



Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Jeffrey D. Mays, Director

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR RELEASE:**  
Thursday, September 17, 2015

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## **August Jobs in Illinois Decrease -900 while Unemployment Rate Declines to 5.6**

### *Illinois Jobs Decline Three Consecutive Months*

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that Illinois' unemployment rate in August declined to 5.6 percent and nonfarm payroll employment shed -900 jobs, based on preliminary data released by the Department and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The state's job numbers dropped for a third consecutive month, keeping Illinois below the national average and further delaying Illinois' economic recovery from the 2007-2009 recession.

“The declining unemployment rate reflects the national trend of people leaving the workforce, not necessarily the number of unemployed finding employment, which masks the underlying weakness in our labor market,” said Jeff Mays, Director, IDES. “From January through June of this year, Illinois' employment grew at a rate of 0.3 percent -- half the average growth rate of all the other Midwestern states combined. Had Illinois grown at the average rate of its neighbors, employers would have added 34,000 jobs, more than doubling the actual new jobs reported in that timeframe.”

The state's unemployment rate is higher than the national unemployment rate reported for August, which decreased 0.2 percentage points over-the-month to 5.1 percent. The BLS revised July data, which showed a small drop (-800) in Illinois rather than the preliminary estimate of a small increase (+1,900). In August, the three industry sectors with the largest gains in employment were: Financial Activities (+2,600), Education and Health Services (+2,400) and Other Services (+1,800). The three industry sectors with the largest declines in employment were Manufacturing (-2,200); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-2,100); and Construction (-1,900).

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +41,200 jobs with the largest gains in Professional and Business Services (+14,500); Education and Health Services (+13,500); and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+10,100). Several sectors posted over-the-year declines in August: Manufacturing (-7,100); Information Services (-2,100); Mining (-900); Government (-800); and Other Services (-700).

The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work. IDES' [IllinoisJoblink.com](http://IllinoisJoblink.com) (IJL) program, which helps jobseekers connect with hiring companies, recently showed that 174,121 help wanted ads were available and 61,674 resumes were posted. As many positions continue to remain unfilled, the Department continues its efforts to connect jobseekers to employers looking for qualified candidates.

In August, the unemployment rate stood 0.9 percentage points below the unemployment rate a year ago when it was 6.5 percent. The number of unemployed workers decreased -3.0 percent from the prior month to 362,500 and was down -14.6 percent over the same month for the prior year.

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“Decreasing unemployment as a result of Illinoisans leaving the workforce is a hollow victory,” Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Director Jim Schultz said. “We need meaningful structural reform to overhaul our business climate and put Illinois on a path to real growth in order to bring businesses and jobs back to our state.”

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	August 2015	July 2015	August 2014 *	3-Month Moving Avg.	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
<b>Illinois</b>	5.6%	5.8%	6.5%	5.7%	-0.2	-0.9
<b>U.S.</b>	5.1%	5.3%	6.1%	5.2%	-0.2	-1.0

\* Revised

### Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

Industry Title	August* 2015	July** 2015	August 2014	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change	3-Month Moving Avg.	Change From Previous 3-Month Mov. Avg.
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>5,920,400</b>	<b>5,921,300</b>	<b>5,879,200</b>	<b>-900</b>	<b>41,200</b>	<b>5,921,300</b>	<b>-2,400</b>
Mining	9,200	9,300	10,100	-100	-900	9,300	-100
Construction	209,600	211,500	203,200	-1,900	6,400	210,100	-1,200
Manufacturing	571,200	573,400	578,300	-2,200	-7,100	572,900	-700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,188,400	1,190,500	1,178,300	-2,100	10,100	1,189,700	800
Information	97,500	98,300	99,600	-800	-2,100	98,000	-400
Financial Activities	371,500	368,900	370,700	2,600	800	369,200	2,500
Professional and Business Services	933,300	932,000	918,800	1,300	14,500	934,300	-2,700
Educational and Health Services	898,700	896,300	885,200	2,400	13,500	898,000	0
Leisure and Hospitality	562,200	562,700	554,700	-500	7,500	561,700	-100
Other Services	251,300	249,500	252,000	1,800	-700	250,400	-700
Government	827,500	828,900	828,300	-1,400	-800	827,600	0

\*Preliminary  
\*\*Final

#### Notes:

- Monthly 1976-2014 labor force data for Illinois, and all other states, have been revised using new, fourth generation state time-series models, as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The monthly historical revisions to state labor force estimates reflect new national benchmark controls, state working-age population controls, seasonal factors, as well as updated total nonfarm jobs and unemployment benefits claims inputs. Illinois labor force data were also smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly Census Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous state news releases/materials might no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available at: [http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/Illinois\\_Chicago\\_Metropolitan\\_Area\\_Unemployment\\_Rates.aspx](http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/Illinois_Chicago_Metropolitan_Area_Unemployment_Rates.aspx)
- Not seasonally adjusted jobs data with industry detail are available at <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/CES.aspx> “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: Personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted employment data for subsectors within industries are not available.

About IDES - IDES connects employers and jobseekers, provides unemployment insurance to eligible individuals, produces labor market data and protects taxpayers from unemployment insurance fraud. Visit the Department’s website at [www.ides.illinois.gov](http://www.ides.illinois.gov) for more information and join IDES on [Facebook](#).

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