



NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Payroll Jobs Increase, Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in February

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate increased +0.1 percentage point to 4.8 percent, while nonfarm payrolls increased +23,100 in February, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and released by IDES. The January revised unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, unchanged from the preliminary January unemployment rate. The January monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +1,700 to -900 jobs. The February unemployment rate and payroll jobs estimate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

In February, the industry sectors with the largest over-the-month job gains included: Government (+6,700), Construction (+6,200), and Leisure and Hospitality (+5,400). The industry sectors with monthly payroll job declines included: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-1,900), Manufacturing (-700), and Financial Activities (-600).

“Job growth throughout the state across industry sectors is a testament to the strength and stability of the diverse Illinois workforce,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Continued statewide investment in workforce development is giving jobseekers and employers new tools and opportunities to thrive in the expanding state economy.”

“DCEO is consistently prioritizing the development and implementation of strategies and programs to bolster our state's workforce and local economies,” said **DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “As Illinois' payroll jobs continue to grow, DCEO is committed to building upon that momentum, while ensuring jobseekers have the tools, resources, and support they need to be successful.”

The state's unemployment rate was +0.9 percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate reported for February. The national unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in February, up +0.2 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was up +0.5 percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.3 percent.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +13,500 jobs, with gains across most major industries. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Government (+26,700), Educational and Health Services (+23,400), and Leisure and Hospitality (+10,300). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-37,700), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-8,100), and Information (-7,700). In February, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.2 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.8 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was 308,900, up +1.1 percent from the prior month, and up +11.6 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was almost unchanged (0.0 percent) over-the-month and up +1.1 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 58,380 posted resumes with 91,620 available jobs.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Feb-24	Jan-24	Feb-23	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.8%	4.7%	4.3%	4.7%	0.1	0.5
U.S.	3.9%	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%	0.2	0.3

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Feb-24 Current *	Jan-24 Prior month**	Feb-23 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,122,800	6,099,700	6,109,300	23,100	13,500	6,107,700	5,200
IL - Mining	7,300	7,200	7,300	100	0	7,200	0
IL - Construction	235,300	229,100	234,600	6,200	700	232,600	600
IL - Manufacturing	581,500	582,200	578,700	-700	2,800	581,900	400
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,219,200	1,221,100	1,227,300	-1,900	-8,100	1,219,800	-2,100
IL - Information	89,300	89,000	97,000	300	-7,700	89,000	-300
IL - Financial Activities	397,900	398,500	401,600	-600	-3,700	398,700	-900
IL - Professional and Business Services	922,800	922,000	960,500	800	-37,700	924,600	-1,400
IL - Educational and Health Services	982,700	978,100	959,300	4,600	23,400	979,000	2,500
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	599,600	594,200	589,300	5,400	10,300	596,200	1,600
IL - Other Services	256,800	254,600	250,000	2,200	6,800	254,700	1,300
IL - Government	830,400	823,700	803,700	6,700	26,700	823,900	3,400
* Preliminary							
**Final							

- Monthly 2019-2023 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 may no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available [here](#).
- Monthly 2019-2023 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 (January 2024 data compared to December 2023 data).