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NEWS RELEASE

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Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in December

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Area	December 2023*	December 2022**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.8%	2.9%	0.9
Carbondale-Marion	4.2%	3.5%	0.7
Champaign-Urbana	4.0%	3.1%	0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	3.9%	4.2%	-0.3
Danville	5.4%	4.4%	1.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	3.9%	3.6%	0.3
Decatur	5.7%	4.5%	1.2
Elgin	5.1%	4.0%	1.1
Kankakee	5.9%	4.7%	1.2
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.8%	3.7%	1.1
Peoria	4.8%	3.9%	0.9
Rockford	5.9%	4.6%	1.3
Springfield	3.9%	3.4%	0.5
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.0%	3.2%	0.8
Illinois Statewide	4.2%	4.0%	0.2
* Preliminary ** Revised			

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in eight metropolitan areas, decreased in five and was unchanged in one for the year ending December 2023, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES). Over-the-year, the unemployment rate increased in thirteen metropolitan areas and decreased in one.

“We are pleased to see continued positive economic trends across Illinois,” said Deputy Governor Andy Manar. “IDES remains committed to sustaining a viable workforce ecosystem in which jobseekers and employers remain engaged and connected.”

The metro areas that had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Danville MSA (+1.8%, +500) and the Springfield MSA (+1.7%, +1,900). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago Metro were up +0.8% or +31,600. The metro areas with the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Kankakee MSA (-1.6%, -700) and the Decatur MSA (-1.4%, -700). Peoria MSA saw no change in total nonfarm jobs. The industries that saw job growth in a

majority of metro areas included: Education and Health Services (eleven areas); Leisure and Hospitality and Government (ten areas each); Mining and Construction (nine areas); and Other Services (eight areas).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Rockford MSA (+1.3 points to 5.9%), the Decatur MSA (+1.2 points to 5.7%), and the Kankakee MSA (+1.2 points to 5.9%). The unemployment rate fell in the Chicago Metro (-0.3 point to 3.9%).

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) - December 2023

Metropolitan Area	December 2023*	December 2022**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	97,900	98,100	-200
Carbondale-Marion MSA	59,300	58,500	800
Champaign-Urbana MSA	120,500	120,200	300
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,835,900	3,804,300	31,600
Danville MSA	27,700	27,200	500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	185,300	184,300	1,000
Decatur MSA	48,200	48,900	-700
Elgin Metro Division	268,300	264,600	3,700
Kankakee MSA	43,000	43,700	-700
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	419,900	421,600	-1,700
Peoria MSA	172,200	172,200	0
Rockford MSA	148,100	149,600	-1,500
Springfield MSA	111,500	109,600	1,900
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	244,400	241,600	2,800
Illinois Statewide	6,181,600	6,125,300	56,300
*Preliminary / **Revised			

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

Labor Market Area	Dec 2023	Dec 2022	Over-the- Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	6.9 %	5.3 %	1.6
Winnebago County	5.7 %	4.5 %	1.2
Cities			
Belvidere City	8.8 %	6.7 %	2.1
Freeport City	5.9 %	4.5 %	1.4
Rockford City	6.6 %	5.2 %	1.4
Counties			
Bureau County	5.8 %	4.3 %	1.5
Carroll County	4.3 %	3.6 %	0.7
DeKalb County	4.5 %	3.6 %	0.9
Henry County	4.7 %	3.8 %	0.9
Jo Daviess County	4.3 %	3.6 %	0.7
Kane County	5.2 %	4.1 %	1.1
Lee County	4.2 %	3.7 %	0.5
McHenry County	3.6 %	3.8 %	-0.2
Ogle County	5.2 %	4.3 %	0.9
Stephenson County	5.1 %	4.2 %	0.9
Whiteside County	4.3 %	3.6 %	0.7

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.9 percent in December 2023 from 4.6 percent in December 2022.

Total nonfarm employment decreased by -1,500 over the year.

The Leisure-Hospitality (+500), Other Services (+300), Government (+300) and Educational-Health Services (+100) had payroll gains over the year. The Manufacturing (-1,300), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-600), Construction (-300) and Professional-Business Services (-200) sectors recorded the largest employment declines over the year.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.2 percent in December 2023 from 4.3 percent in December 2022.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +150 over the year.

Government (+125), Manufacturing (+50), Other Services (+50), Professional-Business Services (+50) and Educational-Health Services (+50) had payroll gains over the year. The Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-125) sector recorded the largest employment decline over the year.

Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.1 percent in December 2023 from 4.2 percent in December 2022.

Over-the-year, nonfarm payrolls held steady.

Manufacturing (+50) had the largest payroll gains over the year. The Financial Activities (-125) sector recorded the largest employment decline over the year.

Note: Monthly 2022 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2023, 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.

Disclaimer: The data contained in the metro area employment numbers press releases are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore are subject to seasonal fluctuations due to factors such as changes in weather, harvests, major holidays, and school schedules. Current monthly metro data should be compared to the same month from prior years (January 2023 data compared to January 2022 data) as data for these months have similar seasonal patterns. Comparisons should not be made to data for the immediate previous month or other previous non-matching months, as any changes in the data within these time periods may be the result of seasonal fluctuations and not economic factors.