



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in January

### Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Area	January 2024*	January 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.4%	3.9%	0.5
Carbondale-Marion	5.1%	4.6%	0.5
Champaign-Urbana	4.6%	4.0%	0.6
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.5%	4.4%	0.1
Danville	6.6%	6.0%	0.6
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.2%	4.7%	0.5
Decatur	6.8%	5.7%	1.1
Elgin	6.5%	5.5%	1.0
Kankakee	7.5%	6.4%	1.1
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.9%	5.0%	0.9
Peoria	6.2%	5.4%	0.8
Rockford	7.3%	6.2%	1.1
Springfield	5.1%	4.5%	0.6
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.7%	4.1%	0.6
Illinois Statewide	5.1%	4.7%	0.4

\* Preliminary | \*\* Revised

**SPRINGFIELD** – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in eight metropolitan areas, decreased in five and was unchanged in one for the year ending January 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.

“As payrolls continue to grow across industries throughout the state, jobseekers are encouraged to take advantage of new and expanded employment opportunities,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES and its workforce partners are uniquely positioned to assist with employment searches and to match workers with employers to ensure they find the best fit for their needs.”

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Bloomington MSA (+3.8%, +3,600), the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+2.1%, +2,500) and the Carbondale-Marion MSA (+1.4%, +800). The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage decreases were the Springfield MSA (-2.7%, -2,900), the

Decatur MSA (-2.5%, -1,200), and the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (-1.4%, -2,500). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago Metro Division were down -0.3% or -11,000. Industries that saw job growth in a majority of metro areas included: Education and Health Services and Government (twelve areas each); and Financial Activities (eight areas).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were in Decatur MSA (+1.1 points to 6.8%), the Kankakee MSA (+1.1 points to 7.5%), and the Rockford MSA (+1.1 points to 7.3%). The Chicago Metro Division unemployment rate increased +0.1 point to 4.5%.

### Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – January 2024

Metropolitan Area	January 2024*	January 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	98,100	94,500	3,600
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,700	55,900	800
Champaign-Urbana MSA	120,100	117,600	2,500
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,735,200	3,746,200	-11,000
Danville MSA	26,400	26,400	0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	178,000	180,500	-2,500
Decatur MSA	46,700	47,900	-1,200
Elgin Metro Division	258,100	256,200	1,900
Kankakee MSA	42,300	42,200	100
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	413,300	409,100	4,200
Peoria MSA	167,500	166,100	1,400
Rockford MSA	143,400	143,500	-100
Springfield MSA	105,600	108,500	-2,900
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	237,200	236,200	1,000
Illinois Statewide	5,984,400	5,995,000	-10,600

\*Preliminary | \*\*Revised

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

Labor Market Area	Jan 2024	Jan 2023	Over-the-Year Change
<b>Rockford MSA</b>			
Boone County	8.9 %	7.7 %	1.2
Winnebago County	7.0 %	6.0 %	1.0
<b>Cities</b>			
Belvidere City	10.7 %	9.5 %	1.2
Freeport City	6.9 %	5.8 %	1.1
Rockford City	7.9 %	6.7 %	1.2
<b>Counties</b>			
Bureau County	7.5 %	5.8 %	1.7
Carroll County	5.8 %	5.3 %	0.5
DeKalb County	5.8 %	4.8 %	1.0
Henry County	6.1 %	5.2 %	0.9
Jo Daviess County	6.2 %	5.2 %	1.0
Kane County	6.7 %	5.7 %	1.0
Lee County	5.4 %	4.9 %	0.5
McHenry County	4.3 %	4.2 %	0.1
Ogle County	7.2 %	6.2 %	1.0
Stephenson County	6.4 %	5.5 %	0.9
Whiteside County	5.7 %	4.9 %	0.8

**Rockford MSA**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.3 percent in January 2024 from 6.2 percent in January 2023.

Total nonfarm employment decreased by -100 over-the-year.

The Government (+1,500), Construction (+300), Professional-Business Services (+100) and Educational-Health Services (+100) had payroll gains over-the-year. The Manufacturing (-1,200), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-600), Retail Trade (-200) and Financial Activities (-100) sectors recorded employment declines over-the-year.

**Ogle County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.2 percent in January 2024 from 6.2 percent in January 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +200 over-the-year.

Construction (+225) and Government (+225) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-125), Educational-Health Services (-100), Manufacturing (-75) and Professional-Business Services (-75) sectors recorded the largest employment decline over-the-year.

**Stephenson County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.4 percent in January 2024 from 5.5 percent in January 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +250 over-the-year.

Construction (+175) and Government (+175) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-75) and Manufacturing (-50) sectors 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.