



NEWS RELEASE

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Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in March

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| Metropolitan Area | March 2024* | March 2023** | Over-the-Year Change |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington | 4.2% | 3.6% | 0.6 |
| Carbondale-Marion | 4.6% | 4.2% | 0.4 |
| Champaign-Urbana | 4.3% | 3.8% | 0.5 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights | 4.7% | 3.9% | 0.8 |
| Danville | 5.7% | 5.7% | 0.0 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL | 4.6% | 4.3% | 0.3 |
| Decatur | 6.2% | 6.4% | -0.2 |
| Elgin | 6.1% | 5.6% | 0.5 |
| Kankakee | 6.4% | 6.2% | 0.2 |
| Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI | 5.7% | 5.4% | 0.3 |
| Peoria | 5.4% | 5.1% | 0.3 |
| Rockford | 6.7% | 7.2% | -0.5 |
| Springfield | 4.5% | 4.1% | 0.4 |
| St. Louis (IL-Section) | 4.4% | 3.8% | 0.6 |
| Illinois Statewide | 5.0% | 4.3% | 0.7 |

* Preliminary | ** Revised

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in nine metropolitan areas, decreased in four, and was unchanged in one for the year ending March 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 eleven metropolitan areas, decreased in two, and remained unchanged in one.

“Job growth continues to reach areas in every corner of the state throughout industries, creating new and expanded job opportunities for Illinois workers,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES and its workforce partners remain prepared and committed to matching jobseekers and employers to find the right fit for their careers and employment needs.”

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+2.2%, +2,700), the Elgin Metro (+1.6%, +4,100), and the Kankakee MSA (+1.2%, +500). The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Springfield MSA (-4.0%, -4,400), the Decatur MSA (-

3.9%, -1,900), and the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA (-1.4%, -2,500). In the Chicago Metro, total nonfarm jobs were down -0.1% or -4,400. Total nonfarm jobs were unchanged in the Carbondale-Marion MSA. Industries that saw job growth in a majority of metro areas included: Government (thirteen areas); Private Education and Health Services (ten areas); Mining and Construction and Other Services (nine areas each); and Wholesale Trade (eight areas).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago Metro (+0.8 point to 4.7%), the Bloomington MSA (+0.6 point to 4.2%), and the Illinois section of St. Louis MSA (+0.6 point to 4.4%). The unemployment rate decreased in the Rockford MSA (-0.5 point to 6.7%) and the Decatur MSA (-0.2 point to 6.2%) and was unchanged in the Danville MSA at 5.7%.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – March 2024

| Metropolitan Area | March 2024* | March 2023** | Over-the-Year Change |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington MSA | 99,300 | 98,300 | 1,000 |
| Carbondale-Marion MSA | 58,600 | 58,600 | 0 |
| Champaign-Urbana MSA | 124,900 | 122,200 | 2,700 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division | 3,770,600 | 3,775,000 | -4,400 |
| Danville MSA | 26,800 | 26,500 | 300 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA | 179,800 | 182,300 | -2,500 |
| Decatur MSA | 46,900 | 48,800 | -1,900 |
| Elgin Metro Division | 263,600 | 259,500 | 4,100 |
| Kankakee MSA | 42,800 | 42,300 | 500 |
| Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division | 414,400 | 411,000 | 3,400 |
| Peoria MSA | 169,000 | 168,500 | 500 |
| Rockford MSA | 144,200 | 143,800 | 400 |
| Springfield MSA | 106,200 | 110,600 | -4,400 |
| Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA | 240,700 | 240,500 | 200 |
| Illinois Statewide | 6,071,300 | 6,056,100 | 15,200 |

*Preliminary | **Revised

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

| Labor Market Area | Mar 2024 | Mar 2023 | Over-the-Year Change |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| Mattoon-Charleston Area | | | |
| Clark County | 5.7 % | 4.3 % | 1.4 |
| Coles County | 4.3 % | 4.0 % | 0.3 |
| Cumberland County | 3.9 % | 3.2 % | 0.7 |
| Douglas County | 3.4 % | 3.3 % | 0.1 |
| Edgar County | 4.0 % | 3.5 % | 0.5 |
| Moultrie County | 3.7 % | 3.4 % | 0.3 |
| Shelby County | 4.8 % | 4.3 % | 0.5 |
| Effingham Area | | | |
| Clay County | 5.6 % | 5.3 % | 0.3 |
| Crawford County | 4.4 % | 3.4 % | 1.0 |
| Effingham County | 3.9 % | 3.0 % | 0.9 |
| Fayette County | 5.3 % | 4.9 % | 0.4 |
| Jasper County | 4.6 % | 3.6 % | 1.0 |
| Centralia - Mt. Vernon Area | | | |
| Clinton County | 3.5 % | 3.2 % | 0.3 |
| Hamilton County | 4.2 % | 3.6 % | 0.6 |
| Jefferson County | 4.7 % | 4.4 % | 0.3 |
| Marion County | 4.9 % | 4.6 % | 0.3 |
| Washington County | 2.6 % | 2.5 % | 0.1 |
| Wayne County | 4.5 % | 3.8 % | 0.7 |
| Other Areas | | | |
| LWIA 21 | 4.6 % | 4.2 % | 0.4 |
| LWIA 23 | 4.5 % | 3.9 % | 0.6 |
| LWIA 24 | 4.3 % | 3.9 % | 0.4 |
| LWIA 25 | 4.9 % | 4.5 % | 0.4 |
| LWIA 26 | 4.9 % | 4.5 % | 0.4 |
| Southeastern EDR | 4.5 % | 3.9 % | 0.6 |

South Central Illinois Highlights

Mattoon – Charleston Area

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by +1,075 jobs in March 2024 compared to a year ago.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+550), Government (+375), Professional-Business Services (+200), Leisure-Hospitality (+175) and Other Services (+25).

No employment change was reported in the Mining-Natural Resources or Construction sectors.

From March 2023 to March 2024, nonfarm payrolls decreased in the Manufacturing (-100), Financial Activities (-75), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-75) and Information (-25) sectors.

Effingham Area

Total nonfarm employment increased by +100 in March 2024 compared to a year ago.

Employment gains were posted in Professional-Business Services (+200), Government (+175), Leisure-Hospitality (+150), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+100), Other Services (+25), Information (+25) and Financial Activities (+25).

Year-over-year, payroll totals were unchanged among employers in Mining-Natural Resources.

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (-300), Manufacturing (-175) and Construction (-100) sectors.

Centralia – Mt. Vernon Area

Total nonfarm employment decreased by -25 jobs in March 2024 from a year earlier.

Employers in the Manufacturing (+200), Government (+125), Leisure-Hospitality (+50), Financial Activities (+50), Mining-Natural Resources (+25) and Information (+25) sectors added jobs during the year.

No change in total employment was reported by employers in the Construction or Other Services sectors year-over-year.

Payrolls decreased year-over-year among employers in the Professional-Business Services (-275), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-225) and Private Education-Health Services (-25) sectors.

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.