



## 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: ILLINOIS

*\*\*Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015\*\*  
\*\*Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th\*\**

### JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in Illinois fell by 2,800 jobs, an average of 230 jobs per month. This represents a slowdown in job growth from the 5,410 jobs per month added in 2014. In December, Illinois businesses shed 16,600 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: construction at 2.4 percent (5,100 jobs), education and health services at 0.7 percent (6,200 jobs) and leisure and hospitality at 0.6 percent (3,400 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Illinois businesses have added 341,600 jobs (an increase of 7.2 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



### UNEMPLOYMENT

- The Illinois unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point in 2015 and was 5.9 percent in December. The rate is 5.3 percentage points below its recent peak of 11.2 percent in January 2010.
- Unemployment in Illinois was 0.9 percentage point above the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate was up 0.2 percentage point from November.
- There were 390,000 state residents unemployed in December, down 11,800 from one year prior.

### EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Illinois rose by 0.7 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$26.02. The average workweek was 34.5 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$897.69.

## STATE QUICK FACTS

		Illinois	United States
<b>Private-Sector Jobs Added</b> .....	In 2015	-2,800	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	341,600	14.1 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b> .....	December 2015	5.9%	5.0%
	December 2014	6.2%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	11.2%	10.0%
<b>Median Household Income (2014 \$)</b> .....	2014	\$54,900	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$60,000	\$57,400
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2014	13.7%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	10.0%	12.5%
<b>All Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	7.0%	5.3%
<b>Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2014	8.3%	7.2%
<b>Percentage Without Health Insurance</b> .....	2014	9.7%	11.7%
	2013	12.7%	14.5%

*Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports*

### STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Illinois grew by 1.0 percent in 2014, below the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.\*
- Since 2009, annual Illinois GDP growth has averaged 0.9 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

### HOUSING

- Home prices in Illinois increased by 3.5 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 13.1 percent since their recent low in the fourth quarter of 2011.
- In November 2015, builders in Illinois broke ground on 27,710 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 18,788 units. That marks an increase of 1.8 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

### EXPORTS

- In Illinois, goods exports totaled \$5.3 billion in November and \$61.9 billion over the past year, down 1.1 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 44.6 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

\* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

\*\* A list of sources used to compile the Illinois economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

\*\*\* For additional Illinois-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Illinois office: <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/page.aspx?item=3528>