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NEWS RELEASE

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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
IL Section of St. Louis	5.8%	7.5%	-1.7%
Bond	4.8%	6.6%	-1.8%
Calhoun	5.9%	8.2%	-2.3%
Clinton	4.2%	5.6%	-1.4%
Jersey	5.8%	7.1%	-1.3%
Macoupin	5.7%	7.3%	-1.6%
Madison	5.7%	7.3%	-1.6%
Monroe	4.1%	5.6%	-1.5%
St. Clair	6.3%	8.3%	-2.0%
Cities:			
Alton	8.2%	11.1%	-2.9%
Belleville	6.3%	8.3%	-2.0%
Collinsville	5.9%	7.7%	-1.8%
East St. Louis	11.2%	15.4%	-4.2%
Granite City	8.0%	9.1%	-1.1%
O'Fallon	5.4%	7.2%	-1.8%
Counties:			
Greene	5.5%	7.0%	-1.5%
Randolph	5.2%	7.1%	-1.9%
Washington	3.7%	5.0%	-1.3%
Other Areas:			
LWA 21	5.6%	7.2%	-1.6%
LWA 22	5.7%	7.3%	-1.6%
LWA 24	5.7%	7.5%	-1.8%
Southwestern Economic Development Region	5.7%	7.4%	-1.7%

Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm 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.
- 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.

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Metro East Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 6,200 job openings in July and approximately 86 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 July 2015 unemployment rate for the Illinois Section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area decreased to 5.8 percent, a -1.7 point decline from the July 2014 rate of 7.5 percent. The last time the July unemployment rate was equal to or lower was 2007 (5.8 percent). The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The number of employed individuals increased by 8,438 to 326,971 in July 2015 from 318,533 in July 2014. The labor force increased by 2,716 to 346,944 in July 2015 from 344,228 in July 2014. In July 2015, there were 19,973 unemployed people in the labor force. This is a decline of 5,722 compared to the July 2014 total unemployed, 25,695.

Over the year, nonfarm payrolls decreased by (-1,800). Employment increased in Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+400), and Wholesale Trade (+100). Decreases in employment included Government (-500), Retail Trade (-300), Mining and Construction (-300), Professional and Business Services (-300), Other Services (-300), Leisure and Hospitality (-200), Financial Activities (-200), Information (-100), and Educational and Health Services (-100). Manufacturing employment remained unchanged in a year-over-year comparison.