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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
 Thursday, March 30, 2017

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Unemployment Rate Decreases in Most Metro Areas *Many downstate metros continue to report job losses*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.8%	5.8%	-1.0
Carbondale-Marion	5.6%	6.5%	-0.9
Champaign-Urbana	5.0%	5.7%	-0.7
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.1%	6.5%	-1.4
Danville	7.2%	7.8%	-0.6
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.3%	6.3%	-1.0
Decatur	6.3%	7.4%	-1.1
Elgin	6.0%	6.6%	-0.6
Kankakee	6.6%	7.6%	-1.0
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.6%	6.1%	-0.5
Peoria	6.7%	7.4%	-0.7
Rockford	9.0%	7.5%	1.5
Springfield	5.0%	5.7%	-0.7
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.2%	6.6%	-1.4
Illinois Statewide	5.5%	6.6%	-1.1

** Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO—All but one of Illinois’ metropolitan (metro) areas experienced decreases in their over-the-year unemployment rate. Six of the metro areas had increases in nonfarm jobs, eight reported declines, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

“More than half of the metro areas statewide lost jobs,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Of all the nonfarm jobs gained over the last year, less than 10 percent were outside of the Chicago metro area.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in six metro areas, in which the largest increases were seen in: Kankakee (+2.3 percent, +1,000), and Springfield (+1.1 percent, +1,200). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.1 percent or +38,500). Illinois businesses lost jobs in eight metro areas including Carbondale-Marion (-2.6 percent, -1,500), Peoria (-2.2 percent, -3,900), Rockford (-2.1 percent, -3,200). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas were: Education and Health Services (ten of 14), Professional and Business

Services (nine of 14) and Financial Activities (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares February 2017 with February 2016. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.5 percent in February 2017 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in February 2017 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – February 2017

Metropolitan Area	Feb. 2017*	Feb. 2016**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	93,200	93,500	-300
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,300	57,800	-1,500
Champaign-Urbana MSA	109,300	109,200	100
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,672,900	3,634,400	38,500
Danville MSA	28,400	28,900	-500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,800	179,400	400
Decatur MSA	50,500	51,000	-500
Elgin Metro Division	247,500	247,200	300
Kankakee MSA	44,400	43,400	1,000
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	396,200	399,600	-3,400
Peoria MSA	170,900	174,800	-3,900
Rockford MSA	145,700	148,900	-3,200
Springfield MSA	113,700	112,500	1,200
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	232,500	232,600	-100
Illinois Statewide	5,945,400	5,903,500	41,900

*Preliminary **Revised

(continued)



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

Labor Market Area	Feb-17	Feb-16	Over-the-Year Change
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin IL-IN-WI MSA	5.3%	6.5%	-1.2
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division			
Cook County	5.3%	6.7%	-1.4
DuPage County	4.1%	5.3%	-1.2
Grundy County	6.8%	8.4%	-1.6
Kendall County	4.7%	5.9%	-1.2
McHenry County	5.1%	6.4%	-1.3
Will County	5.5%	7.0%	-1.5
Elgin, IL Metro Division			
DeKalb County	5.9%	6.3%	-0.4
Kane County	6.0%	6.7%	-0.7
Lake & Kenosha Counties, IL-WI Metro Division			
Lake County	5.7%	6.3%	-0.6
Cities (with total population of at least 100,000) *			
Aurora City	5.3%	6.2%	-0.9
Chicago City	5.5%	6.9%	-1.4
Elgin City	7.7%	8.5%	-0.8
Joliet City	7.0%	8.7%	-1.7
Naperville City	3.7%	4.7%	-1.0

Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.1 percent in February 2017 from 6.5 percent in February 2016. The last time the February rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 5.0 percent. For the month of February 2017, the estimated number of unemployed people in the labor force was 193,000.

Total nonfarm employment increased +38,500 compared to February 2016. Financial Activities (+11,000), Government (+8,900), and Educational-Health Services (+8,900) reported the largest payroll gains. The Professional-Business Services (-1,600), Manufacturing (-1,300), and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-900) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

Elgin, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.0 percent in February 2017 from 6.6 percent in February 2016. The last time the February rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2008 when it was 5.7 percent. For the month of February 2017, the estimated number of unemployed people in the labor force was 19,200.

Total nonfarm employment increased +300 compared to February 2016. Government (+1,100), Wholesale Trade (+800), and Information (+300), reported the largest payroll gains. Leisure-Hospitality (-600), Construction (-500), Other Services (-500), and Professional-Business Services (-400) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

* Unemployment rates for cities with total population of 25,000 or more can be found at www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/Current_Monthly_Unemployment_Rates.aspx

Lake & Kenosha Counties, IL-WI Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.6 percent in February 2017 from 6.1 percent in February 2016. The last time the February rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 5.4 percent. For the month of February 2017, the estimated number of unemployed people in the labor force was 25,500.

Total nonfarm employment declined -3,400 compared to February 2016. The Leisure-Hospitality (-3,200) and Professional-Business Services (-3,000) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago. Manufacturing (+1,400), Government (+1,000), and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400) sectors reported the largest payroll gains.

Note:

- Monthly 2016 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2017, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (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.

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