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Wisconsin Budget Project Analysis of New Census Data on State and Local Government Employment

Last week the U.S. Census Bureau issued data on state and local government employment and payrolls in 2008. The WCCF's Wisconsin Budget Project has analyzed where Wisconsin ranks in public sector employment and payroll and the trends during this decade. Key facts from that analysis include the following:

- When the number of full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) is measured relative to each state's 2008 population, only nine other states had a leaner public sector.
- Wisconsin's ranking on that measure has been falling slowly over the current decade, from 33rd in 2000 to 41st in 2008.
- Per capita spending for all state and local employees in Wisconsin was 10.6 percent below the national average and ranked 33rd.
- The payroll per FTE was 2.6 percent below the average, though Wisconsin was above the median on that measure – ranking 19th nationally.
- Education accounted for 58.3 percent of government jobs in Wisconsin in 2008, compared to 53.5 in education nationally.

The Budget Project's two-page analysis of the Census Bureau data are available online at

http://wccf.org/pdf/public_sector_job_rankings_11-2009.pdf