



NEWS RELEASE

JB Pritzker, Governor
Raymond P. Marchiori, Director

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CONTACT:
Rebecca Cisco | 217.524.1219
rebecca.cisco@illinois.gov

Jobs Up, Unemployment Down in Majority of Metro Areas in September

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Area	September 2024*	September 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.3%	4.0%	0.3
Carbondale-Marion	4.5%	4.5%	0.0
Champaign-Urbana	4.1%	4.3%	-0.2
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.2%	4.6%	0.6
Danville	6.3%	5.9%	0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.4%	4.8%	0.6
Decatur	5.9%	6.2%	-0.3
Elgin	4.7%	4.8%	-0.1
Kankakee	5.5%	5.8%	-0.3
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.2%	4.5%	-0.3
Peoria	5.0%	4.9%	0.1
Rockford	5.4%	6.3%	-0.9
Springfield	4.3%	4.4%	-0.1
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.2%	4.4%	-0.2
Illinois Statewide	5.0%	4.7%	0.3

* Preliminary | ** Revised

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in nine metropolitan areas and decreased in five for the year ending September 2024, 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 decreased in eight areas, increased in five, and was unchanged in one.

“An expanding labor market and job growth across the state continues to instill drive and motivation in workers and jobseekers searching for new employment opportunities,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “IDES remains a critical workforce resource providing essential employment and reemployment services to match individuals with the right employers eager to take advantage of the growing economy.”

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Carbondale-Marion MSA (+1.9%, +1,100), the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+1.0%, +1,300), and the Springfield MSA (+1.0%, +1,100). The metro areas which posted the largest over-the-year decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (-1.3%, -2,300), the Danville MSA (-1.1%, -300), and the Peoria MSA (-1.1%, -1,900). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago

Metropolitan Division were almost unchanged (0.0%, -700). Industries that saw job growth in most of the metro areas included Government (twelve areas) and Other Services (eleven areas).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate decreases were the Rockford MSA (-0.9 percentage point to 5.4%), the Decatur MSA (-0.3 percentage point to 5.9%), the Kankakee MSA (-0.3 percentage point to 5.5%) and the Lake County-Kenosha County, IL-WI Metro (-0.3 point to 4.2%). The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago Metro (+0.6 point to 5.2%), the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (+0.6 point to 5.4%), and the Danville MSA (+0.4 point to 6.3%). There was no unemployment rate change in the Carbondale-Marion MSA.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – September 2024

Metropolitan Area	September 2024*	September 2023**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	99,900	100,800	-900
Carbondale-Marion MSA	59,700	58,600	1,100
Champaign-Urbana MSA	126,300	125,000	1,300
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,834,400	3,835,100	-700
Danville MSA	26,700	27,000	-300
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	181,400	183,700	-2,300
Decatur MSA	48,200	48,000	200
Elgin Metro Division	266,800	266,600	200
Kankakee MSA	43,500	43,300	200
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	423,400	423,200	200
Peoria MSA	170,400	172,300	-1,900
Rockford MSA	147,300	146,000	1,300
Springfield MSA	108,900	107,800	1,100
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	244,200	242,600	1,600
Illinois Statewide	6,202,100	6,149,100	53,000

*Preliminary | **Revised

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

Labor Market Area	Sep 2024	Sep 2023	Over-the-Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	5.3 %	6.4 %	-1.1
Winnebago County	5.5 %	6.3 %	-0.8
Cities			
Belvidere City	5.9 %	7.7 %	-1.8
Freeport City	6.0 %	6.1 %	-0.1
Rockford City	6.5 %	7.5 %	-1.0
Counties			
Bureau County	5.1 %	5.9 %	-0.8
Carroll County	4.4 %	4.2 %	0.2
DeKalb County	4.6 %	4.7 %	-0.1
Henry County	5.8 %	5.5 %	0.3
Jo Daviess County	4.1 %	3.8 %	0.3
Kane County	4.8 %	4.9 %	-0.1
Lee County	4.2 %	4.3 %	-0.1
McHenry County	4.4 %	3.9 %	0.5
Ogle County	4.7 %	5.1 %	-0.4
Stephenson County	4.8 %	5.1 %	-0.3
Whiteside County	4.6 %	4.7 %	-0.1

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.4 percent in September 2024 from 6.3 percent in September 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +1,300 over-the-year.

The Leisure-Hospitality (+800), Government (+600), Mining-Construction (+300) and Other Services (+100) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Manufacturing (-300), Financial Activities (-100) and Information (-100) sectors recorded employment declines over-the-year.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.7 percent in September 2024 from 5.1 percent in September 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +125 over-the-year.

Government (+125), Construction (+25), Other Services (+25) and Leisure-Hospitality (+25) had payroll gains over-the-year. The Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-25), Professional-Business Services (-25) and Financial Activities (-25) sectors recorded employment declines over-the-year.

Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.8 percent in September 2024 from 5.1 percent in September 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +300 over-the-year.

The Government (+125), Construction (+100), Professional-Business Services (+75), Manufacturing (+25), Private Education-Health Services (+25) and Other Services (+25) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Financial Activities (-25) sector recorded the only employment decline over-the-year.

Note: Monthly 2023 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2024, 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 2024 data compared to January 2023 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.