



Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Jeff Mays, Director

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Metro Area Job Data Mixed

### *Unemployment Rates Increase in All Metro Areas*

#### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	March 2016	March 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	6.0%	4.6%	1.4
Carbondale-Marion	7.0%	5.8%	1.2
Champaign-Urbana	5.8%	4.8%	1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	6.6%	6.0%	0.6
Danville	8.4%	6.8%	1.6
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	6.5%	5.7%	0.8
Decatur	7.9%	6.9%	1.0
Elgin	6.8%	6.0%	0.8
Kankakee	7.7%	6.9%	0.8
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	6.5%	5.8%	0.7
Peoria	7.7%	6.2%	1.5
Rockford	7.7%	6.8%	0.9
Springfield	6.0%	5.2%	0.8
St. Louis (IL-Section)	6.8%	5.9%	0.9
Illinois Statewide	6.8%	6.0%	0.8

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO**—All metropolitan areas in Illinois experienced over the year unemployment rate increases for the second consecutive month, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

“Unemployment rates increased in more than half of the metro areas even though they experienced job growth,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “The increase in the unemployment rate was largely due to more people entering the labor force”

Illinois businesses added jobs in just eight metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Lake-Kenosha (+2.5 percent, +9,900), Rockford (+2.4 percent, +3,600), and Elgin (+2.3, +5,600). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.8 percent or +65,500). Illinois businesses lost jobs in six metro areas including Bloomington (-2.3 percent, -2,200), Danville (-0.7 percent, -200), and the Quad Cities (-0.7 percent, -1,200). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Education and Health Services (13 of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (11 of 14), Retail (10 of 14), Government (10 of 14), Mining and Construction (nine of 14),

Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (nine of 14), Professional and Business Services (nine of 14), and Other Services (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares March 2016 with March 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 6.8 percent in March 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 5.1 percent in March 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) – March 2016

Metropolitan Area	March 2016*	March 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	93,200	95,400	-2,200
Carbondale-Marion MSA	56,900	57,000	-100
Champaign-Urbana MSA	111,100	108,900	2,200
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,647,800	3,582,300	65,500
Danville MSA	29,300	29,500	-200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,600	180,800	-1,200
Decatur MSA	50,500	50,600	-100
Elgin Metro Division	253,600	248,000	5,600
Kankakee MSA	44,900	44,200	700
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	401,400	391,500	9,900
Peoria MSA	176,000	176,200	-200
Rockford MSA	151,800	148,200	3,600
Springfield MSA	112,500	110,600	1,900
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	235,000	231,900	3,100
Illinois Statewide	5,932,300	5,853,200	79,100

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

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

	<b>March 2016</b>	<b>March 2015</b>	<b>Over-the- Year Change</b>
<b>Carbondale-Marion MSA</b>	7.0%	5.8%	1.2
Jackson County	6.4%	5.4%	1.0
Williamson County	7.5%	6.1%	1.4
<b>Other Area Counties</b>			
Alexander County	9.0%	8.0%	1.0
Franklin County	9.6%	7.7%	1.9
Johnson County	10.4%	8.5%	1.9
Massac County	7.9%	7.0%	0.9
Perry County	7.9%	7.0%	0.9
Pulaski County	10.6%	8.0%	2.6
Randolph County	5.9%	5.2%	0.7
Union County	9.5%	8.0%	1.5
<b>Harrisburg Area</b>			
Gallatin County	9.7%	6.0%	3.7
Hamilton County	7.7%	5.4%	2.3
Hardin County	9.3%	7.4%	1.9
Pope County	7.8%	6.0%	1.8
Saline County	10.2%	6.8%	3.4
White County	7.7%	5.7%	2.0
<b>Olney - Mt. Carmel Area</b>			
Edwards County	7.3%	6.4%	0.9
Lawrence County	8.1%	6.8%	1.3
Richland County	7.5%	5.9%	1.6
Wabash County	6.7%	5.6%	1.1
Wayne County	9.5%	6.9%	2.6

**Southern Illinois Highlights**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.0 percent in March 2016 in the Carbondale-Marion Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jackson and Williamson Counties). In March 2015, the unemployment rate was 5.8 percent. Unemployment increased throughout Southern Illinois when compared to one year ago. Seasonal layoffs affected the workforce conditions in the first three months of 2016.

Over the year, employment advances were reported in Retail Trade and Health Care Services. Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade firms added workers. Payroll gains were also reported in Professional-Business Services and Financial Activities. As weather conditions improved, hiring increased for Construction and Leisure-Hospitality jobs. Mining and Government payrolls continued to decrease in Southern Illinois.

Numerous employment opportunities were available in Health Care, Transportation, and Sales in early spring 2016. Job openings were advertised in Office and Administrative Support, Management, and Food Preparation occupations. Career prospects were favorable in Social Services, Business and Financial, Education, and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair. Workers were also needed for Production, Health Care Support, and Building and Ground Maintenance.

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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