



NEWS RELEASE

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Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in February

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Area	February 2024*	February 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.3%	4.0%	0.3
Carbondale-Marion	4.9%	4.5%	0.4
Champaign-Urbana	4.4%	4.1%	0.3
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.1%	4.3%	0.8
Danville	6.1%	6.0%	0.1
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	4.8%	4.7%	0.1
Decatur	6.4%	5.9%	0.5
Elgin	6.3%	5.9%	0.4
Kankakee	6.8%	6.6%	0.2
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.8%	5.5%	0.3
Peoria	5.8%	5.5%	0.3
Rockford	6.8%	6.4%	0.4
Springfield	4.8%	4.5%	0.3
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.6%	4.1%	0.5
Illinois Statewide	5.3%	4.7%	0.6

* Preliminary | ** Revised

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in eleven metropolitan areas and decreased in three for the year ending February 2024, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES). Over-the-year, the unemployment rate increased in all fourteen metropolitan areas.

“Today’s data continues to highlight the health and expansion of the Illinois labor market, with increases in jobs throughout a multitude of industries touching every corner of the state,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “As growth continues to supply jobseekers and employers with new opportunities, IDES and its workforce partners are positioned to assist both groups to thrive in the state’s economy.”

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+3.2%, +3,900), the Elgin Metro (+2.1%, +5,300), and the Bloomington MSA (+1.4%, +1,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago Metro were almost unchanged (0.0%, +1,400). The metro areas which

had over-the-year decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Decatur MSA (-3.3%, -1,600), the Springfield MSA (-3.0%, -3,300), and the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (-0.9%, -1,600). Industries that saw job growth in most metro areas included: Government (thirteen areas); Mining and Construction and Education and Health Services (ten areas each); Wholesale Trade and Other Services (eight areas each).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago Metro (+0.8 point to 5.1%), the Decatur MSA (+0.5 point to 6.4%), and the Illinois section of St. Louis MSA (+0.5 point to 4.6%).

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – February 2024

Metropolitan Area	February 2024*	February 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	98,800	97,400	1,400
Carbondale-Marion MSA	58,500	57,800	700
Champaign-Urbana MSA	124,600	120,700	3,900
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,752,600	3,751,200	1,400
Danville MSA	26,700	26,500	200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,000	180,600	-1,600
Decatur MSA	46,800	48,400	-1,600
Elgin Metro Division	261,800	256,500	5,300
Kankakee MSA	42,600	42,200	400
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	411,900	409,400	2,500
Peoria MSA	168,300	167,100	1,200
Rockford MSA	144,100	143,400	700
Springfield MSA	105,900	109,200	-3,300
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	238,500	237,700	800
Illinois Statewide	6,035,800	6,012,900	22,900

*Preliminary | **Revised

**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

Metro East Highlights

Labor Market Area	Feb 2024	Feb 2023	Over-the-Year Change
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.6 %	4.1 %	0.5
Bond County	4.8 %	4.5 %	0.3
Calhoun County	4.7 %	5.1 %	-0.4
Clinton County	3.7 %	3.5 %	0.2
Jersey County	4.5 %	3.9 %	0.6
Macoupin County	4.6 %	4.2 %	0.4
Madison County	4.6 %	3.9 %	0.7
Monroe County	3.4 %	3.0 %	0.4
St. Clair County	4.9 %	4.5 %	0.4
Cities			
Alton City	6.0 %	5.3 %	0.7
Belleville City	4.8 %	4.8 %	0.0
Collinsville City	4.4 %	4.1 %	0.3
East St. Louis City	7.5 %	6.3 %	1.2
Edwardsville City	3.5 %	3.3 %	0.2
Granite City	5.3 %	3.3 %	2.0
O'Fallon City	4.2 %	3.9 %	0.3
Counties			
Greene County	4.9 %	4.6 %	0.3
Randolph County	4.7 %	4.1 %	0.6
Washington County	2.9 %	3.2 %	-0.3
Other Areas			
LWIA 21	5.0 %	4.7 %	0.3
LWIA 22	4.6 %	3.9 %	0.7
LWIA 24	4.5 %	4.1 %	0.4
Southwestern EDR	4.6 %	4.0 %	0.6

The February 2024 unemployment rate for the Illinois Section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area was 4.6 percent. The unemployment rate increased +0.5 percentage point from the February 2023 rate of 4.1 percent. The data are not seasonally adjusted.

The labor force expanded by +6,346 participants between February 2023 and February 2024, from 331,366 to 337,712. During that time, the estimated number of employed residents increased by +4,285, from 317,870 to 322,155. There were 15,557 unemployed people in the labor force in February 2024. The number of unemployed persons increased by +2,061 compared to the 13,496 unemployed persons in February 2023.

Employers added +800 nonfarm payroll jobs year-over-year, increasing the total to 238,500 in February 2024, in comparison to 237,700 jobs in February 2023.

Employers in the Leisure-Hospitality (+300), Government (+300), Educational-Health Services (+200), Mining-Construction (+200), Professional-Business Services (+100), Wholesale Trade (+100), Retail Trade (+100), Financial Activities (+100) and Other Services (+100) sectors were estimated to have added payroll jobs year-over-year.

Employment in the Information sector was unchanged year-over-year as of February 2024.

Employers in the Manufacturing (-400) and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-300) sectors were estimated to have shed payroll jobs between February 2023 and February 2024.

Note: Monthly 2023 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2024, as required by the U.S. BLS. Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

Disclaimer: The data contained in the metro area employment numbers press releases are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore are subject to seasonal fluctuations due to factors such as changes in weather, harvests, major holidays and school schedules. Current monthly metro data should be compared to the same month from prior years (January 2024 data compared to January 2023 data) as data for these months have similar seasonal patterns. Comparisons should not be made to data for the immediate previous month or other previous non-matching months, as any changes in the data within these time periods may be the result of seasonal fluctuations and not economic factors.