



# Regional Employment and Unemployment Comparison

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## Description

This project is being performed for the Chippewa Valley Center for Economic Research and Development in the Department of Economics. We have collected data on both employment and unemployment for the U.S., Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as for the Eau Claire and St. Cloud metropolitan areas. Employment and unemployment numbers are frequently reported in the media and are of interest to a wide variety of stakeholders. Our poster consists of both graphs and a brief synopsis characterizing recent trends in these variables across regions.

Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov

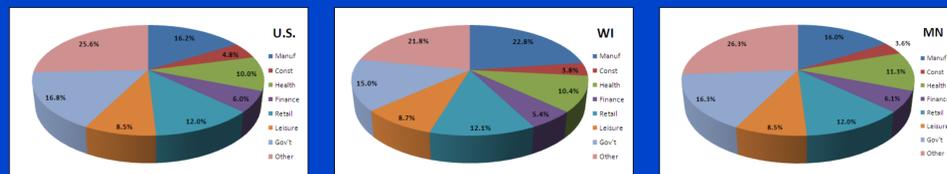
## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge generous funding support for this project from:

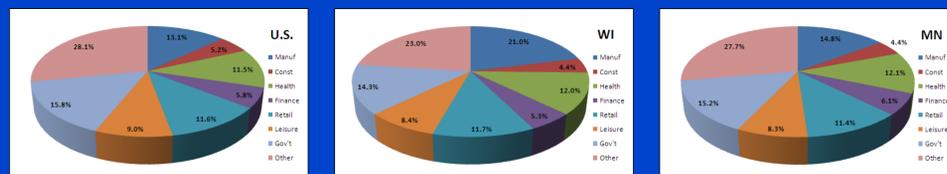
Northwestern Bank of Chippewa Falls  
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## Comparison of Employment by Industry

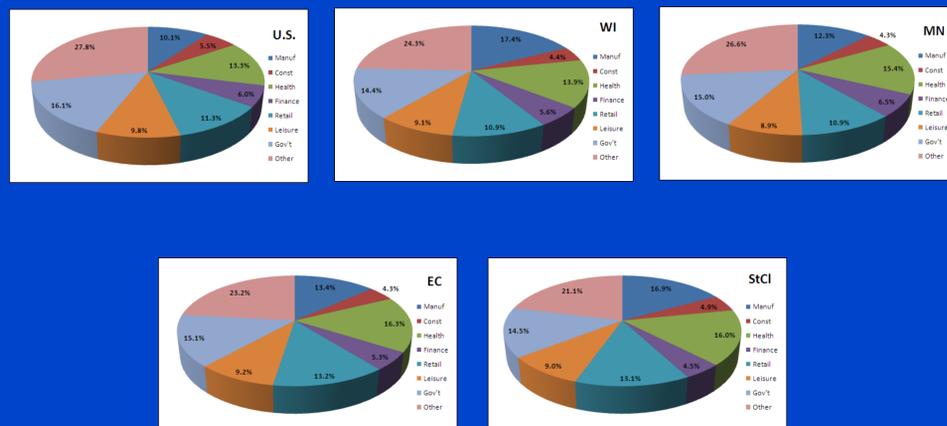
1990



2000



2007



Note: Total of all sectors combine to equal total non-farm employment.

### Sector Employment

A comparison of employment data from various industries shows that in 1990 Minnesota and Wisconsin were fairly representative of the U.S. data. The only significant difference was that Wisconsin had a larger share of its workforce in manufacturing (22.8%) than either Minnesota (16.0%) or the U.S. (16.2%). By 2000, the percentage of workers in manufacturing decreased about three percentage points in the U.S., with smaller decreases in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Wisconsin still had the highest proportion in manufacturing by over six percentage points. By 2007, the percentage employment in manufacturing had declined further in all three areas by around three percentage points from 2000.

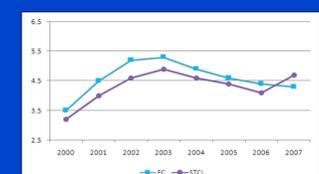
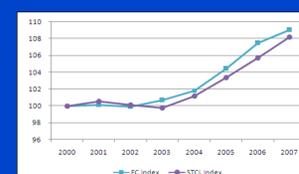
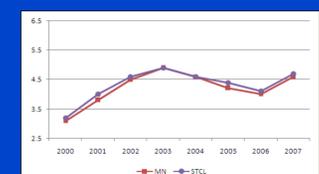
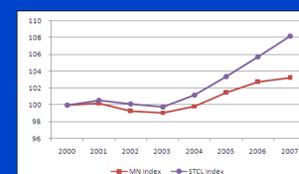
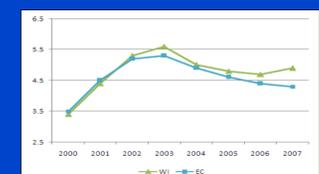
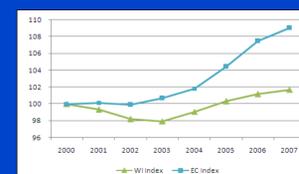
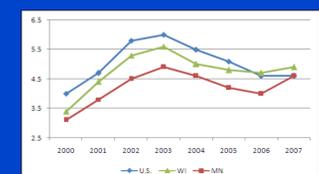
In 2007 Eau Claire had a smaller percent of its workforce in manufacturing (13.4%) than Wisconsin (17.4%), but still larger than Minnesota (12.3%) and the U.S. as a whole (10.1%). St. Cloud had a higher percentage of employment in manufacturing (16.9%) than the U.S., Minnesota, and Eau Claire, however not as high as Wisconsin. Additionally, both metropolitan areas had higher percentages of employment in retail services than their respective states, with Eau Claire also being higher than Wisconsin in education and health services, and St. Cloud being lower than Minnesota in financial services.

## Comparison of Employment and Unemployment

Total non-farm employment is measured as an index with the base year 2000 = 100.



Unemployment rate is measured as the percent of the labor force that is not employed.



### Total Non-Farm Employment

The U.S., Wisconsin, and Minnesota all experienced a decline in employment during the post 9/11 recessionary period (2002-2003). Interestingly, Wisconsin's employment began to decline before the other economies. Coming out of the recession, the U.S., Wisconsin, and Minnesota all experienced employment growth with Wisconsin lagging behind the other economies.

When comparing the metropolitan areas of Eau Claire and St. Cloud to their respective states, the decline in employment was less severe over the recessionary period. Similarly, the growth in employment for Eau Claire and St. Cloud was larger than either Minnesota or Wisconsin.

Between 2000 and 2007, the Eau Claire and St. Cloud metropolitan areas experienced the largest growth in employment (9.0% and 8.2% respectively). Over the same period, the U.S. growth in employment (4.4%) outpaced both Minnesota (3.2%) and Wisconsin (1.7%).

### Unemployment Rates

The U.S., Wisconsin, and Minnesota all experienced a rise in unemployment during the post 9/11 recessionary period (2002-2003). Coming out of the recession, the U.S., Wisconsin, and Minnesota all experienced a decrease in their unemployment rates; however all three economies had higher unemployment rates in 2007 compared to 2000.

The unemployment rate in the St. Cloud metropolitan area tracks the statewide rate very closely into and out of the recessionary period. In Wisconsin, the unemployment rate for the Eau Claire metropolitan area and the state as a whole are nearly identical from 2000 to 2002. Coming out of the recession, Eau Claire experienced a larger drop in unemployment compared to the statewide rate. In fact, between 2006 and 2007 Wisconsin's unemployment rate increased from 4.7% to 4.9%, while Eau Claire's rate fell from 4.4% to 4.3%.

When comparing metropolitan areas, St. Cloud has always had a lower unemployment rate than Eau Claire until 2007. From 2006 to 2007 St. Cloud's unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 4.7% while the unemployment rate in Eau Claire decreased from 4.4% to 4.3%.