



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
Decatur MSA			
Macon County	6.4 %	5.9 %	0.5
Springfield MSA			
Menard County	5.0 %	4.8 %	0.2
Sangamon County	4.8 %	4.5 %	0.3
Cities			
Decatur City	7.0 %	6.4 %	0.6
Rock Island City	5.9 %	5.2 %	0.7
Springfield City	5.0 %	4.6 %	0.4
Counties			
Adams County	4.0 %	3.6 %	0.4
Brown County	2.3 %	2.4 %	-0.1
Calhoun County	4.7 %	5.1 %	-0.4
Christian County	5.6 %	5.4 %	0.2
De Witt County	4.8 %	4.6 %	0.2
Greene County	4.9 %	4.6 %	0.3
Hancock County	4.7 %	4.6 %	0.1
Jersey County	4.5 %	3.9 %	0.6
Logan County	5.5 %	4.9 %	0.6
McDonough County	4.9 %	4.9 %	0.0
Macoupin County	4.6 %	4.2 %	0.4
Montgomery County	5.8 %	5.5 %	0.3
Morgan County	4.7 %	4.5 %	0.2
Moultrie County	4.0 %	3.5 %	0.5
Piatt County	4.3 %	4.0 %	0.3
Pike County	5.5 %	5.5 %	0.0
Schuyler County	6.2 %	6.2 %	0.0
Scott County	6.2 %	7.0 %	-0.8
Shelby County	5.3 %	4.6 %	0.7
Other Areas			
LWIA 19	6.2 %	5.7 %	0.5
LWIA 20	4.9 %	4.7 %	0.2
LWIA 21	5.0 %	4.7 %	0.3
Central EDR	5.2 %	4.9 %	0.3

Central Illinois Highlights

Decatur MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased a +0.5 percentage point to 6.4 percent in February 2024 from 5.9 percent in February 2023. There were an estimated 2,811 unemployed people in the labor force in February 2024.

The number of total nonfarm jobs in the Decatur metro area decreased by -1,600 compared to last February.

Employment increased in the Government (+200), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+100) and Other Services (+100) sectors.

Payrolls were unchanged in Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, Information, Financial Activities and Professional-Business Services.

Payroll employment decreased in Construction-Mining (-900), Educational-Health Services (-600), Manufacturing (-300) and Leisure-Hospitality (-200) between February 2023 and February 2024.

Springfield MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased +0.3 percentage point to 4.8 percent in February 2024 from 4.5 percent in February 2023. There were an estimated 4,825 unemployed people in the labor force in February 2024.

The number of total nonfarm jobs in the Springfield metro area decreased by -3,300 compared to a year ago.

Payrolls only increased in the Government (+1,000) and Retail Trade (+100) sectors.

No payroll changes were reported in Mining-Construction, Other Services, Manufacturing and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities.

Payroll employment declined over-the-year in Information (-2,500), Professional-Business Services (-800), Educational-Health Services (-500), Financial Activities (-300), Leisure-Hospitality (-200) and Wholesale Trade (-100).

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.