



News Release

Pat Quinn, Governor

Jay Rowell, Director

For Immediate Release
March 27, 2014

Greg Rivara
Phone: 312.793.9635
www.ides.illinois.gov

Norman Kelewitz
Phone: 630.844.8455 ext. 276

Unemployment Falls in Local Areas Across the State *Chicagoland Lowest Unemployment Since 2009*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Feb. 2014*	Feb. 2013
Bloomington-Normal	8.0%	7.7%
Champaign-Urbana	8.7%	8.8%
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville	9.0%	9.8%
Danville	12.8%	11.9%
Davenport-Moline-Rock Isl.	7.9%	7.9%
Decatur	12.7%	12.8%
Kankakee-Bradley	12.1%	12.8%
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	9.5%	10.1%
Peoria	10.1%	10.0%
Rockford	12.1%	12.9%
Springfield	8.6%	8.9%
St. Louis (IL-Section)	9.2%	9.5%

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – Local unemployment rates fell across the state in February and the rate in the Chicago-Joliet-Naperville Metro Division fell 0.8 percentage points to reach 9.0 percent, the lowest it has been since 2009, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Not seasonally adjusted data compares February 2014 to February 2013.

Illinois businesses added jobs in four metros. Largest increases: Lake-Kenosha (+2.7 percent, +10,300), Champaign-Urbana (+1.6 percent, +1,700), and Chicago-Joliet-Naperville (+0.8 percent, +28,000). Largest decreases: Bloomington-Normal (-2.1 percent, -1,900), Danville (-2.1 percent, -600) and Peoria (-1.8 percent, -3,300). Much of these decreases continue to reflect a temporary slowdown in global manufacturing demand. Industry sectors recording job growth in the most metros: Leisure and Hospitality (nine of 12), Wholesale Trade (seven of 12).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares the current month to the same month of the previous year. The February 2014 not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 9.4 percent and 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 7.0 percent in February 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. Historically, the state unemployment rate is higher than the national rate.

Total Non-farm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – February 2014

Metropolitan Area	February 2014*	February 2013**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington-Normal MSA	88,400	90,300	-1,900
Champaign-Urbana MSA	107,000	105,300	1,700
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville Metro Div.	3,712,300	3,684,300	28,000
Danville MSA	28,200	28,800	-600
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	178,700	180,400	-1,700
Decatur MSA	50,300	50,900	-600
Kankakee-Bradley MSA	42,800	42,800	0
Lake County-Kenosha County Metro Div.	390,300	380,000	10,300
Peoria MSA	175,400	178,700	-3,300
Rockford MSA	144,600	145,200	-600
Springfield MSA	108,900	108,800	100
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	227,100	228,000	-900

*Preliminary **Revised

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

Central Illinois Highlights

Labor Market Areas	Feb-14	Feb-13
Bloomington-Normal		
McLean County	8.0 %	7.7 %
Peoria MSA		
Marshall County	9.8 %	10.1 %
Peoria County	10.6 %	10.5 %
Stark County	12.4 %	11.9 %
Tazewell County	9.9 %	9.7 %
Woodford County	8.4 %	8.6 %
Ottawa-Streator Area		
Bureau County	10.9 %	11.5 %
LaSalle County	12.4 %	13.0 %
Putnam County	12.5 %	12.7 %
Galesburg Area		
Knox County	9.7 %	10.2 %
Warren County	8.9 %	8.7 %
Cities		
Bloomington City	8.0 %	7.6 %
Galesburg City	9.7 %	10.1 %
Normal City	7.9 %	7.5 %
Pekin City	10.9 %	11.5 %
Peoria City	10.6 %	10.6 %
Counties		
DeWitt County	9.7 %	9.8 %
Fulton County	12.0 %	12.0 %
Henderson County	9.1 %	8.7 %
Henry County	8.7 %	8.4 %
Livingston County	9.7 %	10.1 %
Logan County	9.7 %	9.8 %
Mason County	12.4 %	12.3 %

Historically, the Illinois unemployment rate is higher than the national rate. Only six times since January 2000 has the state rate been lower than the national rate. The data is seasonally adjusted and includes times of both economic expansion and contraction.

Bloomington-Normal MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.0 percent in February 2014 from 7.7 percent in February 2013. It is below the comparable state rate of 9.4 percent.

Non-farm payroll employment declined -1,900 from February 2013. Leisure-Hospitality (+100) and Other Services (+100) added jobs. Government (-700) and Financial Activities (-600) had declines.

Peoria MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 10.1 percent in February 2014 from 10.0 percent in February 2013.

Non-farm payroll employment decreased -3,300 from one year ago. There were job gains in Wholesale Trade (+200) and Financial Activities (+100). Manufacturing (-1,200), Professional-Business Services (-900) and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (-700) led declines.

Ottawa-Streator Area

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 12.0 percent in February 2014 from 12.6 percent in February 2013. The last time the rate was equal to or lower was 2009 when it was 11.7 percent.

Non-farm payroll employment decreased -450 from one year ago. A gain was posted in Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400). Declines were recorded in Government (-300) and Manufacturing (-175).

Pontiac Area

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 9.7 percent in February 2014 from 10.1 percent in February 2013. The last time the rate was equal to or lower was 2012 when it was 9.5 percent.

Non-farm payroll employment rose +25 from February 2013. Manufacturing (+200) added jobs. Construction (-75) and Wholesale Trade (-75) recorded declines.

Note:

- Monthly 2013 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2014, 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.