Illinois and Michigan added 15,200 and 7,900 jobs respectively. Iowa added only about 1,000 jobs and Indiana and Minnesota actually reported job losses in the month of March. While this is good news for last month for the Badger State, it has been long delayed. Wisconsin needs more months like March to close the gap that our long period of sluggish growth created. As the table shows, over the course of the recovery, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota have all added jobs more rapidly than Wisconsin.

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.