



Illinois unemployment rate unchanged, matches record low

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CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate held at 4.1 percent in September and nonfarm payrolls increased by +2,800 jobs over-the-month, based on preliminary data provided by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. The August job losses were revised upward from the preliminary report (from -5,200 jobs to -3,100 jobs).

Job growth was flat during the July to September period (third quarter) posting an average monthly change of -100 jobs, significantly less than the prior 3-month average monthly gain of +9,200 jobs during the April and June period (second quarter). The 9-month period (year-to-date) is posting average monthly gains of 4,900/month, up from a year ago when the average monthly increase was 4,000 for the same year-to-date period.

“Nonfarm payrolls were up over-the-month led by gains in education and health services and manufacturing, and jobs were also up over 50,000 from a year ago, “said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Illinois’ unemployment rate at 4.1 percent in September again matched the record low for the state.”

“Over the last year, Illinois has experienced a steady decrease in unemployment,” said Illinois Department of Commerce Acting Director Leslie Munger. “We are thrilled to see opportunity and investment expand across all communities in the state due to an increased focus on supporting our small businesses and marketing our assets to companies around the globe looking to expand.”

In September, the three industry sectors with the largest over-the-month gains in employment were: Education and Health Services (+3,300); Manufacturing (+2,300); and Construction (+1,400). The industry sectors with the largest payroll declines were: Professional and Business Services (-2,500), Other Services (-1,500) and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-800).

Over-the-year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +50,300 jobs with the largest gains in these industry sectors in September: Manufacturing (+14,600); Government (+10,900); and Leisure and Hospitality (+8,900). The industry sectors with over-the-year declines were: Information Services (-3,800) and Other Services (-900). Illinois nonfarm payrolls were up +0.8 percent over-the-year in sharp contrast to the nation's +1.7 percent over-the-year gain in September.

The state's unemployment rate is +0.4 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for September 2018, which declined to 3.7 percent. The Illinois unemployment rate is down -0.9 percentage points from a year ago when it was 5.0 percent. Before last month, the Illinois jobless rate last stood at 4.1 percent in February 1999.

The number of unemployed workers decreased -0.7 percent from the prior month to 266,800, down -17.1 percent over the same month for the prior year. The labor force was about unchanged over-the-month but declined -0.3 percent over-the-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 connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring, IDES' maintains the state's largest job search engine, IllinoisJoblink.com (IJL), which recently showed 57,230 posted resumes with 205,449 jobs available.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Sep-18	Aug-18	Sep-17	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.1%	4.1%	5.0%	4.2%	0.0	-0.9
U.S.	3.7%	3.9%	4.2%	3.8%	-0.2	-0.5

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Sep-18	Aug-18	Sep-17	Over the	Over the	3-month	Change from
	Current *	Prior mnth**	Year Ago	Month	Year	Moving Avg	Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,124,900	6,122,100	6,074,600	2,800	50,300	6,124,100	-100
IL - Mining	7,700	7,700	7,600	0	100	7,700	0
IL - Construction	228,100	226,700	221,600	1,400	6,500	227,400	700
IL - Manufacturing	592,800	590,500	578,200	2,300	14,600	590,700	1,400
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,214,500	1,215,300	1,214,400	-800	100	1,214,800	100
IL - Information	92,300	93,000	96,100	-700	-3,800	92,700	-300
IL - Financial Activities	400,000	399,700	392,200	300	7,800	399,800	400
IL - Professional and Business Services	945,800	948,300	943,900	-2,500	1,900	947,100	200
IL - Educational and Health Services	931,300	928,000	925,100	3,300	6,200	929,600	200
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	619,600	618,900	610,700	700	8,900	620,100	-500
IL - Other Services	249,300	250,800	252,200	-1,500	-2,900	250,800	-1,400
IL - Government	843,500	843,200	832,600	300	10,900	843,500	-900

* preliminary
**Final

- 1976-2017 seasonally adjusted labor force data for Illinois, and all other states, have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The monthly historical revisions to state labor force estimates reflect new national benchmark controls, state working-age population controls, seasonal factors, as well as updated total nonfarm jobs and unemployment benefits claims inputs. Illinois labor force data were also smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly Census Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. In February 2018, the BLS also introduced a new seasonal adjustment procedure for state labor force estimates which resulted in the entire monthly historical series for Illinois and all other states being replaced. For all of these reasons, the comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous state news releases/materials may no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available here: [Illinois & Chicago Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates](#)
- Monthly 2013-2017 seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment data for Illinois have been revised. To control for potential survey error, the estimates are benchmarked annually to universal counts derived primarily from unemployment insurance tax reports. Effective with January 2018 estimates, the BLS introduced concurrent seasonal adjustment for monthly state nonfarm payroll employment estimates
- Not seasonally adjusted jobs data with industry detail are available at [Not Seasonally Adjusted Jobs](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: Personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted employment data for subsectors within industries are not available