

The Maclver Institute

Our Wisconsin: Welfare Scorecard

	2011	2018	Notes
Poverty level	13.1%, an estimated 731,479 people (2011 average. Source)	11.3%, an estimated 639,564 people (July 1, 2018 reported average. Source)	Wisconsin's poverty rate is below the national average of 12.3% for 2017.
Unemployment rate	8.0% (Jan. 2011. Source)	3.0% (Dec. 2018. Source)	Wisconsin's unemployment rate has held at 3.0% for 11 consecutive months, a state record.
FoodShare benefits payments	\$95,177,949 monthly average, or \$1,142,135,382 for entire year (2011. Source)	\$67,550,372 monthly average, or \$810,604,458 for entire year (2018. Source)	Wisconsin's DHS reports on annual and monthly average benefits payouts for every year. To correct against seasonal fluctuations, we have reported the monthly average as well as total amount paid on FoodShare benefits for the entirety of each year. Available under "FoodShare Benefits Payments by Calendar Year" under source link.
FoodShare enrollment	816,215 (2011. Source)	643,726 (2018. Source)	This figure is a monthly average number of individuals who received FoodShare benefits in that year. Since 2015, certain able-bodied individuals must satisfy work and drug screening requirements to receive Foodshare. If those individuals do not comply with the work requirements for three months in a 36-month period, they become ineligible for the benefits.
FSET participants who have gained employment	1,192 (April 2015. Source)	30,791 (Sept. 2018. Source)	FSET tracks and reports how many of its participants have gained employment. Again, the starting figure is for the first month that such data began being tracked and publicly reported.
Average wage for FSET participants	\$12.21 (2016. Source)	\$13.64 (Sept. 2018. Source)	This figure represents the average hourly wage FSET participants receive. The starting figure is for 2016, the first year the program began publicly tracking participant wages. 2018 figure is the most recent data available.
Weekly UI claims	133,240 claims (Jan. 29, 2011. Source)	48,011 claims (Jan. 26, 2019. Source)	Unemployment insurance (UI) can be claimed weekly, and the Federal Reserve tracks all such claims by week. Historically, claims peak in early January and fall through the rest of the year. The most recent data available is for the third week of January in 2019, so the same week of the year was chosen for 2011.
Percentage insured	89% covered for entire year (2011 Wisconsin Family Health Survey. Source)	92% covered for entire year (2016 Wisconsin Family Health Survey. Source)	Total health insurance coverage has increased in recent years. Wisconsin keeps track of the figures in its annual Family Health Survey.

2011 column is to be considered the beginning of Gov. Scott Walker's term, and 2018 the end. For the 2018 column, most recent publicly available data may be for 2017 or earlier, as noted. As Gov. Evers goes into his first term, we will add a new column to track success under his administration when data becomes available.