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NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Payroll Jobs Hold Steady, Unemployment Rate Unchanged in May

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today nonfarm payrolls were nearly unchanged over-the-month, up +100 (0.0%) to 6,166,100 in May. Additionally, the April monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +4,100 to -2,400.

The unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in May, while the revised April unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, unchanged from the preliminary April unemployment rate. The May 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: Professional and Business Services (+1,900), Financial Activities (+1,600), and Leisure and Hospitality (+1,100). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll job decreases included: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-2,800), Government (-2,400), and Private Education and Health Services (-200).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +21,200 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+16,100), Leisure and Hospitality (+7,800), and Government (+7,000). The industry groups with jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-8,600), Manufacturing (-5,300), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-5,000). In May, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.3 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.1 percent in the nation.

“Amid continued challenges and changes in economic policies on the federal level, Illinois’ labor market remained stable in May,” **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “The state’s steady economic performance provides a reliable foundation for businesses and workers as they navigate changing conditions.”

“A steady labor market is a testament to the state's strength and commitment to creating economic growth and opportunity for all Illinoisans,” **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “DCEO is dedicated to prioritizing investments in our workforce to help bolster Illinois' economy.”

The number of unemployed workers was 318,600, down -1.0% from the prior month, and down -5.9 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force decreased (-0.2%) over-the-month and was almost unchanged (0.0%) 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 59,637 posted resumes with 67,400 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

	May-25	Apr-25	May-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%	4.0%	4.2%	0.0	0.2

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	May-25 Current *	Apr-25 Prior month**	May-24 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,166,100	6,166,000	6,144,900	100	21,200	6,166,800	2,800
IL - Mining	7,300	7,200	7,000	100	300	7,300	0
IL - Construction	237,200	236,500	235,700	700	1,500	236,700	200
IL - Manufacturing	573,800	573,600	579,100	200	-5,300	574,200	400
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,220,300	1,223,100	1,225,300	-2,800	-5,000	1,223,400	-1,600
IL - Information	92,700	92,700	90,500	0	2,200	92,500	-100
IL - Financial Activities	398,400	396,800	394,700	1,600	3,700	396,500	1,200
IL - Professional and Business Services	918,700	916,800	927,300	1,900	-8,600	918,000	400
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,007,100	1,007,300	991,000	-200	16,100	1,006,600	800
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	608,700	607,600	600,900	1,100	7,800	608,000	1,600
IL - Other Services	249,100	249,200	247,600	-100	1,500	249,400	500
IL - Government	852,800	855,200	845,800	-2,400	7,000	854,400	-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 [Workshare 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).