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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Thursday, August 27, 2015

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Unemployment Rates Continue Downward Trend in All Metro Areas *Modest Job Growth Still Uneven Across State*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	July 2015	July 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.7%	6.0%	-1.3
Carbondale-Marion	6.0%	7.3%	-1.3
Champaign-Urbana	5.0%	6.6%	-1.6
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	6.1%	7.4%	-1.3
Danville	6.7%	8.8%	-2.1
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.1%	6.3%	-1.2
Decatur	7.2%	8.8%	-1.6
Elgin	5.2%	6.8%	-1.6
Kankakee	6.2%	8.0%	-1.8
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.9%	6.3%	-1.4
Peoria	6.2%	7.3%	-1.1
Rockford	7.1%	8.4%	-1.3
Springfield	4.9%	6.1%	-1.2
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.8%	7.5%	-1.7
Illinois Statewide	5.9%	7.3%	-1.4

** Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO – July was the seventeenth month in a row that unemployment rates fell in every metro area in the state compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Rates also fell in all of Illinois’s 102 counties for the fifteenth time in the last sixteen months. Not seasonally adjusted data compares July 2015 with July 2014.

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros. The largest increases were seen in: Danville (+2.1 percent, +600), Champaign-Urbana (+2.0 percent, +2,000), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.6 percent or +56,200). Decreases were seen in: Quad Cities (-1.9 percent, -3,600), Peoria (-1.1 percent, -1,900), and Carbondale-Marion (-0.9 percent, -500). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (11 of 14), Professional and Business Services (nine of 14), Wholesale Trade (eight of 14), Retail Trade (eight of 14) Education and Health Services (eight of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14).

“The year-over-year statewide unemployment rate has declined from 7.3 percent to 5.9 percent and continues to fall in all metro areas,” IDES Director Jeff Mays said. “However, we are still concerned that the long-term unemployed are still having difficulty finding jobs while there were 205,700 on-line job postings by Illinois employers in July.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.9 percent in July 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in July 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) – July 2015

Metropolitan Area	July 2015*	July 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	93,100	92,600	500
Carbondale-Marion MSA	52,600	53,100	-500
Champaign-Urbana MSA	104,500	102,500	2,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Div.	3,655,500	3,599,300	56,200
Danville MSA	29,600	29,000	600
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA	182,300	185,900	-3,600
Decatur MSA	50,600	51,000	-400
Elgin Metro Division	255,300	252,300	3,000
Kankakee MSA	44,400	44,100	300
Lake County-Kenosha County IL-WI Metro Div.	410,800	408,300	2,500
Peoria MSA	177,200	179,100	-1,900
Rockford MSA	151,700	150,500	1,200
Springfield MSA	111,400	111,400	-0-
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	226,900	228,700	-1,800
Illinois Statewide	5,943,100	5,889,600	53,500

*Preliminary **Revised

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

	July 2015	July 2014	Over- the-Year Change
Decatur MSA			
Macon County	7.2%	8.8%	-1.6
Springfield MSA			
Menard County	4.1%	5.5%	-1.4
Sangamon County	5.0%	6.1%	-1.1
Cities			
Decatur City	8.1%	10.0%	-1.9
Springfield City	5.5%	6.8%	-1.3
Counties			
Adams County	4.7%	5.6%	-0.9
Brown County	3.3%	4.6%	-1.3
Calhoun County	5.9%	8.2%	-2.3
Cass County	5.4%	7.1%	-1.7
Christian County	6.2%	7.7%	-1.5
DeWitt County	5.2%	6.5%	-1.3
Douglas County	4.7%	6.1%	-1.4
Greene County	5.5%	7.0%	-1.5
Jersey County	5.8%	7.1%	-1.3
Logan County	5.2%	6.5%	-1.3
Macoupin County	5.7%	7.3%	-1.6
Montgomery County	7.0%	8.6%	-1.6
Morgan County	4.6%	6.3%	-1.7
Moultrie County	4.4%	5.7%	-1.3
Piatt County	4.9%	6.0%	-1.1
Pike County	4.4%	5.7%	-1.3
Schuyler County	5.0%	6.5%	-1.5
Scott County	4.7%	6.3%	-1.6
Shelby County	5.8%	6.7%	-0.9
Other Areas			
LWA 19	6.9%	8.5%	-1.6
LWA 20	5.1%	6.3%	-1.2
LWA 21	5.6%	7.2%	-1.6
Central EDR	5.6%	7.0%	-1.4

Note:

Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, 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.

Central Illinois Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 7,700 positions in July and approximately 86 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board, which is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as Construction, typically do not post advertised job openings.

Decatur MSA

The July 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 7.2 percent from 8.8 percent in July 2014. There were an estimated 3,700 unemployed people in the labor force in July 2015. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower was in 2008 when it was also 7.2 percent.

The total number of nonfarm jobs in the Decatur metro area declined by (-400) compared to one year ago. Payrolls increased in Professional and Business Services (+300), Construction (+100), and Educational and Health Services (+100). Declines were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-300), Wholesale Trade (-100), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-100), Financial Activities (-100), Retail Trade (-100), Government (-100) and Other Services (-100). All other major industry sectors were stable compared to one year ago.

Springfield MSA

The unemployment rate fell to 4.9 percent in July 2015 from 6.1 percent in July 2014. There were an estimated 5,500 unemployed people in the labor force in July 2015. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower was 2007 when it was 4.7 percent. The rate is below the comparable state rate of 5.9 percent and the U.S. rate of 5.6 percent. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The Springfield metro area nonfarm job total held steady at 112,700 compared to a year ago. Payroll increases were reported in Educational and Health Services (+800), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+200), Other Services (+100) and Leisure and Hospitality (+100). Declines were reported in Government (-600), Retail Trade (-200), and (-100) each in Information, Professional and Business Services, Construction and Wholesale Trade. All other major industry sectors were unchanged compared to last year.