

Pat Quinn, Governor

Jay Rowell, Director

For Immediate Release  
October 25, 2012

Greg Rivara  
Phone: (312) 814-0095  
www.ides.illinois.gov

## September Unemployment Rates Drop in Every Metro Area *Last Time Rates Were Lower was Pre-Crash in 2008*

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Sept. 2012*	Sept. 2011
Bloomington-Normal	6.7%	7.4%
Champaign-Urbana	7.7%	8.6%
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville	8.0%	10.1%
Danville	10.0%	10.6%
Davenport-Moline-Rock Isl.	6.5%	7.3%
Decatur	10.2%	10.4%
Kankakee-Bradley	10.5%	11.8%
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	8.0%	8.9%
Peoria	7.5%	8.7%
Rockford	11.0%	13.6%
Springfield	7.3%	7.9%
St. Louis (IL-Section)	8.2%	9.4%

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO** –September local unemployment rates fell in every metro area compared to last year, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Not seasonally adjusted data compares September 2012 to September 2011. The largest declines were in: Rockford (-2.6 points to 11.0 percent), Chicago-Joliet-Naperville (-2.1 points to 8.0 percent) and Kankakee-Bradley (-1.3 points to 10.5 percent). The state not seasonally adjusted rate has dropped every month this year.

Payrolls increased in seven metros and fell in five. The largest increases: Rockford (+1.5 percent, +2,200), Kankakee-Bradley (+1.4 percent, +600) and Springfield (+1.0 percent, +1,100). Chicago-Joliet-Naperville also added jobs (+0.9 percent, +34,600 jobs). Sectors increasing in the most metros were Manufacturing (11 of 12), Professional and Business Services (eight of 12) and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 12).

“This month’s report highlights that we have made steady progress in lowering the unemployment rate, but more needs to be done,” IDES Director Jay Rowell said. “Hiring managers need to see consistent, long-term tax policy and spending priorities by the federal government before we will see stronger hiring increases.”

Not seasonally adjusted data compares the current month to the same month of the previous year. The September 2012 not seasonally adjusted Illinois unemployment rate was 8.1 percent and 12.3 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in September 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) – September 2012

Metropolitan Area	September 2012*	September 2011**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington-Normal MSA	90,900	90,600	300
Champaign-Urbana MSA	104,800	104,900	-100
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville Metro Div.	3,702,400	3,667,800	34,600
Danville MSA	28,500	29,100	-600
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	180,600	181,400	-800
Decatur MSA	53,100	53,800	-700
Kankakee-Bradley MSA	43,700	43,100	600
Lake County-Kenosha County Metro Div.	383,100	380,400	2,700
Peoria MSA	184,500	183,200	1,300
Rockford MSA	147,600	145,400	2,200
Springfield MSA	112,200	111,100	1,100
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	232,900	235,300	-2,400

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

- END -

