

Pat Quinn, Governor

Jay Rowell, Director

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Employment Up Over the Year in Most Local Areas

Illinois Has Added 108,100 Jobs Since January 2010, Led Nation in Job Growth in October

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

| Metropolitan Area | Oct. 2011* | Oct. 2010 |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Bloomington-Normal | 7.3% | 7.1% |
| Champaign-Urbana | 8.5% | 8.4% |
| Chicago-Joliet-Naperville | 9.7% | 8.8% |
| Danville | 10.8% | 10.7% |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Isl. | 7.5% | 7.7% |
| Decatur | 10.3% | 10.4% |
| Kankakee-Bradley | 11.3% | 11.8% |
| Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI | 9.0% | 9.2% |
| Peoria | 8.3% | 8.9% |
| Rockford | 12.6% | 13.9% |
| Springfield | 7.7% | 7.3% |
| St. Louis (IL-Section) | 9.5% | 8.8% |

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – In October, the unemployment rate dropped in five metro areas, increased in four, and was essentially unchanged in three areas compared to last year, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The not seasonally adjusted data compares October 2011 to October 2010. The largest declines were in: Rockford (-1.3 points to 12.6 percent), Peoria (-0.6 point to 8.3 percent), and Kankakee-Bradley (-0.5 point to 11.3 percent). The Chicago-Joliet-Naperville metro rate was up +0.9 point to 9.7 percent.

Over the year, payroll jobs increased in 10 of 12 metros. The largest were in Kankakee-Bradley (+6.5 percent, +2,800 jobs), Peoria (+4.3 percent, +7,800), and Quad Cities (+1.7 percent, +3,100). Employment also was up in the Chicago-Joliet-Naperville area (+0.4 percent, +15,700 jobs). Sectors increasing in the most metro areas were Manufacturing and Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (10 each).

In October, Illinois led the nation in job growth with 30,000 seasonally adjusted new jobs. Since January 2010, Illinois has added +108,100 new jobs – the most in the Midwest.

“Year-over-year job growth is encouraging, especially given the challenging pace of this national recovery,” IDES Director Jay Rowell said. “Illinois followed the country into this recession, and if history holds true, Illinois’ recovery will follow the national recovery, as well. Critical to that growth path is consumer confidence and steps at the national level to further support it.”

Not seasonally adjusted data compares the current month to the same month of the previous year. The October 2011 not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 9.5 percent and 12.1 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 8.5 percent in October and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Non-farm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – October 2011

| Metropolitan Area | October 2011* | October 2010** | Over-the-Year Change |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington-Normal MSA | 91,700 | 91,400 | 300 |
| Champaign-Urbana MSA | 108,400 | 111,500 | -3,100 |
| Chicago-Joliet-Naperville Metro Div. | 3,672,900 | 3,657,200 | 15,700 |
| Danville MSA | 28,900 | 29,200 | -300 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA | 182,600 | 179,500 | 3,100 |
| Decatur MSA | 53,200 | 52,900 | 300 |
| Kankakee-Bradley MSA | 45,600 | 42,800 | 2,800 |
| Lake County-Kenosha County Metro Div. | 381,500 | 377,600 | 3,900 |
| Peoria MSA | 188,100 | 180,300 | 7,800 |
| Rockford MSA | 146,600 | 144,800 | 1,800 |
| Springfield MSA | 112,700 | 112,500 | 200 |
| Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA | 233,300 | 232,700 | 600 |

*Preliminary **Revised

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