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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rate Remains Above National Average in All but Two Metro Areas *Job Growth Remains Mixed in the Metro Areas*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.1%	4.9%	0.2
Carbondale-Marion	5.9%	6.0%	-0.1
Champaign-Urbana	5.1%	5.4%	-0.3
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.4%	5.6%	-0.2
Danville	7.1%	7.3%	-0.2
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.6%	5.3%	0.3
Decatur	6.7%	7.3%	-0.6
Elgin	5.1%	5.6%	-0.5
Kankakee	6.1%	6.7%	-0.6
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.8%	5.1%	-0.3
Peoria	6.2%	6.5%	-0.3
Rockford	6.3%	7.0%	-0.7
Springfield	4.6%	5.1%	-0.5
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.7%	6.2%	-0.5
Illinois Statewide	5.5%	5.8%	-0.3

** Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO—Again this month, twelve of Illinois’ metropolitan (metro) areas experienced decreases in their over-the-year unemployment rate and eight of the metro areas had increases in nonfarm jobs, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).”

“Job growth is primarily confined to metro areas north of the I-80 corridor and even though it is growth, it is anemic growth when compared to other major metro areas across the country such as New York, Los Angeles and Dallas,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “And many of the Downstate metros still haven’t fully recovered from the recession.”

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metro areas, in which the largest increases were seen in: Rockford (+2.2 percent, +3,400), Lake-Kenosha (+1.5 percent, +6,300), and Elgin (+1.3 percent, +3,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.3 percent or +46,800). Illinois businesses lost jobs in six metro areas including the Quad Cities (-3.2 percent, -5,900), Bloomington (-2.5 percent, -2,400),

and Carbondale-Marion (-2.3 percent, -1,300). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas were: Retail Trade (10 of 14), Professional and Business Services (eight of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares August 2016 with August 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.5 percent in August 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 5.0 percent in August 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) – August 2016

Metropolitan Area	Aug. 2016*	Aug. 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	91,900	94,300	-2,400
Carbondale-Marion MSA	55,700	57,000	-1,300
Champaign-Urbana MSA	104,300	103,200	1,100
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,724,200	3,677,400	46,800
Danville MSA	28,900	29,100	-200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,500	185,400	-5,900
Decatur MSA	50,800	51,700	-900
Elgin Metro Division	259,800	256,400	3,400
Kankakee MSA	45,000	44,500	500
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	419,500	413,200	6,300
Peoria MSA	177,700	179,500	-1,800
Rockford MSA	155,800	152,400	3,400
Springfield MSA	117,400	116,500	900
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	234,700	234,000	700
Illinois Statewide	6,022,900	5,985,600	37,300

**Preliminary **Revised*

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

	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Over-the- Year Change
Carbondale-Marion MSA	5.9%	6.0%	-0.1
Jackson County	5.5%	5.6%	-0.1
Williamson County	6.2%	6.3%	-0.1
Other Area Counties			
Alexander County	9.5%	8.4%	1.1
Franklin County	8.0%	8.5%	-0.5
Johnson County	8.3%	8.4%	-0.1
Massac County	7.4%	7.5%	-0.1
Perry County	6.9%	7.1%	-0.2
Pulaski County	8.6%	9.2%	-0.6
Randolph County	4.8%	5.5%	-0.7
Union County	7.1%	7.2%	-0.1
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	7.6%	7.5%	0.1
Hamilton County	6.1%	5.5%	0.6
Hardin County	8.1%	8.2%	-0.1
Pope County	6.8%	7.7%	-0.9
Saline County	8.1%	8.0%	0.1
White County	6.2%	6.1%	0.1
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	5.2%	5.6%	-0.4
Lawrence County	7.6%	7.2%	0.4
Richland County	5.8%	6.0%	-0.2
Wabash County	6.5%	5.7%	0.8
Wayne County	8.4%	6.9%	1.5

Southern Illinois Highlights

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in August 2016 in the Carbondale-Marion Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jackson and Williamson Counties). In August 2015, the jobless rate was 6.0 percent. Stable labor market conditions prevailed in the summer of 2016 in Southern Illinois.

Over the year, employment gains were reported in Retail Trade, Health Care Services, and Transportation. Employment advances also occurred in Professional-Business Services. Employment expansions this summer were reported in Construction, Recreation, and Hospitality. Mining and Manufacturing layoffs this year have setback economic conditions in some counties. Information and Government payrolls steadily declined in Southern Illinois.

Employment opportunities were available in Health Care, Transportation, and Sales in late summer of 2016. Job openings were advertised in Office and Administrative Support, Management, and Food Preparation occupations. Career prospects were favorable in Social Services, Business and Finance, and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair. Workers were also needed for Production, Health Care Support, Construction, and Building and Grounds 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 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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