

WEDC Job Numbers Shows Massive County Disparity in Economic Development

Written by Citizen Action of Wisconsin, Robert Kraig

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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/unemployment-280h.jpg>



Real story shows many counties with high unemployment ignored by Governor Walker's jobs agency, Waukesha county largest beneficiary.

MADISON - [New April data from](#) Governor Walker's Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) shows continuing regional disparities and a complete lack of effort to promote employment opportunities in areas of the state with the most economic need. This data follows [previous Citizen Action of Wisconsin research showing](#) large geographic and political disparities in the impact self-reported by WEDC. Our analysis shows that WEDC is ignoring numerous counties and focusing disproportionately on low-unemployment Waukesha County.

"These new numbers reported by Walker's economic development agency reveal a complete absence of serious planning," said Kevin Kane, Lead Organizer of Citizen Action of Wisconsin and report author. "It is the state's responsibility to use state funds where they will have the most impact, not ignore high unemployment areas of the state."

"WEDC's own numbers reveal that it is not fairly distributing scarce economic resources to every area of Wisconsin," said Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin. "Since it was created early 2011, Governor Walker's jobs agency has been an economic train wreck. The best way to restore real public accountability and basic fairness to Wisconsin's economic development programs is to disband WEDC."

According to WEDC's Own Self-Reported Numbers:

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18 counties have 0 jobs impacted by WEDC throughout its existence. And every one of these 18 counties have an unemployment rate higher than the [state unemployment rate of 6.1%](#)

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8 of the 18 counties for which WEDC does not project a single job has an [unemployment rate of over 10%](#).

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Waukesha county has more "jobs projected" by WEDC than any other county in the state, despite its smaller population than Milwaukee and Dane counties. Waukesha has one of the [lowest unemployment rates](#) and [poverty rates](#) of any county in Wisconsin.

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Even when controlling for population, WEDC is emphasizing Waukesha over mid-sized counties such as Outagamie, Racine, Marathon, and Eau Claire.

Regional Job Creation: WEDC Jobs-Projected. Residents per job projected.

County

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Population

Jobs Projected by WEDC

County residents per job projected

Unemployment Rate

Waukesha

391,564

11,520

33.99

6.1%

Dane

496,997

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7,647

64.99

4.6%

Milwaukee

951,315

6,165

154.31

7.9%

Racine

195,118

4,500

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43.36

8.7%

Rock

160,229

4,261

37.60

8.1%

Brown

251,599

4,081

61.65

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6.2%

Winnebago

168,119

3,536

47.54

6.3%

Kenosha

167,227

2,081

80.36

7.7%

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La Crosse

115,985

1,700

68.23

5.4%

Marathon

134,648

1,585

84.95

6.9%

Eau Claire

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99,888

875

114.16

5.7%

Outagamie

178,693

754

236.99

6.6%

Oneida

35,938

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328

109.57

10.2%

The complete data can be [found on our website](#)