



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeff Mays, Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Anjali Julka
Phone: 312.793.9635

Tom Austin
Phone: 815.395.6680

Metro Area Unemployment Rates Continue Rising *Job Growth Remains Slow*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

| Metropolitan Area | December 2015 | December 2014 | Over-the-Year Change |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington | 5.4% | 4.8% | 0.6 |
| Carbondale-Marion | 6.5% | 6.0% | 0.5 |
| Champaign-Urbana | 5.4% | 5.0% | 0.4 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights | 5.6% | 5.6% | 0.0 |
| Danville | 7.4% | 7.0% | 0.4 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL | 5.9% | 5.9% | 0.0 |
| Decatur | 7.4% | 7.0% | 0.4 |
| Elgin | 6.2% | 6.0% | 0.2 |
| Kankakee | 7.0% | 6.8% | 0.2 |
| Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI | 5.8% | 5.7% | 0.1 |
| Peoria | 7.0% | 6.2% | 0.8 |
| Rockford | 7.2% | 6.9% | 0.3 |
| Springfield | 5.4% | 5.3% | 0.1 |
| St. Louis (IL-Section) | 6.1% | 6.1% | 0.0 |
| Illinois Statewide | 5.9% | 5.8% | 0.1 |

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO –Illinois jobs decreased in six metropolitan areas and unemployment rates increased in eleven regions, according to data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The unemployment rate remained the same in three areas and one metro area saw no change in non farm jobs. The not seasonally adjusted data compares over-the-year change from December 2015 with December 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in areas including the Quad Cities (-2.4 percent, -4,500), Decatur (-1.8 percent, -900), Carbondale-Marion (-1.3 percent, -700), and Lake-Kenosha (-1.3 percent, -5,100). Illinois businesses added jobs in seven metros including Elgin (+1.6 percent, +4,100), Champaign-Urbana (+0.8 percent, +900), Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+0.7 percent or +26,800), and Danville (+0.7 percent, +200). Two industries recorded job growth: Education and Health Services (nine sectors) and Leisure and Hospitality (eight sectors).

“Illinois took another hit on jobs and many metro areas continue to absorb these hits,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Since the

previous jobs peak in 2007, only three out of fourteen metro areas have regained the jobs lost during the recession.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.9 percent in December 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 December 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) – December 2015

| Metropolitan Area | December 2015* | December 2014** | Over-the-Year Change |
|---|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington MSA | 95,100 | 95,000 | 100 |
| Carbondale-Marion MSA | 54,500 | 55,200 | -700 |
| Champaign-Urbana MSA | 110,600 | 109,700 | 900 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division | 3,658,100 | 3,631,300 | 26,800 |
| Danville MSA | 29,700 | 29,500 | 200 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA | 179,500 | 184,000 | -4,500 |
| Decatur MSA | 50,300 | 51,200 | -900 |
| Elgin Metro Division | 255,700 | 251,600 | 4,100 |
| Kankakee MSA | 45,700 | 45,700 | 0 |
| Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division | 396,400 | 401,500 | -5,100 |
| Peoria MSA | 178,700 | 178,400 | 300 |
| Rockford MSA | 152,000 | 152,300 | -300 |
| Springfield MSA | 112,900 | 112,400 | 500 |
| Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA | 230,500 | 231,400 | -900 |
| Illinois Statewide | 5,949,700 | 5,951,300 | -1,600 |

*Preliminary **Revised

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

| | Dec-15 | Dec-14 | Over the Year Change |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Rockford MSA | | | |
| Boone County | 7.2% | 6.8% | 0.4 |
| Winnebago County | 7.2% | 6.9% | 0.3 |
| Cities | | | |
| Belvidere City | 9.5% | 8.5% | 1.0 |
| Freeport City | 7.1% | 7.4% | -0.3 |
| Rockford City | 8.5% | 7.9% | 0.6 |
| Counties | | | |
| Bureau County | 7.1% | 6.7% | 0.4 |
| Carroll County | 5.6% | 5.3% | 0.3 |
| DeKalb County | 5.7% | 5.5% | 0.2 |
| Henry County | 6.7% | 6.1% | 0.6 |
| JoDaviess County | 6.4% | 5.6% | 0.8 |
| Kane County | 6.2% | 6.1% | 0.1 |
| Lee County | 5.6% | 5.7% | -0.1 |
| McHenry County | 5.3% | 5.2% | 0.1 |
| Ogle County | 6.7% | 6.8% | -0.1 |
| Stephenson County | 6.5% | 6.5% | 0.0 |
| Whiteside County | 6.4% | 6.3% | 0.1 |

Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December 2015 was 6.5 percent, unchanged from December 2014. For the month of December 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,400.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-175) compared to a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+100) added the most jobs from December 2014. Financial Activities (-125), Leisure-Hospitality (-75), and Manufacturing (-75) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Rockford MSA Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 4,700 positions in December and approximately 87 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 advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.2 percent in December 2015 from 6.9 percent in December 2014 as the number of people employed and unemployed in the labor force increased from a year ago. For the month of December, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 12,300.

Total nonfarm employment decreased (-300) compared to December 2014. Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400), Government (+100), Leisure-Hospitality (+100), and Educational-Health Services (+100) reported payroll gains. Retail Trade (-700), Construction (-200), and Manufacturing (-100) industries recorded the largest declines compared to one year ago.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.7 percent in December 2015 from 6.8 percent in December 2014. The last time the December rate was equal to or lower was in 2006 when it was 4.8 percent. For the month of December 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,700.

Total nonfarm employment increased (+50) compared to December 2014. The Manufacturing (+100) and Construction (+50) sectors added the most jobs over the year. The Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-75) and Educational-Health Services (-50) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

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.