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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Down, Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in January

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Area	January 2025*	January 2024**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.0%	4.1%	-0.1
Champaign-Urbana	4.0%	4.7%	-0.7
Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg	5.0%	4.7%	0.3
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (IL Section)	6.1%	6.3%	-0.2
Decatur	6.0%	6.7%	-0.7
Elgin	5.2%	6.2%	-1.0
Kankakee	6.3%	7.5%	-1.2
Lake	5.5%	6.6%	-1.1
Peoria	5.5%	6.0%	-0.5
Rockford	5.8%	7.1%	-1.3
Springfield	4.6%	5.0%	-0.4
St. Louis (IL Section)	4.2%	4.9%	-0.7
Illinois Statewide	5.0%	5.2%	-0.2
* Preliminary ** Revised			

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, the unemployment rate decreased in eleven metro areas and increased in one for the year ending January 2025, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES). Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in six metropolitan areas, decreased in five, and was unchanged in one.

“As unemployment decreased over the last year in most metro areas and payroll remains steady, Illinois continues to prioritize region-specific support for jobseekers through local workforce partners,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Illinois also remains laser-focused on investing in our incomparable workforce and creating a positive business environment to bolster economic opportunity in every corner of the state.”

The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Elgin Metro Division (+2.2%, +6,200), the Peoria MSA (+1.8%, +3,000), and the Rockford MSA (+1.5%, +2,200). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg Metro

Division were up +19,000 (+0.5%). The metro areas which posted the largest over-the-year decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Illinois section of the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (-1.1%, -1,000), the Champaign-Urbana MSA (-1.0%, -1,200), and the Decatur MSA (-0.6%, -300). Total nonfarm jobs were unchanged in the Bloomington MSA. Industries that saw job growth in the majority of the twelve metro areas included: Private Education and Health Services (eleven areas); Government (nine areas); and Mining and Construction and Retail Trade (seven areas each).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate decreases were the Rockford MSA (-1.3 points to 5.8%), the Kankakee MSA (-1.2 points to 6.3%), and the Lake County Metro (-1.1 points to 5.5%). The Chicago Metro Division reported the only increase (+0.3 point to 5.0%).

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – January 2025

Metropolitan Area	January 2025*	January 2024**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	93,200	93,200	0
Champaign-Urbana	115,300	116,500	-1,200
Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg	3,739,900	3,720,900	19,000
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (IL Section)	86,000	87,000	-1,000
Decatur	46,400	46,700	-300
Elgin	291,000	284,800	6,200
Kankakee	42,100	42,300	-200
Lake	336,900	336,700	200
Peoria	170,300	167,300	3,000
Rockford	144,800	142,600	2,200
Springfield	109,900	109,100	800
St. Louis (IL Section)	235,800	236,200	-400
Illinois Statewide	6,040,500	6,002,300	38,200
*Preliminary **Revised			

The number and composition of metropolitan statistical areas for each state are determined by federal census data. As a result of data derived from the 2020 federal census, Illinois' metropolitan statistical areas have shifted from 14 to 12, with the prior metropolitan statistical areas of Carbondale and Danville reclassified as micropolitan statistical areas. [Micropolitan statistical area data can be found here.](#)

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

Labor Market Area	Jan 2025	Jan 2024	Over-the- Year Change
Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg, IL Metro Division			
Cook County	5.2%	4.8%	0.4
DuPage County	4.0%	3.8%	0.2
Grundy County	6.1%	5.9%	0.2
McHenry County	4.8%	4.5%	0.3
Will County	5.2%	4.9%	0.3
Elgin, IL Metro Division			
DeKalb County	4.9%	5.8%	-0.9
Kane County	5.4%	6.4%	-1.0
Kendall County	4.6%	5.5%	-0.9
Lake County, IL Metro Division			
Lake County	5.5%	6.6%	-1.1
Kankakee, IL MSA			
Kankakee County	6.3%	7.5%	-1.2
Cities			
Aurora City	5.1%	5.6%	-0.5
Chicago City	5.2%	4.8%	0.4
Elgin City	7.7%	8.5%	-0.8
Joliet City	6.7%	6.3%	0.4
Kankakee City	8.3%	10.3%	-2.0
Naperville City	3.5%	3.3%	0.2

Kankakee, IL MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.3 percent in January 2025 from 7.5 percent in January 2024.

Total nonfarm employment decreased -200 compared to January 2023. The Private Education-Health Services (+200) sector had the only payroll gain over-the-year. The Wholesale Trade (-200), Professional-Business Services (-100) and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-100) sectors had employment declines from a year ago.

Note: Monthly 2024 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2025, as required by the U.S. 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.

Disclaimer: The data contained in the metro area employment numbers press releases are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore are subject to seasonal fluctuations due to factors such as changes in weather, harvests, major holidays and school schedules. Current monthly metro data should be compared to the same month from prior years (January 2025 data compared to January 2024 data) as data for these months have similar seasonal patterns. Comparisons should not be made to data for the immediate previous month or other previous non-matching months, as any changes in the data within these time periods may be the result of seasonal fluctuations and not economic factors.

**Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg, IL Metro
Division**

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.0 percent in January 2025 from 4.7 percent in January 2024.

Total nonfarm employment increased +19,000 compared to January 2024. The Private Education-Health Services (+21,200), Government (+7,300), Leisure-Hospitality (7,100), Other Services (+3,100) and Financial Activities (+2,300) sectors had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Professional-Business Services (-14,200), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-3,800), Wholesale Trade (-3,000), Retail Trade (-1,100) and Manufacturing (-800) sectors had employment declines from a year ago.

Elgin, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.2 percent in January 2025 from 6.2 percent in January 2024.

Total nonfarm employment increased +6,200 compared to January 2024. The Private Education-Health Services (+2,500), Government (+2,200), Retail Trade (+1,200) and Other Services (+600) sectors had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Leisure-Hospitality (-1,300), Professional-Business Services (-600) and Wholesale Trade (-100) sectors had employment declines from a year ago.

Lake County, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent in January 2025 from 6.6 percent in January 2024.

Total nonfarm employment increased +200 compared to January 2023. The Private Education-Health Services (+2,200), Government (+1,100), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400) and Manufacturing (+100) sectors had payroll gains over-the-year. The Retail (-1,300), Financial Activities (-1,100), Leisure-Hospitality (-400), Professional-Business Services (-400), Wholesale Trade (-200) and Construction (-200) sectors had the largest employment declines from a year ago.