

Illinois

Job Index:

MSA Report



Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity

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As a companion to the February 2006 Illinois Job Index that reports a **Positive Rating**, this MSA Report provides a localized picture on Illinois job growth and allows for comparisons between local economies, Illinois, Nation and Rest of the Midwest.

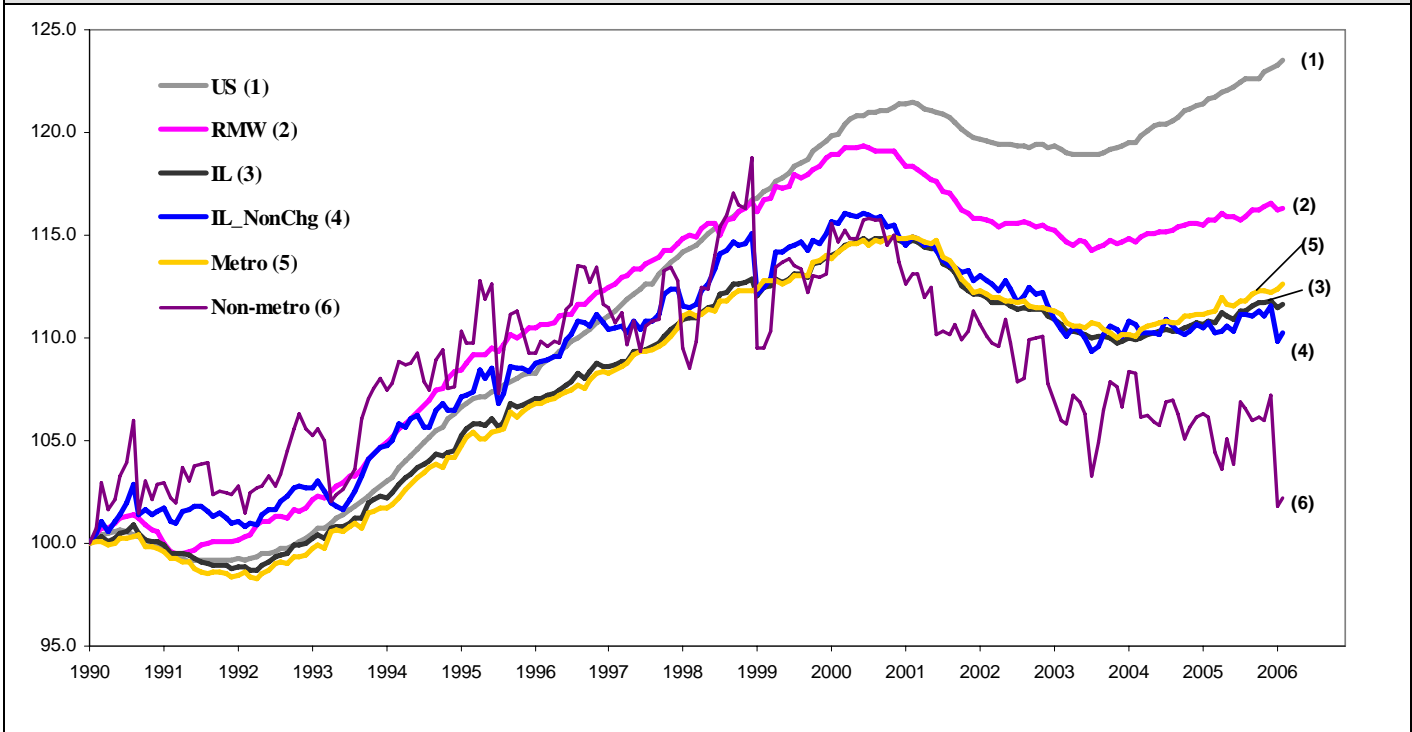
March 2006	Total non-farm employment	Jan 2006 - Feb 2006		Last 12 months	
		Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs	Growth Rate%	Number of Jobs
	Illinois non-Metro (Rural)	+0.47	+2,300	- 3.70	- 19,000
	Illinois non-Chicago (Downstate)	+0.36	+6,000	- 0.46	- 7,800
	Illinois Metro	+0.16	+8,700	+1.20	+63,900
	Illinois	+0.19	+11,000	+0.77	+44,900
	Rest of Midwest (RMW)	+0.08	+15,700	+0.50	+99,100
	Nation	+0.18	+243,000	+1.55	+2,053,000

The Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity publishes the monthly Illinois Job Index and MSA Report as tools for elected officials, policy leaders and the public. We can better understand the Illinois economy and business climate by comparing and measuring Illinois employment growth rates against those of the Rest of the Midwest (RMW: Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin) and the Nation. Data and analysis is provided by the Illinois Economic Observatory / Regional Economics Applications Laboratory, University of Illinois. The MSA data (unless noted) were seasonally adjusted to be consistent with state totals.

Talking Points

State, Downstate & Metro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After large losses in the previous month, Illinois had added 11,000 jobs at the monthly rate of 0.19%, the largest positive rate since October 2005. While Downstate created 6,000 new jobs, 55% of the total job gains in Illinois, Chicago added 5,000 jobs, 45% of new jobs in Illinois. However, in January 2006, Downstate lost 25,800 jobs while Chicago added 7,900 new jobs based on the revised data. Unlike the growth pattern in the previous month when non-Metro had large losses with the net gains in Metro, both Metro and non-Metro had net gains in February. Still the share of the total new jobs in Illinois reveals that the leading role of Metro with approximately 80% of new jobs, while the rest of new jobs (20%) are from non-Metro areas. Over 12-month period, both Downstate and non-Metro show net losses for the two consecutive months. For the same period, Chicago and the other MSAs experienced the job growth. Illinois created 41.2% of total new jobs in Midwest in February compared to 31.2% over the 12-month period.
MSA page (2-3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSAs in Illinois had slightly slower job growth rates than Illinois and Nation in February, while MSAs lead the job growth in Illinois over 12-month period. All the individual MSAs with the only exception of Kankakee which showed no change had net gains in February. Chicago's gain dropped from the revised 7,900 monthly gain in January 2006. Champaign-Urbana revealed the second largest monthly gain next to Chicago, 1,000 new jobs, which is the largest gain since October 2004. Metro-East created 700 new jobs next to Champaign-Urbana in February and was the only MSA to have net gains for the last three consecutive months since December 2005. However, Metro-East, the second largest job market in Illinois, still has net loss (900 jobs) over 12-month period. Other than Metro-East, Champaign-Urbana and Rockford are the only two MSAs with slower growth patterns than Illinois. Over 12-month period, Bloomington-Normal, Davenport-Rock Island-Moline and Peoria had faster job growth pattern compared to both Illinois and the Nation.

Total non-farm Employment growth rate Jan 1990 - Feb 2006



Talking Points

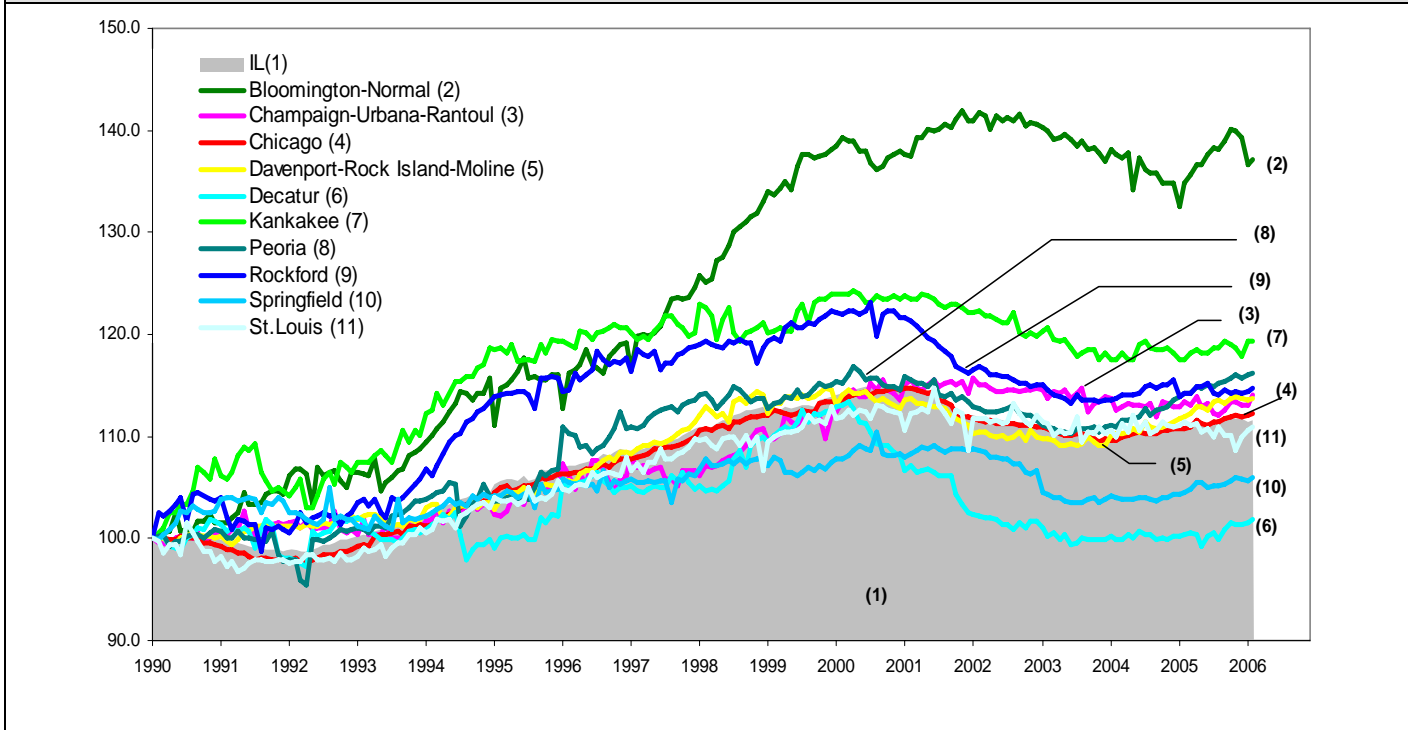
State,
Downstate
& Metro

- Recovering from the previous month's massive loss, Illinois could kept pace with the national growth pattern this month.
- Even with the improved job index of Downstate this month, the index remains at the lowest level since March 2005.
- Metro reveals a continuously growing pattern, while non-Metro still suffers from the big drop the previous month.

By MSA

Total non-farm employment Seasonally adjusted unless noted*	Jan 2006 - Feb 2006			Last 12 months	
	Change compared to Illinois	Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs	Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs
Bloomington-Normal (B-N)	+	0.45	400	1.82	1,600
Champaign-Urbana (C-U-R)	+	0.90	1,000	0.63	700
Chicago	-	0.12	5,000	1.27	52,700
Davenport-Rock Island-Moline (D-R-M)	-	0.16	300	1.67	3,100
Decatur	+	0.36	200	1.48	800
Kankakee	-	0.00	0	1.43	600
Peoria	-	0.17	300	1.74	3,100
Rockford	+	0.26	400	0.39	600
Springfield	+	0.36	400	1.44	1,600
Metro-East*	+	0.29	700	-0.37	-900
Illinois		0.19	11,000	0.77	44,900

Total non-farm Employment growth rate Jan 1990 – Feb 2006



Shaded area on above chart represents Illinois growth.

MSA DESCRIPTION: **Bloomington-Normal (B-N):** McLean Co. **Champaign-Urbana (C-U-R):** Champaign Co., Ford Co. & Piatt Co. **Chicago:** Cook Co. IL, DeKalb Co. IL, DuPage Co. IL, Grundy Co. IL, Kane Co. IL, Kendall Co. IL, Lake Co. IL, McHenry Co. IL, Will Co. IL & Kenosha Co. WI **Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (D-R-M):** Henry Co. IL, Mercer Co. IL, Rock Island Co. IL & Scott Co. IA **Decatur:** Macon Co. **Kankakee:** Kankakee Co. **Metro-East:** Bond Co., Calhoun Co., Clinton Co., Jersey Co., Macoupin Co., Madison Co., Monroe Co. & St. Clair Co. **Peoria-Pekin (Peoria):** Marshall Co., Peoria Co., Stark Co., Tazewell Co. & Woodford Co. **Rockford:** Boone Co. & Winnebago Co. **Springfield:** Menard Co. & Sangamon Co.

ABOUT: The Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity is a not-for-profit 501-c4 organization. Coalition founding members include the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Business Roundtable, the Illinois Civil Justice League, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, and the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce. Established to provide Illinois voters with information about government-related issues that have a direct effect on jobs, the Coalition represents firms employing more than a million Illinois workers.

For more information: www.jobsillinois.us • joshua@serafin.com • 312-943-1955.

NOTE: In comparing Illinois to the Rest of the Midwest (RMW: Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin) and the Nation, we take the distribution of employment by sector as observed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and then apply the RMW or Nation growth rates to calculate the expected employment levels. Comparing these with the observed levels in 2004 provides an indication of Illinois' comparative economic performance.

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