



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeffrey D. Mays, Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois Unemployment Rate Dips in December

December Jobs Nearly Unchanged

CHICAGO—The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.8 percent in December and nonfarm payrolls increased by +1,500 jobs over-the-month, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. November jobs were revised up to show a slight gain (+3,100 jobs) rather than a slight loss as initially reported (-1,100 jobs).

December's monthly payroll gain kept over-the-year job growth well below the national average. While Illinois job growth has had its ups and downs since the beginning of the year, the 3-month trend shows average gains of +4,700 jobs per month from October to December. This reflects an improvement over the 3-month average gain of +1,500 from September to November.

"The unemployment rate dropped in December, even as the labor force increased in the final quarter of the year," said IDES Director Jeff Mays. "Payrolls overall have now increased by about a half-percent over the year to date, which is an additional 29,600 jobs."

"The fourth quarter trend is certainly promising," said Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Sean McCarthy. "Illinois is beginning to see results from investments made in securing businesses by this administration.

In December, the three industry sectors with the largest gains in employment were: Government (+4,100); Other Services (+2,600); and Construction (+2,200). The three industry sectors with the largest payroll declines were: Professional and Business Services (-3,100); Financial Activities (-2,600) and Education and Health Services (-2,300).

Over-the-year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +29,600 jobs with the largest gains in these industry sectors in December: Financial Activities (+8,700); Manufacturing (+7,700); and Education and Health Services (+6,600). The industry sectors with the largest over-the-year declines include: Government (-4,100); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-2,900); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,400). Illinois nonfarm payrolls were up +0.5 percent over-the-year in sharp contrast to the nation's +1.4 percent over-the-year gain in December.

The state's unemployment rate is +0.7 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for December 2017, which held at 4.1 percent. The Illinois unemployment rate is down -0.9 percentage points from a year ago when it was 5.7 percent. The Illinois jobless rate last stood at 4.8 percent in July.

The number of unemployed workers dipped -1.4 percent from the prior month to 309,200, down -17.1 percent over the same month for the prior year. The labor force increased 0.3 percent over-the-month and declined by -0.6 percent in December over the prior year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and are seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work. Resumes = 62,451 Jobs = 160,623

To help connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring, IDES' maintains the state's largest job search engine, IllinoisJoblink.com (IJL), which recently showed 62,451 posted resumes with 160,023 jobs available.



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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	4.8%	4.9%	5.7%	4.9%	-0.1	-0.9
U.S.	4.1%	4.1%	4.7%	4.1%	0.0	-0.6

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Dec-17 Current *	Nov-17 Prior mnth**	Dec-16 Year Ago	Over the Month	Over the Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	6,050,900	6,049,400	6,021,300	1,500	29,600	6,048,900	4,700
IL - Mining	8,000	8,100	7,800	-100	200	8,000	0
IL - Construction	216,200	214,000	210,400	2,200	5,800	213,800	1,200
IL - Manufacturing	577,600	575,900	569,900	1,700	7,700	575,500	2,100
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,206,600	1,206,800	1,209,500	-200	-2,900	1,206,500	1,600
IL - Information	98,200	98,800	98,000	-600	200	98,300	-200
IL - Financial Activities	393,800	396,400	385,100	-2,600	8,700	396,300	-700
IL - Professional and Business Services	951,500	954,600	945,800	-3,100	5,700	951,300	1,500
IL - Educational and Health Services	924,700	927,000	918,100	-2,300	6,600	927,000	-1,100
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	595,500	595,700	596,900	-200	-1,400	596,100	-300
IL - Other Services	251,300	248,700	248,200	2,600	3,100	250,300	-200
IL - Government	827,500	823,400	831,600	4,100	-4,100	825,800	800

* preliminary
**Final

- Monthly 2012 - 2016 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, 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 Census Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous state news releases/materials might no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available here: [Illinois & Chicago Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates](#)
- Monthly 1990 – 2016 unadjusted and seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll 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 at [Not Seasonally Adjusted Jobs](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: Personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted employment data for subsectors within industries are not available.

About IDES

IDES encourages employment by connecting employers to jobseekers, provides unemployment insurance benefits to eligible individuals, produces labor market data and protects taxpayers from unemployment insurance fraud. Visit the Department’s website at www.ides.illinois.gov for more information. You can also follow IDES on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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