



NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Payroll Jobs, Unemployment Rate Up in August

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that nonfarm payrolls were up +800 while the unemployment rate increased +0.1 percentage point to 5.3 percent in August, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and released by IDES. The July monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +12,900 to +10,300 jobs, while the revised unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, unchanged from the preliminary July unemployment rate. The August payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

In August, the industry sectors with the largest over-the-month job gains included: Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,300), Construction (+2,200), and Financial Activities (+1,600). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll job declines included: Leisure and Hospitality (-2,900), Professional and Business Services (-1,600), and Other Services (-1,500).

“The strength and stability of the Illinois labor market continues to grow with statewide payroll expansion and the diverse workforce,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES remains to serve in its role as a pivotal resource to both jobseekers and employers who are eager to invest in the state’s thriving economy.”

"As payroll jobs steadily increase, DCEO is committed to our continuous efforts to invest in and support the state's workforce," said **DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. "Building a strong labor market will not only bolster the state's economic growth, but it will ensure Illinois continues to be the best place to live, work and do business."

The state’s unemployment rate was +1.1 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for August. The national unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in August, down -0.1 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was up +0.7 percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.6 percent.

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +36,300 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Government (+35,600), Private Education and Health Services (+26,100), and Other Services (+11,200). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-27,800), Financial Activities (-5,400), and Information (-4,400). In August, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.6 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.5 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was 343,100, up +0.4 percent from the prior month, and up +15.7 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was almost unchanged (0.0 percent) over-the-month and up +1.2 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 60,004 posted resumes with 87,908 jobs available.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Aug-24	Jul-24	Aug-23	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	5.3%	5.2%	4.6%	5.2%	0.1	0.7
U.S.	4.2%	4.3%	3.8%	4.2%	-0.1	0.4

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Aug-24 Current *	Jul-24 Prior month**	Aug-23 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,154,700	6,153,900	6,118,400	800	36,300	6,150,700	2,200
IL - Mining	7,300	7,300	7,200	0	100	7,300	0
IL - Construction	236,500	234,300	234,100	2,200	2,400	234,800	900
IL - Manufacturing	577,500	577,200	576,700	300	800	577,900	-300
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,227,000	1,224,700	1,227,200	2,300	-200	1,225,800	900
IL - Information	87,900	88,500	92,300	-600	-4,400	88,400	-800
IL - Financial Activities	397,500	395,900	402,900	1,600	-5,400	396,200	500
IL - Professional and Business Services	920,400	922,000	948,200	-1,600	-27,800	923,300	-3,400
IL - Private Education and Health Services	998,300	996,900	972,200	1,400	26,100	996,000	2,800
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	592,600	595,500	594,700	-2,900	-2,100	595,000	-2,900
IL - Other Services	261,200	262,700	250,000	-1,500	11,200	261,200	600
IL - Government	848,500	848,900	812,900	-400	35,600	844,700	3,900

* 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).