



JB Pritzker, Governor  
Raymond P. Marchiori, Director

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# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:  
Rebecca Cisco | 217.299.8692  
[rebecca.cisco@illinois.gov](mailto:rebecca.cisco@illinois.gov)

## Unemployment Down, Unchanged in Majority of Metro Areas for August

*Champaign, Chicago, Springfield Metros Reach Consecutive Months of Year-over-Year Job Growth*

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

| Metropolitan Area                         | August 2025* | August 2024** | Over-the-Year Change |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington                               | 4.2%         | 4.3%          | -0.1                 |
| Champaign-Urbana                          | 4.7%         | 4.8%          | -0.1                 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg             | 4.6%         | 5.7%          | -1.1                 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (IL Section) | 5.3%         | 5.3%          | 0.0                  |
| Decatur                                   | 6.2%         | 5.9%          | 0.3                  |
| Elgin                                     | 4.6%         | 4.7%          | -0.1                 |
| Kankakee                                  | 5.7%         | 5.6%          | 0.1                  |
| Lake                                      | 4.6%         | 4.7%          | -0.1                 |
| Peoria                                    | 4.9%         | 4.8%          | 0.1                  |
| Rockford                                  | 5.5%         | 5.6%          | -0.1                 |
| Springfield                               | 4.5%         | 4.4%          | 0.1                  |
| St. Louis (IL Section)                    | 4.5%         | 4.5%          | 0.0                  |
| Illinois Statewide                        | 4.7%         | 5.3%          | -0.6                 |
| * Preliminary   ** Revised                |              |               |                      |

Kankakee MSA (-2.6%, -1,100), the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA, IL Section (-1.9%, -1,700), and the Peoria MSA (-1.4%, -2,500). The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Springfield MSA (+1.3%, +1,500), the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+1.1%, +1,200) and the Chicago Metro Division (+0.7%, +26,400). Industries that saw job growth in the majority of the twelve metro areas included: Private Education and Health Services (eleven areas) and Mining and Construction (seven areas).

The metro area with the largest unemployment rate decrease was the Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg Metro Division (-1.1 points to 4.6%) followed by a tie between the Bloomington MSA, Champaign-Urbana MSA, Elgin Metro Division, Lake County Metro Division, and Rockford MSA (-0.1 point each). The metro area with the largest unemployment rate increase was the Decatur MSA (+0.3 point to 6.2%), followed by a tie between the Kankakee MSA, Peoria MSA, and Springfield MSA (+0.1 point each). The IL sections of the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA and St. Louis MSA saw no change to their unemployment rates.

**SPRINGFIELD** – Over-the-year, the unemployment rate decreased in 6 metro areas, increased in 4, and remained unchanged in 2 for the year ending August 2025, 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, total nonfarm jobs increased in five metropolitan areas, leading to consecutive months with year-over-year growth: Champaign (7 consecutive months); Chicago (14 consecutive months); Springfield (22 consecutive months).

“Even as harmful federal policies create challenges for businesses and workers, Illinois is staying focused on expanding economic opportunity in every corner of the state by investing in workforce and business development,” **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Our greatest asset is our diverse and resilient workforce, and we’re committed to building pathways that support lasting growth and prosperity.”

The metro areas which posted the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the

### Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – August 2025

| Metropolitan Area                         | August 2025* | August 2024** | Over-the-Year Change |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington                               | 93,500       | 94,200        | -700                 |
| Champaign-Urbana                          | 113,900      | 112,700       | 1,200                |
| Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg             | 3,843,000    | 3,816,600     | 26,400               |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (IL Section) | 86,200       | 87,900        | -1,700               |
| Decatur                                   | 47,400       | 47,600        | -200                 |
| Elgin                                     | 292,400      | 295,100       | -2,700               |
| Kankakee                                  | 42,000       | 43,100        | -1,100               |
| Lake                                      | 352,000      | 350,200       | 1,800                |
| Peoria                                    | 172,000      | 174,500       | -2,500               |
| Rockford                                  | 146,800      | 146,400       | 400                  |
| Springfield                               | 113,200      | 111,700       | 1,500                |
| St. Louis (IL Section)                    | 241,900      | 243,100       | -1,200               |
| Illinois Statewide                        | 6,156,200    | 6,166,100     | -9,900               |
| *Preliminary   **Revised                  |              |               |                      |

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

| Labor Market Area                                       | Aug 2025 | Aug 2024 | Over-the-Year Change |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| <b>Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg, IL Metro Division</b> |          |          |                      |
| Cook County                                             | 4.9 %    | 6.0 %    | -1.1                 |
| DuPage County                                           | 3.9 %    | 4.8 %    | -0.9                 |
| Grundy County                                           | 4.1 %    | 5.5 %    | -1.4                 |
| McHenry County                                          | 3.9 %    | 4.7 %    | -0.8                 |
| Will County                                             | 4.4 %    | 5.5 %    | -1.1                 |
| <b>Elgin, IL Metro Division</b>                         |          |          |                      |
| DeKalb County                                           | 4.7 %    | 4.8 %    | -0.1                 |
| Kane County                                             | 4.7 %    | 4.8 %    | -0.1                 |
| Kendall County                                          | 4.5 %    | 4.6 %    | -0.1                 |
| <b>Lake County, IL Metro Division</b>                   |          |          |                      |
| Lake County                                             | 4.6 %    | 4.7 %    | -0.1                 |
| <b>Kankakee, IL MSA</b>                                 |          |          |                      |
| Kankakee County                                         | 5.7 %    | 5.6 %    | 0.1                  |
| <b>Cities</b>                                           |          |          |                      |
| Aurora City                                             | 4.8 %    | 5.2 %    | -0.4                 |
| Chicago City                                            | 5.0 %    | 6.2 %    | -1.2                 |
| Elgin City                                              | 4.7 %    | 5.1 %    | -0.4                 |
| Joliet City                                             | 4.9 %    | 6.1 %    | -1.2                 |
| Kankakee City                                           | 6.9 %    | 6.9 %    | 0.0                  |
| Naperville City                                         | 4.1 %    | 5.0 %    | -0.9                 |

**Kankakee, IL MSA**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.7 percent in August 2025 from 5.6 percent in August 2024.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -1,100 compared to August 2024. The Private Education-Health Services (+200) and Mining-Construction (+100) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Government (-500), Manufacturing (-300), Professional-Business Services (-100), Other Services (-100), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-100), Retail Trade (-100), Leisure-Hospitality (-100) and Wholesale Trade (-100) sectors had employment declines from a year ago.

**Note:** Monthly 2024 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2025, 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 2025 data compared to January 2024 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.

**Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg, IL Metro Division**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.6 percent in August 2025 from 5.7 percent in August 2024.

Total nonfarm employment increased +26,400 compared to August 2024. The Private Education-Health Services (+12,900), Government (+8,700), Leisure-Hospitality (+7,500), Construction (+5,400), Financial Activities (+4,400), Information (+2,200), Other Services (+800) and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+300) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Retail Trade (-6,500), Professional-Business Services (-5,000), Manufacturing (-2,200) and Wholesale Trade (-2,100) sectors had employment declines from a year ago.

**Elgin, IL Metro Division**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.6 percent in August 2025 from 4.7 percent in August 2024.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -2,700 compared to August 2024. The Private Education-Health Services (+1,100) and Construction (+600) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Leisure-Hospitality (-1,900), Manufacturing (-1,000), Professional-Business Services (-700), Retail Trade (-600) and Wholesale Trade (-200) sectors had employment declines from a year ago.

**Lake County, IL Metro Division**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.6 percent in August 2025 from 4.7 percent in August 2024.

Total nonfarm employment increased +1,800 compared to August 2024. The Leisure-Hospitality (+2,700), Private Education-Health Services (+1,600), Government (+900), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400) and Construction (+200) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Professional-Business Services (-1,900), Retail Trade (-1,000), Financial Activities (-300), Other Services (-300), Wholesale Trade (-300) and Manufacturing (-200) sectors had employment declines from a year ago.