



NEWS RELEASE

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Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in March

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| Metropolitan Area | March 2024* | March 2023** | Over-the-Year Change |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington | 4.2% | 3.6% | 0.6 |
| Carbondale-Marion | 4.6% | 4.2% | 0.4 |
| Champaign-Urbana | 4.3% | 3.8% | 0.5 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights | 4.7% | 3.9% | 0.8 |
| Danville | 5.7% | 5.7% | 0.0 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL | 4.6% | 4.3% | 0.3 |
| Decatur | 6.2% | 6.4% | -0.2 |
| Elgin | 6.1% | 5.6% | 0.5 |
| Kankakee | 6.4% | 6.2% | 0.2 |
| Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI | 5.7% | 5.4% | 0.3 |
| Peoria | 5.4% | 5.1% | 0.3 |
| Rockford | 6.7% | 7.2% | -0.5 |
| Springfield | 4.5% | 4.1% | 0.4 |
| St. Louis (IL-Section) | 4.4% | 3.8% | 0.6 |
| Illinois Statewide | 5.0% | 4.3% | 0.7 |

* Preliminary | ** Revised

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in nine metropolitan areas, decreased in four, and was unchanged in one for the year ending March 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 eleven metropolitan areas, decreased in two, and remained unchanged in one.

“Job growth continues to reach areas in every corner of the state throughout industries, creating new and expanded job opportunities for Illinois workers,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES and its workforce partners remain prepared and committed to matching jobseekers and employers to find the right fit for their careers and employment needs.”

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+2.2%, +2,700), the Elgin Metro (+1.6%, +4,100), and the Kankakee MSA (+1.2%, +500). The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Springfield MSA (-4.0%, -4,400), the Decatur MSA (-

3.9%, -1,900), and the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA (-1.4%, -2,500). In the Chicago Metro, total nonfarm jobs were down -0.1% or -4,400. Total nonfarm jobs were unchanged in the Carbondale-Marion MSA. Industries that saw job growth in a majority of metro areas included: Government (thirteen areas); Private Education and Health Services (ten areas); Mining and Construction and Other Services (nine areas each); and Wholesale Trade (eight areas).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago Metro (+0.8 point to 4.7%), the Bloomington MSA (+0.6 point to 4.2%), and the Illinois section of St. Louis MSA (+0.6 point to 4.4%). The unemployment rate decreased in the Rockford MSA (-0.5 point to 6.7%) and the Decatur MSA (-0.2 point to 6.2%) and was unchanged in the Danville MSA at 5.7%.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – March 2024

| Metropolitan Area | March 2024* | March 2023** | Over-the-Year Change |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington MSA | 99,300 | 98,300 | 1,000 |
| Carbondale-Marion MSA | 58,600 | 58,600 | 0 |
| Champaign-Urbana MSA | 124,900 | 122,200 | 2,700 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division | 3,770,600 | 3,775,000 | -4,400 |
| Danville MSA | 26,800 | 26,500 | 300 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA | 179,800 | 182,300 | -2,500 |
| Decatur MSA | 46,900 | 48,800 | -1,900 |
| Elgin Metro Division | 263,600 | 259,500 | 4,100 |
| Kankakee MSA | 42,800 | 42,300 | 500 |
| Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division | 414,400 | 411,000 | 3,400 |
| Peoria MSA | 169,000 | 168,500 | 500 |
| Rockford MSA | 144,200 | 143,800 | 400 |
| Springfield MSA | 106,200 | 110,600 | -4,400 |
| Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA | 240,700 | 240,500 | 200 |
| Illinois Statewide | 6,071,300 | 6,056,100 | 15,200 |

*Preliminary | **Revised

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

| Labor Market Area | Mar 2024 | Mar 2023 | Over-the-Year Change |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| Rockford MSA | | | |
| Boone County | 7.9 % | 8.9 % | -1.0 |
| Winnebago County | 6.4 % | 6.8 % | -0.4 |
| Cities | | | |
| Belvidere City | 9.4 % | 11.2 % | -1.8 |
| Freeport City | 6.5 % | 6.2 % | 0.3 |
| Rockford City | 7.4 % | 7.8 % | -0.4 |
| Counties | | | |
| Bureau County | 6.9 % | 5.8 % | 1.1 |
| Carroll County | 5.7 % | 4.8 % | 0.9 |
| DeKalb County | 5.1 % | 4.8 % | 0.3 |
| Henry County | 5.6 % | 5.0 % | 0.6 |
| Jo Daviess County | 5.6 % | 5.1 % | 0.5 |
| Kane County | 6.3 % | 5.8 % | 0.5 |
| Lee County | 4.9 % | 4.5 % | 0.4 |
| McHenry County | 4.5 % | 3.8 % | 0.7 |
| Ogle County | 6.1 % | 6.1 % | 0.0 |
| Stephenson County | 5.6 % | 5.5 % | 0.1 |
| Whiteside County | 5.3 % | 4.8 % | 0.5 |

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.7 percent in March 2024 from 7.2 percent in March 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +400 over the year.

The Government (+1,300), Construction (+500), Private Education-Health Services (+200), Leisure-Hospitality (+200) and Other Services (+100) had payroll gains over-the-year. The Manufacturing (-1,300), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-500) and Financial Activities (-100) sectors recorded employment declines over-the-year.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.1 percent in March 2024 was unchanged from the March 2023 level.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +200 over-the-year.

Government (+250) and Leisure-Hospitality (+50) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Private Education-Health Services (-100), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-75) and Manufacturing (-50) sector recorded the largest employment decline over-the-year.

Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.6 percent in March 2024 from 5.5 percent in March 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +325 over-the-year.

Government (+150), Construction (+100) and Private Education-Health Services (+75) had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-25) and Manufacturing (-25) sectors recorded employment decline over-the-year.

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.