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NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Payroll Jobs Up, Minimum Increase to Unemployment Rate in May

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate increased +0.1 percentage point to 4.9 percent, while nonfarm payrolls increased +12,700 in May, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and released by IDES. The April revised unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, unchanged from the preliminary April unemployment rate. The April monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +7,300 to +1,900 jobs. The May unemployment rate and payroll jobs estimate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

In May, the industry sectors with the largest over-the-month job gains included: Professional and Business Services (+7,100), Government (+3,300), and Financial Activities (+2,400). The industry sectors with monthly payroll job declines included Manufacturing (-2,300), Leisure and Hospitality (-1,200), Construction (-100) and Mining (-100).

“Steady, consistent job growth continues to benefit the Illinois labor market, further evidenced by individuals who are entering the job market and capitalizing on these new and expanded career opportunities,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES remains committed to assisting jobseekers and employers with the resources they need to participate in the expanding economy.”

“Illinois continues to make positive strides with steady job growth across multiple key industry sectors,” said **DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “Looking ahead, DCEO continues to provide important resources and programs to support job seekers, workers and employers throughout the state.”

The state’s unemployment rate was +0.9 percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate reported for May. The national unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in May, up +0.1 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was up +0.7 percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.2 percent.

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +43,900 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+29,200), Government (+28,600), and Leisure and Hospitality (+13,900). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-24,800), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-6,600), and Financial Activities (-4,500). In May, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.7 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.8 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was 317,400, up +1.3 percent from the prior month, and up +17.8 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was up +0.2 percent over-the-month and up +1.4 percent over-the-year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

IDES helps connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring in a number of ways, including hosting and co-hosting job fairs and hiring events with statewide workforce partners, and through maintaining [Illinois JobLink](#) (IJL), the state’s largest job search engine. IJL is a tool used by jobseekers to look for work, and by employers who can post open and available positions for hire and browse resumes. Recently, IJL showed 57,483 posted resumes with 87,615 jobs available.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	May-24	Apr-24	May-23	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.9%	4.8%	4.2%	4.8%	0.1	0.7
U.S.	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%	3.9%	0.1	0.3

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	May-24 Current *	Apr-24 Prior month**	May-23 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,151,000	6,138,300	6,107,100	12,700	43,900	6,141,900	8,200
IL - Mining	7,200	7,300	7,200	-100	0	7,200	0
IL - Construction	234,800	234,900	233,700	-100	1,100	235,200	100
IL - Manufacturing	578,300	580,600	576,900	-2,300	1,400	580,300	-1,100
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,222,700	1,222,200	1,229,300	500	-6,600	1,222,400	300
IL - Information	90,700	90,200	94,900	500	-4,200	90,300	400
IL - Financial Activities	396,200	393,800	400,700	2,400	-4,500	395,000	-600
IL - Professional and Business Services	932,400	925,300	957,200	7,100	-24,800	926,500	3,700
IL - Private Education and Health Services	990,400	988,100	961,200	2,300	29,200	988,100	2,600
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	602,300	603,500	588,400	-1,200	13,900	603,100	500
IL - Other Services	258,900	258,600	249,100	300	9,800	258,400	700
IL - Government	837,100	833,800	808,500	3,300	28,600	835,300	1,500

* Preliminary
**Final

- Monthly 2019-2023 seasonally adjusted labor force data for Illinois, and all other states, have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The monthly historical revisions to state labor force estimates reflect new national benchmark controls, state working-age population controls, outlier specifications, seasonal factors, as well as updated total nonfarm jobs and unemployment benefits claims inputs. Illinois labor force data were also smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, the comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous news releases/materials may no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available [here](#).
- Monthly 2019-2023 seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment data for Illinois have been revised. To control for potential survey error, the estimates are benchmarked annually to universal counts derived primarily from unemployment insurance tax reports.
- Not seasonally adjusted jobs data with industry detail are available [here](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted data for subsectors within industries are not available.

About the Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides vital employment services to Illinois workers, jobseekers, and employers with resources including [Job Fairs](#), [IllinoisJobLink.com](#), and [WorkShare IL](#), analyzes and disseminates actionable [Labor Market Information](#), and administers the [Unemployment Insurance Program](#). To see the full range of services provided by IDES, and for the latest news concerning the department, visit [IDES.Illinois.gov](https://www.ides.illinois.gov).

Disclaimer on statewide data: The data contained in the statewide press releases are seasonally adjusted, which eliminates seasonal fluctuations in monthly employment data. Many economic data series have seasonal patterns, which means they tend to occur at the same time each year. For example, construction employment declines in winter, tourism employment rises in summer, and retail employment peaks in January. Seasonal adjustment helps to describe the underlying economic trends in the monthly data. When data are seasonally adjusted, as are the data in this release, the seasonal adjustment permits comparisons of data from one month to the next (January 2024 data compared to December 2023 data).