



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
October 19, 2023

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Illinois Payroll Jobs Increase to Record High, Unemployment Rate Up in September

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate increased +0.3 percentage point to 4.4 percent, while nonfarm payrolls increased +9,500 in September to a record high and surpassing the pre-pandemic number of total nonfarm payrolls, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. The August revised unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, unchanged from the preliminary August unemployment rate. The August monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from -100 to +3,800 jobs. The September unemployment rate and payroll jobs estimate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

In September, the industry sectors with the largest over-the-month job gains included: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+3,400), Manufacturing (+2,500), and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,100). The industry sectors with monthly payroll job declines included: Professional and Business Services (-2,200), Construction (-300), and Mining (-100).

“The Illinois labor market continues to benefit from significant, steady long-term job growth throughout the state, motivating and mobilizing jobseekers eager to reconnect with the workforce,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES and its local workforce partners are at the ready to provide workers and employers with the services they need to find their next career and fill open positions in this prime job market.”

“Momentum is growing in the labor market as Illinois’ payroll jobs reach a record high, demonstrating that Illinois businesses – supported by our world-class workforce – continue to create jobs and contribute to a positive economic trajectory,” said **DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “DCEO will continue to invest in the state’s world-class workforce to ensure Illinois remains the best place to live, work and do business.”

The state’s unemployment rate was +0.6 percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate reported for September. The national unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in September, unchanged from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -0.2 percentage point from a year ago when it was at 4.6 percent.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +79,400 jobs, with gains across most major industries. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Educational and Health Services (+36,900), Government (+29,900), and Leisure and Hospitality (+27,300). Professional and Business Services (-20,300), Manufacturing (-7,200), and Information (-4,900) reported the largest declines in payroll jobs. In September, total nonfarm payrolls were up +1.3 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +2.1 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was 282,500, up +6.1 percent from the prior month, and down -4.7 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was almost unchanged (0.0 percent) over-the-month and down -0.1 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.

In June 2020, Governor Pritzker launched [Get Hired Illinois](#), a one-stop-shop website to help connect job seekers with hiring employers in real time. The site features virtual job fairs, no-cost virtual training, and includes [IllinoisJobLink.com](#) (IJL), the state’s largest job search engine, which recently showed 53,689 posted resumes with 108,492 available jobs.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Sep-23	Aug-23	Sep-22	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.4%	4.1%	4.6%	4.2%	0.3	-0.2
U.S.	3.8%	3.8%	3.5%	3.7%	0.0	0.3

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Sep-23 Current *	Aug-23 Prior month**	Sep-22 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,159,000	6,149,500	6,079,600	9,500	79,400	6,151,400	5,600
IL - Mining	6,900	7,000	7,100	-100	-200	6,900	0
IL - Construction	235,700	236,000	232,600	-300	3,100	236,000	300
IL - Manufacturing	567,700	565,200	574,900	2,500	-7,200	565,900	400
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,225,900	1,222,500	1,227,200	3,400	-1,300	1,223,700	1,600
IL - Information	91,600	91,600	96,500	0	-4,900	91,600	200
IL - Financial Activities	416,100	415,600	404,700	500	11,400	415,800	200
IL - Professional and Business Services	964,100	966,300	984,400	-2,200	-20,300	966,600	-2,900
IL - Educational and Health Services	976,900	975,800	940,000	1,100	36,900	974,800	3,300
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	599,400	597,300	572,100	2,100	27,300	597,700	800
IL - Other Services	253,700	252,800	249,000	900	4,700	252,900	500
IL - Government	821,000	819,400	791,100	1,600	29,900	819,700	1,400

* Preliminary
**Final

- Monthly 2018-2022 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 1990-2022 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](#).

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 (February 2023 data compared to January 2023 data).