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FOR RELEASE:
December 16, 2025

NEWS RELEASE

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Payroll Jobs Up, Stable in Majority of Metro Areas in September

Chicago Reaches Record Number of September Jobs, Champaign Reaches Record for Third Year in a Row

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	September 2025*	September 2024**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.9%	3.7%	0.2
Champaign-Urbana	4.1%	3.8%	0.3
Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg	4.1%	5.1%	-1.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (IL Section)	5.5%	5.9%	-0.4
Decatur	5.9%	5.4%	0.5
Elgin	4.3%	4.1%	0.2
Kankakee	5.5%	5.0%	0.5
Lake	4.3%	4.2%	0.1
Peoria	4.7%	4.3%	0.4
Rockford	5.2%	4.9%	0.3
Springfield	4.3%	3.9%	0.4
St. Louis (IL Section)	4.2%	4.0%	0.2
Illinois Statewide	4.3%	4.7%	-0.4
* Preliminary ** Revised			

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in 5 metropolitan areas, was unchanged in 1, and decreased in 6, leading to consecutive months with year-over-year growth: Chicago (15 consecutive months); Lake (4 consecutive months); Springfield (23 consecutive months). Over-the-year, the unemployment rate increased in 10 metro areas and decreased in 2 for the year ending September 2025, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES).

“Illinois’ latest metropolitan jobs data reflects a mix of gains and challenges, shaped in part by federal uncertainty from tariffs and the recent 43-day government shutdown that delayed key employment data,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Even so, record September employment in Chicago and Champaign-Urbana shows Illinois continues to make progress, and the state will remain focused on strategic investments that strengthen our workforce and economy.”

The metro areas which posted the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Kankakee MSA (-2.1%, -900), the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA, IL Section (-1.7%, -1,500), and the Peoria MSA (-1.0%, -1,700). The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Springfield MSA (+1.6%, +1,800), the Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg Metro Division (+1.0%, +39,500), and the Lake County Metro Division (+0.4%, +1,300). Total nonfarm jobs were unchanged in Champaign-Urbana MSA. Industries that saw job growth in the majority of the twelve metro areas included: Private Education and Health Services (twelve areas), Government (nine areas), and Mining and Construction (eight areas).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were a tie between the Decatur MSA (+0.5 point to 5.9%) and the Kankakee MSA (+0.5 point to 5.5%), followed by a tie between the Peoria MSA (+0.4 point to 4.7%) and the Springfield MSA (+0.4 point to 4.3%). The metro areas with unemployment rate decreases were the Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg Metro Division (-1.0 point to 4.1%) and the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA, IL Section (-0.4 point to 5.5%). The unemployment rate increased over-the-year in 86 counties, decreased in 13 counties, and was unchanged in 3 counties.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – September 2025

Metropolitan Area	September 2025*	September 2024**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	94,700	95,300	-600
Champaign-Urbana	122,300	122,300	0
Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg	3,860,200	3,820,700	39,500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (IL Section)	86,300	87,800	-1,500
Decatur	47,500	47,400	100
Elgin	297,400	299,100	-1,700
Kankakee	42,400	43,300	-900
Lake	350,400	349,100	1,300
Peoria	172,600	174,300	-1,700
Rockford	146,800	147,000	-200
Springfield	112,000	110,200	1,800
St. Louis (IL Section)	244,000	243,400	600
Illinois Statewide	6,194,400	6,175,800	18,600
*Preliminary **Revised			

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

Labor Market Area	Sep 2025	Sep 2024	Over-the- Year Change
Centralia - Mt. Vernon Area			
Clinton County	3.3%	3.1%	0.2
Hamilton County	4.6%	3.7%	0.9
Jefferson County	5.0%	4.4%	0.6
Marion County	5.0%	4.6%	0.4
Washington County	3.4%	3.2%	0.2
Wayne County	4.4%	3.7%	0.7
Effingham Area			
Clay County	4.9%	4.7%	0.2
Crawford County	4.0%	4.8%	-0.8
Effingham County	3.6%	3.4%	0.2
Fayette County	4.8%	4.2%	0.6
Jasper County	3.6%	3.4%	0.2
Mattoon-Charleston Area			
Clark County	5.0%	4.2%	0.8
Coles County	3.9%	3.6%	0.3
Cumberland County	3.5%	3.1%	0.4
Douglas County	3.7%	3.4%	0.3
Edgar County	4.6%	4.1%	0.5
Moultrie County	4.0%	3.5%	0.5
Shelby County	4.1%	3.4%	0.7
Other Areas			
LWIA 21	4.3%	3.9%	0.4
LWIA 23	4.2%	4.1%	0.1
LWIA 24	4.2%	4.0%	0.2
LWIA 25	4.7%	4.4%	0.3
LWIA 26	4.6%	4.2%	0.4
South Central EDR	4.2%	4.1%	0.1

South Central Illinois Highlights

Centralia - Mt. Vernon Area

Total nonfarm employment decreased by -425 jobs in September 2025 from a year earlier.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+300), Government (+100) and Construction (+25).

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-400), Manufacturing (-175), Leisure-Hospitality (-100), Professional-Business Services (-75), Financial Activities (-50), Other Services (-50), Information (-25) and Natural Resources-Mining (-25) sectors.

Effingham Area

Total nonfarm employment decreased by -75 jobs in September 2025 from a year earlier.

Employment gains were posted in Leisure-Hospitality (+275), Government (+75), Professional-Business Services (+75) and Natural Resources-Mining (+25).

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Private Education-Health Services (-150), Manufacturing (-125), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-75), Information (-50), Construction (-25), Financial Activities (-25) and Other Services (-25) sectors.

Mattoon - Charleston Area

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by +100 jobs in September 2025 compared to a year ago.

Employment gains were posted in Private Education-Health Services (+625), Construction (+75), Government (+75) and Leisure-Hospitality (+25).

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

Payroll job losses occurred among employers in the Financial Activities (-175), Professional-Business Services (-175), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-150), Manufacturing (-125), Other Services (-75) and Information (-25) sectors.

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.