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NEWS RELEASE

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Record High Payroll Jobs, Unemployment Rate Down in July *Payrolls reach record 6,176,400 jobs*

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in July, down -0.2 percentage point from June, 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 June unemployment rate was 5.1 percent.

Total nonfarm payrolls saw a fifth consecutive over-the-month increase in July, up +11,700 (+0.2%) to 6,176,400, a record high. The June monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from +1,500 to +1,800. The July 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: Private Education and Health Services (+6,200), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+3,800), and Professional and Business Services (+3,700). The sectors with over-the-month jobs decreases included: Leisure and Hospitality (-3,800), Financial Activities (-2,200), and Information (-600).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs were up +11,900 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+13,000), Construction (+12,700) and Government (+6,100). The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Financial Activities (-14,500), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-4,500), and Professional and Business Services (-3,600). In July, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.2% over-the-year in Illinois and up +0.2% in the nation.

“Illinois’ economy continues to demonstrate its resilience, reaching a record number of payroll jobs in July despite the uncertainty and economic headwinds created by the federal government,” **said Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Five consecutive months of job growth is encouraging, but we know there is more work ahead. Illinois will continue investing in its workforce, supporting businesses and building an economy that can withstand national challenges.”

“This month's report indicating that Illinois set a new record high number of payroll jobs is a reminder why we must continue investing in our state's biggest asset - our workforce,” **said DCEO Director Kristin Richards**. “DCEO is committed to building upon this momentum and prioritizing public policy and programs that strengthen Illinois' economy.”

The number of unemployed persons in July was 315,700, down -4.3% from June, and up +12.5% over the same month one year ago. The labor force was down -0.4% from June and down -1.0% 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 59,325 posted resumes with 70,314 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

	Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	3-month Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.9%	5.1%	4.3%	5.0%	-0.2	0.6
U.S.	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	4.2%	-0.1	-0.2

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Jul-26 Current *	Jun-26 Prior month**	Jul-25 Year Ago	Over-the- Month	Over-the- Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,176,400	6,164,700	6,164,500	11,700	11,900	6,168,000	5,900
IL - Mining	7,200	7,200	6,900	0	300	7,200	100
IL - Construction	253,800	250,600	241,100	3,200	12,700	251,200	2,000
IL - Manufacturing	571,000	571,000	568,900	0	2,100	571,100	900
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,216,700	1,212,900	1,221,200	3,800	-4,500	1,215,600	800
IL - Information	87,400	88,000	90,200	-600	-2,800	88,300	-300
IL - Financial Activities	378,500	380,700	393,000	-2,200	-14,500	380,300	-2,300
IL - Professional and Business Services	906,200	902,500	909,800	3,700	-3,600	902,100	3,300
IL - Private Education and Health Services	1,042,600	1,036,400	1,029,600	6,200	13,000	1,038,400	0
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	604,900	608,700	605,500	-3,800	-600	607,200	-100
IL - Other Services	250,900	250,100	247,200	800	3,700	250,100	600
IL - Government	857,200	856,600	851,100	600	6,100	856,500	900
* 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).