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NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Unemployment Rate Down, Jobs Nearly Unchanged in February

February had job increases in Construction, Trade, Transportation and Utilities, and Professional and Business Services, while Government saw the largest monthly payroll decrease

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate fell -0.1 percentage point to 4.8 percent in February, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The revised January unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -0.1 percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.9 percent. The national unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in February, up +0.1 percentage point from the previous month, making the state’s unemployment +0.7 percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate.

Illinois nonfarm payrolls remained nearly unchanged in February at -6,500 (-0.1%), while the January monthly change in payrolls was revised from -1,100 to -4,400. The industry sectors with over-the-month job increases included: Construction (+2,900), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,300), and Professional and Business Services (+1,900). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll job decreases included: Government (-5,600), Leisure and Hospitality (-3,100), and Private Education and Health Services (-1,700).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +19,100 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+20,700), Government (+14,900), and Leisure and Hospitality (+5,300). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-13,900), Manufacturing (-7,300), and Construction (-1,600). In February, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.3 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.2 percent in the nation.

“While this month’s headline unemployment rate shows little change, a deeper look at the report reveals the start of a troubling trend—federal government workers being victim to the chaos unleashed by Elon Musk and the Trump Administration,” **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Despite this alarming new trend, the report also reflects the resiliency of the state’s economy, due in part to the investment in key growing industries made by this Administration. IDES stands ready to provide critical resources to support federal employees and contractors impacted by recent terminations.”

“Illinois’ resilient workforce continues to make progress as unemployment rates fall,” **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “The State of Illinois remains committed to providing the resources and opportunities necessary for both employers and job seekers to thrive in Illinois’ growing economy.”

The number of unemployed workers was 321,000, down -1.0% from the prior month, and down -0.9 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was down -0.2% over-the-month and up +0.9 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.

The February payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

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 62,058 posted resumes with 81,123 jobs available. Additionally, in partnership with IDOL and DCEO, IDES published resources to [assist federal employees and contractors](#) impacted by recent terminations or deferred resignations.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Feb-25	Jan-25	Feb-24	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	-0.1	-0.1
U.S.	4.1%	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%	0.1	0.2

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Feb-25 Current *	Jan-25 Prior month**	Feb-24 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,150,100	6,156,600	6,131,000	-6,500	19,100	6,155,900	400
IL - Mining	7,300	7,400	7,300	-100	0	7,300	0
IL - Construction	236,300	233,400	237,900	2,900	-1,600	233,900	1,600
IL - Manufacturing	571,800	573,300	579,100	-1,500	-7,300	573,500	-1,100
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,222,700	1,220,400	1,223,900	2,300	-1,200	1,222,600	-300
IL - Information	93,000	93,100	91,800	-100	1,200	93,100	300
IL - Financial Activities	395,300	395,500	395,100	-200	200	395,600	700
IL - Professional and Business Services	917,000	915,100	930,900	1,900	-13,900	916,100	500
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,004,900	1,006,600	984,200	-1,700	20,700	1,005,700	1,200
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	604,700	607,800	599,400	-3,100	5,300	608,500	-2,200
IL - Other Services	248,700	250,000	247,900	-1,300	800	249,800	-900
IL - Government	848,400	854,000	833,500	-5,600	14,900	849,800	700

* Preliminary
**Final

- Monthly 1976-2024 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-Schaumburg Metropolitan Division are available [here](#).
- Monthly 2020-2024 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 [Workshares 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 (January 2025 data compared to December 2024 data).