

2011

Inner City Milwaukee Single Parents Continue Working during Recession, Earnings Remain Low

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Recommended Citation

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Employment & Training Institute, "Inner City Milwaukee Single Parents Continue Working during Recession, Earnings Remain Low" (2011). *ETI Publications*. 20.
https://dc.uwm.edu/eti_pubs/20

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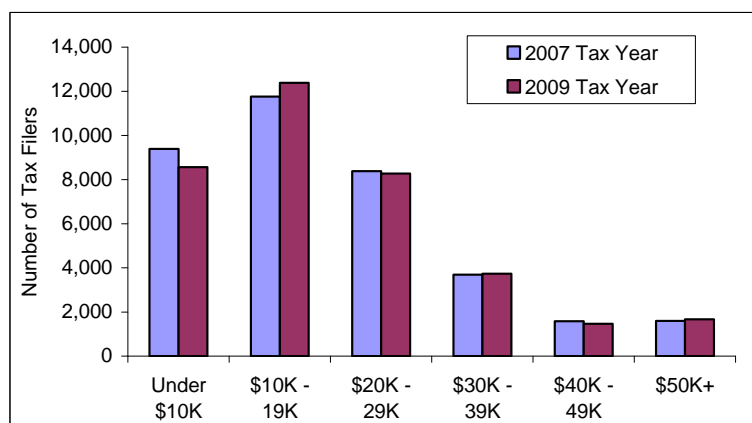


Inner City Milwaukee Single Parents Continue Working during Recession, Earnings Remain Low

As part of an ongoing research project since 1998, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute examines Wisconsin state income tax data for nine inner city Milwaukee ZIP codes: 53204, 53205, 53206, 53208, 53210, 53212, 53216, 53218 and 53233 -- neighborhoods hard hit by the recession. The data show tax returns filed in 2010 (for 2009 income earnings) for single and married filers with dependents.

- **In spite of the difficult economy, most inner city single Milwaukee parents remained in the workforce.** The filing data showed only a 1% decline in earners in 2009 compared to two years earlier. In 2007 there were 36,407 single filers with dependents from the 9 ZIP codes. In 2009 that number had dropped by less than 300 (or 1%) to 36,114 in spite of record high unemployment. (At the same time the number of single tax filers without dependents declined by 5%.)

Income Earnings of Single Tax Filers with Dependents: 9 ZIP Codes

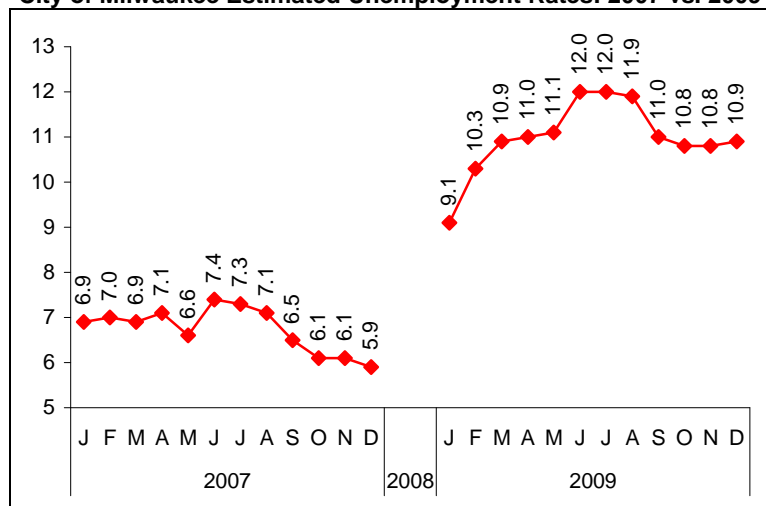


Income Range	2007	2009	Change	Percent Change
Under \$10,000	9,389	8,565	-824	- 9%
\$10,000-19,999	11,765	12,392	+627	+ 5%
\$20,000-29,999	8,378	8,274	-104	- 1%
\$30,000-39,999	3,696	3,740	+44	+ 1%
\$40,000-49,999	1,579	1,471	-108	- 7%
\$50,000 and above	1,600	1,672	+72	+ 4%
All	36,407	36,114	-293	- 1%

Source: UWM Employment and Training Institute analysis of Wisconsin Department of Revenue tax return data for non-elderly single tax filers with dependents residing in ZIP codes 53204, 53205, 53206, 53208, 53210, 53212, 53216, 53218 and 53233.

- **A majority of the single parents (58%) earned less than \$20,000 in 2009, and a fourth (24%) earned less than \$10,000.** The low earnings suggest workers with high job turnover, low wages, part-time jobs, and less than year-round employment. Prior ETI studies have found many lower-income single parents working in temp agencies, food service, nursing homes, retail trade, child care, and other businesses with lower-wage, higher-turnover jobs.
- In spite of higher unemployment rates, it appears that the **annual wages earned by single parents remained similar in 2009 as in 2007 before the recession hit.**
- **Most currently and recently employed single parents are ineligible for W-2/ TANF cash assistance,** regardless of their family size or income level. As of July 2010, 5,583 families in the nine ZIP codes were receiving W-2 cash payments.

City of Milwaukee Estimated Unemployment Rates: 2007 vs. 2009



Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, unadjusted rates

Prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Employment & Training Institute (2010). See www.eti.uwm.edu for more info.

Milwaukee Drill photo courtesy of Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation