

Wisconsin vs. Minnesota: Wages in three important sectors

Wages are a large part of personal income and annual average wages partially explain why Minnesota's per-capita income (PCI) was \$4,454 higher than Wisconsin's in 2006.

PART 4 of this month's series on the income gap between Wisconsin and Minnesota

NEXT WEEK: Proprietor's income

Wisconsin's average annual wage was about 12 percent below Minnesota's in 2006 and several occupational categories provide insight about this difference. The three high-paying occupational categories of management, computers and mathematics, and business and financial operations account for 13.3 percent

and 9.4 percent of employment in Minnesota and Wisconsin, respectively. In addition to a higher share of employment, Minnesota also has higher annual average wages in these occupations. Consequently, these high-paying occupational classifications contribute 23.6 percent of Minnesota's total wages and just 17.1 percent of the wages in Wisconsin.

State share of employment and annual average wages by selected job sectors, 2006

Sector	Share of employment		Average annual wage	
	Wis.	Minn.	Wis.	Minn.
Computers and mathematics	1.8%	2.8%	\$59,920	\$68,810
Business/financial operations	4.2%	5.6%	\$53,450	\$56,510
Management	3.5%	4.9%	\$85,430	\$95,310

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics

QUESTIONS? Contact Matt Kures, Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Wisconsin-Extension, at matthew.kures@uwex.edu

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