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NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Payroll Jobs Reach Record High for Second Month in a Row *Three Months of Consecutive Job Growth, Unemployment Rate Unchanged*

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today nonfarm payrolls increased +4,100 (+0.1%) over-the-month to a new record high of 6,172,500 in April. The previous record was set in last month, with 6,168,400 jobs. Additionally, the March monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report of +14,800 to +10,900.

The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.8 percent in April, while the revised unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, unchanged from the preliminary March unemployment rate. The April payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

The industry sectors with the largest over-the-month job increases included: Government (+2,700), Private Education and Health Services (+1,700), and Leisure and Hospitality (+1,500). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll job decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-1,400), Manufacturing (-1,200) and Other Services (-500).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +36,100 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+18,200), Government (+16,800), and Leisure and Hospitality (+10,300). The industry groups with jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-11,500), and Manufacturing (-5,300). In April, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.6 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.2 percent in the nation.

“Illinois’ labor market continues to demonstrate strength and value for both jobseekers and employers despite continued uncertainty from the federal government and economic headwinds,” **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “With three consecutive months of job growth and two months of record-breaking payrolls, the state’s economy has continued to show stability and resiliency.”

“Consistent record high job growth throughout the state is a prime example of DCEO’s commitment to bolstering the state’s economic ecosystem,” **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “Through continuously investing in and prioritizing our state’s world-class workforce, Illinois remains the best place to live, work and do business.”

The number of unemployed workers was 321,700, up +0.1% from the prior month, and down -4.0 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was nearly unchanged (0.0%) over-the-month and up +0.4 percent over-the-year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

IDES helps connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring in a number of ways, including hosting and co-hosting job fairs and hiring events with statewide workforce partners, and through maintaining [Illinois JobLink](#) (IJL), the state’s largest job search engine. IJL is a tool used by jobseekers to look for work, and by employers who can post open and available positions for hire and browse resumes. Recently, IJL showed 60,794 posted resumes with 71,544 jobs available. Additionally, in partnership with IDOL and DCEO, IDES published resources to [assist federal employees and contractors](#) impacted by recent terminations or deferred resignations.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Apr-25	Mar-25	Apr-24	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.8%	4.8%	5.1%	4.8%	0.0	-0.3
U.S.	4.2%	4.2%	3.9%	4.2%	0.0	0.3

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Apr-25 Current *	Mar-25 Prior month**	Apr-24 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,172,500	6,168,400	6,136,400	4,100	36,100	6,166,100	5,300
IL - Mining	7,300	7,300	7,200	0	100	7,300	0
IL - Construction	237,100	236,500	236,000	600	1,100	236,700	1,300
IL - Manufacturing	573,900	575,100	579,200	-1,200	-5,300	573,900	200
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,226,400	1,226,700	1,224,800	-300	1,600	1,226,100	2,000
IL - Information	92,300	92,200	91,200	100	1,100	92,500	-200
IL - Financial Activities	395,200	394,300	393,800	900	1,400	394,800	-100
IL - Professional and Business Services	917,000	918,400	928,500	-1,400	-11,500	917,700	600
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,007,100	1,005,400	988,900	1,700	18,200	1,005,700	200
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	609,100	607,600	598,800	1,500	10,300	606,900	400
IL - Other Services	249,300	249,800	247,000	-500	2,300	248,900	-300
IL - Government	857,800	855,100	841,000	2,700	16,800	855,600	1,300
* Preliminary							
**Final							

- Monthly 1976-2024 seasonally adjusted labor force data for Illinois, and all other states, have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The monthly historical revisions to state labor force estimates reflect new national benchmark controls, state working-age population controls, outlier specifications, seasonal factors, as well as updated total nonfarm jobs and unemployment benefits claims inputs. Illinois labor force data were also smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, the comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous news releases/materials may no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg Metropolitan Division are available [here](#).
- Monthly 2020-2024 seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment data for Illinois have been revised. To control for potential survey error, the estimates are benchmarked annually to universal counts derived primarily from unemployment insurance tax reports.
- Not seasonally adjusted jobs data with industry detail are available [here](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted data for subsectors within industries are not available.

About the Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides vital employment services to Illinois workers, jobseekers, and employers with resources including [Job Fairs](#), [IllinoisJobLink.com](#), and [Workshares IL](#), analyzes and disseminates actionable [Labor Market Information](#), and administers the [Unemployment Insurance Program](#). To see the full range of services provided by IDES, and for the latest news concerning the department, visit [IDES.Illinois.gov](#).

Disclaimer on statewide data: The data contained in the statewide press releases are seasonally adjusted, which eliminates seasonal fluctuations in monthly employment data. Many economic data series have seasonal patterns, which means they tend to occur at the same time each year. For example, construction employment declines in winter, tourism employment rises in summer, and retail employment peaks in January. Seasonal adjustment helps to describe the underlying economic trends in the monthly data. When data are seasonally adjusted, as are the data in this release, the seasonal adjustment permits comparisons of data from one month to the next (January 2025 data compared to December 2024 data).