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NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Metros See Minimal Job Growth; Seven Metro Areas Lose Jobs

Unemployment Rates Continue Downward Trend

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	October 2015	October 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.8%	5.0%	-0.2
Carbondale-Marion	6.1%	6.1%	0.0
Champaign-Urbana	5.1%	5.3%	-0.2
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.0%	6.1%	-1.1
Danville	6.9%	7.3%	-0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.6%	5.8%	-0.2
Decatur	6.8%	7.2%	-0.4
Elgin	5.4%	5.7%	-0.3
Kankakee	6.4%	6.7%	-0.3
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.0%	5.4%	-0.4
Peoria	6.6%	6.2%	0.4
Rockford	6.8%	7.0%	-0.2
Springfield	5.1%	5.4%	-0.3
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.9%	6.3%	-0.4
Illinois Statewide	5.3%	6.0%	-0.7

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – Unemployment rates in Illinois fell in 12 metro areas, increased in one and remained the same in one. Seven metro areas across the state saw job loss 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). Not seasonally adjusted data compares October 2015 with October 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in seven metro areas including the Quad Cities (-2.1 percent, -3,900), Carbondale-Marion (-1.6 percent, -900), and Peoria (-1.0 percent, -1,800). Illinois businesses added jobs in six metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Danville (+1.7 percent, +500), Elgin (+1.6 percent, +4,200), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.4 percent or +49,600). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Retail Trade (nine of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (nine of 14), Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (eight of 14), and Education and Health Services (eight of 14).

“We are thankful for every single job we have gained since the national recovery began in July 2009,” IDES Director Jeff Mays said. “However, at Thanksgiving 2015, too few Illinois residents are feeling this turnaround.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.3 percent in October 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 4.8 percent in October 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) – October 2015

Metropolitan Area	October 2015*	October 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	96,200	95,500	700
Carbondale-Marion MSA	54,900	55,800	-900
Champaign-Urbana MSA	111,500	110,400	1,100
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,668,400	3,618,800	49,600
Danville MSA	29,700	29,200	500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	180,900	184,800	-3,900
Decatur MSA	51,100	51,300	-200
Elgin Metro Division	259,500	255,300	4,200
Kankakee MSA	45,600	45,600	0
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	402,800	406,500	-3,700
Peoria MSA	178,600	180,400	-1,800
Rockford MSA	151,900	152,500	-600
Springfield MSA	113,500	112,300	1,200
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	231,300	232,600	-1,300
Illinois Statewide	5,990,400	5,949,300	41,100

*Preliminary **Revised

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

	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Over- the-Year Change
Decatur MSA			
Macon County	6.8%	7.2%	-0.4
Springfield MSA			
Menard County	4.5%	5.0%	-0.5
Sangamon County	5.2%	5.4%	-0.2
Cities			
Decatur City	7.6%	8.0%	-0.4
Springfield City	5.5%	5.8%	-0.3
Counties			
Adams County	5.0%	4.8%	0.2
Brown County	3.4%	3.6%	-0.2
Calhoun County	6.1%	6.8%	-0.7
Cass County	5.6%	5.9%	-0.3
Christian County	6.3%	6.5%	-0.2
DeWitt County	5.1%	5.4%	-0.3
Douglas County	4.9%	5.0%	-0.1
Greene County	5.5%	5.8%	-0.3
Jersey County	5.8%	6.1%	-0.3
Logan County	5.1%	5.5%	-0.4
Macoupin County	6.0%	6.1%	-0.1
Montgomery County	7.3%	7.4%	-0.1
Morgan County	4.8%	5.2%	-0.4
Moultrie County	4.5%	4.6%	-0.1
Piatt County	4.8%	4.8%	-0-
Pike County	4.4%	4.7%	-0.3
Schuyler County	5.1%	5.2%	-0.1
Scott County	4.7%	5.5%	-0.8
Shelby County	5.9%	6.0%	-0.1
Other Areas			
LWA 19	6.6%	6.9%	-0.3
LWA 20	5.3%	5.5%	-0.2
LWA 21	5.8%	6.1%	-0.3
Central EDR	5.7%	6.0%	-0.3

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 7,500 positions in October and approximately 91 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 October 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 6.8 percent from 7.2 percent in October 2014. There were an estimated 3,400 unemployed people in the labor force in October 2015. The last time the October rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.5 percent.

The total number of nonfarm jobs in the Decatur metro area declined by (-200) compared to one year ago. Payrolls increased in Professional and Business Services (+400), Construction (+100), and Manufacturing (+100). Declines were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-300), Education and Health Services (-300), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-100), and Government (-100). All other major industry sectors were unchanged compared to one year ago.

Springfield MSA

The unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent in October 2015 from 5.4 percent in October 2014. There were an estimated 5,800 unemployed people in the labor force in October 2015. The last time the October rate was equal to or lower was 2007 when it was 4.3 percent. The rate remains below the comparable state rate of 5.3 percent. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The Springfield metro area nonfarm job total increased by (+1,200) compared to a year ago. Payroll increases were reported in Educational and Health Services (+900), Leisure and Hospitality (+400), Retail Trade (+300), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+200), and Construction (+100). Declines were led by Government (-200), Information (-200), and Financial Activities (-200). All other major industry sectors were little changed compared to last year.