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NEWS RELEASE

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Payroll Jobs Up, Unemployment Rate Stable in April

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in April, unchanged from March, and up +0.6 percentage point from the same month, one year ago, based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The revised March unemployment rate was 5.1 percent.

Total nonfarm payrolls increased over-the-month in April, up +11,400 (+0.2%) to 6,158,800. The March monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +8,400 to +10,300. The April payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll jobs increases included: Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+4,600), Leisure and Hospitality (+3,300), and Private Education and Health Services (+3,100). The sectors with over-the-month jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-2,400), Financial Activities (-1,400), and Government (-200).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs were down -4,500 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+20,100), Construction (+7,300) and Other Services (+3,100). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-14,300), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-9,900), and Financial Activities (-6,900). In April, total nonfarm payrolls were down -0.1 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +0.2 percent in the nation.

“April’s numbers show continued resilience in parts of Illinois’ economy, with growth in several key sectors,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “At the same time, continued uncertainty coming from the federal government and other mixed economic indicators reinforce the need to continue investing in long-term growth, and maintain the fiscal discipline that has strengthened Illinois’ economic foundation.”

“Illinois’ payroll gains in April are a result of the strategic investments the State of Illinois is making in key industry sectors while supporting our world-class workforce,” said **DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “With a commitment to bolstering economic development, the State will continue to create opportunity as it supports employers and employees throughout Illinois.”

The number of unemployed persons in April was 337,300, up +0.8% from March, and up +12.7% over the same month one year ago. The labor force was down -0.2% from March and down -0.8% 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 58,231 posted resumes with 67,299 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-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	3-month Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	5.1%	5.1%	4.5%	5.1%	0.0	0.6
U.S.	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%	4.3%	0.0	0.1

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Apr-26 Current *	Mar-26 Prior month**	Apr-25 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,158,800	6,147,400	6,163,300	11,400	-4,500	6,147,800	1,300
IL - Mining	7,100	7,000	6,900	100	200	7,000	0
IL - Construction	247,900	246,500	240,600	1,400	7,300	247,000	-1,200
IL - Manufacturing	568,500	567,100	572,900	1,400	-4,400	567,800	-200
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,213,200	1,208,600	1,223,100	4,600	-9,900	1,210,000	200
IL - Information	88,300	87,800	89,900	500	-1,600	87,700	-500
IL - Financial Activities	385,900	387,300	392,800	-1,400	-6,900	387,600	-1,600
IL - Professional and Business Services	896,100	898,500	910,400	-2,400	-14,300	897,100	-800
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,042,700	1,039,600	1,022,600	3,100	20,100	1,037,700	3,400
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	605,400	602,100	604,500	3,300	900	603,100	900
IL - Other Services	249,600	248,600	246,500	1,000	3,100	249,000	500
IL - Government	854,100	854,300	853,100	-200	1,000	853,800	600
* 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).