



NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Payroll Jobs Up, Unemployment Rate Stable in September

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that nonfarm payrolls were up +7,100 while the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent in September, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and released by IDES. The August monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +800 to +6,700 jobs, while the revised unemployment rate was 5.3 percent, unchanged from the preliminary August unemployment rate. The September payroll jobs estimate, and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

In September, the industry sectors with the largest over-the-month job gains included: Private Education and Health Services (+4,600), Leisure and Hospitality (+3,600), and Government (+2,800). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll job declines included: Financial Activities (-3,000), Professional and Business Services (-3,000), and Construction (-1,300).

“Steady, consistent job growth throughout the state mirrors the strength and stability of the Illinois economy,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES remains a critical workforce tool for jobseekers and employers as new jobs and more opportunities are created throughout the state.”

“Continuing to invest in the state's workforce is critical to building upon our growing economic development efforts,” said **DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “As payroll jobs continue to grow, DCEO remains committed to ensuring all Illinoisans have access to the resources and tools they need to be successful.”

The state's unemployment rate was +1.2 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for September. The national unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in September, down -0.1 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was up +0.6 percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.7 percent.

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +35,400 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Government (+43,500), Private Education and Health Services (+28,500), and Other Services (+10,100). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-32,000), Financial Activities (-9,000), and Information (-3,600). In September, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.6 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.6 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was 343,700, up +0.2 percent from the prior month, and up +12.9 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was almost unchanged (0.0 percent) over-the-month and up +1.0 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 59,842 posted resumes with 87,316 jobs available.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Sep-24	Aug-24	Sep-23	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	5.3%	5.3%	4.7%	5.3%	0.0	0.6
U.S.	4.1%	4.2%	3.8%	4.2%	-0.1	0.3

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Sep-24 Current *	Aug-24 Prior month**	Sep-23 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,167,700	6,160,600	6,132,300	7,100	35,400	6,160,700	8,000
IL - Mining	7,200	7,300	7,200	-100	0	7,300	0
IL - Construction	234,400	235,700	234,600	-1,300	-200	234,800	300
IL - Manufacturing	577,400	577,700	579,500	-300	-2,100	577,400	-600
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,229,700	1,227,300	1,230,600	2,400	-900	1,227,200	1,300
IL - Information	88,900	88,100	92,500	800	-3,600	88,500	0
IL - Financial Activities	393,400	396,400	402,400	-3,000	-9,000	395,200	-600
IL - Professional and Business Services	916,600	919,600	948,600	-3,000	-32,000	919,400	-3,600
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,003,100	998,500	974,600	4,600	28,500	999,500	3,400
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	597,400	593,800	596,300	3,600	1,100	595,600	200
IL - Other Services	261,800	261,200	251,700	600	10,100	261,900	700
IL - Government	857,800	855,000	814,300	2,800	43,500	853,900	7,000

* 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](#).

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).