



# 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
<b>Rockford MSA</b>			
Boone County	8.4 %	8.0 %	0.4
Winnebago County	6.5 %	6.1 %	0.4
<b>Cities</b>			
Belvidere City	10.3 %	10.0 %	0.3
Freeport City	6.5 %	5.9 %	0.6
Rockford City	7.4 %	6.9 %	0.5
<b>Counties</b>			
Bureau County	7.6 %	6.0 %	1.6
Carroll County	5.7 %	5.5 %	0.2
DeKalb County	5.6 %	5.1 %	0.5
Henry County	5.7 %	5.4 %	0.3
Jo Daviess County	5.8 %	5.4 %	0.4
Kane County	6.5 %	6.0 %	0.5
Lee County	5.0 %	4.8 %	0.2
McHenry County	5.0 %	4.1 %	0.9
Ogle County	6.6 %	6.2 %	0.4
Stephenson County	5.9 %	5.7 %	0.2
Whiteside County	5.3 %	5.2 %	0.1

**Rockford MSA**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.8 percent in February 2024 from 6.4 percent in February 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +700 over the year.

The Government (+1,300), Construction (+500) and Leisure-Hospitality (+500) sectors had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Manufacturing (-1,300) and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-500) sectors recorded the largest employment declines over-the-year.

**Ogle County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.6 percent in February 2024 from 6.2 percent in February 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +100 over-the-year.

Government (+250) and Financial Activities (+50) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Educational-Health Services (-100), Manufacturing (-75), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-50) and Professional-Business Services (-50) sectors recorded the largest employment decline over-the-year.

**Stephenson County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.9 percent in February 2024 from 5.7 percent in February 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +400 over the year.

Government (+175), Construction (+150), Professional-Business Services (+75) and Educational-Health Services (+50) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-50) sector recorded the largest employment decline over-the-year.

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**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.