



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Jeff Mays, Director

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 28, 2015

Anjali Julka
Phone: 312.793.9635

Tom Austin
Phone: 815.395.6680

Illinois Metro Unemployment Rates Continue Dropping *Strong Job Gains in Northern Illinois; Downstate Continues to Struggle*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.9%	4.9%	-1.0
Carbondale-Marion	5.3%	6.3%	-1.0
Champaign-Urbana	4.1%	5.2%	-1.1
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.9%	7.1%	-1.2
Danville	5.9%	8.0%	-2.1
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.0%	5.7%	-0.7
Decatur	5.9%	8.3%	-2.4
Elgin	4.8%	6.5%	-1.7
Kankakee	5.8%	7.9%	-2.1
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.6%	6.1%	-1.5
Peoria	5.3%	6.6%	-1.3
Rockford	5.8%	8.2%	-2.4
Springfield	4.3%	5.3%	-1.0
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.0%	6.5%	-1.5
Illinois Statewide	5.5%	6.8%	-1.3

** Data subject to revision.*

CHICAGO – April was the fourteenth month in a row that unemployment rates fell in every metro area in the state compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Rates also fell in 101 of Illinois's 102 counties. Not seasonally adjusted data compares April 2015 with April 2014.

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros. The largest increases were seen in: Kankakee (+2.7 percent, +1,200), Elgin Metro Division (+2.4 percent, +6,000) and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.4 percent, +49,400). Decreases were seen in: Peoria (-1.7 percent, -3,100), Carbondale-Marion (-1.6 percent, -900) and Decatur (-1.6 percent, -800). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (eleven of 14) and Retail Trade (ten of 14).

"Metro areas in northern Illinois posted strong job gains, while most downstate areas lost ground," IDES Director Jeff Mays said. "Yet even

in areas that lost jobs, there are good jobs going unfilled. We can and must improve on how we connect the unemployed seeking work with employers seeking workers."

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.5 percent in April 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in April 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 Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – April 2015

Metropolitan Area	April 2015*	April 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	94,500	95,800	-1,300
Carbondale-Marion MSA	54,300	55,200	-900
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,500	109,300	1,200
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Div.	3,602,500	3,553,100	49,400
Danville MSA	29,200	28,900	300
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA	183,000	183,100	-100
Decatur MSA	50,100	50,900	-800
Elgin Metro Division	252,900	246,900	6,000
Kankakee MSA	44,900	43,700	1,200
Lake County-Kenosha County IL-WI Metro Div.	398,200	396,100	2,100
Peoria MSA	176,700	179,800	-3,100
Rockford MSA	150,900	148,900	2,000
Springfield MSA	111,800	111,200	600
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	231,800	223,400	-1,600
Illinois Statewide	5,900,900	5,846,000	54,900

**Preliminary **Revised*

- (continued) -



Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

	Apr- 15	Apr- 14	Over the Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Winnebago County	5.3%	8.0%	-2.7
Boone County	5.9%	8.2%	-2.3
Cities			
Rockford City	6.1%	9.6%	-3.5
Freeport City	6.7%	7.7%	-1.0
Belvidere City	6.9%	9.4%	-2.5
Counties			
Bureau County	5.1%	6.5%	-1.4
Carroll County	5.0%	6.5%	-1.5
DeKalb County	4.6%	6.1%	-1.5
Henry County	5.2%	5.9%	-0.7
Jo Daviess County	4.6%	6.1%	-1.5
Kane County	4.8%	6.6%	-1.8
Lee County	4.5%	6.1%	-1.6
McHenry County	5.4%	6.5%	-1.1
Ogle County	5.5%	7.4%	-1.9
Stephenson County	5.8%	7.1%	-1.3
Whiteside County	5.2%	6.3%	-1.1

Stephenson County

The April 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.8 percent compared to 7.1 percent in April 2014. The last time the April rate was equal to or lower was in 2008 when it was 5.8 percent. For the month of April 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,250.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-600) compared to a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+125), and Government (+50) added the most jobs from April 2014. Financial Activities (-400) and Manufacturing (-275) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Rockford MSA Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 7,600 positions in April and approximately 86 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do advertise job openings.

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.8 percent in April 2015 from 8.2 percent in April 2014. The last time the April rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.1 percent. For the month of April, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 9,600.

Total nonfarm employment increased (+2,000) compared to April 2014. Manufacturing (+1,400), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400), Retail Trade (+300), and Construction (+200) reported the largest payroll gains. Information, Professional-Business Services, Educational-Health Services, Other Services, and Government sectors each recorded a decline of (-100) compared to one year ago.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent in April 2015 from 7.4 percent in April 2014. The last time the April rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 4.8 percent. For the month of April 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,350.

Total nonfarm employment increased (+125) compared to April 2014. The Construction (+200), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+50), and Manufacturing (+50) added the most jobs over the year. Educational-Health Services (-125) and Professional-Business Services (-75) recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

###