



Unemployment rate falls

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CHICAGO—Unemployment rates decreased over-the-year in July in all of Illinois’s metropolitan areas, 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 ten of the metropolitan areas.

“The number of employed people increased in all metro areas, which contributed to the decrease in the unemployment rate,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “This has driven the unemployment rate down to near record lows across the state. In fact, the Chicago metro area had its lowest July unemployment rate on record.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in ten metro areas, with the largest increases in: Kankakee (+5.9 percent, +2,700), Elgin (+2.0 percent, +5,100), and Champaign-Urbana (+1.5 percent, +1,600). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.2 percent or +46,500). Illinois businesses lost jobs in three metro areas: Carbondale-Marion (-0.7 percent, -400), Danville (-0.4 percent, -100), and Bloomington (-0.3 percent, -300).

The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas included Leisure and Hospitality (12 of 14), Manufacturing (10 of 14), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (10 of 14), Professional and Business Services (10 of 14), and Education and Health Services (8 of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares July 2018 with July 2017. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 4.3 percent in July 2018 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in July 2018 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.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

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Metropolitan Area	July 2018	July 2017	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.2%	4.3%	-0.1
Carbondale-Marion	4.9%	5.0%	-0.1
Champaign-Urbana	4.5%	4.6%	-0.1
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.1%	5.3%	-1.2
Danville	5.9%	6.8%	-0.9
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	3.7%	4.2%	-0.5
Decatur	5.6%	5.7%	-0.1
Elgin	4.4%	4.6%	-0.2
Kankakee	4.7%	5.1%	-0.4
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.0%	4.2%	-0.2
Peoria	4.9%	5.5%	-0.6
Rockford	5.0%	5.6%	-0.6
Springfield	4.0%	4.3%	-0.3

St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.6%	4.9%	-0.3
Illinois Statewide	4.3%	5.1%	-0.8
* <i>Data subject to revision.</i>			

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – July 2018

Metropolitan Area	July 2018*	July 2017**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	91,900	92,200	-300
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,200	56,600	-400
Champaign-Urbana MSA	108,000	106,400	1,600
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,812,000	3,765,500	46,500
Danville MSA	28,000	28,100	-100
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	186,700	186,100	600
Decatur MSA	51,600	50,900	700
Elgin Metro Division	263,100	258,000	5,100

Kankakee MSA	48,700	46,000	2,700
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	429,000	425,600	3,400
Peoria MSA	172,000	171,500	500
Rockford MSA	152,100	151,100	1,000
Springfield MSA	113,100	113,100	0
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	237,200	234,800	2,400
Illinois Statewide	6,151,300	6,075,400	75,900
<i>*Preliminary **Revised</i>			

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

Labor Market Area	July 2018	July 2017	Over-the-Year Change
IL Section of St. Louis MSA	4.6%	4.9%	-0.3%
Bond	4.1%	4.4%	-0.3%
Calhoun	4.5%	5.0%	-0.5%

Clinton	3.4%	3.5%	-0.1%
Jersey	4.4%	4.8%	-0.4%
Macoupin	4.6%	4.8%	-0.2%
Madison	4.5%	4.9%	-0.4%
Monroe	3.3%	3.4%	-0.1%
St. Clair	5.1%	5.3%	-0.2%
Cities			
Alton	6.1%	7.1%	-1.0%
Belleville	5.2%	5.7%	-0.5%
Collinsville	4.7%	5.1%	-0.4%
East St. Louis	8.8%	8.3%	0.5%
Edwardsville	3.6%	3.6%	0.0%
Granite City	5.5%	5.8%	-0.3%
O’Fallon	4.5%	4.4%	0.1%

Counties			
Greene	4.6%	5.2%	-0.6%
Randolph	4.6%	4.7%	-0.1%
Washington	3.7%	3.1%	0.6%
Other Areas			
LWA 21	4.5%	4.8%	-0.3%
LWA 22	4.5%	4.9%	-0.4%
LWA 24	4.6%	4.8%	-0.2%
Southwestern Economic Development Region	4.5%	4.8%	-0.3%

Metro East Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 5,900 openings in July and approximately 82 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted ad indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

The July 2018 unemployment rate for the Illinois Section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area was 4.6 percent, a decrease of (0.3%) from the July 2017 rate of 4.9 percent. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The number of employed individuals increased by +7,056 to 334,568 in July 2018 from 327,512 in July 2017. The labor force increased by +6,238 to 350,574 in July 2018 from 344,336 in July 2017. In July 2018, there were 16,006 unemployed people in the labor force. This is a decrease of 818 compared to the July 2017 total unemployed, 16,824.

Over the year, nonfarm payrolls increased by (+2,400).

Employment increased in Manufacturing (+900), Wholesale Trade (+800), Retail Trade (+400), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+300), and Leisure and Hospitality (+200) in July 2018 compared to July 2017.

Decreases in employment over the year included Financial Activities (-200), Educational and Health Services (-100), Mining and Construction (-100), and Other Services (-100).

Payrolls in Information and Government remained stable with no change over the year.

Note:

- Monthly 2017 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2018, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.
- LWA— Local Workforce Area 21 is composed of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Morgan, Scott and Shelby Counties.
LWA— Local Workforce Area 22 is composed of Bond and Madison Counties.
LWA— Local Workforce Area 24 is composed of Clinton, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington Counties.