

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL
FINANCIAL REPORT
OF THE
COUNTY OF DANE
WISCONSIN**

Year Ended
December 31, 2008

CONTROLLER'S OFFICE

Charles Hicklin, Controller
Margaret L. Krohn, CPA, Assistant Controller

COUNTY OF DANE

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT December 31, 2008

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INTRODUCTORY SECTION



COUNTY OF DANE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
CONTROLLER DIVISION
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Room 426
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
608/266-4131 TDD 608/266-9253

CHARLES HICKLIN
Controller

TRAVIS MYREN
Director of Administration

June 18, 2009

County Executive Kathleen M. Falk and
County Board of Supervisors
County of Dane
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the County of Dane for the year ended December 31, 2008 is submitted herewith. This report was prepared by the Controller's Office.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data presented and the completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the County.

We believe the financial information, as presented:

- is accurate in all material aspects;
- is presented in a manner designed to fairly set forth the financial position and results of operations of the County as measured by the financial activity of its various funds;
- and includes all disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain the maximum understanding of the County's financial affairs.

THE REPORTING ENTITY

The County provides a range of governmental services authorized by state statute, under the direction of an elected Executive and a thirty-seven member Board of Supervisors. The services provided are categorized into six functions. The general government function includes the executive, clerk, administration, treasurer, register of deeds and corporation counsel; a public safety & criminal justice function, including a 17-branch court system; the district attorney, the sheriff, jail and work release facility and public safety communications; a health and human services function, including care for children, mental health services, developmentally disabled, the aged and disabled; a conservation & economic development function, including solid waste program, land regulation & records and land conservation; a culture, education & recreation function including an exposition center, zoo, park system and library services; a public works function, including a regional airport, highway system, and transportation system assistance.

Pursuant to accounting and reporting standards, the Dane County Housing Authority and the Henry Vilas Park Zoological Society are included within the County's financial report because of various factors including financial dependencies and powers of appointment or removal of officers.

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND OUTLOOK

Dane County was created by the first Wisconsin territorial legislature in 1836 and was organized as a separate governmental unit in 1839. With a population of 471,559, the County is second only to Milwaukee County in terms of size in Wisconsin. Within the County's 1,238 square miles, there are 34 towns, 19 villages, and eight cities. The City of Madison is the largest with 48.5% of the County's population and 45.1% of the equalized value. The City of Madison is the Capitol of Wisconsin and the site of the 42,030 student University of Wisconsin-Madison.

According to the latest information from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Dane County is a leading Wisconsin County for agriculture, ranking second in the state in the number of farms with 3,120 and the amount of land used in farms with 563,000 acres. The average farm consists of 180 acres. Dane County agriculture has the following rankings within the state: first in corn for grain and tobacco; second in number of farms, land in farms and soybeans; third in pounds of milk produced and cattle, calves; fourth in the number of milk cows, hogs and pigs. Dane County's agriculture functions with almost no irrigation.

Dane County has a rapidly growing high-tech business community that currently includes more than 460 firms employing 30,000 in 2008. Biotechnology, medical/biomedical research, micro-electronics, pharmaceuticals, contract research and development, software and other computer-related firms dominate the list of high-tech firms. This reflects the University of Wisconsin-Madison's worldwide leadership in research and academic teaching in these areas. In fiscal year 2008, the University of Wisconsin-Madison received more than \$942.0 million in extramural support for research from federal, state and private sources. According to latest figures available from the National Science Foundation, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the third largest funded research university in the country.

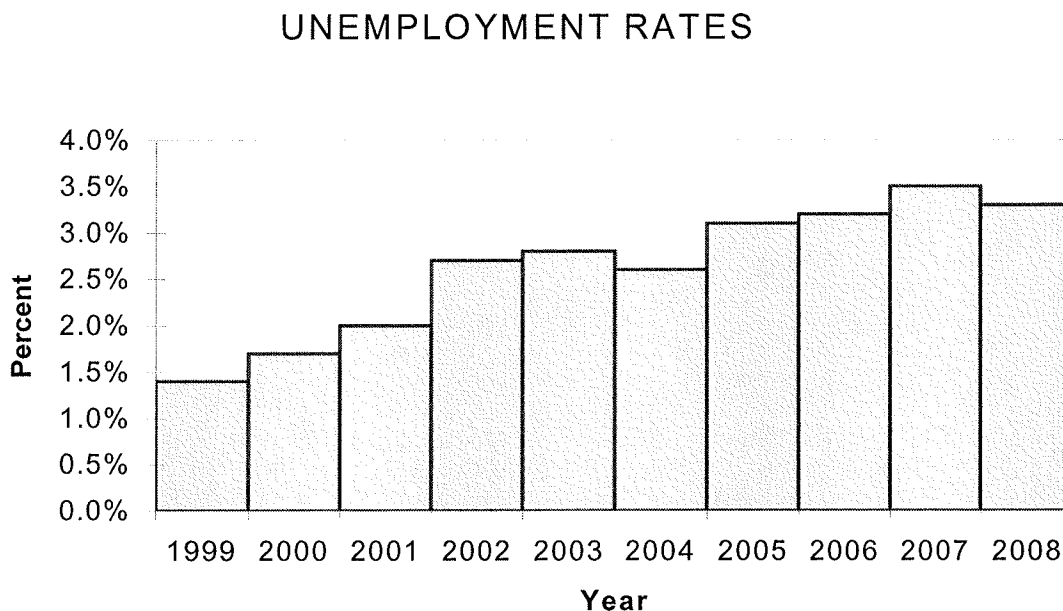
Dane County is the home office of the Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation, a leading national meat processing company; Cuna Mutual & Subsidiaries, providing insurance and services to credit unions throughout the world; American Family Insurance; and many other businesses and industries.

Various national magazines have recognized Madison and the Dane County metropolitan area as one of the best places to live in the Midwestern United States.

The 2008 annual average unemployment rate in Dane County, at 3.3% is consistently below state and national averages. The low unemployment rate can be attributed to the stability of the workforce and type of business located in the County.

Dane County Unemployment

(Source: State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development)



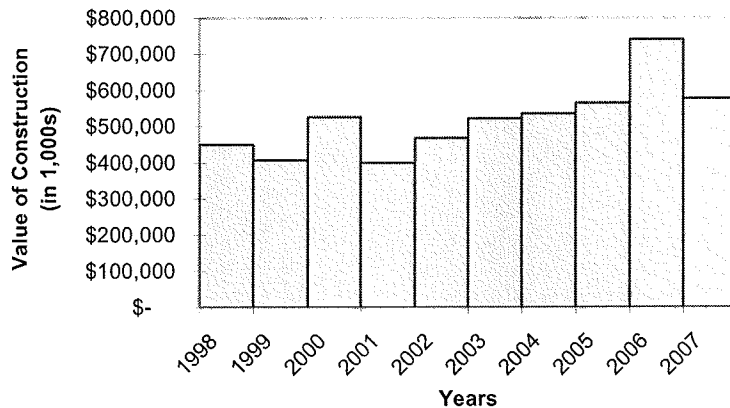
Dane County Employment by Industry

(Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development)

Industry Type	2007		2008	
	Number	% Total	Number	% Total
Construction	15,268	5.05%	14,152	4.66%
Education & Health	71,964	23.78%	74,060	24.41%
Financial Activities	26,010	8.60%	25,878	8.53%
Information	9,309	3.08%	3,522	1.16%
Leisure & Hospitality	27,132	8.97%	27,276	8.99%
Manufacturing	27,161	8.98%	25,911	8.54%
Natural Resources	1,734	0.57%	1,770	0.58%
Other Services	11,235	3.71%	11,483	3.78%
Professional & Business Services	36,826	12.17%	37,436	12.34%
Public Administration	23,049	7.62%	23,222	7.65%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	52,909	17.48%	52,356	17.26%
Other	0	0	6,352	2.09%
Totals	<u>302,597</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>303,418</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

According to the latest information, Non-Residential Development in 2007 totaled \$578 million on more than 555 projects. The major non-residential projects receiving building permits during 2007, as reported in the Construction Activity Report published by MGE, included: the University Square Development (\$34 million), the Monona Grove Middle School (\$22.2 million), and the Arbor Gate Office Building (\$20 million). As of the date of publication the 2008 data was not available.

NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION



Source: Madison Gas and Electric – Construction Activity Report

MAJOR INITIATIVES

During 2008, the county completed the parking facility expansion at the Dane County Airport. The expansion began in 2007 and was completed at a cost of \$23.7 million. The Alliant Energy Center completed the reroofing project of the Coliseum building at a cost of \$1.3 million.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Accounting System and Internal Control Structure

The County's accounting system is organized on a "fund" basis. Each fund is a distinct self-balancing accounting entity. The County's day-to-day accounting and budgetary records are maintained on a basis other than Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). For financial reporting purposes, the accounting records are converted to the modified and full accrual basis for all applicable funds. On the modified accrual basis, revenues are recognized when measurable and available, and expenditures are recognized when goods and services are received. On the full accrual basis, revenues are recognized when measurable and earned; expenses are recognized when incurred. The basis of accounting and presentation of the various funds utilized by Dane County are fully described in Note I-C of the basic financial statements. Additional budgetary information can be found in Note III-A.

In developing the County's accounting system, much consideration was given to the adequacy of internal accounting controls. Internal accounting controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance regarding: (1) the safeguarding of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and (2) the reliability of financial records for preparing financial statements and maintaining accountability for assets. The concept of reasonable assurance is based on the assumption that the costs of internal accounting controls should not exceed the benefits expected to be derived from their implementation.

We believe that the County's internal accounting controls, along with the audit performed by independent auditors, provide the County with reasonable assurance that financial transactions are properly recorded and assets adequately safeguarded.

Budgetary Controls

Budgetary control is maintained at the agency level. Encumbrances are made against appropriations prior to the issuance of purchase orders or consummation of contracts. Purchase orders outstanding at the end of the year where the goods and/or services have not been received are recognized in the accompanying financial statements as reservations of fund balance as they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities. The Board of Supervisors has designated certain accounts as non-lapsing, and those unexpended appropriations have been carried forward for use in 2009.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

The general government function includes the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service, and Capital Projects Fund. The definition of these funds can be found in the "Notes to Financial Statements" located in the Financial Section of this report.

PROPRIETARY TYPE OPERATIONS

Enterprise funds account for operations where the intent of the County is that the costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or where periodic measurement of net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes. The enterprise operations of the County consist of these entities: the Dane County Regional Airport, Badger Prairie Health Care Center, Highway & Transportation, Printing and Services, Methane Gas and the Sanitary Landfill.

Internal service funds are used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the County, or to other governments on a cost reimbursement basis. The internal service funds of the County include Worker's Compensation Self-Insurance Program, Consolidated Food Services, Liability Self-Insurance Program, and Employee Benefits.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary Funds are established to account for assets that are being held by the County in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units and/or other funds. Major agency funds include State Tax Levy & Special Charges, Clerk of Courts litigants' deposits, and Delinquent Special Assessments

DEBT ADMINISTRATION

All debt outstanding is a general obligation of the County for which an irrevocable, irrevocable tax has been levied at the time of the borrowing to be included in future tax levies, sufficient to repay the principal and

interest payments as they become due. Under Wisconsin State Statutes, Chapter 67, Dane County's aggregate indebtedness may not exceed 5% of the equalized value of taxable property located in the County.

CASH MANAGEMENT

Cash temporarily idle at various times during the year is invested in daily repurchase agreements, certificates of deposit, and in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Investment pool depending upon yield and cash flow needs.

RISK MANAGEMENT

In 1954, the Dane County Board authorized the County to self-insure for worker's compensation through a combination of self-insurance and excess coverage through a private company. In 1986, due to certain liability insurances not being available in the marketplace, the County Board approved the establishment of a liability self-insurance program to provide for the County's needs through a combination of purchased and self-insurance. In 1992, the County purchased an equity interest in Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (WMMIC), a public entity risk pool, with other Wisconsin municipalities to provide certain liability insurance coverages.

Both the worker's compensation and liability programs are accounted for as internal service funds with premiums being charged to all departments. In order to equitably distribute program costs and encourage management support of risk management programs, charges to departments are based on actual experience.

Insurance costs were divided into groups and assigned to departments using the following allocation categories:

- A. Recapture of prior year losses.
- B. Current year reserve requirements.
- C. Future year loss (claims paid).
- D. Future year fund addition.
- E. Administrative overhead.

The allocation system is based on the following financial policies:

- 1. The County intends to continue maintaining separate insurance funds and fund balance.
- 2. The County intends to attempt to maintain insurance fund balances close to budgeted estimates. This results in additional charges or credits to departments for prior year losses.
- 3. The County expects that short run future experience will be similar to historical activity.
- 4. The County intends to annually provide a level of funding which will increase the insurance fund balances to provide an additional cushion against catastrophic loss.

The actual experience method of allocating costs provides a direct incentive to County managers to effectively reduce costs through loss control measures. Detailed information regarding the self-insurance funds can be found in the Financial Section of this report.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT

The County has retained the services of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP to perform an independent audit of the County's financial records. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the County of Dane for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, are free of material misstatement. The independent audit involved examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the county; and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The independent auditor concluded, based upon the audit, that there was a reasonable basis for rendering an unqualified opinion that the County of Dane's financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, are fairly presented in conformity with GAAP. The independent auditor's report is presented as the first component of the financial section of this report. As part of their examination, the independent auditor is also issuing an internal control letter covering the review of the county's system of internal control over financial

reporting and tests of compliance with certain provision of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The management and compliance letter will not modify or affect, in any way, this report.

The county is required to undergo an annual single audit in conformity with the provisions of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations. Information related to this single audit—including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, findings and recommendations, and auditor's reports on internal control over financial reporting and tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants—will be included in the County of Dane's separately issued Single Audit Report.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Dane County, Wisconsin for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. This was the twenty-fifth consecutive year that Dane County has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current comprehensive annual financial report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The preparation of this report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the Controller's Office, especially Assistant Controller Margaret Krohn, other County Departments and the capable assistance of our independent auditors. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone that assisted and contributed in its preparation.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Hicklin
Controller

COUNTY OF DANE
LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

COUNTY OF DANE
LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

ELECTED OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>
County Executive	Kathleen M. Falk
Clerk of Courts	Carlos Esqueda
Coroner	John Stanley
County Clerk	Robert Ohlsen
District Attorney	Brian Blanchard
Register of Deeds	Kristi Chlebowski
Sheriff	David Mahoney
Treasurer	David Worzala

COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS

<u>Supervisory District</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	Scott A. McDonell, Chair
2	Barbara Vedder
3	Elaine DeSmidt
4	Brett D. Hulsey
5	Wyndham Manning
6	John E. Hendrick
7	Matt Veldran
8	Carousel Andrea Bayrd
9	Diane Hesselbein
10	Jeremy Levin
11	Alfred Matano
12	Paul Rusk
13	Chuck Erickson
14	Melanie Hampton
15	Ronn Ferrell
16	Dave de Felice
17	Tom Stoebig
18	Dorothy Wheeler
19	Jeff Kostelic
20	Duane Gau
21	David E. Wiganowsky
22	Dennis J. O'Loughlin
23	Shelia Stubbs

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COUNTY OF DANE
LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

(Continued)

COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS

<u>Supervisory District</u>	<u>Name</u>
24	Robin Schmidt
25	Eileen Bruskevitz
26	Mark Opitz
27	Kyle Richmond
28	Kurt Schlicht
29	David Ripp
30	Patrick Downing
31	Gerald Jensen
32	Mike Willett
33	Jack Martz
34	Patrick Miles
35	Donna Vogel
36	Cynda Solberg
37	Robert Salov

NONELECTED OFFICIALS

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Name</u>
Administration	Bonnie Hammersley
Adult Community Services	Louis F. Genter
Airport	Bradley Livingston
Badger Prairie Health Care Center	Jack D. Nelson
Children, Youth & Family Services	Bob Lee
Controller	Charles Hicklin
Corporation Counsel	Marcia Mackenzie
Economic Assistance & Work Services	Liz Green
Emergency Management	David Janda (Acting)
Exposition Center	William J. DiCarlo
Extension	Lee Cunningham

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COUNTY OF DANE
LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

(Continued)

NONELECTED OFFICIALS

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Name</u>
Family Court Counseling	Kristen Ryan
Public Works, Highway & Transportation	Gerald Mandli
Human Services	Lynn Green
Juvenile Court Program	John Bauman
Land & Water Resources	Kevin F. Connors
Library	Julie A. Chase
Planning & Development	Todd Violante
Public Health Service	Thomas Schlenker
Public Safety Communications	Kathy Krusiec (Acting)
Veterans Service	Michael R. Jackson
Zoo	James Hubing

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Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

County of Dane
Wisconsin

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2007

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. L. R. R.", positioned above the title "President".

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Egan", positioned above the title "Executive Director".

Executive Director