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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Up, Jobs Down for Every Metro Area Compared to Last March

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	March 2021*	March 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.0%	3.2%	1.8
Carbondale-Marion	6.1%	3.7%	2.4
Champaign-Urbana	4.9%	3.0%	1.9
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	7.7%	3.9%	3.8
Danville	6.9%	4.3%	2.6
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.9%	4.4%	1.5
Decatur	8.6%	5.2%	3.4
Elgin	7.0%	4.5%	2.5
Kankakee	7.5%	4.9%	2.6
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	6.2%	4.3%	1.9
Peoria	6.9%	4.5%	2.4
Rockford	8.1%	5.3%	2.8
Springfield	6.3%	3.6%	2.7
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.6%	3.4%	2.2
Illinois Statewide	7.1%	4.0%	3.1

* Preliminary I ** Revised

SPRINGFIELD – The number of nonfarm jobs decreased over-the-year in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas in March, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The unemployment rate increased over-the-year in all metro areas. The official, BLS approved sub-state unemployment rate and nonfarm jobs series begins in 1990. Data reported prior to 1990 are not directly comparable due to updates in methodology.

“As the state moves through pandemic recovery and the economy begins to heal itself, the major focus remains on assisting claimants and providing support to those still impacted,” said **Deputy Governor Dan Hynes**. “IDES remains committed to administering benefits and providing job-matching services to individuals dislocated from their jobs as a result of the pandemic and eager to jump back into the workforce.”

The number of nonfarm jobs decreased in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas. The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in total

nonfarm jobs were the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division (-7.5%, -280,400), the Kankakee MSA (-7.1%, -3,200), and the Decatur MSA (-6.3%, -3,100). Three metro areas recorded their lowest total nonfarm jobs for the month of March on record (dating back to 1990).

Over-the-year, the unemployment rate increased in all 14 metropolitan areas; the metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division (+3.8 points to 7.7%), Decatur MSA (+3.4 points to 8.6%), the Rockford MSA (+2.8 points to 8.1%). The not seasonally adjusted Illinois unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in March 2021. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in March 2021.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) –March 2021

Metropolitan Area	March 2021*	March 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	86,400	91,900	-5,500
Carbondale-Marion MSA	55,100	57,800	-2,700
Champaign-Urbana MSA	116,200	117,900	-1,700
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,461,600	3,742,000	-280,400
Danville MSA	26,300	27,000	-700
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	174,700	182,900	-8,200
Decatur MSA	46,100	49,200	-3,100
Elgin Metro Division	237,600	253,400	-15,800
Kankakee MSA	41,900	45,100	-3,200
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	391,800	410,800	-19,000
Peoria MSA	157,600	167,300	-9,700
Rockford MSA	137,500	145,600	-8,100
Springfield MSA	101,000	106,600	-5,600
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	227,000	238,000	-11,000
Illinois Statewide	5,661,500	6,020,300	-358,800

*Preliminary /**Revised

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

Labor Market Area	Mar 2021	Mar 2020	Over the Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	7.8 %	5.7 %	2.1
Winnebago County	8.1 %	5.2 %	2.9
Cities			
Belvidere City	9.8 %	7.0 %	2.8
Freeport City	7.9 %	4.5 %	3.4
Rockford City	10.1 %	6.3 %	3.8
Counties			
Bureau County	6.3 %	4.9 %	1.4
Carroll County	5.7 %	4.2 %	1.5
DeKalb County	6.3 %	4.0 %	2.3
Henry County	5.9 %	4.6 %	1.3
Jo Daviess County	6.1 %	5.0 %	1.1
Kane County	7.1 %	4.7 %	2.4
Lee County	5.2 %	3.5 %	1.7
McHenry County	5.9 %	3.7 %	2.2
Ogle County	6.3 %	4.4 %	1.9
Stephenson County	6.4 %	4.2 %	2.2
Whiteside County	5.4 %	3.8 %	1.6

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.1 percent in March 2021 from 5.3 percent in March 2020. The last time the March rate was equal to or higher was in 2017 when it was 8.6 percent.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -8,100 compared to March 2020. Leisure-Hospitality (-2,000), Educational-Health Services (-1,800), Manufacturing (-1,500), and Retail Trade (-700) sectors recorded the largest employment declines over-the-year. Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+100) had payroll gains over the year.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.3 percent in March 2021 from 4.4 percent in March 2020. The last time the March rate was equal to or higher was in 2016 when it was 7.0 percent.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -1,150 over the year. The Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-275), Construction (-175), Professional-Business Services (-175), and Leisure-Hospitality (-175) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.4 percent in March 2021 from 4.2 percent in March 2020. The last time the March rate was equal to or higher was in 2016 when it was 6.7 percent.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -800 over the year. The Educational-Health Services (-225), Manufacturing (-175), Leisure-Hospitality (-150), and Government (-150) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago. Construction (+75) had payroll gains over the year.

Note: Monthly 2020 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2021, 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. The official monthly unemployment rate series for metro areas, counties and most cities begins in 1990. The official monthly nonfarm jobs series for metro areas begins in 1990 and for non-metropolitan counties it begins in 1999.

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