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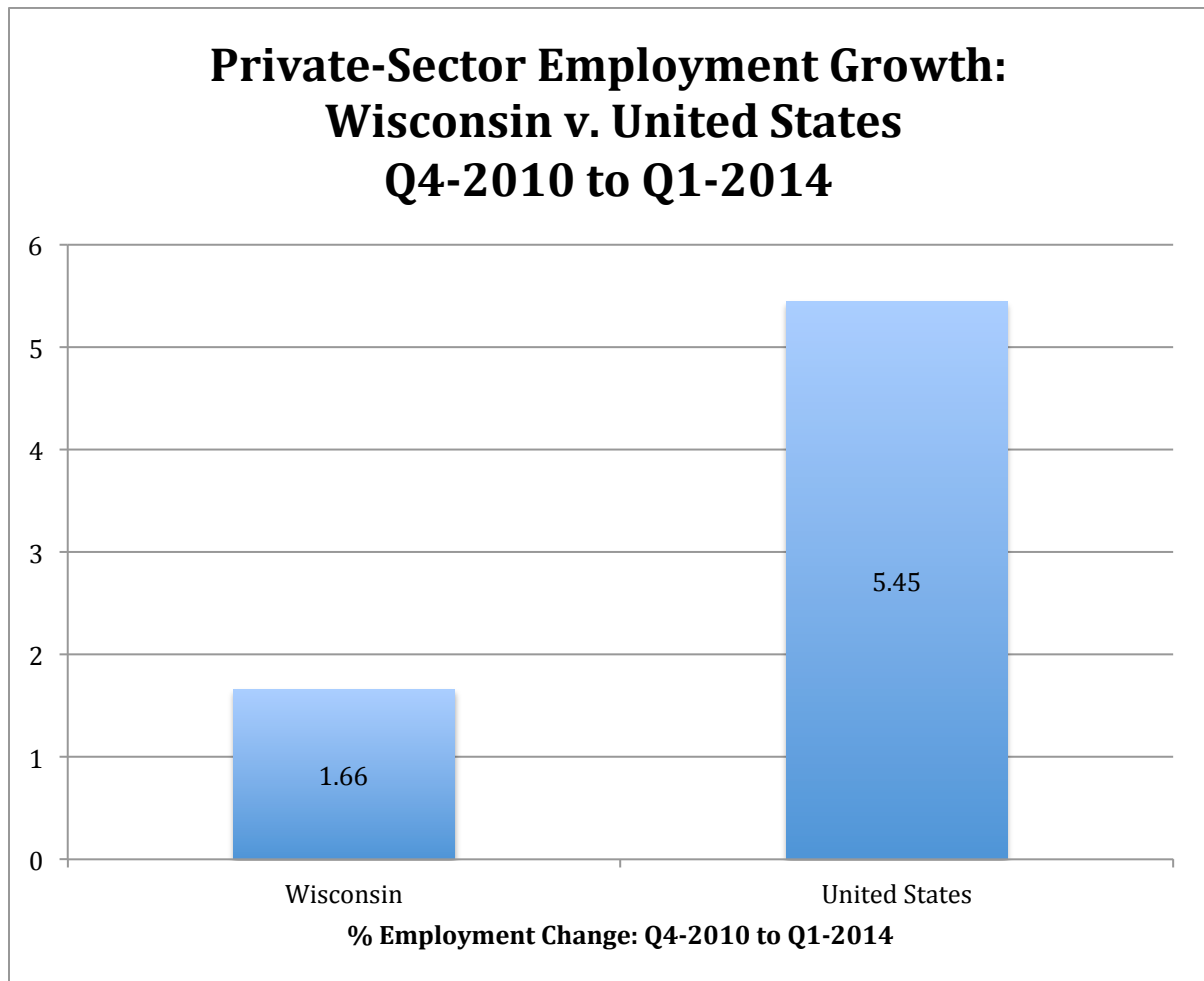
***Nine Charts on Recent Trends in
Employment Growth in Wisconsin***

by:

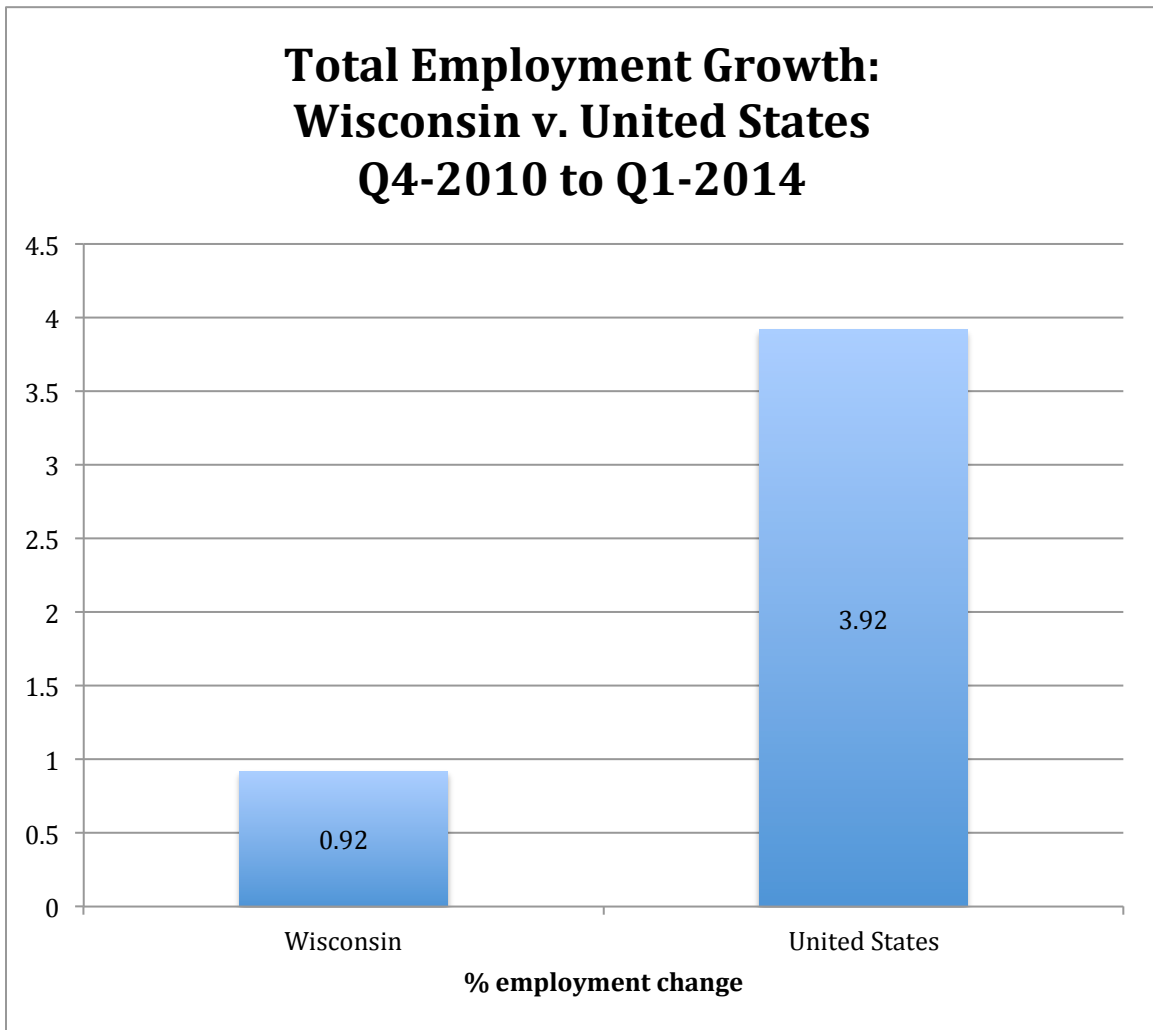
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Center for Economic Development
CED Data Brief
September 2014

The latest release of the most comprehensive and reliable state employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics –the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages— enables us to assess the most recent trends in job growth in Wisconsin, and put them into a slightly longer temporal perspective. Given the centrality of the jobs issue to the current gubernatorial campaign in Wisconsin, it is important to have the most accurate data on the subject. Our analysis of the QCEW data suggests six key observations:

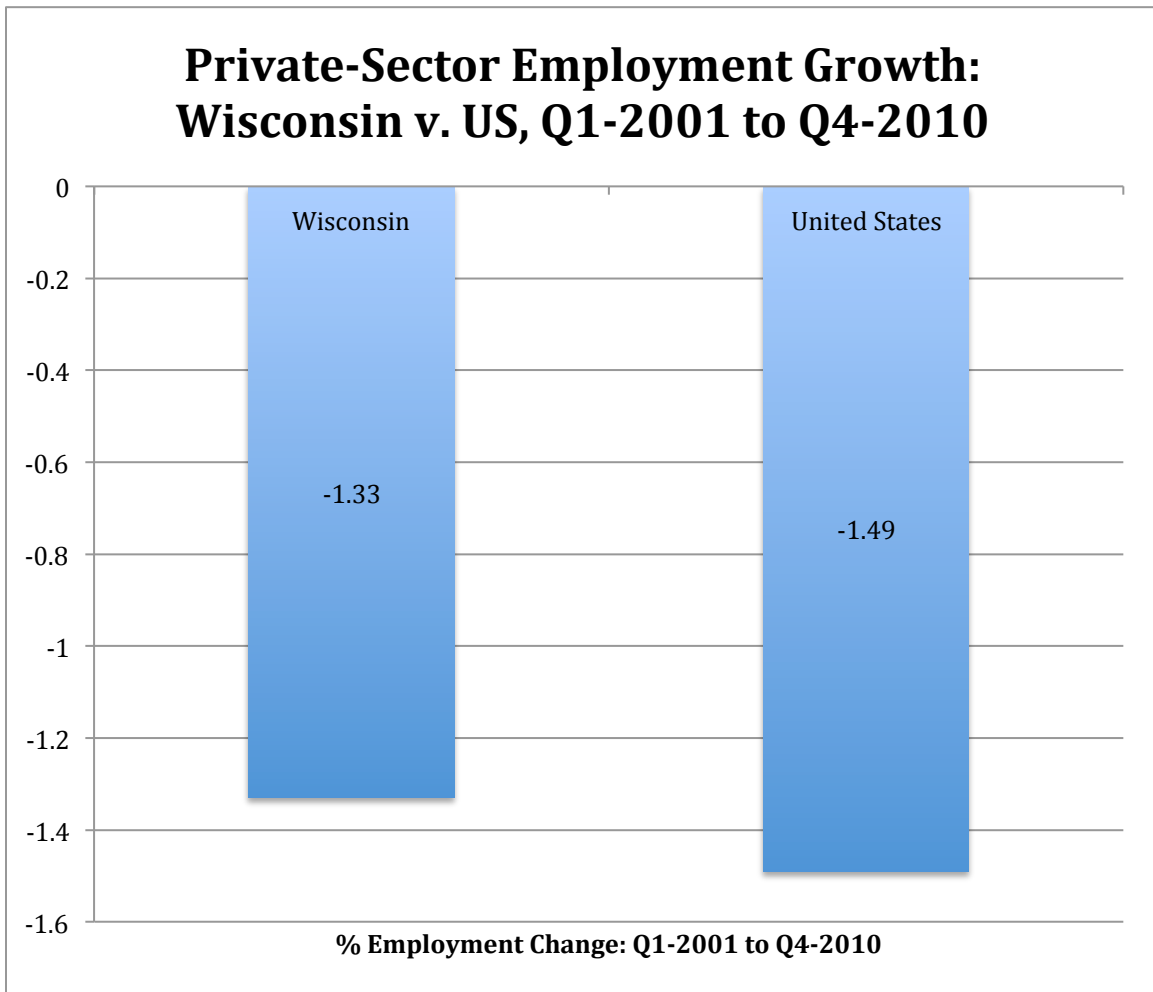
I. The rate of private-sector employment growth in Wisconsin significantly trails the national rate between December 2010 and March 2014 – the period corresponding to the administration of Governor Scott Walker. Since Gov. Walker took office, private-sector employment in Wisconsin has grown at less than one-third (30.5 percent) of the national rate.



II. The gap between Wisconsin's employment growth rate and national growth is even greater when we consider total employment. Wisconsin's job growth rate has been less than one-quarter of the national rate of growth (23.5 percent) between December 2010 and March 2014.



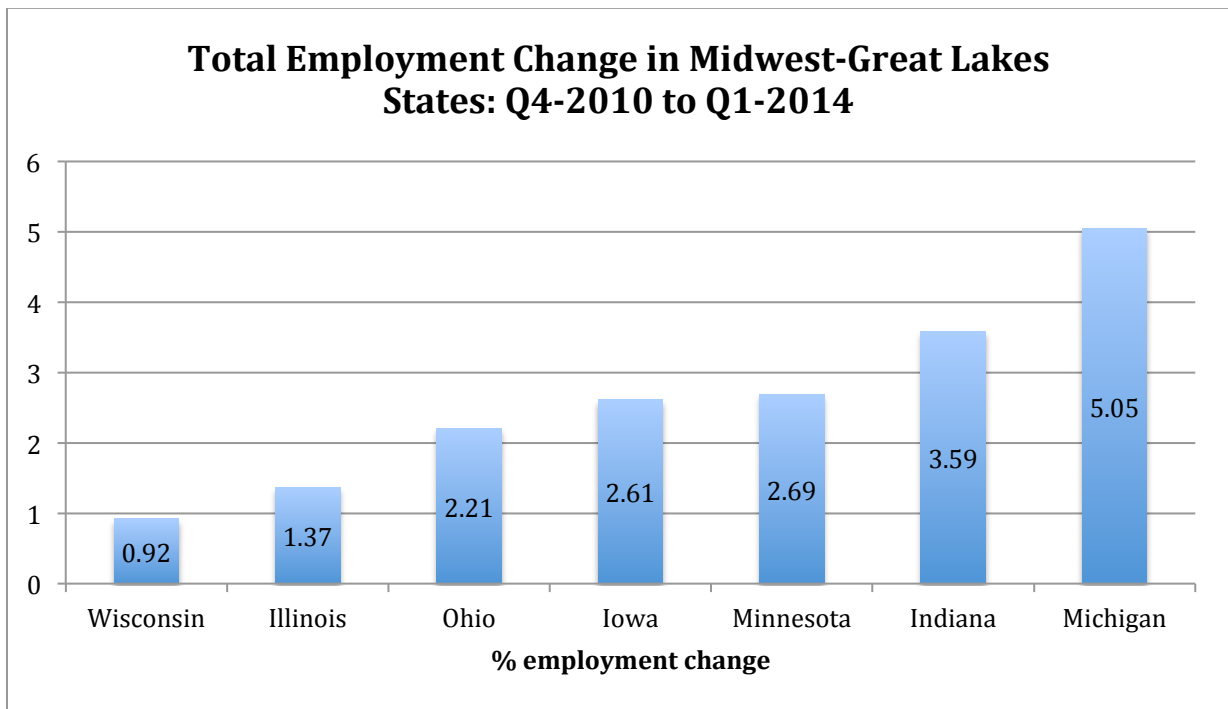
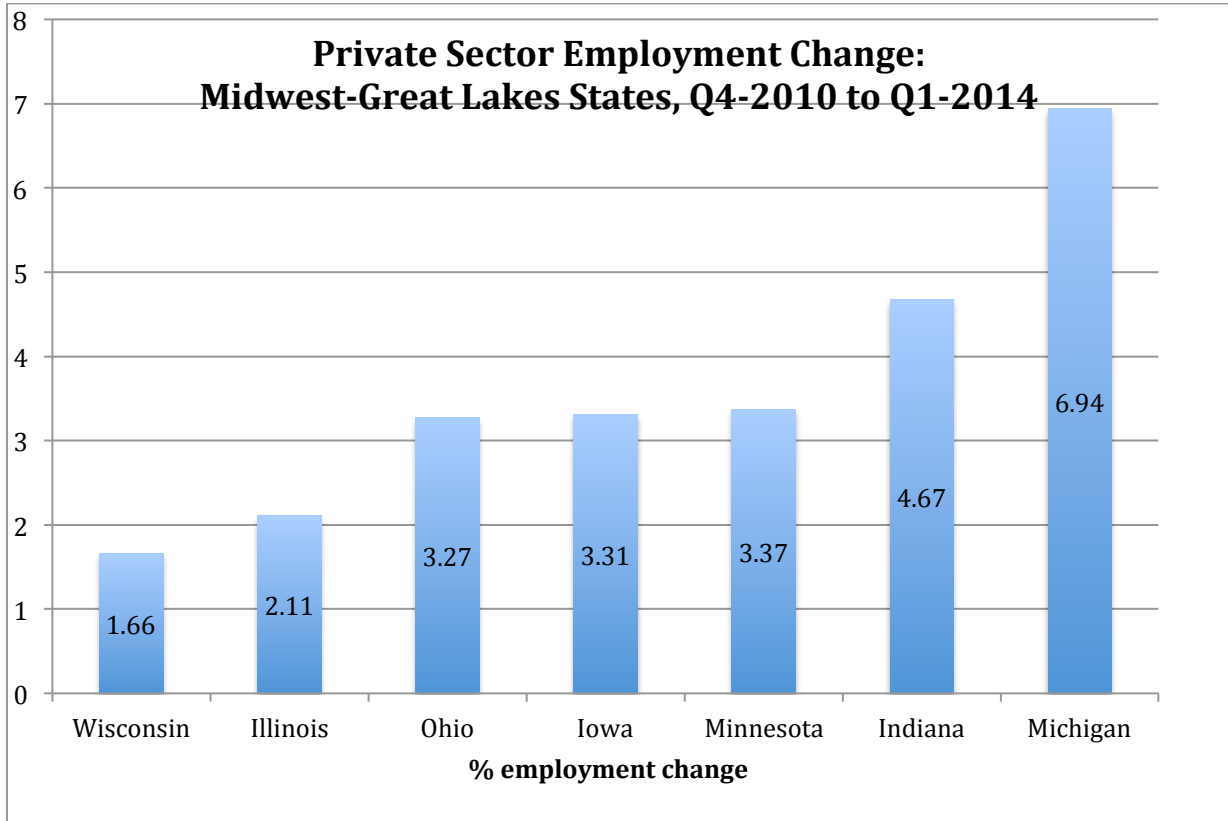
III. Contrary to frequent misleading reports in the media,¹ Wisconsin's job growth performance has not consistently lagged the national rate in recent years. In the 20 years before the Walker administration, Wisconsin's employment growth exceeded the national rate 9 times.² And in the 10 years between Q1-2001 and Q4-2010, a period that saw job losses of historic magnitude as a result of the Great Recession, Wisconsin actually experienced slightly lower employment decline than the national average.



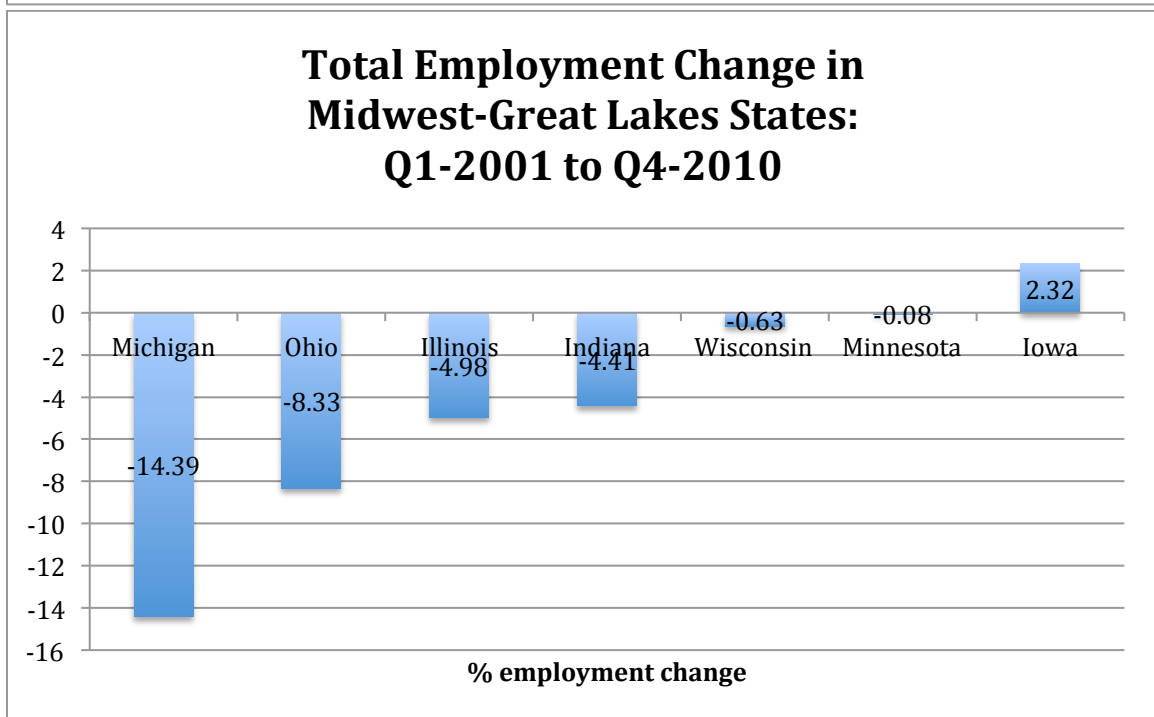
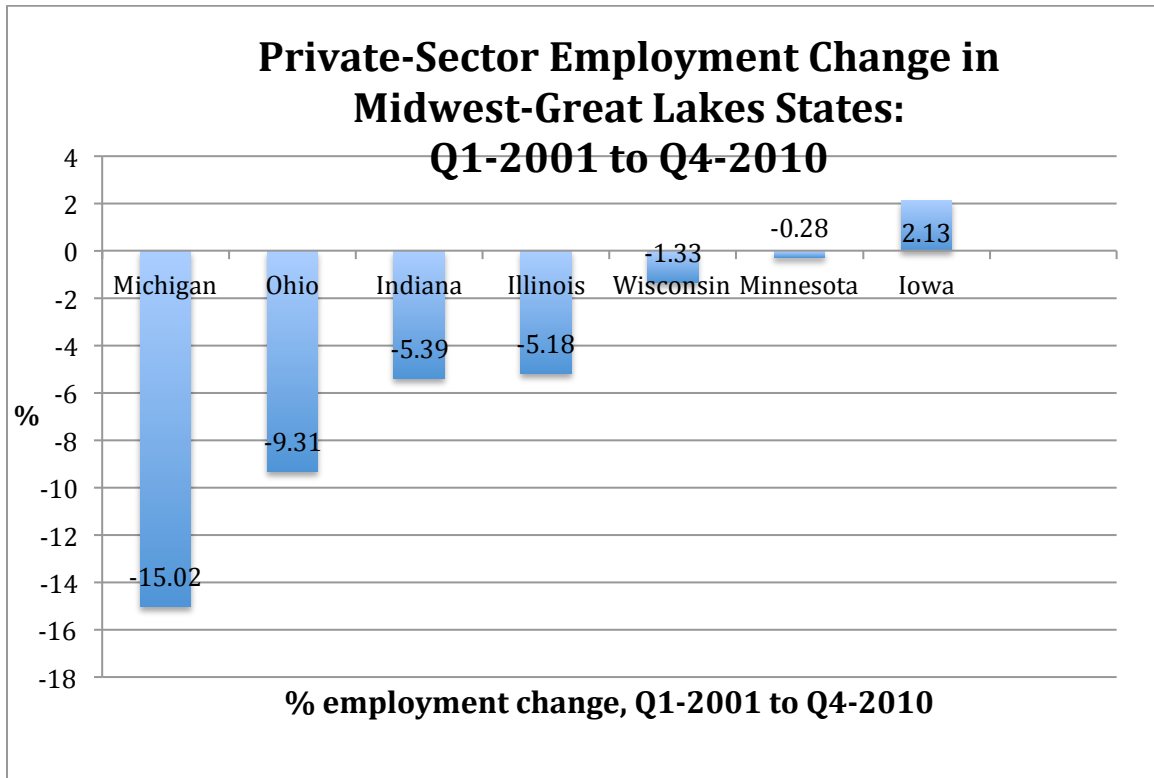
¹ See, for example, the editorial from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, “Lousy job growth and Governor Scott Walker,” 19 June 2014; and John Schmid, “Wisconsin posts job gains, still lags

² Marc V. Levine, “Governor Scott Walker to blame for poor job growth,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 28 June 2014.

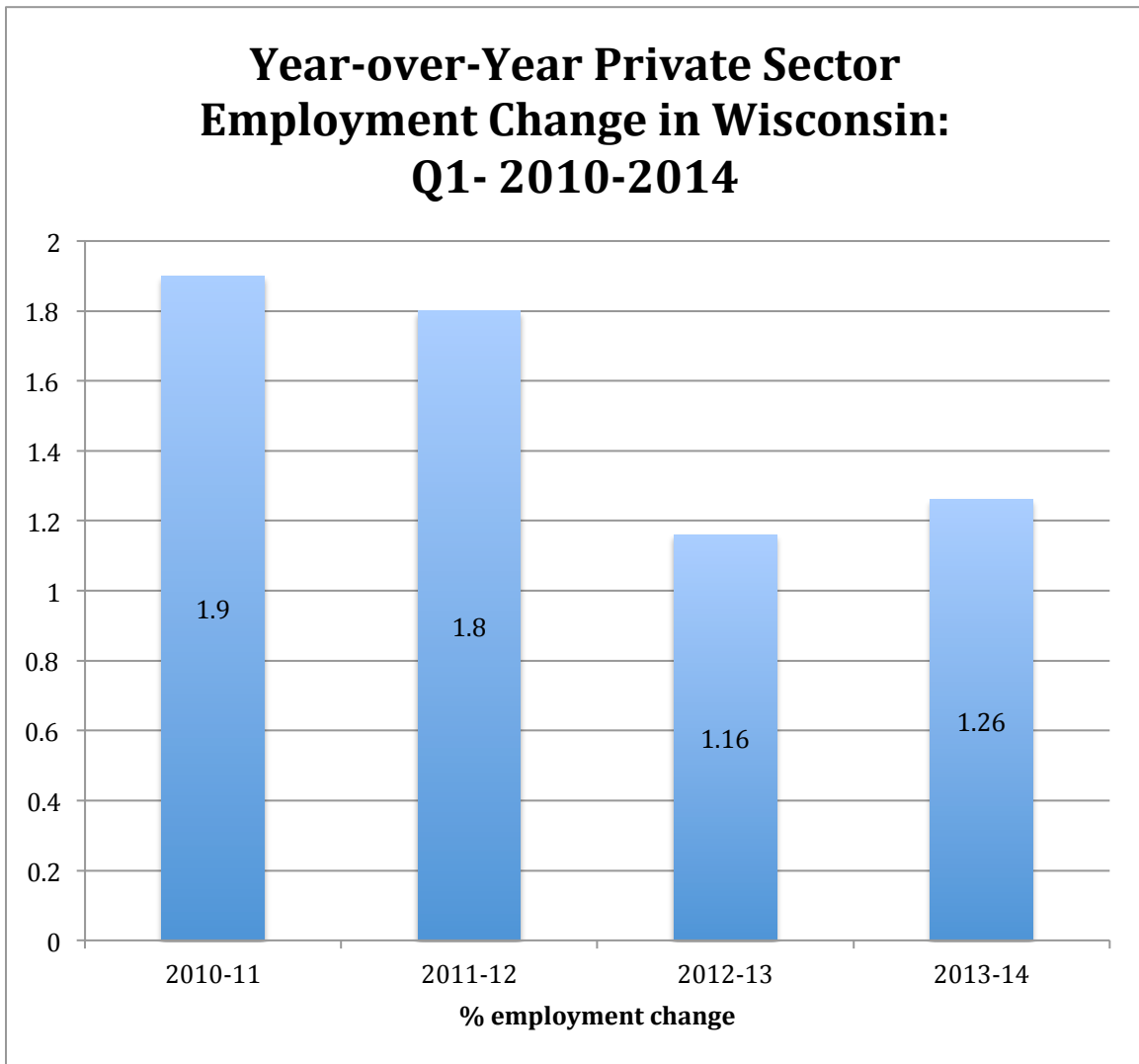
IV. Private sector and total employment growth in Wisconsin continue to trail all neighboring Midwest-Great Lakes states.



V. Wisconsin has not always been at the bottom of Midwest-Great Lakes states in employment growth. In both private-sector job growth and total job growth, Wisconsin ranked third among the seven neighboring states in employment performance in the decade before the Walker administration, between Q1-2001 and Q4-2010.



VI. While the national economy has been gaining steam in job creation, Wisconsin's employment growth rate has been slowing down. In Q1 2010-11, the year-over-year private sector growth rate was 1.9 percent; in Q1 2013-14, it was 1.26 percent. Rather than accelerating since 2010, Wisconsin's job creation machinery appears to be decelerating. Employment growth in Q1 2013-14 was only two-thirds the growth rate in Q1 2010-2011.



Year-over-Year Total Employment Change in Wisconsin: Q1- 2010-2014

