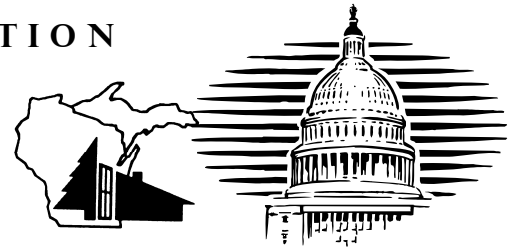


Legislative Update

JANUARY 2010



Historic, Dangerous Trend in Wisconsin Workforce Government Employees Outnumber Manufacturing Workers

Source: WMC News Release, Dec. 21, 2009

MADISON – As 2009 draws to a close, Wisconsin has more people working for government than in manufacturing, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce announced Monday. A review of state employment data by WMC found this to be a first since records have been kept.

“This is a very disturbing development,” said James A. Buchen, WMC vice president of government relations. “An economy that has more government jobs than manufacturing jobs cannot be sustained for the long-term. Manufacturing is critical to the success of a strong economy.”

Manufacturing jobs earn the highest wages and offer the best benefits that support families, provide a middle class lifestyle, and sustain strong communities. A strong manufacturing sector supports jobs in other sectors of the economy.

The Department of Workforce Development reported that Wisconsin in November had 435,800 jobs in manufacturing and 438,200 government workers. That occurred in April and May of this year also, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported.

Fifty years ago, Wisconsin manufacturing workers outnumbered government workers by a 3-to-1 ratio. In 1959, 459,800 people were employed in manufacturing, but only 155,000 were employed in the government.

“Wisconsin needs to turn this trend around quickly,” Buchen said. “Your economy is in a crisis when manufacturing jobs are outnumbered by government jobs.”

WMC – which represents manufacturers – supports growing the economy by controlling government spending increases, lowering taxes, controlling regulations, limiting litigation, and providing incentives for manufacturers to expand and relocate to Wisconsin.

“Wisconsin can become the shining star of the snow belt again by getting serious about promoting manufacturing jobs,” Buchen said.

In the most recent legislative session, the Legislature and Governor approved over \$2 billion in higher taxes. They approved increased taxes on businesses, increased income tax rates, increased capital gains taxes, repealed property tax controls, approved health insurance mandates, approved expanded liability for employers, and increased state spending by 6.5 percent. “That’s created government jobs, and killed manufacturing jobs,” Buchen said.

If you have a regulatory issues you would like to see addressed, please contact the WRLA Office. The WRLA works with the National Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association (NLBMDA) on national issues and with the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) to lobby on state of Wisconsin regulatory issues. You can reach the WRLA via phone at 800-236-3534 or via email at wrla@wrlamsi.com.