



JB Pritzker, Governor
Raymond P. Marchiori, Director

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Rebecca Cisco | 217.299.8692
rebecca.cisco@illinois.gov

Payroll Jobs Increase, Unemployment Rate Ticks Up in January *Illinois added 18,000 payroll jobs in January*

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in January, up +0.2 percentage point from December, and up +0.2 percentage point from the same month, one year ago, based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The revised December unemployment rate was 4.7 percent.

Total nonfarm payrolls increased over-the-month in January, up +18,000 (+0.3%) to 6,166,800, and the largest monthly increase since June 2023. The December monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +11,800 to +11,600. The January payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

The industry sectors with the largest over-the-month jobs increases included: Construction (+13,500), Manufacturing (+8,400), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+1,800). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll jobs decreases included: Private Education and Health Services (-3,500), Financial Activities (-800), and Other Services (-700).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs were up +7,900 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+18,300), Construction (+14,000) and Government (+2,900). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-12,300), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-10,000), and Leisure and Hospitality (-3,300). In January, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.1 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +0.2 percent in the nation.

“January’s strong payroll growth demonstrates Illinois’ economic resilience, with gains in key sectors,” **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “At the same time, the increase in the unemployment rate reflects ongoing federal uncertainty that is weighing on business investment and hiring decisions. We remain focused on maintaining stability and supporting continued job growth across the state.”

"Investing in our state's workforce and economic development initiatives are foundational to DCEO's mission" **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. "The State is committed to creating opportunities for hard working Illinoisans that help us build a strong and sustainable economic ecosystem."

The number of unemployed persons in January was 318,700, up +3.5% from December, and up +1.3% over the same month one year ago. The labor force was almost unchanged (0.0%) from December and 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 53,267 posted resumes with 73,269 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

	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	3-month Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.9%	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	0.2	0.2
U.S.	4.3%	4.4%	4.0%	4.4%	-0.1	0.3

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Jan-26 Current *	Dec-25 Prior month**	Jan-25 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,166,800	6,148,800	6,158,900	18,000	7,900	6,150,900	7,600
IL - Mining	7,100	6,900	6,900	200	200	7,000	0
IL - Construction	250,800	237,300	236,800	13,500	14,000	243,200	3,900
IL - Manufacturing	570,900	562,500	570,900	8,400	0	565,800	2,100
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,215,800	1,214,000	1,225,800	1,800	-10,000	1,215,200	0
IL - Information	90,500	91,000	91,100	-500	-600	90,300	200
IL - Financial Activities	391,000	391,800	393,200	-800	-2,200	391,200	100
IL - Professional and Business Services	899,200	899,800	911,500	-600	-12,300	896,300	1,100
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,034,400	1,037,900	1,016,100	-3,500	18,300	1,035,800	-100
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	603,400	603,400	606,700	0	-3,300	603,100	-600
IL - Other Services	248,000	248,700	247,100	-700	900	248,000	-100
IL - Government	855,700	855,500	852,800	200	2,900	855,000	1,000
* Preliminary							
**Final							

- Monthly 2021-2025 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 2021-2025 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 2026 data compared to December 2025 data).