



\$4.7 Billion from Two Recovery Measures Directly Benefitted Wisconsin Residents

Important Benefits Set to Expire Soon Unless Extended

Over the last three years, Wisconsin residents received \$4.7 billion in direct payments from the federal government in the form of extended unemployment benefits (\$3.2 billion) and payroll tax cuts (\$1.5 billion). These payments, which were aimed at stimulating the economy and helping families hit hard by the recession, will expire at the end of the year unless Congress takes action.

These two emergency federal supports put money into the pockets of struggling Wisconsin families and injected much-needed dollars into the local economy, saving thousands of jobs and reducing the severity of the recession. These benefits supported consumer spending during a critical period, when the economy was severely weakened by a major financial crisis, and helped sustained demand for business products across the country and in Wisconsin.

Wisconsinites received \$833 per person from these two forms of federal aid over this period: \$573 from unemployment benefits and \$260 from the payroll tax cut. Because a large share of this aid took the form of significant tax cuts that showed up in worker's paychecks, many Wisconsinites may not realize that they benefitted.

People in every county of the state benefitted from these provisions. For example:

- Milwaukee County residents received an estimated \$675 million in additional weeks of benefits for people who lost their jobs.
- Ashland County residents received \$4 million through the payroll tax cut.
- La Crosse County residents received a total of \$77 million through both benefits combined.

These two benefits are scheduled to end at the end of 2011. President Obama has proposed extending and increasing the cut in payroll taxes, and continuing the additional aid for long-time jobless workers.

If Congress fails to act, the expiration of these emergency provisions could further slow the already anemic recovery. Unemployment rates are still high, hovering just under 8% in Wisconsin and at about 9% nationally. After past recessions, Congress kept additional unemployment benefits in place until the unemployment rate was below 7.2%. Nationally, unemployment benefits paid by the state and federal governments kept more than 3 million people out of poverty in 2010, according to the Census Bureau.

The extended unemployment benefits and payroll tax cuts are just part of the Recovery Act measures that have been put \$8 billion directly into the pockets of Wisconsin residents over the last three years to stimulate the economy; however, most of the others have already expired. The Wisconsin Budget Project has completed a county-by-county analysis of how much Wisconsin has received from six different direct benefits from the Recovery Act. It can be found on the Budget Project website at <http://bit.ly/Wirecovery>.

Estimates of Selected Federal Unemployment Benefits and Payroll Tax Cut Amounts by County

<u>County</u>	<u>Additional Unemployment Benefits</u>	<u>Cut in Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>Total</u>
Adams	\$8,656,000	\$4,670,000	\$13,326,000
Ashland	12,643,000	4,069,000	16,712,000
Barron	26,247,000	11,578,000	37,825,000
Bayfield	8,020,000	3,610,000	11,630,000
Brown	139,410,000	67,503,000	206,913,000
Buffalo	4,540,000	3,709,000	8,249,000
Burnett	7,677,000	3,879,000	11,556,000
Calumet	25,784,000	12,299,000	38,083,000
Chippewa	33,584,000	15,921,000	49,505,000
Clark	20,802,000	8,040,000	28,842,000
Columbia	37,672,000	14,920,000	52,592,000
Crawford	10,085,000	4,333,000	14,418,000
Dane	186,523,000	147,203,000	333,726,000
Dodge	53,480,000	22,067,000	75,547,000
Door	22,129,000	7,819,000	29,948,000
Douglas	14,641,000	11,267,000	25,908,000
Dunn	18,640,000	12,230,000	30,870,000
Eau Claire	44,187,000	27,785,000	71,972,000
Florence	1,713,000	1,140,000	2,853,000
Fond du Lac	58,369,000	26,784,000	85,153,000
Forest	6,138,000	2,229,000	8,367,000
Grant	21,915,000	13,676,000	35,591,000
Green	19,671,000	9,340,000	29,011,000
Green Lake	12,055,000	4,745,000	16,800,000
Iowa	13,074,000	6,759,000	19,833,000
Iron	3,522,000	1,357,000	4,879,000
Jackson	9,322,000	4,560,000	13,882,000
Jefferson	45,844,000	19,837,000	65,681,000
Juneau	17,133,000	6,212,000	23,345,000
Kenosha	77,660,000	39,572,000	117,232,000
Kewaunee	10,794,000	5,531,000	16,325,000
La Crosse	45,801,000	31,611,000	77,412,000
Lafayette	6,523,000	4,528,000	11,051,000
Langlade	14,145,000	4,942,000	19,087,000
Lincoln	25,888,000	6,816,000	32,704,000
Manitowoc	58,683,000	20,888,000	79,571,000
Marathon	93,716,000	34,824,000	128,540,000
Marinette	29,613,000	10,079,000	39,692,000
Marquette	11,999,000	3,588,000	15,587,000
Menominee	3,379,000	719,000	4,098,000
Milwaukee	675,283,000	222,000,000	897,283,000
Monroe	21,790,000	11,876,000	33,666,000
Oconto	27,440,000	9,465,000	36,905,000
Oneida	23,886,000	8,586,000	32,472,000
Outagamie	100,784,000	47,306,000	148,090,000
Ozaukee	39,581,000	23,077,000	62,658,000
Pepin	2,548,000	1,969,000	4,517,000
Pierce	10,253,000	11,175,000	21,428,000
Polk	21,897,000	11,175,000	33,072,000
Portage	36,568,000	20,100,000	56,668,000
Price	10,968,000	3,687,000	14,655,000
Racine	134,689,000	46,025,000	180,714,000
Richland	9,729,000	4,762,000	14,491,000
Rock	115,870,000	37,162,000	153,032,000
Rusk	13,169,000	3,171,000	16,340,000
Sauk	36,926,000	16,855,000	53,781,000
Sawyer	11,388,000	4,139,000	15,527,000
Shawano	25,718,000	10,472,000	36,190,000
Sheboygan	78,748,000	30,423,000	109,171,000
St. Croix	22,627,000	22,409,000	45,036,000
Taylor	16,311,000	4,860,000	21,171,000
Trempealeau	13,997,000	7,922,000	21,919,000
Vernon	12,116,000	7,301,000	19,417,000
Vilas	12,975,000	4,833,000	17,808,000
Walworth	49,974,000	25,910,000	75,884,000

<u>County</u>	<u>Additional Unemployment Benefits</u>	<u>Cut in Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>Total</u>
Washburn	\$9,139,000	3,690,000	\$12,829,000
Washington	\$76,434,000	35,823,000	\$112,257,000
Waukesha	\$183,831,000	103,269,000	\$287,100,000
Waupaca	\$33,252,000	13,291,000	\$46,543,000
Waushara	\$14,509,000	5,931,000	\$20,440,000
Winnebago	\$87,825,000	46,047,000	\$133,872,000
Wood	\$45,954,000	19,322,000	\$65,276,000
WI Total	\$3,237,855,000	\$1,467,000,000	\$4,704,855,000

Methods

Additional weeks of jobless benefits

Reduction in Payroll taxes for individuals

Source and Method for Estimating County Amounts

These benefit amounts are taken from the Department of Labor website, and allocated by county in proportion to the county's share of state employment.

A 2011 figure for Wisconsin is based on a whole-year figure for the state taken from Treasury Department documents. The dollar amount was then prorated through August 2011. County estimates were developed by allocating the credit based on each county's share of statewide employment.

November 2011