

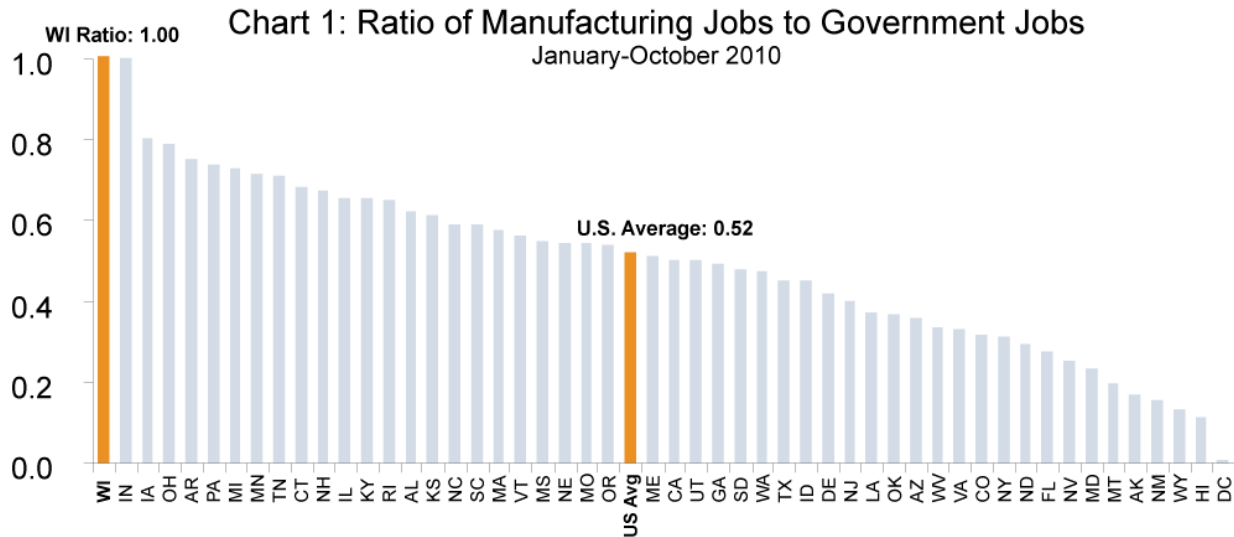


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**Newest Labor Statistics Confirm That Wisconsin Leads the Nation
in Manufacturing-to-Government Job Ratio**
Wisconsin and Indiana Far Ahead of the Pack

A new analysis by the Wisconsin Budget Project of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) through October 2010 shows that Wisconsin still has the nation’s highest ratio of manufacturing jobs to government jobs. Wisconsin’s ratio is nearly double that of the nation as a whole. Only Indiana’s is in the same range as Wisconsin’s. All other states have many more government jobs than manufacturing jobs.



“We’re not sure if this is an important statistic,” said Jon Peacock, director of the Wisconsin Budget Project. “But if the ratio of manufacturing jobs to government jobs *is* in fact an important indicator of economic well-being, then we should be celebrating Wisconsin’s status, not lamenting it as some observers have been doing in recent months.”

Peacock noted that several times in the last year, business lobbyists and some politicians have reacted with alarm to reports that the number of government jobs in Wisconsin had surpassed the number of manufacturing jobs. He finds that reaction puzzling for several reasons. For one thing, it has not even been true at some of the times it has been brought up. But more importantly, the Budget Project’s analysis found that while Wisconsin has not escaped the nationwide decline in manufacturing jobs, the state’s ratio of manufacturing jobs to public sector jobs has actually declined significantly less than the nation’s as a whole over the last 20 years.

Table 1: Change in the Ratio Since 1990

	1990	2010	Change
U.S.	0.96	0.52	-46%
WI	1.53	1.00	-34%

The analysis also found that the number of state and local government employees per capita in Wisconsin has declined over the past decade, and is significantly below the national average, while the nationwide figure actually *increased* over the same period. Wisconsin, contrary to myth, has one of the smaller government workforces in the country relative to state population, 4.4% below the national average.

The ratio of manufacturing jobs to government jobs varies from month to month and has been hovering around 1:1 in Wisconsin for some time. In most recent months, there have actually been more manufacturing jobs than government jobs in the state.

“Raising alarms about Wisconsin’s ratio of manufacturing jobs to government jobs represents a complete misreading of the data,” said Peacock. “It’s time to focus on creating good jobs through sound public policy. Demonizing the public sector does not advance this goal, and presenting the numbers in a misleading context will not lead to good policy decisions.”

The Budget Project analysis is available at
http://www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org/manufacturing_jobs.pdf.

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