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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Down; Job Growth Remains Slow and Uneven Six Metro Areas Across State Lose Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	August 2015	August 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.5%	5.7%	-1.2
Carbondale-Marion	5.7%	7.1%	-1.4
Champaign-Urbana	4.9%	6.5%	-1.6
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington	5.7%	6.9%	-1.2
Danville	6.7%	8.5%	-1.8
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island,	5.1%	5.9%	-0.8
Decatur	6.8%	8.4%	-1.6
Elgin	5.1%	6.6%	-1.5
Kankakee	6.1%	7.8%	-1.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.7%	6.1%	-1.4
Peoria	6.0%	7.0%	-1.0
Rockford	6.4%	8.0%	-1.6
Springfield	4.7%	5.9%	-1.2
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.6%	7.1%	-1.5
Illinois Statewide	5.6%	6.9%	-1.3

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – August was the 18th 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). Despite some job growth, six metro areas saw job loss.

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros. The largest increases were seen in: Carbondale-Marion (+1.7 percent, +900), Danville (+1.7 percent, +500), Champaign-Urbana (+1.3 percent, +1,300), and Elgin (+1.3 percent, +3,300), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.0 percent or +35,900). Decreases were seen in: Quad Cities (-2.3 percent, -4,200), Kankakee (-1.6 percent, -700), and Peoria (-1.4 percent, -2,600). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (11 of 14), Retail Trade (nine of 14) Wholesale Trade (eight of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14).

“Typically when the unemployment rate goes down, the number of people getting jobs goes up. But since that is not the case in many of Illinois’ metro areas, focusing only on the decline in unemployment

rates does not tell the whole story,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “With many people dropping out of the labor force, thereby pulling the unemployment rate down, we need to increase job growth in all metro areas.”

Not seasonally adjusted data compares August 2015 with August 2014. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.6 percent in August 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 5.2 percent in August and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. Rates also fell in 101 of Illinois’ 102 counties. 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) – August 2015

Metropolitan Area	August 2015*	August 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	94,500	94,000	500
Carbondale-Marion MSA	53,600	52,700	900
Champaign-Urbana MSA	102,000	100,700	1,300
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Div.	3,644,700	3,608,800	35,900
Danville MSA	29,600	29,100	500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA	181,800	186,000	-4,200
Decatur MSA	50,800	50,900	-100
Elgin Metro Division	255,100	251,800	3,300
Kankakee MSA	44,000	44,700	-700
Lake County-Kenosha County IL-WI Metro Div.	408,100	406,200	1,900
Peoria MSA	177,600	180,200	-2,600
Rockford MSA	152,200	151,000	1,200
Springfield MSA	114,500	115,100	-600
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	228,800	229,900	-1,100
Illinois Statewide	5,935,700	5,903,500	32,200

*Preliminary **Revised

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

	Aug. 2015	Aug 2014	Over-the- year Change
IL Section of St. Louis	5.6%	7.1%	-1.5%
Bond	4.6%	6.2%	-1.6%
Calhoun	6.1%	7.6%	-1.5%
Clinton	4.0%	5.2%	-1.2%
Jersey	5.7%	7.0%	-1.3%
Macoupin	5.7%	7.1%	-1.4%
Madison	5.6%	7.0%	-1.4%
Monroe	4.0%	5.5%	-1.5%
St. Clair	6.2%	7.9%	-1.7%
Cities:			
Alton	8.1%	10.9%	-2.8%
Belleville	6.5%	8.1%	-1.6%
Collinsville	5.3%	7.4%	-2.1%
East St. Louis	11.7%	14.6%	-2.9%
Granite City	8.6%	8.3%	+0.3%
O'Fallon	5.1%	6.2%	-1.1%
Counties:			
Greene	5.4%	6.9%	-1.5%
Randolph	5.1%	6.7%	-1.6%
Washington	3.5%	4.7%	-1.2%
Other Areas:			
LWA 21	5.5%	7.0%	-1.5%
LWA 22	5.6%	6.9%	-1.3%
LWA 24	5.5%	7.2%	-1.7%
Southwestern Economic Development Region	5.6%	7.1%	-1.5%

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 5,800 job openings in August and approximately 83 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 August 2015 unemployment rate for the Illinois Section of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area decreased to 5.6 percent, a -1.5 point decline from the August 2014 rate of 7.1 percent. The last time the August unemployment rate was equal to or lower was 2006 (5.2 percent). The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The number of employed individuals increased by 10,030 to 325,988 in August 2015 from 315,958 in August 2014. The labor force increased by 5,221 to 345,497 in August 2015 from 340,276 in August 2014. In August 2015, there were 19,509 unemployed people in the labor force. This is a decline of 4,809, compared to the August 2014 total unemployed, 24,318.

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