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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
Carbondale-Marion MSA	7.2%	6.0%	1.2
Jackson County	6.7%	5.7%	1.0
Williamson County	7.7%	6.2%	1.5
Other Area Counties			
Alexander County	9.7%	8.5%	1.2
Franklin County	9.9%	8.1%	1.8
Johnson County	10.3%	8.7%	1.6
Massac County	8.0%	7.6%	0.4
Perry County	8.3%	7.6%	0.7
Pulaski County	11.3%	8.9%	2.4
Randolph County	6.3%	5.9%	0.4
Union County	9.8%	8.3%	1.5
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	9.5%	6.6%	2.9
Hamilton County	7.6%	5.8%	1.8
Hardin County	9.8%	8.1%	1.7
Pope County	8.0%	6.8%	1.2
Saline County	10.3%	7.1%	3.2
White County	7.9%	5.8%	2.1
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	7.8%	6.8%	1.0
Lawrence County	8.1%	7.3%	0.8
Richland County	7.7%	6.4%	1.3
Wabash County	7.3%	5.9%	1.4
Wayne County	10.0%	7.1%	2.9

Southern Illinois Highlights

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in February 2016 in the Carbondale-Marion Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jackson and Williamson Counties). In February 2015, the jobless rate was 6.0 percent. Unemployment increased throughout Southern Illinois when compared to one year ago. Seasonal layoffs affected the workforce conditions at the beginning of 2016.

Over the year, employment increased in Retail and Wholesale Trade. Health Care Services and Transportation continued to add workers. Payroll gains were also reported in Professional-Business Services. Temporary layoffs in Construction and Leisure-Hospitality prevailed during the winter months. Recent layoffs were reported in Mining and Manufacturing. Government payrolls continued to decrease in Southern Illinois.

Numerous employment opportunities were available in Health Care, Transportation, and Sales in the winter of 2016. Job openings were advertised in Office and Administrative Support, Management, and Food Preparation occupations. Career prospects were favorable in Business and Finance, Engineering, and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair. Workers were also needed for Production, Health Care Support, and Social Services.

The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and seeking employment. A person who exhausts benefits, or is ineligible, still will be reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

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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