



JB Pritzker, Governor
Kristin Richards, Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Statewide Payroll Jobs Up, Slight Increase to Statewide Employment Rate in August

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate rose +0.1 percentage point to 4.5 percent, while nonfarm payrolls increased by +4,100 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 +31,200 to +35,000 jobs. The July unemployment rate was unchanged from the preliminary report, remaining at 4.4 percent. 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 gains in employment include: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+4,500), Construction (+3,500), and Government (+1,500). The industry sectors that reported the largest monthly payroll declines include: Manufacturing (-3,200), Professional and Business Services (-2,600), and Information (-500).

“The increase to statewide jobs and the continued historic decrease in continued claims levels for unemployment insurance benefits point to a strengthening Illinois labor market,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES remains committed to utilizing the tools at its disposal to connect employers and jobseekers who are looking to reenter the workforce and take advantage of the job opportunities throughout the state.”

“Illinois has seen considerable improvements in its unemployment rate and has added nearly 240,000 jobs, signaling a positive long-term trajectory,” said **DCEO Director Sylvia I. Garcia**. “Looking ahead, DCEO will continue to provide resources and training opportunities for job seekers while continuing to attract job-creators to Illinois.”

The state’s unemployment rate was +0.8 percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate reported for August, which was 3.7 percent, up +0.2 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -1.5 percentage points from a year ago when it was at 6.0 percent.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +239,700 jobs, with gains across nearly all major industries. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases include: Leisure and Hospitality (+58,600), Professional and Business Services (+51,900), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+50,800). The Mining sector reported no change in payroll employment over-the-year. In August, total nonfarm payrolls were up +4.1 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +4.0 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was up from the prior month, a +1.1 percent increase to 290,200 and was down -23.0 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was almost unchanged (0.0 percent) over-the-month and up +2.0 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.

In May 2020, Governor Pritzker launched [Get Hired Illinois](#), a new one-stop-shop website to help connect job seekers with hiring employers in real time. The site features virtual job fairs, no-cost virtual training, and includes IllinoisJobLink.com (IJL), the state’s largest job search engine, which recently showed 41,783 posted resumes with 153,112 available jobs.



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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Aug-22	Jul-22	Aug-21	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.5%	4.4%	6.0%	4.5%	0.1	-1.5
U.S.	3.7%	3.5%	5.2%	3.6%	0.2	-1.5

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Aug-22 Current *	Jul-22 Prior month**	Aug-21 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,068,200	6,064,100	5,828,500	4,100	239,700	6,053,800	18,400
IL - Mining	6,500	6,500	6,500	0	0	6,500	0
IL - Construction	232,700	229,200	221,100	3,500	11,600	230,700	1,500
IL - Manufacturing	575,500	578,700	554,800	-3,200	20,700	575,600	1,000
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,230,200	1,225,700	1,179,400	4,500	50,800	1,224,600	4,800
IL - Information	93,500	94,000	89,600	-500	3,900	93,700	100
IL - Financial Activities	408,500	408,200	405,700	300	2,800	407,600	300
IL - Professional and Business Services	970,600	973,200	918,700	-2,600	51,900	969,100	2,900
IL - Educational and Health Services	918,700	918,400	905,700	300	13,000	918,600	800
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	584,900	584,500	526,300	400	58,600	583,700	4,000
IL - Other Services	246,200	246,300	237,300	-100	8,900	245,900	100
IL - Government	800,900	799,400	783,400	1,500	17,500	797,900	2,900

* Preliminary
**Final

- Monthly 2017-2021 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 2017-2021 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, employers, and job seekers with resources including [Job Fairs](#) and [IllinoisJobLink.com](#), 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](#).