

Illinois unemployment rate rises to 6.3 in January; jobs increase by 1,500

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CHICAGO—The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that Illinois' the unemployment rate in January rose 0.2 percentage points to 6.3 percent and nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +1,500, based on data released by IDES and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Illinois' average job growth since employment recovery began in January 2010 remains significantly below the national average, and employment will not recover from the

2007-2009 recession until May 2016, according to IDES labor market analysts. The nation is currently 3.5 percent above its prior peak level of employment.

“When you compare job growth to most other states across nation, Illinois has persistently lagged the national growth rate throughout the recovery period,” said Jeff Mays, Director, IDES. “Even with the upward revision to the 2015 jobs figures, we went from no growth to very low growth. At the same time, the nation grew twice as fast.”

Each year, the BLS [benchmarks](#) nonfarm payroll estimates to universal counts derived primarily from unemployment insurance tax reports. This year, revisions conducted revealed that nonfarm payrolls grew by +88,000 in 2014 rather than +66,800 and jobs grew by +49,600 in 2015 rather declining by -3,000. Private nonfarm payrolls regained their January 2008 peak levels in July 2015. However, the BLS’ revisions in nonfarm payroll employment show Illinois is still short -16,800 jobs in reaching the January 2008 peak employment level.

“While the country as a whole has emerged from the recession, Illinois has not been a part of this recovery,” Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Jim Schultz said. “Unemployment continues to rise, and industries such as manufacturing continue to lose thousands of jobs. We need to create a business climate that promotes growth and job creation in order to regain the thousands of jobs lost in the recession, and put Illinois on the path of full economic recovery.”

The state’s unemployment rate is higher than the national unemployment rate reported for January, which dipped to 4.9 percent. In January 2016, the unemployment rate stood 0.3 percentage points above the unemployment rate a year ago when it was 6.0 percent. The number of unemployed workers increased +3.0 percent from the prior month to 412,600 and was up +5.9 percent over the same month for the prior year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and are seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

To help individuals who are looking for work and employers who are looking to hire, IDES’ encourages jobseekers and employers to connect through the state’s largest job search engine IllinoisJoblink.com (IJL). IJL recently showed that 64,195 resumes were posted and 175,661 help-wanted ads were available.

In January, the two industry sectors with the largest gains in employment were: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+3,600) and Educational and Health Services (+3,200). The three industry sectors with the largest declines in employment were: Government (-2,600); Other Services (-2,100); and Financial Activities (-1,700).

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	January 2016	December 2015*	January 2015 *	3-Month Moving Avg.	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	6.3%	6.1%	6.0%	6.1%	0.2	0.3
U.S.	4.9%	5.0%	5.7%	5.0%	-0.1	-0.8

* Revised

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

Industry Title	January** 2016	December** 2015	January 2015	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change	3-Month Moving Avg.	Change From Previous 3-Month Mov. Avg.
Total Nonfarm	5,975,700	5,974,200	5,918,100	1,500	57,600	5,977,500	-5,800
Mining	9,400	9,200	10,000	200	-600	9,300	0
Construction	218,000	217,800	208,800	200	9,200	216,100	700
Manufacturing	577,100	576,400	583,400	700	-6,300	577,100	-500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,202,300	1,198,700	1,190,000	3,600	12,300	1,201,900	-1,900
Information	98,600	99,200	100,000	-600	-1,400	99,700	-800
Financial Activities	378,200	379,900	378,100	-1,700	100	379,600	-1,000
Professional and Business Services	915,600	915,700	913,400	-100	2,200	916,300	-1,000
Educational and Health Services	909,800	906,600	890,400	3,200	19,400	907,700	100
Leisure and Hospitality	584,500	583,800	564,200	700	20,300	584,100	400
Other Services	252,200	254,300	252,200	-2,100	0	254,000	-600
Government	830,000	832,600	827,600	-2,600	2,400	831,600	-1,400

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