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NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Unemployment Rate Stable, Payroll Nearly Unchanged in September *Release of September Data Delayed Due to 43-Day Federal Government Shutdown*

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that total nonfarm payrolls were nearly unchanged over-the-month in September, down -2,200 (0.0%) to 6,162,600. The August monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from -13,300 to -2,200.

The industry sectors with the largest over-the-month jobs increases included: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+1,200), Information (+1,200), Leisure and Hospitality (+900), and Other Services (+900). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll jobs decreases included: Private Education and Health Services (-3,600), Government (-2,100), and Financial Activities (-600).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +24,400 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Government (+23,000), Private Education and Health Services (+12,700), and Information (+5,800). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-10,600), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-10,500), and Manufacturing (-4,300). In September, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.4 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +0.8 percent in the nation.

The unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in September, unchanged from the previous month, based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The revised August unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.4 percent. The September payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

“While Illinois payrolls remain largely unchanged, these figures reflect the ongoing challenges created by prolonged federal uncertainty and the recent 43-day government shutdown, which disrupted the timely release of economic data and complicated planning for businesses,” **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “The State of Illinois will continue to focus on strategic investments that support workers, businesses, and economic opportunity across the state.”

“DCEO remains steadfast in our commitment to supporting Illinois’ world-class workforce and expanding job opportunities across the state,” **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “Through ongoing investments in strategic workforce initiatives and a wide range of economic development resources, we are dedicated to strengthening communities and helping Illinoisans thrive.”

The number of unemployed persons was 287,000, down -1.9% from the prior month, and down -13.4% over the same month one year ago. The labor force decreased -0.2% over-the-month and was down -1.2% 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 60,277 posted resumes with 68,287 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

	Sep-25	Aug-25	Sep-24	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.4%	4.4%	5.0%	4.5%	0.0	-0.6
U.S.	4.4%	4.3%	4.1%	4.3%	0.1	0.3

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Sep-25 Current *	Aug-25 Prior month**	Sep-24 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,162,600	6,164,800	6,138,200	-2,200	24,400	6,164,800	-1,800
IL - Mining	7,100	7,200	7,300	-100	-200	7,200	-100
IL - Construction	240,000	239,500	235,900	500	4,100	239,500	1,100
IL - Manufacturing	572,800	573,100	577,100	-300	-4,300	573,000	-100
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,216,300	1,215,100	1,226,800	1,200	-10,500	1,217,000	-1,200
IL - Information	95,100	93,900	89,300	1,200	5,800	94,100	700
IL - Financial Activities	397,000	397,600	394,500	-600	2,500	397,800	-300
IL - Professional and Business Services	912,700	912,900	923,300	-200	-10,600	913,100	-1,200
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,012,100	1,015,700	999,400	-3,600	12,700	1,015,300	-300
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	606,100	605,200	602,400	900	3,700	604,600	600
IL - Other Services	247,800	246,900	249,600	900	-1,800	247,800	-400
IL - Government	855,600	857,700	832,600	-2,100	23,000	855,500	-700
* 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).