

Monroe County

2014 Annual Budget

Bruce Humphrey, Chair
Monroe County Board of Supervisors



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:
Catherine J. Schmit

BUDGET FACTS

TAXATION LIMITS IN EFFECT

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OPERATING MILL RATE FREEZE

The State 2013-15 Biennial Budget has lifted this restriction for Counties.

LEVY LIMIT

Commencing in 2006, 2008, 2010, and again in 2012, a two-year levy limit was enacted for all Wisconsin counties, cities, villages, towns and technical college districts. For 2014, the levy limit was again adopted, and set the counties' levies at an amount not to exceed the percentage increase in net new construction or 0% (zero percent) plus terminated TID %, whichever is higher, along with exemptions for increases in debt service payments, County Bridge Aids and Library payments.

Monroe County's net new construction was 3.721 percent.

GENERAL

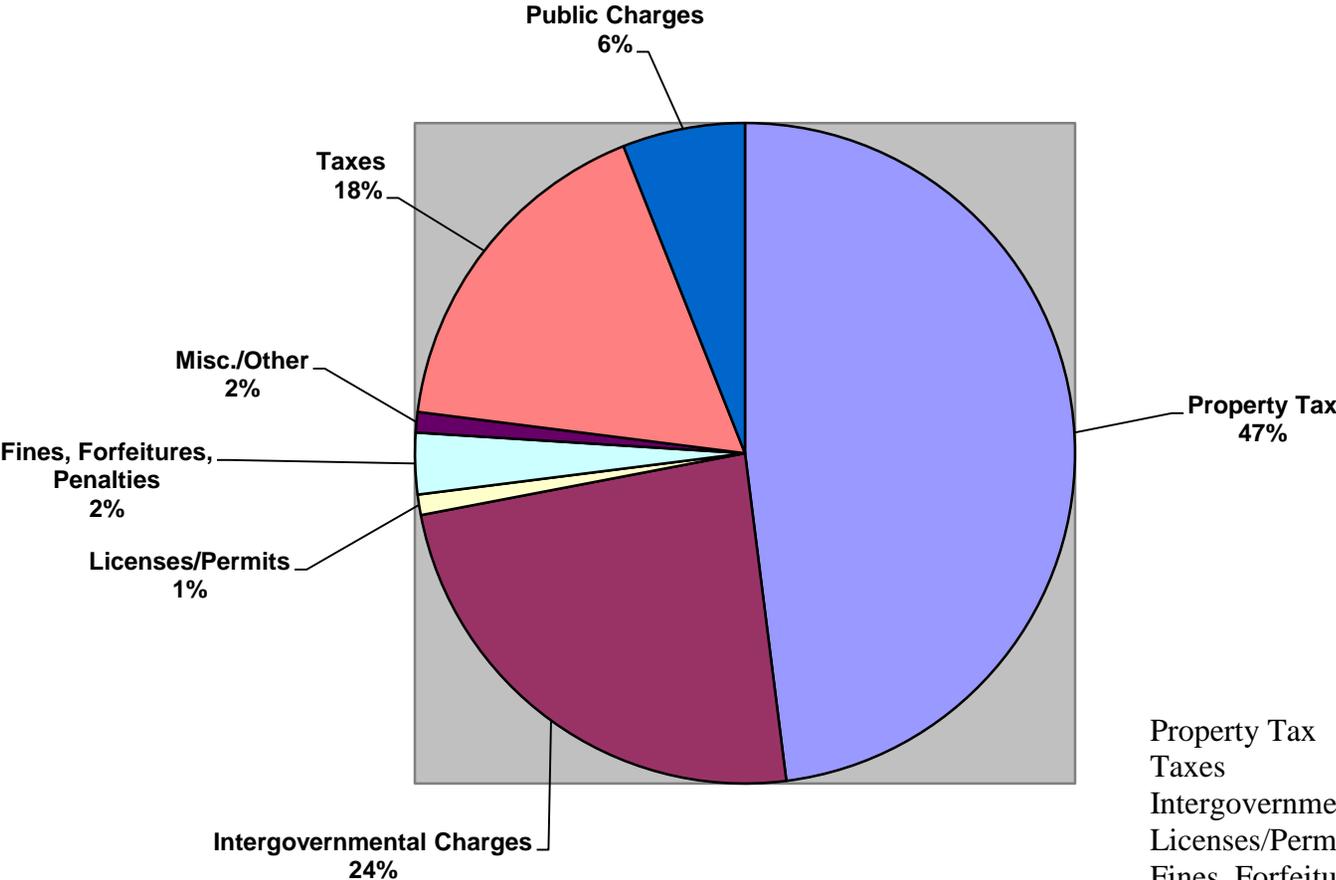
Monroe County's equalized valuation increased by \$158,893,000 or 6.24%.

The Administrator's Proposed Monroe County 2014 property tax levy is equal to the state allowable levy. Due to the increase in property valuations along with the offset of net new construction the proposed County mill rate, excluding new debt service, would decrease to 5.905. The proposed mill rate including new Justice Center debt service will increase to 6.711

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATOR'S 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

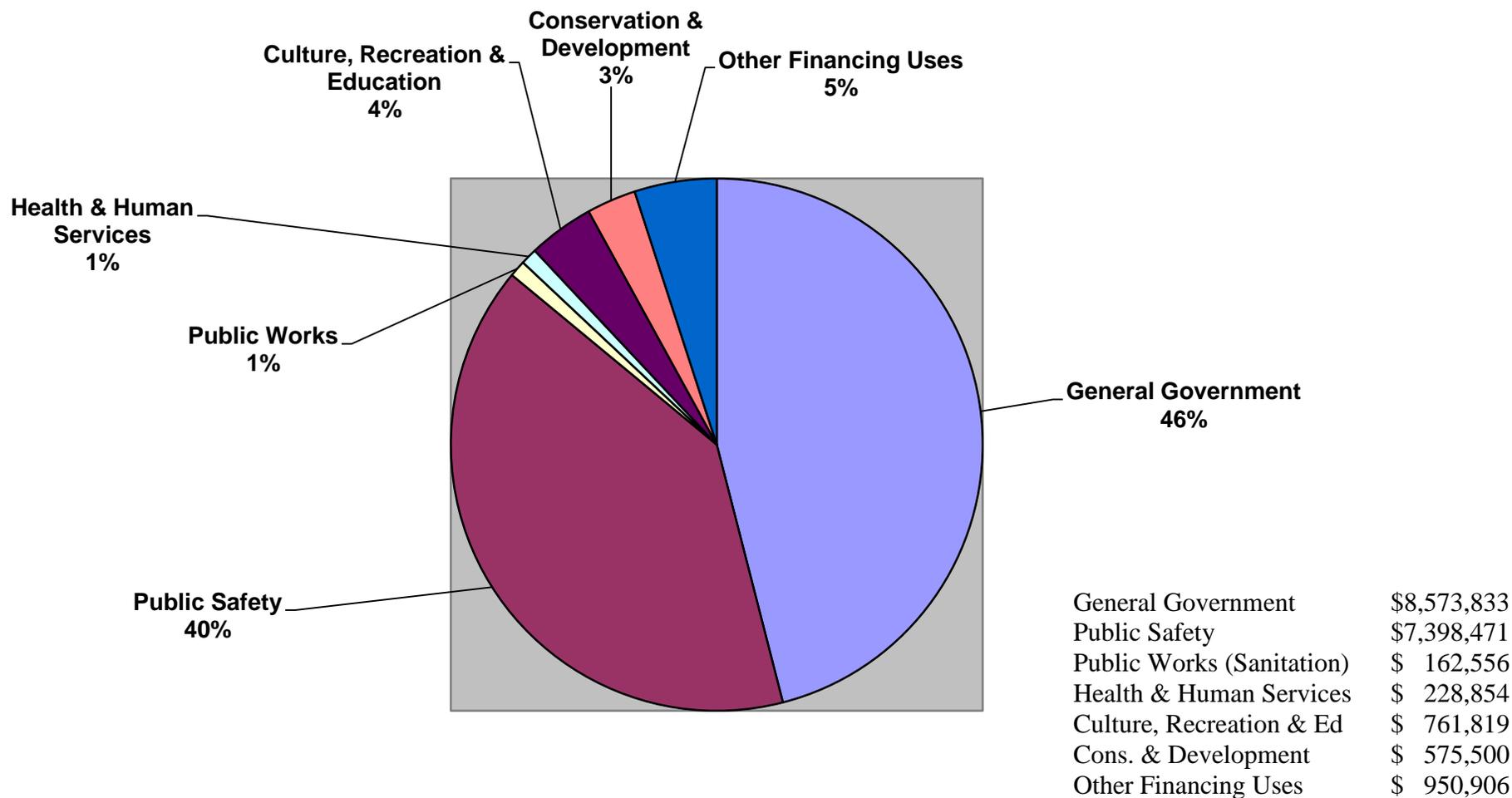
- Personnel** Salary and related benefits account for approximately 59% of Monroe Counties operating budgets. In 2013 the County completed a job/wage study which aligned staff job descriptions and wages with both public and private sector job markets. The new compensation plan, with revised grade and wage ranges established, has been adopted and implemented. In 2014 the County will implement a merit-based pay system. Merit pay is included in the 2014 proposed budget.
- Economic Development** Recognizing the financial constrictions placed on the County's ability to generate revenue in order to continue to provide the level of services Monroe Co. residents have come to expect, Monroe County is concentrating efforts on expanding tax base valuations by aggressively pursuing Economic Development opportunities. In 2013 Monroe County hired an Economic Development Coordinator as a contracted position. This contracted service position is also included in the 2014 proposed budget.
- Financial Software** In an effort to improve county staff efficiency and effectiveness, customer service, systems security and internal controls, as well as reduce costs related to document management and storage the 2014 proposed budget includes funds for upgrading the current financial software to a Cloud compatible Web-based platform document management and ERP financial software.
- Debt** In October 2013 the County issued \$10M of general obligation municipal bonds to finance the construction of a new Justice Center complex. The net impact of this new debt on the 2014 mill rate is .806 of the total mill rate of 6.711

2014 Budget Where the Money Comes From



Property Tax	\$8,798,553
Taxes	\$3,322,100
Intergovernmental Charges	\$4,401,450
Licenses/Permits	\$ 186,105
Fines, Forfeitures, Penalties	\$ 453,890
Public Charges for Services	\$1,067,119
Misc./Other	\$ 423,722

2014 Budget Where the Money Goes



MONROE COUNTY LEVY COMPARISON BY YEARS

LEVY FOR YEAR	EQUALIZED VALUATION(s)	TOTAL COUNTY LEVY(s)	MILL RATE
2014	2,706,304,600	18,162,570	6.711
2013	2,547,411,600	15,376,070	6.036
2012	2,563,169,200	15,219,759	5.938
2011	2,520,131,500	14,993,660	5.950
2010	2,504,401,200	15,082,683	6.023
2009	2,411,219,200	14,411,285	5.977
2008	2,292,130,600	14,102,537	6.153
2007	2,136,278,400	13,292,825	6.222
2006	1,933,825,200	12,754,112	6.595
2005	1,783,619,500	12,276,546	6.883
2004	1,671,572,100	10,661,348	6.378

COUNTY TAX LEVY RATE LIMIT

	EQUALIZED VALUATION	TOTAL COUNTY LEVY	MILL RATE
2013 Operating	2,706,304,600	15,410,699	5.694
2013 Debt/Special Tax	2,706,304,600	2,751,871	1.017
Total		18,162,570	6.711
2013 Operating	2,547,411,600	14,815,577	5.816
2013 Debt/Special Tax	2,547,411,600	560,493	0.220
Total		15,376,070	6.036



Monroe County Profile

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Monroe County, created in 1854 from La Crosse County, is named after James Monroe, the 5th President of the United States. Located in southwest Wisconsin, the county seat is the City of Sparta.

Located in west central Wisconsin between the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, Monroe County is a land of scenic wonders. From craggy buttes and mesas that once were islands rising from the wooded bed of a great glacial lake and grand marshes where bright red cranberries and mosses grow, Monroe County features sparkling brooks, rivers and streams flowing through rugged rock-walled valleys and gently rolling hills, wildflower prairies, brushlands and forests. The county's varied landscape and diverse plant communities provide habitat for an abundant variety of fish, game and wildlife including whitetail deer, wild turkeys, upland birds, waterfowl, squirrels, beavers, otters, fox, hawks, eagles, owls, herons, cranes, and songbirds.

Included among the area's 19th Century immigrants was a large congregation of German-speaking Amish farm families, who continue to worship, live, and farm today as their pioneering ancestors did 150 years ago. Abandoned in the mid-twentieth century, the railbeds of Monroe County now serve as recreational bicycle trails, including the grand daddy of all bicycle trails, the nation's first rails-to-trails conversion, the Elroy-Sparta Trail.

Although the logging and transportation boom that led to their development have passed on, most of the towns and villages that grew around the lumber camps, mill sites and railroad depots in the 1850's still flourish and preserve the memories of their pioneering past. The countryside is dotted with steeples of churches built by 19th century immigrant congregations. Gracious historic churches, homes and mansions line city, town and village streets; and well-preserved historic commercial buildings continue to serve 21st century needs. Amish homes, schools and farmsteads, implements, vehicles, tools, and farming practices are living reminders of the 19th century past. The county's museums feature artifacts and memorabilia of the area's rich cultural, commercial, railroad, and agricultural history. Preserved 19th century railroad depots, trestles and tunnels continue to serve the needs of 21st century adventurers.



Since the last of the great logging operations came to an end at the turn of the 20th century, Monroe County's economy has revolved around its uniquely diversified agricultural base. The county's rolling hills and bottomlands are among Wisconsin's most productive dairy farming areas. The marshland around the village of Warrens in the county's northeastern corner hosts the largest concentration of cranberry marshes in the state, producing an average of 28.5 million pounds of the bright red berries annually. This area also hosts a unique agricultural activity some refer to as Wisconsin's "Invisible Industry" - the production of sphagnum moss; more than 300,000 bales annually. Wisconsin is the only state in the nation that commercially harvests, processes and exports this major horticultural product.

Monroe County offers visitors a broad range of recreational opportunities. There are more than 50 miles of easy-riding, railroad grade, bicycle trails through spectacular scenic valleys, along the beautiful La Crosse River, over dozens of trestles, and through cavernous tunnels. There are over 100 miles of meandering rivers to paddle; hundreds of acres of public hunting land full of game; forests to roam; craggy islands to climb; miles of streams and acres of ponds to fish in; swimming holes and downhill ski areas; hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails; wildlife areas to explore; berries to pick and birds to watch; and miniature and competition golf courses to try. Area visitors will find whatever they need to fully enjoy the county's outdoor recreational offerings at trailhead offices, local outfitters, bait and tackle shops, resorts and sporting goods stores. Monroe County's roads lead through remarkable bits of history and fantastic scenery to wonders and treasures including the view of Glacial Lake Wisconsin atop Mill Bluff; the remnants of the Goodyear Logging Camp; the red seas of cranberries; cliff-lined river valleys; gold lace tamarack forests; Oil City, where a phony oil discovery raised a fortune; the Wegner Grotto, a grassroots art treasure; Amish homesteads and shops offering hand-crafted rugs and furniture, produce and baked goods still hot from the oven; 80 year-old windmills gently turning on the ridge tops, the Cranberry Museum; and, Fort McCoy, a regional U.S. Army Training Center.

Treasure hunters will enjoy browsing the county's antique, gift and specialty shops, including a 60-dealer antique mall and area flea markets, and visiting with craft producers in Amish country. No matter what the palate, diners will find a variety of cuisine to choose throughout Monroe County, from ethnic to traditional and from "fast" foods to gourmet dining. Monroe County offers a variety of accommodations for a night, a week, a month or more, including 15 campgrounds with more than 600 sites ranging from primitive tent sites to full-service RV hook-up facilities, historic log cabins, Victorian bed and breakfast inns, housekeeping cottages and full-service motels. Monroe County, a world away from the ordinary, yet close enough for everyone to come and enjoy the scenic and historical charm of the area!



Present day Monroe County covers more than 900 square miles including 6 rivers and 120 lakes that blanket more than 3,437 acres of County territory. The County also boasts 1 public airport, 3 area hospitals, 6 community libraries, 2 state parks, the Elroy-Sparta National Bike Trail, 4 school districts and the Fort McCoy U.S. Army training facility.

Monroe County is governed by the Board of Supervisors representing 24 area districts. The County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, District Attorney, Sheriff and Clerk of Courts being elected officials.

Monroe County services are administered from several different County building locations. Some of the largest County Departments include the Highway Department, Human Services Department, Monroe County Jail, Sheriff's Department, and the Rolling Hills Nursing Home. Other high profile citizen service areas include the Health Department, Senior Services, Judicial Services, Child Support, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Sanitation & Zoning, UW Extension and Veteran's Services among others.

The Monroe County website can be viewed online at www.monroe.wi.us.



Monroe County.....

2012 Estimated Census Population:

Towns:

Adrian	771
Angelo	1,297
Byron	1,345
Clifton	694
Glendale	677
Grant	498
Greenfield	717
Jefferson	822
LaFayette	396
La Grange	2,010
Leon	1,112
Lincoln	835
Little Falls	1,548
New Lyme	173
Oakdale	782
Portland	821
Ridgeville	500
Scott	137
Sheldon	736
Sparta	3,151
Tomah	1,416
Wellington	628
Wells	523
Wilton	1,031

Villages:

Cashton	1,103
Kendall	473
Melvina	104
Norwalk	636
Oakdale	294
Warrens	359
Wilton	503
Wyeville	147

Cities:

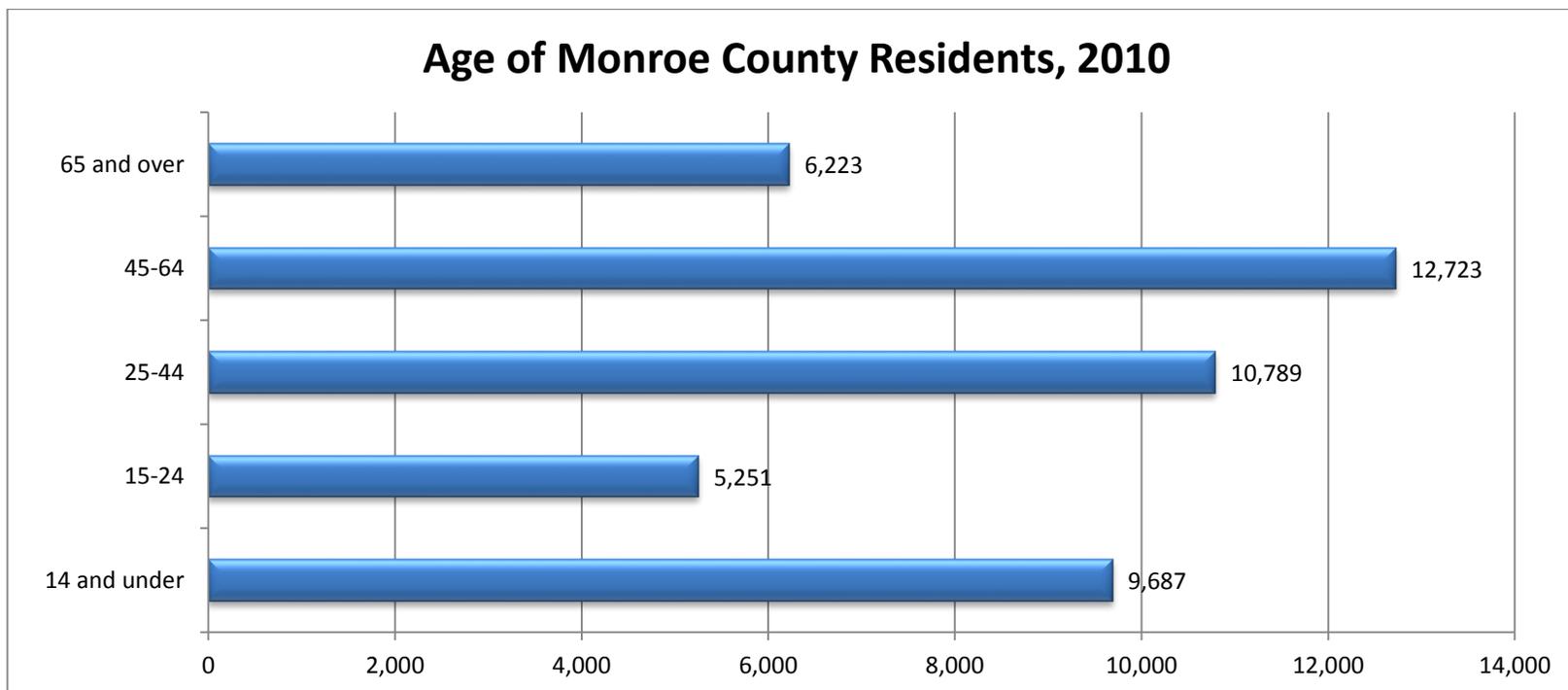
Sparta	9,636
Tomah	9,174

Grand Total: 45,056

2013 Equalized Assessment Figures (TID Out)					
Number of Towns	24	\$1,534,216,200	56%	Centerline Miles – State Hwy System	233
Number of Villages	8	\$ 121,822,500	5 %	Centerline Miles – County Trunk System	344
Number of Cities	2	\$1,050,265,900	39%		
		\$2,706,304,600		Total Centerline Miles:	577



Who Are We?



Source: 2010 US Census

Where Do We Live?

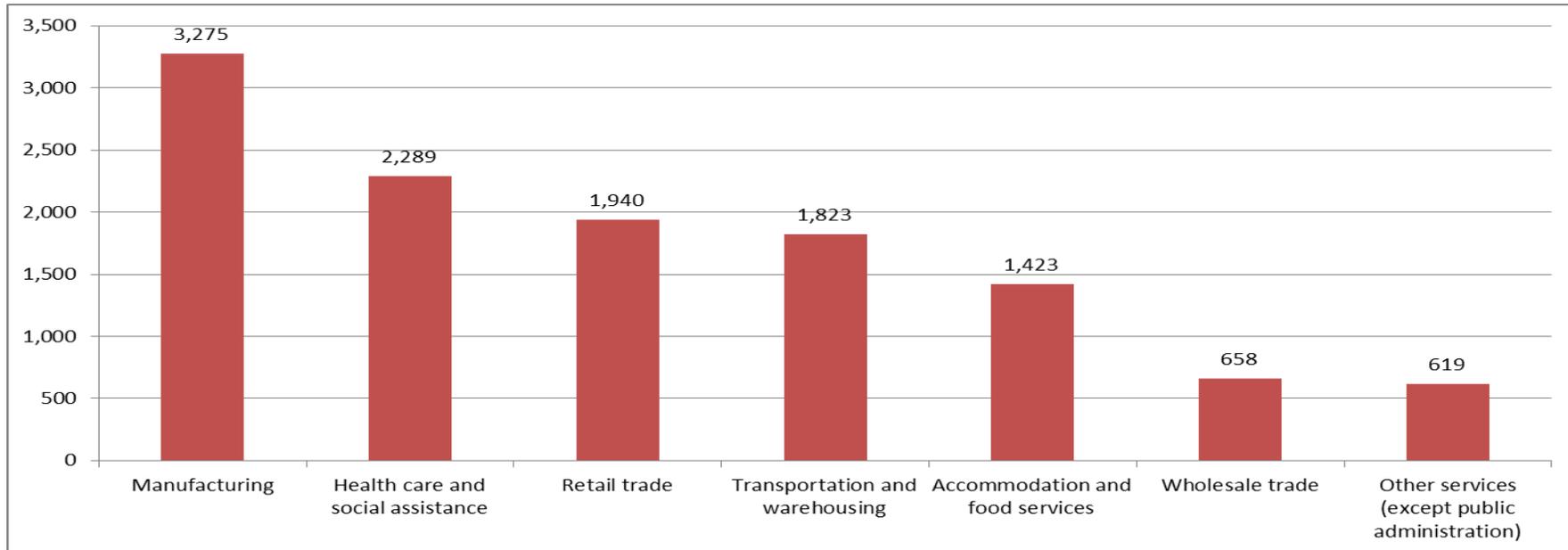
Ten Largest Municipalities

1. City of Sparta
2. City of Tomah
3. Town of Sparta
4. Town of La Grange
5. Town of Little Falls

6. Town of Tomah
7. Town of Byron
8. Town of Angelo
9. Village of Cashton
10. Town of Leon



Where Do We Work?



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 County Business Patterns

Top Five Private Sector Employers

Company	Product or Service	Size
Wal-Mart	Warehouse, Department Stores, Supercenters	1000+
Toro Mfg, LLC	Farm Machinery / Equipment Manufacturing	500-999
Northern Engraving	Metal Stamping / Fixture Manufacturing	250-499
Cardinal Glass Industries Inc.	Glass Product Manufacturing	250-499
Century Foods Intl LLC	Dairy Product Manufacturing/Distribution	250-499

How Do We Play?



There are 120 Lakes and 6 rivers located in Monroe County.



Ethnic, traditional, fast food and gourmet dining.



Numerous area amusements, Community Festivals and County Fair.



There are 269 miles of Snowmobile Trails in Monroe County.



5+ quality area Golf Courses with many more nearby.

There are more than 100 miles of meandering rivers to paddle in Monroe County.



There are more than 50 miles of easy-riding, railroad grade bicycle trails winding through Monroe County.



There are 15+ campgrounds with more than 600 sites in Monroe County.

	<u>Number of Farms</u>	<u>Average Size of Farms</u>	<u>Total Acres in Farmland</u>
Wisconsin:			
2007	78,000	195 acres	15,200,000 acres
Monroe County:			
2007	2,115	166 acres	351,306 acres
2002	1,938	182 acres	351,775 acres

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>% change</u>
Market Value of Products Sold:	\$165,092,000	\$102,572,000	+ 61
Crop Sales \$60,031,000 (36 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$105,061,000 (64 percent)			
Average per Farm	\$78,058	\$52,927	+ 47

Land in Farms

by Type of Land

