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NEWS RELEASE

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Payroll Jobs Up for Third Consecutive Month, Unemployment Rate Stable in May

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate remained at 5.1 percent in May, unchanged from April, and up +0.7 percentage point from the same month, one year ago, based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The revised April unemployment rate was 5.1 percent.

Total nonfarm payrolls saw a third consecutive over-the-month increase in May, up +6,000 (+0.1%) to 6,164,800. The April monthly change in payrolls was +11,400, unchanged from the preliminary report. The May 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 (+2,700), Manufacturing (+2,300), and Government (+1,800). The sectors with over-the-month jobs decreases included: Financial Activities (-3,300), and Other Services (-600).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs were down -2,300 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+18,800), Construction (+8,100) and Government (+4,300). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-17,900), Financial Activities (-11,800), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-6,200). In May, total nonfarm payrolls were almost unchanged (0.0%) over-the-year in Illinois and up +0.3 percent in the nation.

"Illinois added jobs for the third consecutive month in May, while the unemployment rate remained stable," **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. "Continued growth in payroll employment, particularly in sectors like manufacturing and transportation, is an encouraging sign that Illinois' economy remains resilient despite ongoing uncertainty coming from Washington. We will continue focusing on the fundamentals that support long-term growth: investing in our workforce, maintaining fiscal stability, and creating an environment where businesses can grow and create jobs."

"The steady increase in payroll jobs highlights the positive impact of investing in the hardworking people of Illinois," **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. "DCEO is committed to building upon this momentum, continuing to implement initiatives and programs that increase economic opportunities across the state."

The number of unemployed persons in May was 336,300, down -0.3% from April, and up +15.3% over the same month one year ago. The labor force was down -0.2% from April 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 59,804 posted resumes with 64,162 jobs available. Additionally, in partnership with IDOL and DCEO, IDES published resources to [assist federal employees and contractors](#) impacted by recent terminations.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	May-26	Apr-26	May-25	3-month Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	5.1%	5.1%	4.4%	5.1%	0.0	0.7
U.S.	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0	0.0

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	May-26 Current *	Apr-26 Prior month**	May-25 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,164,800	6,158,800	6,167,100	6,000	-2,300	6,157,000	9,200
IL - Mining	7,100	7,100	6,900	0	200	7,100	100
IL - Construction	248,500	248,000	240,400	500	8,100	247,700	600
IL - Manufacturing	570,500	568,200	569,200	2,300	1,300	568,600	900
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,217,000	1,214,300	1,223,200	2,700	-6,200	1,213,300	2,900
IL - Information	89,700	88,500	90,300	1,200	-600	88,700	900
IL - Financial Activities	381,900	385,200	393,700	-3,300	-11,800	384,800	-2,600
IL - Professional and Business Services	896,400	896,300	914,300	100	-17,900	897,100	-100
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,042,700	1,042,600	1,023,900	100	18,800	1,041,600	3,900
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	606,400	605,200	606,400	1,200	0	604,600	1,600
IL - Other Services	248,500	249,100	247,000	-600	1,500	248,700	-100
IL - Government	856,100	854,300	851,800	1,800	4,300	854,900	1,100
* 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).