



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Only Two of 14 Metros Exceeded National Average Job Growth Rate

*Unemployment rate drops in most metro areas*

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	May 2017	May 2016	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.8%	4.6%	-0.8
Carbondale-Marion	4.5%	5.2%	-0.7
Champaign-Urbana	4.0%	4.5%	-0.5
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.1%	5.4%	-1.3
Danville	6.0%	6.4%	-0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	4.1%	4.9%	-0.8
Decatur	5.0%	5.9%	-0.9
Elgin	4.3%	4.8%	-0.5
Kankakee	5.0%	5.7%	-0.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	3.9%	4.5%	-0.6
Peoria	5.0%	5.8%	-0.8
Rockford	6.1%	5.8%	0.3
Springfield	3.8%	4.2%	-0.4
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.3%	5.1%	-0.8
Illinois Statewide	4.3%	5.3%	-1.0

*\* Data subject to revision.*

**CHICAGO**—Unemployment rates were down over-the-year in all but one of Illinois’s metro areas and down in all but two of Illinois’s counties. Nine of the metro areas had increases in nonfarm jobs and five 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).

“While the job gains in the northeastern corner of the state show some signs of recovery, the rate of job growth remains well below the national average,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “There are pockets of modest job growth Downstate, but we’ve yet to see any sustainable trends.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in nine metro areas, with the largest increases in: Kankakee (+2.7 percent, +1,200), Lake/Kenosha (+1.6 percent, +6,700), and Springfield (+1.2 percent, +1,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+0.7 percent or +24,600). Illinois businesses lost jobs in five metro areas including Danville (-2.4 percent, -700), Rockford (-1.0 percent, -1,500), and Decatur (-0.6 percent, -300).

The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro

areas included Government (10 of 14), Mining and Construction (nine of 14), Professional and Business Services (nine of 14), and Educational and Health Services (nine of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares May 2017 with May 2016. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 4.3 percent in May 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 4.1 percent in May 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) – May 2017

Metropolitan Area	May 2017*	May 2016**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	94,600	93,700	900
Carbondale-Marion MSA	57,600	57,700	-100
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,600	110,500	100
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,744,300	3,719,700	24,600
Danville MSA	28,200	28,900	-700
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	184,600	184,200	400
Decatur MSA	51,500	51,800	-300
Elgin Metro Division	255,100	255,200	-100
Kankakee MSA	45,500	44,300	1,200
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	417,700	411,000	6,700
Peoria MSA	177,400	176,000	1,400
Rockford MSA	151,500	153,000	-1,500
Springfield MSA	116,500	115,100	1,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	240,100	239,100	1,000
Illinois Statewide	6,061,600	6,036,800	24,800

*\*Preliminary \*\*Revised*

(continued)



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

Labor Market Area	May-17	May-16	Over-the-Year Change
<b>Chicago-Naperville-Elgin IL-IN-WI MSA</b>	4.1%	5.3%	-1.2
<b>Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division</b>			
Cook County	4.3%	5.6%	-1.3
DuPage County	3.3%	4.4%	-1.1
Grundy County	4.5%	5.8%	-1.3
Kendall County	3.6%	4.6%	-1.0
McHenry County	3.6%	4.7%	-1.1
Will County	4.2%	5.5%	-1.3
<b>Elgin, IL Metro Division</b>			
DeKalb County	4.3%	4.7%	-0.4
Kane County	4.3%	4.8%	-0.5
<b>Lake &amp; Kenosha Counties, IL-WI Metro Division</b>			
Lake County	4.0%	4.4%	-0.4
<b>Cities (with total population of at least 100,000) *</b>			
Aurora City	4.1%	4.8%	-0.7
Chicago City	4.6%	6.0%	-1.4
Elgin City	4.8%	5.3%	-0.5
Joliet City	5.0%	6.6%	-1.6
Naperville City	3.3%	4.3%	-1.0

\* 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](http://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 3.9 percent in May 2017 from 4.5 percent in May 2016. The last time the May rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2001 when it was 3.8 percent. For the month of May 2017, the estimated number of unemployed people in the labor force was 17,600.

Total nonfarm employment increased +6,700 compared to May 2016. Professional-Business Services (+5,900), Manufacturing (+1,600), and Government (+900) sectors reported the largest payroll gains. The Leisure-Hospitality (-2,400) and Retail Trade (-500) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

**Note:**

- Monthly 2016 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in March 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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**Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.1 percent in May 2017 from 5.4 percent in May 2016. The May 2017 unemployment rate of 4.2 percent is the lowest May unemployment rate on record. For the month of May 2017, the estimated number of unemployed people in the labor force was 153,900.

Total nonfarm employment increased +24,600 compared to May 2016. Financial Activities (+8,800), Educational-Health Services (+8,300), and Professional-Business Services (+5,100) reported the largest payroll gains. The Retail Trade (-3,900), Manufacturing (-2,500), and Wholesale Trade (-1,200) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

**Elgin, IL Metro Division**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.3 percent in May 2017 from 4.8 percent in May 2016. The last time the May rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 4.1 percent. For the month of May 2017, the estimated number of unemployed people in the labor force was 13,700.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -100 compared to May 2016. Professional-Business Services (-1,000), Retail Trade (-800), and Manufacturing (-400) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago. Government (+900), Educational-Health Services (+800), Leisure-Hospitality (+300) and Information (+300) reported payroll gains.