

# Illinois unemployment rate drops in all metro areas

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Metropolitan Area	Dec. 2017	Dec. 2016	Over-the- Year Change
Bloomington	3.8%	4.9%	-1.1
Carbondale-Marion	4.4%	5.6%	-1.2
Champaign-Urbana	3.9%	5.0%	-1.1
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.8%	5.5%	-0.7
Danville	6.0%	7.3%	-1.3
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	4.2%	5.3%	-1.1
Decatur	5.3%	6.3%	-1.0
Elgin	4.6%	5.7%	-1.1
Kankakee	5.3%	6.5%	-1.2
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.2%	5.3%	-1.1
Peoria	4.9%	6.5%	-1.6
Rockford	5.1%	6.5%	-1.4
Springfield	3.9%	4.8%	-0.9
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.3%	5.3%	-1.0
Illinois Statewide	4.7%	5.6%	-0.9

*\* Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO – Unemployment rates decreased over-the-year in December in all of Illinois’s metropolitan areas for the seventh consecutive month, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Data also show nonfarm jobs increased in nine of the metropolitan areas.

“Eleven metro areas saw their lowest December unemployment rates since 2006,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “The unemployment rate also decreased in all 102 counties over the year.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in nine metro areas, with the largest increases in: Kankakee (+2.9 percent, +1,300), Lake/Kenosha (+1.7 percent, +6,800), and Elgin (+1.3 percent, +3,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+0.8 percent or +28,700). Illinois businesses lost jobs in three metro areas, with the largest losses in: Danville (-2.1 percent, -600), Decatur (-1.4 percent, -700), and Springfield (-0.7 percent, -800).

The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas included Mining and Construction (10 of 14), Manufacturing (10 of 14), Wholesale Trade, (9 of 14), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (9 of 14), and Education and Health Services (9 of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares December 2017 with December 2016. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 4.7 percent in December 2017 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in December 2017 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Metropolitan Area	December 2017*	December 2016**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	94,500	93,400	1,100
Carbondale-Marion MSA	58,700	58,300	400
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,300	110,300	0
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,770,000	3,741,300	28,700
Danville MSA	28,100	28,700	-600
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	185,400	184,100	1,300
Decatur MSA	51,100	51,800	-700
Elgin Metro Division	257,100	253,700	3,400
Kankakee MSA	46,800	45,500	1,300
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	414,000	407,200	6,800
Peoria MSA	175,900	174,800	1,100
Rockford MSA	152,800	152,800	0
Springfield MSA	115,900	116,700	-800
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	240,100	238,500	1,600
Illinois Statewide	6,091,500	6,053,600	37,900
*Preliminary **Revised			