

Unemployment rate falls in all metros for second consecutive month

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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

	April	April	
Metropolitan Area			

	2018*	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
<i>*Preliminary **Revised</i>			

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

Labor Market Area	April 2018	April 2017	Over-the-Year Change
IL Section of St. Louis MSA	3.4%	4.1%	-0.7%
Bond	3.3%	3.6%	-0.3%
Calhoun	4.1%	5.0%	-0.9%
Clinton	2.6%	3.0%	-0.4%
Jersey	3.7%	4.2%	-0.5%
Macoupin	3.6%	4.1%	-0.5%
Madison	3.4%	4.2%	-0.8%

Monroe	2.5%	2.9%	-0.4%
St. Clair	3.7%	4.3%	-0.6%
Cities			
Alton	4.9%	5.7%	-0.8%
Belleville	3.7%	4.4%	-0.7%
Collinsville	3.5%	4.2%	-0.7%
East St. Louis	6.3%	6.5%	-0.2%
Edwardsville	2.5%	3.1%	-0.6%
Granite City	3.6%	5.0%	-1.4%
O’Fallon	3.2%	3.6%	-0.4%
Counties			
Greene	3.8%	4.3%	-0.5%
Randolph	3.1%	3.6%	-0.5%
Washington	2.0%	2.5%	-0.5%

Other Areas			
LWA 21	3.7%	4.1%	-0.4%
LWA 22	3.4%	4.2%	-0.8%
LWA 24	3.3%	3.9%	-0.6%
Southwestern Economic Development Region	3.4%	4.0%	-0.6%

Metro East Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 7,000 openings in April and approximately 80 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 ad indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

The April 2018 unemployment rate for the Illinois Section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area was 3.4 percent, a decrease of (-0.7%) from the April 2017 rate of 4.1 percent. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The number of employed individuals increased by +7,586 to 335,943 in April 2018 from 328,357 in April 2017. The labor force increased by +5,641 to 347,903 in April 2018 from 342,262 in April 2017. In April 2018, there were 11,960 unemployed people in the labor force. This is a decrease of -1,945 compared to the April 2017 total unemployed, 13,905.

Over the year, nonfarm payrolls increased by (+1,600).

Employment increased in Wholesale Trade (+1,100), Professional and Business Services (+500), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+400), Leisure and Hospitality (+200), and Other Services (+100) in April 2018 compared to April 2017.

Decreases in employment over the year included Educational and Health Services (-300), Financial Activities (-200), and Mining and Construction (-200).

Manufacturing, Retail, Information and Government payrolls remained stable with no change over the year.

Note:

- Monthly 2017 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2018, 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.
- LWA— Local Workforce Area 21 is composed of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, Morgan, Scott and Shelby Counties.
LWA— Local Workforce Area 22 is composed of Bond and Madison Counties.
LWA— Local Workforce Area 24 is composed of Clinton, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington Counties.