IDES
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Down for the Seventh Consecutive Month, Jobs Up in All Metro Areas

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	October 2021*	October 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.7%	4.9%	-1.2
Carbondale-Marion	4.2%	5.6%	-1.4
Champaign-Urbana	3.6%	4.8%	-1.2
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.4%	8.8%	-3.4
Danville	5.1%	6.7%	-1.6
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	3.9%	5.5%	-1.6
Decatur	6.1%	7.9%	-1.8
Elgin	4.5%	6.4%	-1.9
Kankakee	5.0%	6.5%	-1.5
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	3.8%	5.7%	-1.9
Peoria	4.7%	6.3%	-1.6
Rockford	7.1%	7.5%	-0.4
Springfield	4.3%	6.1%	-1.8
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.0%	5.7%	-1.7
Illinois Statewide	5.0%	7.5%	-2.5

**** Preliminary | ** Revised***

SPRINGFIELD – The unemployment rate decreased over-the-year in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas in October for the seventh consecutive month according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Jobs were up in all fourteen metropolitan areas.

"The Illinois economy and job market has seen continued positive growth for more than half the year across all corners of the state," **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. "While we continue to wade through the pandemic recovery period, the Pritzker administration and IDES remain focused on providing more opportunities for people looking to reengage with the workforce."

Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in all fourteen metropolitan areas. The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Carbondale-Marion MSA (+4.4%, +2,500), the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+3.4%, +119,600) and the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (+3.2%, +5,700). The industries that saw job growth in a majority of metro areas included: Leisure and Hospitality (fourteen areas); Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (thirteen areas); Wholesale Trade, Other Services and Government (eleven areas each); Manufacturing (nine areas); Mining and Construction, Professional and Business Services and Education and Health Services (eight areas each).

Over-the-year, the unemployment rate decreased in all 14 metropolitan areas. The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate decreases were the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (-3.4 points to 5.4%), the Elgin Metro Division (-1.9 points to 4.5%) and the Lake County-Kenosha County, IL-WI Metro Division (-1.9 points to 3.8%). The unemployment rate decreased over-the-year in 101 of 102 counties and increased in one.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – October 2021

Metropolitan Area	October 2021*	October 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	89,100	89,000	100
Carbondale-Marion MSA	58,800	56,300	2,500
Champaign-Urbana MSA	120,300	117,300	3,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,639,400	3,519,800	119,600
Danville MSA	26,600	26,200	400
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	182,200	176,500	5,700
Decatur MSA	48,500	47,100	1,400
Elgin Metro Division	248,200	241,500	6,700
Kankakee MSA	43,900	42,700	1,200
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	409,400	402,100	7,300
Peoria MSA	164,600	162,800	1,800
Rockford MSA	140,300	140,100	200
Springfield MSA	104,500	102,300	2,200
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	233,800	230,500	3,300
Illinois Statewide	5,918,200	5,725,100	193,100

****Preliminary | **Revised***

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

Labor Market Area	Oct 2021	Oct 2020	Over the Year Change
Mattoon-Charleston Area			
Clark County	3.7 %	4.5 %	-0.8
Coles County	3.9 %	5.6 %	-1.7
Cumberland County	3.0 %	3.8 %	-0.8
Douglas County	3.0 %	3.9 %	-0.9
Edgar County	3.4 %	3.9 %	-0.5
Moultrie County	2.7 %	3.8 %	-1.1
Shelby County	3.1 %	4.2 %	-1.1
Effingham Area			
Clay County	4.2 %	5.0 %	-0.8
Crawford County	3.9 %	4.6 %	-0.7
Effingham County	2.9 %	4.1 %	-1.2
Fayette County	3.7 %	4.9 %	-1.2
Jasper County	3.2 %	3.7 %	-0.5
Centralia - Mt. Vernon Area			
Clinton County	2.6 %	3.5 %	-0.9
Hamilton County	3.3 %	3.6 %	-0.3
Jefferson County	4.8 %	6.2 %	-1.4
Marion County	4.6 %	6.0 %	-1.4
Washington County	2.1 %	2.7 %	-0.6
Wayne County	3.6 %	4.9 %	-1.3
Other Areas			
LWIA 21	3.6 %	4.7 %	-1.1
LWIA 23	3.7 %	4.8 %	-1.1
LWIA 24	4.1 %	5.8 %	-1.7
LWIA 25	4.5 %	5.8 %	-1.3
LWIA 26	4.4 %	5.5 %	-1.1
Southeastern EDR	3.7 %	4.8 %	-1.1

South Central Illinois Highlights

Mattoon – Charleston Area

October 2021 total nonfarm employment increased by +500 compared to one year ago.

Employment gains were posted in Government (+425), Construction (+150), Financial Activities (+100), Educational and Health Services (+75), Leisure and Hospitality (+75), and Information (+25).

Payrolls decreased in Professional and Business Services (-125) Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-100), Manufacturing (-50), and Other Services (-50). No employment change was reported in Natural Resources and Mining.

Effingham Area

Total nonfarm employment in October 2021 increased by +725 compared to last year.

Employment gains were posted in Educational and Health Services (+125), Government (+125), Construction (+125), Leisure and Hospitality (+100), Manufacturing (+75), Information (+50), Other Services (+50), Natural Resources and Mining (+25), and Financial Activities (+25).

No employment changes were reported in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.

Centralia – Mt. Vernon Area

October total nonfarm employment increased by +500 since October 2020.

Employment increased in Professional and Business Services (+225), Government (+150), Manufacturing (+100), Other Services (+75), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+50), and Construction (+25).

Payrolls decreased in Educational and Health Services (-50), Information (-25), Natural Resources and Mining (-25), and Leisure and Hospitality (-25). No payroll changes were reported in Financial Activities.

Notes: 1. September unemployment rates for Illinois statewide and local areas were subject to larger revisions due to an implementation of an improvement to an outlier treatment by the BLS in the State of Michigan. More information on the September 2021 unemployment rate revisions can be found on page 3 of this press release.

2. Monthly 2020 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2021, 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. The official monthly unemployment rate series for metro areas, counties and most cities begins in 1990. The official monthly nonfarm jobs series for metro areas begins in 1990 and for non-metropolitan counties it begins in 1999.

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Explanation of revisions to September 2021 statewide and local area unemployment rates

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has examined state labor force data for unusual monthly changes, also referred to as outliers, and made monthly adjustments based on a statistical evaluation of the monthly changes. Without these adjustments, the BLS statewide labor force models would have discounted a portion of the pandemic impact and would not have reflected accurately the current labor force conditions.

In January 2021, BLS introduced an adjustment to the State of Michigan's labor force model in response to a detected outlier. This adjustment inadvertently created distortions to statewide labor force estimates for Michigan and other states within the East North Central Division (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin) for January and all subsequent months through September 2021. One part of the monthly statewide labor force estimation process involves adjusting monthly statewide employed and unemployed estimates to equal monthly Census Division employed and unemployed levels. In turn, Census Division employed and unemployed estimations are adjusted to national monthly employed and unemployed estimates, which ensures that the sum of all states equals national employed and unemployed.

The distortions to the state labor force estimates occurred gradually through September 2021 but were only recently identified by the BLS after Illinois and another East North Central Division state raised concerns about their monthly 2021 statewide labor force estimates. The BLS has found that distortions to the Illinois labor force estimates are limited to January-September 2021.

In addition, many local areas saw larger than typical revisions to their September unemployment rates because of the distortions to statewide labor force estimates. Local area labor force estimates are adjusted to sum to statewide labor force estimates, as part of sub-state methodology. As a result, the distortions to September statewide labor force estimates were distributed across Illinois local areas, including metropolitan areas, counties, published cities, Local Workforce Innovation Areas and Economic Development Regions. You can view comparisons between preliminary and revised September state and local area unemployment rates **here**.

Effective October 2021, BLS changed its approach to detecting and adjusting for outliers in monthly statewide labor force data. This change has reduced distortions to the revised September 2021 statewide labor force estimates and the preliminary October 2021 statewide labor force estimates for Illinois and other states in the East North Central Division. The distortions made to January–August 2021 statewide and local area labor force estimates will be modified during the annual benchmarking process in February and March 2022.

For more information concerning the BLS adjustment, please call (202) 691-6392 or use the e-mail request form here. For media inquiries, please call (202) 691-5902 or send an e-mail to PressOffice@bls.gov.