



# Illinois Economic Update

November 20, 2015

## Summary

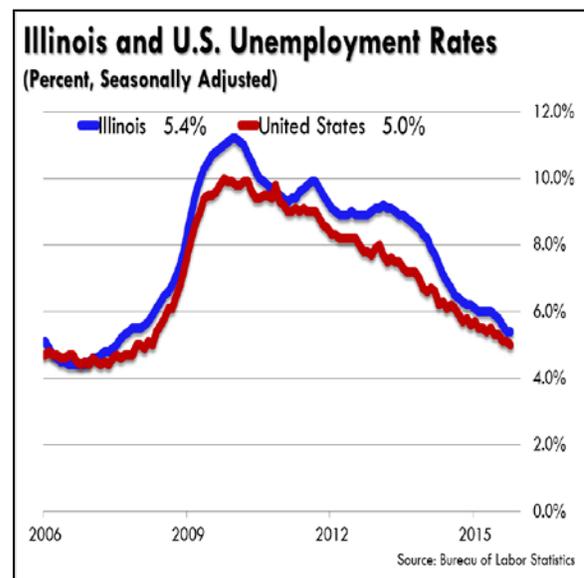
Nonfarm payroll employment in Illinois increased by 14,100 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.4 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Illinois Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Illinois was unchanged at 5.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 781 in October to 353,448, while the labor force grew by 19,633 to 6,518,861. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 34 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Illinois. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Illinois stood at 6.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Illinois was 11.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Illinois occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 13.1 percent. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Illinois was 4.4 percent in November 2006. The series low for the unemployment rate in Illinois occurred in February 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 4.1 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The ten year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The ten year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Illinois Payroll Employment

Illinois nonfarm payrolls increased by 14,100 jobs, or 0.24 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,000. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Illinois increased by 40,300, or 0.68 percent. Illinois nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 271,000 jobs in October, or 0.19 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in October 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,814,000 jobs, or 2.01 percent. Illinois ranks 45th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Illinois private sector payrolls increased by 12,900, or 0.25 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 5,100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Illinois increased by 42,100, or 0.83 percent. Illinois private sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 268,000 jobs in 2.01, or 0.22 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,709,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.30 percent.

Illinois ranks 44th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, total government payroll employment in Illinois increased by 1,200, or 0.14 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 600, or 0.75 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,300, or 0.86 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 3,100, or 0.52 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 1,800, or 0.22 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.33 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 1,600, or 0.27 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Educational & Health Services (+7,900) and Leisure & Hospitality (+3,500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-1,900) and Professional & Business Services (-1,100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+21,700) and Educational & Health Services (+16,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-10,000) and Total Government (-1,800).

#### Other Illinois Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Illinois rose to 64.6 percent in October from 64.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 19 have a higher labor force participation rate than Illinois. The labor force participation rate in Illinois is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Illinois was 68.7 percent in December 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Illinois occurred in April 2000 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.8 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.4 percent in September 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in December 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.8 percent.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.4 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Illinois civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 61.1 percent in October from 60.9 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 22 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Illinois. The employment-to-population ratio in Illinois is 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois was 65.0 percent in October 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Illinois occurred in February 2000 when the

employment-to-population ratio hit 66.9 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.2 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 56.9 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.3 percent in October. That rate was 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier, but still 0.1 percentage point lower than it was when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for November is scheduled for release on Friday, December 18. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 4.

