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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Increase in All Metro Areas

Illinois continues to lag behind nation in job growth despite jobs increase

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	February 2016	February 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	6.3%	5.0%	1.3
Carbondale-Marion	7.2%	6.0%	1.2
Champaign-Urbana	6.2%	5.4%	0.8
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	6.7%	6.5%	0.2
Danville	8.4%	7.4%	1.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	6.8%	6.1%	0.7
Decatur	8.2%	7.4%	0.8
Elgin	7.1%	6.4%	0.7
Kankakee	8.1%	7.4%	0.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	6.7%	6.1%	0.6
Peoria	8.1%	6.7%	1.4
Rockford	8.0%	7.2%	0.8
Springfield	6.3%	5.7%	0.6
St. Louis (IL-Section)	7.2%	6.4%	0.8
Illinois Statewide	7.0%	6.5%	0.5

** Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO—Unemployment rates increased in all of the metro areas compared to last year, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The increase in the unemployment rate in most metropolitan areas is partially due to more people looking for work.

“Illinois’ overall job growth rate remains among the slowest in the country and metro area unemployment rates continue to rise, even with an increase in jobs in February,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Structural reforms will provide the resources we need to more effectively build a stronger workforce and help communities towards achieving economic stability.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Lake-Kenosha (+2.3 percent, +8,800), Rockford (+2.1 percent, +3,100), and Champaign (+1.9, +2,000). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.7 percent or +62,100). Illinois businesses lost jobs in six metro areas including Bloomington (-1.9 percent, -1,800), the Quad Cities (-1.2 percent, -2,100), and Carbondale-Marion (-0.9 percent, -500). The industry

sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Retail (11 of 14), Education and Health Services (11 of 14), Government (10 of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (nine of 14), Professional and Business Services (eight of 14), and Other Services (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares February 2016 with February 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 7.0 percent in February 2016 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 February 2016 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) – February 2016

Metropolitan Area	February 2016*	February 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	93,500	95,300	-1,800
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,400	56,900	-500
Champaign-Urbana MSA	109,800	107,800	2,000
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,623,500	3,561,400	62,100
Danville MSA	29,000	29,200	-200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	177,800	179,900	-2,100
Decatur MSA	49,900	50,200	-300
Elgin Metro Division	250,600	246,100	4,500
Kankakee MSA	44,600	43,800	800
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	397,100	388,300	8,800
Peoria MSA	175,000	175,600	-600
Rockford MSA	150,700	147,600	3,100
Springfield MSA	111,400	110,000	1,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	234,000	230,000	4,000
Illinois Statewide	5,888,100	5,819,900	68,200

**Preliminary **Revised*

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

	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Over- the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA			
DeWitt County	7.5%	6.1%	1.4
McLean County	6.2%	4.9%	1.3
Peoria MSA			
Marshall County	8.9%	7.1%	1.8
Peoria County	8.2%	7.0%	1.2
Stark County	9.3%	7.6%	1.7
Tazewell County	8.0%	6.5%	1.5
Woodford County	7.1%	5.5%	1.6
Ottawa-Streator Area			
Bureau County	8.1%	7.3%	0.8
LaSalle County	8.6%	7.5%	1.1
Putnam County	7.7%	7.4%	0.3
Galesburg Area			
Knox County	7.8%	6.6%	1.2
Warren County	6.9%	5.7%	1.2
Cities			
Bloomington City	6.2%	5.1%	1.1
Galesburg City	8.0%	6.5%	1.5
Normal City	5.9%	4.6%	1.3
Pekin City	9.1%	7.7%	1.4
Peoria City	8.2%	6.8%	1.4
Counties			
Fulton County	9.4%	8.3%	1.1
Henderson County	8.4%	6.7%	1.7
Henry County	7.8%	6.7%	1.1
Livingston County	6.9%	5.8%	1.1
Logan County	6.9%	6.0%	0.9
Mason County	8.3%	7.6%	0.7

Pontiac Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.9 percent in February 2016 from 5.8 percent in February 2015. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by (+125). Manufacturing (+100) increased while Construction (-50) reported the largest loss. All other sectors were stable compared to a year ago.

Note:

Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2016, 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.

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Central Illinois Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 9,000 positions in February and approximately 85 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.

Bloomington MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.3 percent in February 2016 from 5.0 percent in February 2015. There were an estimated 6,200 unemployed people in the labor force in February 2016.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment declined by (-1,800). Job gains were reported in Financial Activities (+600), Educational and Health Services (+300), Retail Trade (+200), and Other Services (+100). Declines were led by Manufacturing (-900), Professional and Business Services (-800), Government (-500), Construction (-400), and Transportation and Warehousing (-200). All other major industry sectors were little changed compared to a year ago.

Peoria MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.1 percent in February 2016 from 6.7 percent in February 2015. There were an estimated 15,000 unemployed people in the labor force in February.

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by (-600) compared to February 2015. Job gains were reported in Retail Trade (+900), Leisure and Hospitality (+700), Government (+400), Wholesale Trade (+300), and Professional and Business Services (+100). Declines were reported in Manufacturing (-2,400), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (-300), Educational and Health Services (-200), and Other Services (-100).

Ottawa-Streator Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.5 percent in February 2016 from 7.5 percent in February 2015. Nonfarm payrolls increased (+175) from a year ago. The largest gains occurred in Government (+175) and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+125). Leisure and Hospitality (-175), and Educational and Health Services (-125) had the largest declines over the year.

Galesburg Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.8 percent in February 2016 from 6.6 percent in February 2015. Nonfarm payroll employment was (+225) higher than last year. Leisure and Hospitality (+100), Government (+100), Educational and Health Services (+75), and Other Services (+75), and Financial Activities (+50) added jobs. Losses were reported in Professional and Business Services (-200), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (-75), and Information (-25).