



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeffrey D. Mays, Director

NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment rate unchanged at 5.7% in January

CHICAGO—Illinois’s unemployment rate held at 5.7 percent in January and nonfarm payrolls increased by +1,700 jobs over-the-month, based on preliminary data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and distributed today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). December job growth was revised up to show an increase of +2,000 jobs rather than the preliminary estimate of -16,700 jobs. The modest monthly gain in January payrolls kept job growth well below the national average, with Illinois -31,900 jobs short of its peak employment level reached in September 2000.

Today’s report incorporates annual benchmark revisions for nonfarm payrolls as well as labor force statistics. Nonfarm payrolls were revised higher for 2015 (+28,200 jobs in December) and 2016 (+18,700 jobs in December). Labor force statistics were revised down in 2016 (-60,900 fewer people in December). The average monthly downward revision was -69,400 for the labor force in 2016; and -11,200 for unemployed individuals.

“The BLS revised up the jobs figures for both 2015 and 2016, as we expected due to the additional information based on our wage and employment filings,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Clearly, we’re disappointed that job growth hasn’t been more robust as we are still far behind the peak employment level of nearly 17 years ago.”

“If Illinois had grown at the same rate as the nation since the beginning of the recovery in 2010, we would have an additional 222,700 jobs,” said Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Director Sean McCarthy. “With a balanced budget and structural changes that will create jobs, our economy will be better able to provide opportunities for Illinois families.” In January, the three industry sectors with the largest gains in employment were: Construction (+6,800); Financial Activities (+3,800); and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,700). The largest payroll declines were in the following sectors: Government (-4,000); Leisure and Hospitality (-3,500); and Professional and Business Services (-3,600).

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +15,900 jobs with the largest gains in: Professional and Business Services (+11,700); and Education and Health Services (+9,400). Industry sectors with the largest over-the-year declines in January include: Manufacturing (-10,100); Other Services (-3,300); and Information (-1,700). The +0.3 percent over-the-year gain in Illinois is less than the +1.6 percent gain posted by the nation in January.

The state’s unemployment rate is higher than the national unemployment rate reported for January 2017, which increased to 4.8 percent. The Illinois unemployment rate is down -0.4 percentage points from a year ago when it was 6.1 percent.

The number of unemployed workers increased +0.5 percent from the prior month to 374,800, down -7.0 percent over the same month for the prior year. The labor force increased +0.3 percent over-the-month but declined by -0.6 percent in January 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. To help connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring, IDES’ maintains the state’s largest job search engine IllinoisJoblink.com (IJL). IJL recently showed 69,174 resumes were posted and 170,033 help wanted ads were available.



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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates**

	January 2017	December 2016 *	January 2016 *	3-Month Moving Avg.	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	5.7%	5.7%	6.1%	5.7%	0.0	-0.4
U.S.	4.8%	4.7%	4.9%	4.7%	0.1	-0.1

* Revised

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry**

Industry Title	January* 2017	December** 2016	January 2016	Over the Month Change	Over the Year Change	3-Month Moving Avg.	Change From Previous 3-Month Mov. Avg.
Total Nonfarm	6,023,000	6,021,300	6,007,100	1,700	15,900	6,021,200	100
Mining	8,100	7,800	8,600	300	-500	7,900	100
Construction	217,200	210,400	218,700	6,800	-1,500	213,400	700
Manufacturing	567,300	569,900	577,400	-2,600	-10,100	569,200	-1,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,212,200	1,209,500	1,207,600	2,700	4,600	1,209,100	1,500
Information	97,200	98,000	98,900	-800	-1,700	97,800	-400
Financial Activities	388,900	385,100	382,100	3,800	6,800	385,600	1,900
Professional and Business Services	942,700	945,800	931,000	-3,100	11,700	944,400	500
Educational and Health Services	919,600	918,100	910,200	1,500	9,400	919,300	800
Leisure and Hospitality	593,400	596,900	591,700	-3,500	1,700	595,700	-1,600
Other Services	248,800	248,200	252,100	600	-3,300	248,500	0
Government	827,600	831,600	828,800	-4,000	-1,200	830,300	-1,700

*Preliminary
**Final

Notes:** Please destroy all releases for prior months because data are revised historically. Updated data are available on the IDES Website as indicated on the URLs listed below.

- 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](#).