

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeffrey D. Mays, Director

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 24, 2018

Contact: Bob Gough
Phone: 217-685-4454

Vicki Niederhofer
Phone: 618.277.8491

Unemployment Rate Falls in All Metros for Second Consecutive Month

Jobs increase in nine metros

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Apr. 2018	Apr. 2017	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.1%	3.6%	-0.5
Carbondale-Marion	3.8%	4.1%	-0.3
Champaign-Urbana	3.2%	3.6%	-0.4
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	3.6%	4.6%	-1.0
Danville	4.8%	5.6%	-0.8
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	3.5%	4.1%	-0.6
Decatur	4.4%	4.8%	-0.4
Elgin	3.7%	4.2%	-0.5
Kankakee	4.2%	4.7%	-0.5
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	3.4%	3.9%	-0.5
Peoria	4.1%	5.0%	-0.9
Rockford	4.2%	6.5%	-2.3
Springfield	3.2%	3.8%	-0.6
St. Louis (IL-Section)	3.4%	4.1%	-0.7
Illinois Statewide	3.6%	4.5%	-0.9

** Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO—Unemployment rates decreased over-the-year in April 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 nine of the metropolitan areas.

“The unemployment rate has been below previous year levels in all metro areas for ten of the last eleven months,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “In fact, three metro areas saw their lowest unemployment rate on record for April.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in nine metro areas, with the largest increases in: Kankakee (+3.9 percent, +1,800), Lake (+1.9 percent, +7,800), and the Quad Cities (+1.5 percent, +2,700). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+0.7 percent or +25,300). Illinois businesses lost jobs in five metro areas with the largest losses in: Carbondale-Marion (-1.7 percent, -1,000),

Springfield (-1.2 percent, -1,400), and Danville (-1.1 percent, -300).

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

Not seasonally adjusted data compares April 2018 with April 2017. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 3.6 percent in April 2018 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in April 2018 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) – April 2018

Metropolitan Area	April 2018*	April 2017**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	94,800	95,400	-600
Carbondale-Marion MSA	57,600	58,600	-1,000
Champaign-Urbana MSA	113,700	112,800	900
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,742,700	3,717,400	25,300
Danville MSA	28,100	28,400	-300
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	186,100	183,400	2,700
Decatur MSA	51,200	51,000	200
Elgin Metro Division	259,000	256,700	2,300
Kankakee MSA	48,100	46,300	1,800
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	419,800	412,000	7,800
Peoria MSA	172,400	172,900	-500
Rockford MSA	150,900	149,300	1,600
Springfield MSA	112,500	113,900	-1,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	241,500	239,900	1,600
Illinois Statewide	6,082,900	6,034,600	48,300

**Preliminary **Revised*

(continued)



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

East Central Illinois Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 4,600 positions in April and approximately 84 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board, which is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as Construction, typically do not post advertised job openings.

Champaign-Urbana MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 3.2 percent in April 2018 from 3.6 percent in April 2017.

Non-farm employment increased from its year-ago level by +900.

Employment gains over the year were posted in Government (+800), Education and Health Services (+300), Durable Goods Manufacturing (+200), Professional and Business Services (+200), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+100), Financial Activities (+100), and Leisure and Hospitality (+100).

Retail Trade (-500), Wholesale Trade (-100), and Information (-100) recorded payroll losses from April 2017.

Danville MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 4.8 percent in April 2018 from 5.6 percent in April 2017.

Non-farm employment decreased from its year-ago level by -300.

Job gains were reported in Manufacturing (+100) over the year.

Government (-200), Professional and Business Services (-100), and Education and Health Services (-100) recorded an employment loss since April 2017.

Labor Market Area	April 2018	April 2017	Over-the-Year Change
Champaign-Urbana MSA	3.2%	3.6%	-0.4%
Champaign County	3.2%	3.6%	-0.4%
Ford County	3.4%	4.1%	-0.7%
Piatt County	3.3%	3.4%	-0.1%
Danville MSA	4.8%	5.6%	-0.8%
Vermilion County	4.8%	5.6%	-0.8%
Cities			
Champaign City	3.2%	3.6%	-0.4%
Urbana City	2.9%	3.6%	-0.7%
Danville City	5.1%	6.3%	-1.2%
Counties			
Clark County	3.9%	4.0%	-0.1%
Coles County	3.4%	3.9%	-0.5%
DeWitt County	3.7%	4.1%	-0.4%
Douglas County	3.1%	3.3%	-0.2%
Edgar County	3.3%	4.1%	-0.8%
Iroquois County	3.2%	3.9%	-0.7%
McLean County	3.0%	3.5%	0.5%
Macon County	4.4%	4.8%	-0.4%
Moultrie County	2.7%	3.4%	-0.7%
Sangamon County	3.3%	3.8%	-0.5%
Shelby County	3.4%	3.8%	-0.4%

Note: Monthly 2017 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2018, 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.

###