

Compiled by Professor  
J. Michael Collins,  
UW- Madison  
Department of  
Consumer Science.

QUESTIONS? Contact  
Bill Pinkovitz at  
[bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu).

Economic Snapshot  
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## Personal bankruptcies rise in recession

Information on bankruptcies in the U.S. is collected and reported by the U.S. Trust Program Office, a division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Trust Program Office data reveals that bankruptcies filed in the U.S. by individuals (both Chapter 7 and Chapter 13) increased steadily from 2006 to 2008. Most forecasts suggest the number of bankruptcies will continue to rise through 2009.

Wisconsin's bankruptcy rate for individuals, measured as the number of filings per year per 1,000 households in the state has increased from just over 2 out of 1,000 households in 2006 to almost 4 out of 1,000 in 2008. This increase is slightly above the

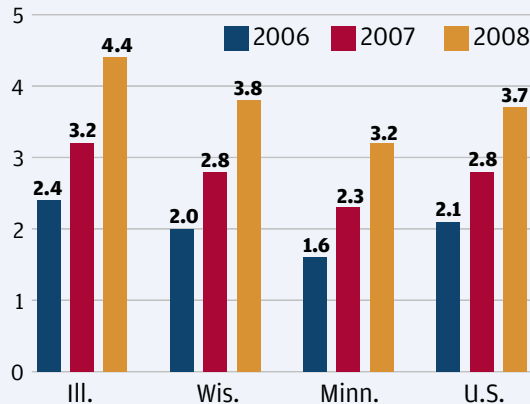
### Consumer Finance

Week 1:  
Bankruptcies  
in Wisconsin

national average, but on par with other states in the region. Wisconsin's per capita personal bankruptcy rate is marginally above the rate in Minnesota, and just below the Illinois rate. The state has mirrored the national bankruptcy averages during most periods. However, in 2008 Wisconsin households filed for bankruptcy at a higher rate than national averages.

The following chart includes the number of bankruptcies per 1,000 households as reported by the U.S. Trust Office. Similar data for all states and other bankruptcy statistics are available on the U.S. Trustee Program Web site at: [http://www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/public\\_affairs/statistics/index.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/ust/eo/public_affairs/statistics/index.htm)

### Personal bankruptcy filings per 1,000 households



Source: U.S. Department of Justice  
Trustee Program Office

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