



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Unemployment Rate Drops in All Metro Areas for Sixth Consecutive Month

*Jobs increase in ten metro areas*

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Nov. 2017	Nov. 2016	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.9%	4.6%	-0.7
Carbondale-Marion	4.5%	5.2%	-0.7
Champaign-Urbana	4.2%	4.7%	-0.5
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.8%	5.3%	-0.5
Danville	6.0%	6.7%	-0.7
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	3.9%	4.8%	-0.9
Decatur	5.3%	6.0%	-0.7
Elgin	4.4%	4.9%	-0.5
Kankakee	5.0%	5.8%	-0.8
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	3.9%	4.6%	-0.7
Peoria	4.8%	5.9%	-1.1
Rockford	5.1%	6.0%	-0.9
Springfield	4.0%	4.4%	-0.4
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.5%	5.1%	-0.6
Illinois Statewide	4.7%	5.2%	-0.5

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO**—Unemployment rates decreased over-the-year in November in all of Illinois’s metropolitan areas, 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 ten of the metropolitan areas and decreased in four.

“It is encouraging that job growth was reported in ten of the fourteen metro areas,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “More than 30,000 of those jobs were created in the Chicago Metro area, so we need continued stronger growth statewide.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in ten metro areas, with the largest increases in: Kankakee (+2.6 percent, +1,200), Lake/Kenosha (+2.4 percent, +9,800), and the Quad Cities (+1.6 percent, +3,000). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+0.6 percent or +20,900). Illinois businesses lost jobs in four metro areas, with the largest losses in: Danville (-1.7 percent, -500), Champaign (-0.6 percent, -700), and Decatur (-0.6 percent, -300).

The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas included Professional and Business Services, (11 of 14), Mining and Construction (10 of 14), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (10 of 14), Manufacturing (9 of 14), Education and Health Services (9 of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (8 of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares November 2017 with November 2016. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 4.7 percent in November 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 3.9 percent in November 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) – November 2017

Metropolitan Area	November 2017*	November 2016**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	95,500	95,000	500
Carbondale-Marion MSA	59,400	58,800	600
Champaign-Urbana MSA	111,200	111,900	-700
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,776,200	3,755,300	20,900
Danville MSA	28,300	28,800	-500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	187,200	184,200	3,000
Decatur MSA	51,600	51,900	-300
Elgin Metro Division	259,700	259,200	500
Kankakee MSA	46,900	45,700	1,200
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	418,400	408,600	9,800
Peoria MSA	176,900	176,000	900
Rockford MSA	152,300	152,200	100
Springfield MSA	116,700	117,100	-400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	240,100	238,700	1,400
Illinois Statewide	6,116,200	6,087,700	28,500

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

(continued)



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

	Nov. 2017	Nov. 2016	Over the Year Change
<b>Rockford MSA</b>			
Boone County	4.8%	5.5%	-0.7
Winnebago County	5.2%	6.1%	-0.9
<b>Cities</b>			
Belvidere City	5.7%	6.5%	-0.8
Freeport City	5.1%	5.9%	-0.8
Rockford City	6.1%	7.2%	-1.1
<b>Counties</b>			
Bureau County	4.5%	5.3%	-0.8
Carroll County	4.2%	4.9%	-0.7
DeKalb County	4.1%	4.8%	-0.7
Henry County	4.5%	5.7%	-1.2
JoDaviess County	4.3%	4.5%	-0.2
Kane County	4.4%	4.9%	-0.5
Lee County	3.9%	4.5%	-0.6
McHenry County	4.2%	4.6%	-0.4
Ogle County	4.4%	5.0%	-0.6
Stephenson County	4.3%	5.2%	-0.9
Whiteside County	4.4%	5.2%	-0.8

**Stephenson County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.3 percent in November 2017 from 5.2 percent in November 2016. The last time the November rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 1998 when it was 3.3 percent. For the month of November 2017, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 900.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -225 over the year. Construction (+75) added the most jobs from November 2016. The Financial Activities (-125), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-75), and Manufacturing (-75) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

**Rockford MSA Highlights**

**Help Wanted**

Area employers advertised for 5,700 positions in November and approximately 84 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

**Rockford MSA**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.1 percent in November 2017 from 6.0 percent in November 2016. The last time the November rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2006 when it was 4.5 percent. For the month of November 2017, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 8,400.

Total nonfarm employment increased +100 compared to November 2016. Professional-Business Services (-1,100), Retail Trade (-500), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-200) recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago. Manufacturing (+1,300) and Educational-Health Services (+200) reported the largest payroll gains over the year.

**Ogle County**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.4 percent in November 2017 from 5.0 percent in November 2016. The last time the November rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2006 when it was 4.0 percent. For the month of November 2017, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,100.

Total nonfarm employment increased slightly to 16,500 when compared to November 2016 level. The Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+100) sector added the most jobs over the year. The Manufacturing (-50), Leisure-Hospitality (-25), and Professional-Business Services (-25) sectors recorded the only declines compared to one year ago.

**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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