



NEWS RELEASE

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Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in February

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Area	February 2024*	February 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.3%	4.0%	0.3
Carbondale-Marion	4.9%	4.5%	0.4
Champaign-Urbana	4.4%	4.1%	0.3
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.1%	4.3%	0.8
Danville	6.1%	6.0%	0.1
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	4.8%	4.7%	0.1
Decatur	6.4%	5.9%	0.5
Elgin	6.3%	5.9%	0.4
Kankakee	6.8%	6.6%	0.2
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.8%	5.5%	0.3
Peoria	5.8%	5.5%	0.3
Rockford	6.8%	6.4%	0.4
Springfield	4.8%	4.5%	0.3
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.6%	4.1%	0.5
Illinois Statewide	5.3%	4.7%	0.6

* Preliminary | ** Revised

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in eleven metropolitan areas and decreased in three for the year ending February 2024, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES). Over-the-year, the unemployment rate increased in all fourteen metropolitan areas.

“Today’s data continues to highlight the health and expansion of the Illinois labor market, with increases in jobs throughout a multitude of industries touching every corner of the state,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “As growth continues to supply jobseekers and employers with new opportunities, IDES and its workforce partners are positioned to assist both groups to thrive in the state’s economy.”

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+3.2%, +3,900), the Elgin Metro (+2.1%, +5,300), and the Bloomington MSA (+1.4%, +1,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago Metro were almost unchanged (0.0%, +1,400). The metro areas which

had over-the-year decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Decatur MSA (-3.3%, -1,600), the Springfield MSA (-3.0%, -3,300), and the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (-0.9%, -1,600). Industries that saw job growth in most metro areas included: Government (thirteen areas); Mining and Construction and Education and Health Services (ten areas each); Wholesale Trade and Other Services (eight areas each).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago Metro (+0.8 point to 5.1%), the Decatur MSA (+0.5 point to 6.4%), and the Illinois section of St. Louis MSA (+0.5 point to 4.6%).

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – February 2024

Metropolitan Area	February 2024*	February 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	98,800	97,400	1,400
Carbondale-Marion MSA	58,500	57,800	700
Champaign-Urbana MSA	124,600	120,700	3,900
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,752,600	3,751,200	1,400
Danville MSA	26,700	26,500	200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,000	180,600	-1,600
Decatur MSA	46,800	48,400	-1,600
Elgin Metro Division	261,800	256,500	5,300
Kankakee MSA	42,600	42,200	400
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	411,900	409,400	2,500
Peoria MSA	168,300	167,100	1,200
Rockford MSA	144,100	143,400	700
Springfield MSA	105,900	109,200	-3,300
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	238,500	237,700	800
Illinois Statewide	6,035,800	6,012,900	22,900

*Preliminary | **Revised

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

Labor Market Area	Feb 2024	Feb 2023	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA			
De Witt County	4.8 %	4.6 %	0.2
McLean County	4.3 %	3.9 %	0.4
Peoria MSA			
Marshall County	5.9 %	5.9 %	0.0
Peoria County	6.3 %	5.9 %	0.4
Stark County	6.9 %	6.9 %	0.0
Tazewell County	5.3 %	5.1 %	0.2
Woodford County	4.6 %	4.4 %	0.2
Ottawa-Streator Area	7.1 %	6.4 %	0.7
Bureau County	7.6 %	6.0 %	1.6
LaSalle County	6.9 %	6.5 %	0.4
Putnam County	7.3 %	6.4 %	0.9
Galesburg Area			
Knox County	6.2 %	6.1 %	0.1
Cities			
Bloomington City	4.3 %	4.1 %	0.2
Galesburg City	6.1 %	5.6 %	0.5
Normal Town	4.1 %	3.6 %	0.5
Pekin City	6.0 %	5.4 %	0.6
Peoria City	6.4 %	5.7 %	0.7
Counties & Areas			
Fulton County	6.1 %	6.4 %	-0.3
Hancock County	4.7 %	4.6 %	0.1
Henderson County	4.6 %	6.0 %	-1.4
Henry County	5.7 %	5.4 %	0.3
Livingston County	4.8 %	4.8 %	0.0
Logan County	5.5 %	4.9 %	0.6
Mason County	6.0 %	5.7 %	0.3
Warren County	4.9 %	4.4 %	0.5
LWIA 14	4.9 %	4.7 %	0.2

Central Illinois Highlights

Bloomington MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.3 percent in February 2024 from 4.0 percent in February 2023.

Over-the-year, nonfarm employment increased by +1,400. Nonfarm payroll declines were reported in Professional-Business Services (-500), Financial Activities (-300), Retail Trade (-200) and Leisure-Hospitality (-200). Manufacturing (+1,200), Government (+800), Educational-Health Services (+200), Mining-Construction (+200), Other Services (+100) and Wholesale Trade (+100) had payroll gains over-the-year.

Peoria MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.8 percent in February 2024 from 5.3 percent in February 2023.

Over-the-year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +1,200. Declines were reported in Professional-Business Services (-700), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-300), Leisure-Hospitality (-300), Retail Trade (-100) and Information (-100). Government (+1,200), Educational-Health Services (+500), Manufacturing (+400), Other Services (+400), Wholesale Trade (+100) and Financial Activities (+100) had payroll gains over-the-year.

Ottawa-Streator Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.1 percent in February 2024 from 6.4 percent in February 2023. Over-the-year, nonfarm payrolls decreased by -1,100. Educational-Health Services (-950), Professional-Business Services (-225) and Natural Resources-Mining (-200) posted the largest declines. Government (+275) and Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+275) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year.

Galesburg Area-Knox County: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.2 percent in February 2024 from 6.1 percent in February 2023. Over-the-year, nonfarm payrolls increased by +475. The only employment declines were reported in the Financial Activities (-175) and Construction (-25) sectors from a year ago. The Educational-Health Services (+375), Professional-Business Services (+200) and Government (+75) sectors had the largest payroll gains over-the-year.

Pontiac Area-Livingston County: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in February 2024 from February 2023. Over-the-year, nonfarm payrolls increased by +375. Educational-Health Services (-50) and Other Services (-25) posted the only declines from a year ago. Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+200) and Manufacturing (+200) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year.

Note: Monthly 2023 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2024, as required by the U.S. 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.

Disclaimer: The data contained in the metro area employment numbers press releases are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore are subject to seasonal fluctuations due to factors such as changes in weather, harvests, major holidays and school schedules. Current monthly metro data should be compared to the same month from prior years (January 2024 data compared to January 2023 data) as data for these months have similar seasonal patterns. Comparisons should not be made to data for the immediate previous month or other previous non-matching months, as any changes in the data within these time periods may be the result of seasonal fluctuations and not economic factors.