



JB Pritzker, Governor
Thomas D. Chan, Acting Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Payrolls at Record High in January *Unemployment Rate Holds Steady*

CHICAGO—The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in January, unchanged from December, and nonfarm payrolls increased by +24,000 jobs over-the-month based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. The December jobs gain was revised downward from the preliminary report (from +13,600 to +7,400 jobs).

Job growth was strong during the November to January period posting an average monthly change of +12,500 jobs, an improvement over the prior month when the three-month average change was +9,400 jobs.

The Illinois total jobs level has reached a new record mark each month since October 2018.

“We’re pleased to see strong job growth in January and look forward to building on this foundation in the months to come,” said Deputy Governor Dan Hynes. “Governor Pritzker’s budget proposal will restore fiscal stability to our state and bring much needed investments to our education system and workforce training that will build a thriving economy.”

“We are excited about the record high payrolls and anxious to continue fulfilling Governor Pritzker’s commitment to training the workforce of the future so that the unemployed and under-employed can find good-paying jobs,” said Erin Guthrie, Acting Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

In January, the three industry sectors with the largest over-the-month gains in employment were: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+9,300), Construction (+5,800) and Manufacturing (+4,200). The industry sectors with payroll declines were: Other Services (-1,000) and Information (-300).

Over-the-year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +78,000 jobs with the largest gains in these industry sectors in January: Education and Health Services (+16,900), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+15,400) and Leisure and Hospitality (+11,600). Information was down -2,000 jobs from the previous year and was the only industry sector to report an over-the-year decline. Illinois nonfarm payrolls were up +1.3 percent over-the-year as compared to the nation’s +1.9 percent over-the-year gain in January.

The state’s unemployment rate is +0.3 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for January 2019, which rose to 4.0 percent. The Illinois unemployment rate is down -0.1 percentage points from a year ago when it was 4.4 percent.

The number of unemployed workers increased +1.4 percent from the prior month to 280,500 but down -2.7 percent over the same month for the prior year. The labor force was up slightly (+0.1 percent) over-the-month but down -0.1 percent over the year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and are seeking employment.

An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work. To help connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring, IDES’ maintains the state’s largest job search engine, IllinoisJoblink.com (IJL), which recently showed 61,641 posted resumes with 95,196 jobs available.



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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jan-19	Dec-18	Jan-18	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%	4.3%	0.0	-0.1
U.S.	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%	3.9%	0.1	-0.1

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Jan-19 Current *	Dec-18 Prior mnth**	Jan-18 Year Ago	Over the Month	Over the Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,172,700	6,148,300	6,094,700	24,400	78,000	6,154,000	12,500
IL - Mining	7,800	7,800	7,700	0	100	7,800	-100
IL - Construction	230,000	224,200	223,800	5,800	6,200	226,700	1,200
IL - Manufacturing	594,100	589,900	582,700	4,200	11,400	591,200	700
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,232,500	1,223,200	1,217,100	9,300	15,400	1,225,500	5,000
IL - Information	92,800	93,100	94,800	-300	-2,000	93,200	-700
IL - Financial Activities	405,200	405,200	398,500	0	6,700	405,400	0
IL - Professional and Business Services	956,400	956,000	948,100	400	8,300	956,300	1,200
IL - Educational and Health Services	945,400	942,200	928,500	3,200	16,900	942,400	3,000
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	626,400	623,700	614,800	2,700	11,600	622,800	2,200
IL - Other Services	255,600	256,600	253,500	-1,000	2,100	256,000	100
IL - Government	826,500	826,400	825,200	100	1,300	826,700	-200

* 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 the Department’s website at www.ides.illinois.gov for more information. You can also follow IDES on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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