



NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rate Drops in All Metro Areas

Jobs increase in six metro areas

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Sept. 2017	Sept. 2016	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.6%	5.0%	-1.4
Carbondale-Marion	4.3%	5.6%	-1.3
Champaign-Urbana	3.8%	4.8%	-1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.8%	5.6%	-0.8
Danville	5.9%	7.1%	-1.2
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	4.3%	5.5%	-1.2
Decatur	5.1%	6.5%	-1.4
Elgin	4.1%	5.1%	-1.0
Kankakee	4.7%	6.1%	-1.4
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	3.8%	4.8%	-1.0
Peoria	4.7%	6.2%	-1.5
Rockford	5.0%	6.5%	-1.5
Springfield	3.9%	4.6%	-0.7
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.3%	5.7%	-1.4
Illinois Statewide	4.6%	5.6%	-1.0

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO—Unemployment rates decreased over-the-year in September in all of Illinois’s metropolitan areas and in all 102 counties, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Data also show nonfarm jobs increased in six of the metropolitan areas and decreased in eight.

“Seeing the rates drop across the board in all 102 counties is certainly encouraging,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “But the job growth in the Chicago Metro Area, while it has carried the state during this past year, still lags behind the growth in neighboring states.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in six metro areas, with the largest increases in: Kankakee (+2.3 percent, +1,000), Carbondale-Marion (+2.0 percent, +1,200), and Bloomington (+1.5 percent, +1,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+0.3 percent or +11,100). Illinois businesses lost jobs in eight metro areas, with the largest losses in: Danville (-1.1 percent, -300), Elgin (-0.7 percent, -1,900), Rockford (-0.5 percent, -700), and Champaign (-0.5 percent, -500).

The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas included Mining and Construction (10 of 14), Education and Health Services (8 of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (8 of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares September 2017 with September 2016. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 4.6 percent in September 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 September 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) – September 2017

Metropolitan Area	September 2017*	September 2016**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	95,100	93,700	1,400
Carbondale-Marion MSA	60,000	58,800	1,200
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,500	111,000	-500
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,745,800	3,734,700	11,100
Danville MSA	28,200	28,500	-300
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	183,800	183,900	-100
Decatur MSA	51,300	51,400	-100
Elgin Metro Division	256,100	258,000	-1,900
Kankakee MSA	45,400	44,400	1,000
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	419,100	413,900	5,200
Peoria MSA	175,600	176,100	-500
Rockford MSA	151,000	151,700	-700
Springfield MSA	115,900	116,400	-500
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	240,000	238,700	1,300
Illinois Statewide	6,069,300	6,057,000	12,300

*Preliminary **Revised

(continued)



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

	Sept. 2017	Sept. 2016	Over-the- Year Change
Mattoon - Charleston Area			
Clark County	4.1%	5.6%	-1.5
Coles County	4.2%	5.5%	-1.3
Cumberland County	3.6%	4.8%	-1.2
Douglas County	3.6%	4.6%	-1.0
Edgar County	4.1%	6.0%	-1.9
Moultrie County	3.4%	4.5%	-1.1
Shelby County	4.0%	5.5%	-1.5
Effingham Area			
Clay County	4.9%	6.5%	-1.6
Crawford County	5.0%	6.1%	-1.1
Effingham County	3.4%	4.6%	-1.2
Fayette County	4.8%	6.5%	-1.7
Jasper County	4.2%	6.1%	-1.9
Centralia - Mt. Vernon Area			
Clinton County	3.1%	4.2%	-1.1
Hamilton County	4.3%	6.0%	-1.7
Jefferson County	5.1%	6.4%	-1.3
Marion County	4.7%	6.4%	-1.7
Washington County	2.7%	3.7%	-1.0
Wayne County	5.4%	8.6%	-3.2

South Central Illinois Highlights

Workforce conditions have gradually improved during the past twelve months in South Central Illinois. Fall unemployment rates are generally at the lowest levels for the year. All eighteen counties reported a decline in unemployment compared to one year-ago. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

Employment gains were reported in Transportation, and Professional-Business Services this fall in South Central Illinois. Over the year, payroll increases were reported in Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, and Health Services. Employment losses occurred in Information and Financial Activities. State and Local Government payrolls steadily declined during the past year.

Many employment opportunities were available in Health Care, Sales, Transportation, and Office and Administrative Support in fall 2017. Numerous job openings were advertised in Engineering, Management, Food Preparation, and Production occupations. Workers were needed in Health Care Support, Construction, Installation, Maintenance, and Repair, and Business-Finance.

The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and seeking employment. A person who exhausts benefits, or is ineligible, still will be reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

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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