

Growth in the Long-Term Unemployed Populations in the Industrial Midwest, 2000-2010

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The Long Term Unemployed in Each of the Industrial Midwest States in 2010 and Comparisons with 2000 Findings

- The Pathways Back to Work Act proposed by the Obama Administration would provide monies for the training of dislocated workers and tax incentives to employers to hire the long term unemployed, i.e. those consistently unemployed for 27 or more weeks.
- As a consequence of the Great Recession of 2007-09 and its lingering effects on the unemployed, the average durations of unemployment in the U.S. have risen dramatically in recent years the mean duration of unemployment was averaging close to 40 weeks in mid 2011, a record high for the country.
- In 2010, there were 2.208 million unemployed persons in the five Midwestern states combined. Of this total, 876,000 or close to 40% were unemployed for six months or longer and 353,000 or one of every 6 unemployed had been out of work more than one year.
- In each of the five Midwestern states, the long term share of the unemployed ranged from at least 35% (Wisconsin) to as high as 42% of the unemployed (Illinois).
- The number of long term unemployed in 2010 in the five states combined was 876,000, which was 9 times as high as the number of long term unemployed in 2000. The multiples of long term unemployed in 2010 to 2000 ranged from 7 to 1 in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio to nearly 18 to 1 in Michigan. These 2010 numbers all represent record high long term unemployment levels in each state.

Table A: The Distribution of the Unemployed by the Duration of their Ongoing Unemployment Spell in Each Industrial Midwest State, 2010 Annual Averages

State	(A) Total Unemployed	(B) 1 – 26 Weeks	(C) 27 – 52 Weeks	(D) 53 or More Weeks
Illinois	598,100	344,600	151,400	102,100
Indiana	305,700	181,900	75,300	48,400
Michigan	510,500	299,200	119,200	92,000
Ohio	542,800	342,300	123,900	76,600
Wisconsin	251,500	164,300	53,600	33,700
All 5 States Combined	2,208,600 (100.0%)	1,332,300 (60.3%)	523,400 (23.7%)	352,800 (16.0%)

Source: 2010 Monthly CPS Surveys, public use files, tabulations by author.

Table B: Comparing the Estimated Number of Long Term Unemployed in Each Industrial Midwest State from 2000 – 2010

	(A)	(B)	(C)
State	2000	2010	Ratio B/A
Illinois	36,000	254,000	7.1*
Indiana	10,000	124,000	12.4*
Michigan	12,000	211,000	17.6*
Ohio	27,000	200,000	7.4*
Wisconsin	12,000	87,000	7.2*
All 5 States Combined	97,000	876,000	9.0*