



JB Pritzker, Governor
Thomas D. Chan, Acting Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rate Remains at Historical Low in October

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that nonfarm payrolls increased to a record high +1,900 jobs compared to last month, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at an historically low 3.9 percent in October, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. The September monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report from +4,800 to +8,500 jobs.

The state's unemployment rate is +0.3 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for October 2019, which was 3.6 percent and up +0.1 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -0.3 percentage points from a year ago when it was 4.2 percent.

Illinois payroll employment has shown variability since the beginning of the year, as have national payrolls. Average payroll employment in Illinois during the August to October three-month period, which provides a more stable measure of payroll employment change, was up +1,500 jobs compared to the July-September three-month period. The largest average gains were found in Government (+2,300), Other Services (+600), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+500).

“Job growth remains strong in Illinois and this administration is committed to building on that foundation with policies that lift up working families,” said Deputy Governor Dan Hynes. “From raising the minimum wage for working people to passing the bipartisan capital plan that will create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the state, Governor Pritzker is taking bold action to build long term economic prosperity in Illinois.”

“Since taking office, Governor Pritzker has been strengthening the foundation for continued, long-term job growth across the state,” said Erin Guthrie, Acting Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. “Illinois’ talented workforce is one of the state’s greatest assets and essential to a thriving business climate.”

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +57,000 jobs with the largest gains in: Leisure and Hospitality (+17,500), Educational and Health Services (+15,500), and Government (+11,700). The industry sectors with the largest over-the-year declines were: Information (-3,400), Manufacturing (-1,900), and Construction (-1,600). Illinois nonfarm payrolls were up +0.9 percent over-the-year as compared to the nation’s +1.4 percent over-the-year gain in October.

The number of unemployed workers decreased from the prior month, -1.9 percent to 251,000, a new record low, and was down -8.6 percent over the same month for the prior year. The labor force was nearly unchanged over-the-month but up +0.6 percentage points 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 maintains the state’s largest job search engine, IllinoisJoblink.com (IJL), to help connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring, which recently showed 60,796 posted resumes with 101,271 jobs available.



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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Oct-19	Sep-19	Oct-18	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	3.9%	3.9%	4.2%	3.9%	0.0	-0.3
U.S.	3.6%	3.5%	3.8%	3.6%	0.1	-0.2

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Oct-19 Current *	Sep-19 Prior mnth**	Oct-18 Year Ago	Over the Month	Over the Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,192,300	6,190,400	6,135,300	1,900	57,000	6,188,200	1,500
IL - Mining	7,400	7,400	8,000	0	-600	7,400	0
IL - Construction	224,900	226,400	226,500	-1,500	-1,600	225,900	-600
IL - Manufacturing	590,000	591,900	591,900	-1,900	-1,900	591,800	-1,000
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,224,900	1,226,000	1,217,600	-1,100	7,300	1,225,000	500
IL - Information	91,400	91,100	94,800	300	-3,400	91,100	300
IL - Financial Activities	407,100	407,000	405,400	100	1,700	406,800	400
IL - Professional and Business Services	960,800	963,100	952,800	-2,300	8,000	961,800	-1,000
IL - Educational and Health Services	951,900	950,500	936,400	1,400	15,500	950,500	400
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	637,200	635,000	619,700	2,200	17,500	635,000	-300
IL - Other Services	258,000	257,300	255,200	700	2,800	257,300	600
IL - Government	838,700	834,700	827,000	4,000	11,700	835,600	2,300

* preliminary
**Final

- 2014-2018 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, 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 Census Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, the comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous state 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: [Illinois & Chicago Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates](#)
- Monthly 1990-2018 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 at [Not Seasonally Adjusted Jobs](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: Personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted employment data for subsectors within industries are not available

About IDES: IDES encourages employment by connecting employers to jobseekers, provides unemployment insurance benefits to eligible individuals, produces labor market data, and protects taxpayers from unemployment insurance fraud. Visit IDES’ website at www.ides.illinois.gov for more information. You can also follow IDES on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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