



JB Pritzker, Governor  
Raymond P. Marchiori, Acting Director

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE:  
August 17, 2023

CONTACT:  
Rebecca Cisco | 217.524.1219  
[rebecca.cisco@illinois.gov](mailto:rebecca.cisco@illinois.gov)

### Illinois Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Reach Record High, Unemployment Rate Stable in July

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.0 percent, remaining at the lowest level since the onset of the pandemic, while nonfarm payrolls increased by +11,200 in July, surpassing the pre-pandemic number of total nonfarm payrolls, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. The June revised unemployment rate was 4.0 percent, unchanged from the preliminary June unemployment rate. The June monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +8,400 to +9,700 jobs. The July unemployment rate and payroll jobs estimate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

In July, the industry sectors with the largest over-the-month job gains included: Educational and Health Services (+6,400), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+4,500), and Government (+1,900). The industry sectors with monthly payroll job declines included: Professional and Business Services (-3,000), Other Services (-900) and Manufacturing (-500).

“Illinois has experienced consecutive job growth every month this year, and today’s record-breaking total payroll jobs data is clear indication of the marked level of strength in the labor market throughout the state,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “As the state continues to prioritize investments in workforce opportunities, IDES and its partners stand ready to provide the services needed for individuals to take advantage of the new and expanding job possibilities across Illinois.”

“It’s clear that Illinois is making significant progress as we achieve this notable milestone for payroll jobs,” said **DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “Illinois is experiencing a banner year for economic development and DCEO remains committed to providing resources and support to job seekers and job creators across the state.”

The state’s unemployment rate was +0.5 percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate reported for July. The national unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in July, down -0.1 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -0.4 percentage point from a year ago when it was at 4.4 percent.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +89,700 jobs, with gains across most major industries. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Educational and Health Services (+42,500), Government (+27,200), and Leisure and Hospitality (+26,500). Professional and Business Services (-12,400), Manufacturing (-10,200), and Information (-5,200) reported declines in payroll jobs. In July, total nonfarm payrolls were up +1.5 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +2.2 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was 255,100, the lowest level since the onset of the pandemic. The number of unemployed was down -1.2 percent from the prior month, and -11.0 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was down -0.2 percent over-the-month and down -0.3 percent over-the-year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

In June 2020, Governor Pritzker launched [Get Hired Illinois](#), a one-stop-shop website to help connect job seekers with hiring employers in real time. The site features virtual job fairs, no-cost virtual training, and includes [IllinoisJobLink.com](#) (IJL), the state’s largest job search engine, which recently showed 53,334 posted resumes with 107,599 available jobs.

- continued -

## Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jul-23	Jun-23	Jul-22	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
<b>Illinois</b>	4.0%	4.0%	4.4%	4.0%	0.0	-0.4
<b>U.S.</b>	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	-0.1	0.0

### Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Jul-23 Current *	Jun-23 Prior month**	Jul-22 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
<b>IL - Total Nonfarm</b>	6,153,500	6,142,300	6,063,800	11,200	89,700	6,142,800	8,800
<b>IL - Mining</b>	6,900	6,900	6,800	0	100	6,900	0
<b>IL - Construction</b>	235,900	234,900	231,300	1,000	4,600	234,500	500
<b>IL - Manufacturing</b>	566,100	566,600	576,300	-500	-10,200	567,100	-1,400
<b>IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	1,225,700	1,221,200	1,224,700	4,500	1,000	1,222,500	1,100
<b>IL - Information</b>	91,500	91,000	96,700	500	-5,200	91,200	-400
<b>IL - Financial Activities</b>	416,400	415,500	404,300	900	12,100	414,900	2,100
<b>IL - Professional and Business Services</b>	970,000	973,000	982,400	-3,000	-12,400	972,700	-1,400
<b>IL - Educational and Health Services</b>	973,600	967,200	931,100	6,400	42,500	968,300	4,100
<b>IL - Leisure and Hospitality</b>	597,500	597,100	571,000	400	26,500	596,800	1,300
<b>IL - Other Services</b>	251,300	252,200	247,800	-900	3,500	251,500	200
<b>IL - Government</b>	818,600	816,700	791,400	1,900	27,200	816,500	2,800

\* Preliminary  
\*\*Final

- Monthly 2018-2022 seasonally adjusted labor force data for Illinois, and all other states, have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The monthly historical revisions to state labor force estimates reflect new national benchmark controls, state working-age population controls, outlier specifications, seasonal factors, as well as updated total nonfarm jobs and unemployment benefits claims inputs. Illinois labor force data were also smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, the comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous news releases/materials June no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available [here](#).
- [Monthly 1990-2022 seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment data for Illinois have been revised. To control for potential survey error, the estimates are benchmarked annually to universal counts derived primarily from unemployment insurance tax reports.](#)
- Not seasonally adjusted jobs data with industry detail are available [here](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted data for subsectors within industries are not available.

### About the Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides vital employment services to Illinois workers, jobseekers, and employers with resources including [Job Fairs](#), [IllinoisJobLink.com](#), and [WorkShare IL](#), analyzes and disseminates actionable [Labor Market Information](#), and administers the [Unemployment Insurance Program](#). To see the full range of services provided by IDES, and for the latest news concerning the department, visit [IDES.Illinois.gov](#).

**Disclaimer on statewide data:** The data contained in the statewide press releases are seasonally adjusted, which eliminates seasonal fluctuations in monthly employment data. Many economic data series have seasonal patterns, which means they tend to occur at the same time each year. For example, construction employment declines in winter, tourism employment rises in summer, and retail employment peaks in January. Seasonal adjustment helps to describe the underlying economic trends in the monthly data. When data are seasonally adjusted, as are the data in this release, the seasonal adjustment permits comparisons of data from one month to the next (February 2023 data compared to January 2023 data).