

# ALICE IN WAUKESHA COUNTY

## 2018 Point-in-Time Data

**Population:** 403,072 • **Number of Households:** 158,368

**Median Household Income:** \$86,968 (state average: \$60,773)

**Unemployment Rate:** 2.3% (state average: 3.2%)

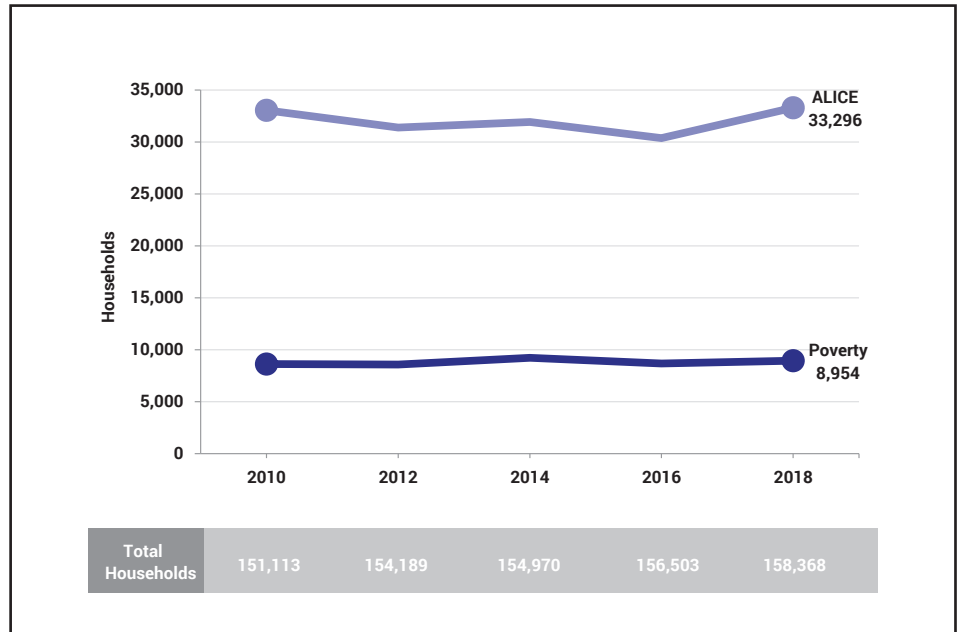
**ALICE Households:** 21% (state average: 23%) • **Households in Poverty:** 6% (state average: 11%)

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

## How has the number of ALICE households changed over time?

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). While conditions improved for some households from 2010 to 2018, many continued to struggle, especially as wages failed to keep pace with the cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan).

## Households by Income, Waukesha County, 2010 to 2018

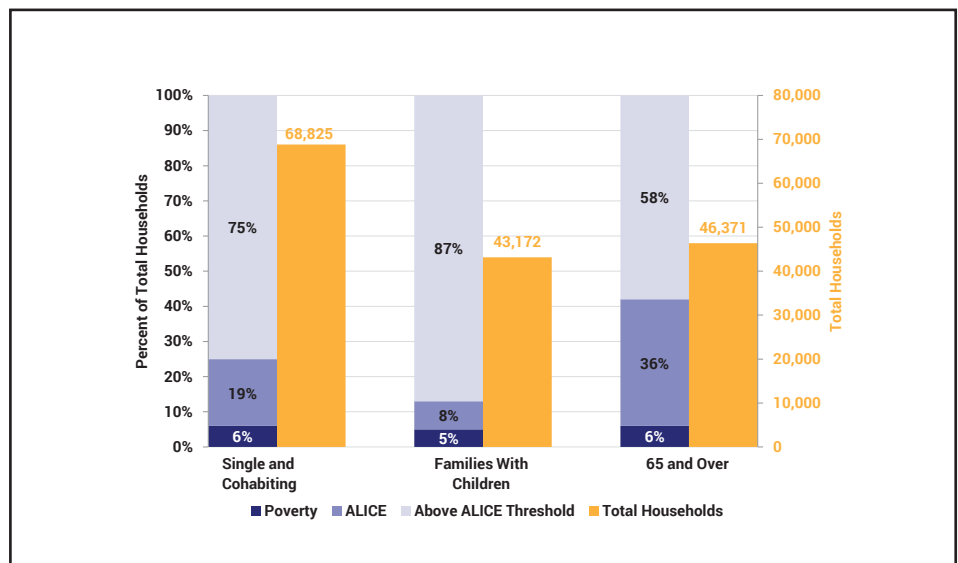


Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010-2018; American Community Survey, 2010-2018

## What types of households are struggling?

In the past few decades, there have been major shifts in household composition. The share of American adults who have never been married is at a historic high, as is the number of senior households. There is also a growing number of people who live alone or with roommates, and an increasing share of grown children who live with their parents. Yet all types of households continue to struggle: ALICE and poverty-level households exist across all of these living arrangements.

## Household Income by Household Type, Waukesha County, 2018



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2018; American Community Survey, 2018

# Why do so many households struggle?

## The cost of household basics outpaces wages...

The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology (a smartphone plan), and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2018, household costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,140 for a single adult and \$25,100 for a family of four.

Household Survival Budget, Waukesha County, 2018		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$717	\$1,069
Child Care	\$-	\$1,714
Food	\$271	\$821
Transportation	\$326	\$795
Health Care	\$214	\$699
Technology	55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$190	\$619
Taxes	\$321	\$1,019
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$2,094</b>	<b>\$6,811</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,128</b>	<b>\$81,732</b>
<b>Hourly Wage*</b>	<b>\$12.56</b>	<b>\$40.87</b>

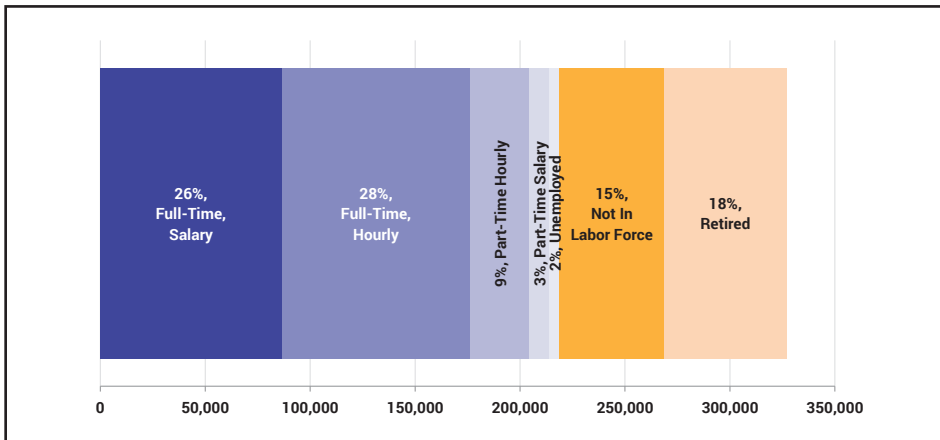
\* Wage working full-time required to support this budget

For ALICE Survival Budget Sources, see the 2020 Methodology Overview available at [UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology](https://www.unitedforalice.org/methodology)

## ..and the labor landscape is challenging for ALICE workers

A breakdown of the labor force shows a small portion of adults (16 years and older) who were unemployed and a large number who were working in 2018. However, a significant portion of full- and part-time workers were paid by the hour; these workers were more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits. There was also a high number of workers outside of the labor force (people who are not employed and not looking for work), which helped keep wages low: When more workers are available, employers have less incentive to raise wages to attract employees.

## Labor Status, Population 16 and Over, Waukesha County, 2018



Note: Data for full- and part-time jobs is only available at the national level; these national rates (51% of full-time workers and 75% of part-time workers paid hourly) have been applied to the total county workforce to calculate the breakdown shown in this figure. Full-time represents a minimum of 35 hours per week at one or more jobs for 48 weeks per year.

Sources: American Community Survey, 2018; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2018

Waukesha County, 2018		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Big Bend Village	513	28%
Brookfield	2,830	40%
Brookfield City	14,704	20%
Butler Village	902	58%
Chenequa Village	234	13%
Delafield	3,077	12%
Delafield City	3,193	27%
Dousman Village	931	38%
Eagle	1,231	16%
Eagle Village	718	24%
Elm Grove Village	2,293	25%
Genesee	2,646	19%
Hartland Village	3,546	30%
Lac La Belle Village	107	13%
Lannon Village	498	37%
Lisbon	4,037	22%
Menomonee Falls Village	15,052	29%
Merton	3,096	17%
Merton Village	1,150	11%
Mukwonago	2,893	14%
Mukwonago Village	3,034	31%
Muskego City	9,145	20%
Nashotah Village	468	23%
New Berlin City	16,685	28%
North Prairie Village	847	17%
Oconomowoc	3,241	20%
Oconomowoc City	6,743	29%
Oconomowoc Lake Village	215	13%
Ottawa	1,511	19%
Pewaukee City	5,616	15%
Pewaukee Village	3,915	40%
Summit Village	1,815	17%
Sussex Village	4,104	24%
Vernon	2,885	17%
Wales Village	922	22%
Waukesha	3,319	19%
Waukesha City	29,432	38%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is for County Subdivisions. Municipal-level data relies on 5-year averages and is not available for the smallest towns. As a result, totals will not match county-level numbers.