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Mica Matsoff  
(312) 814-8199

Tom Austin  
(815) 395-6680

[www.ILWorkInfo.com](http://www.ILWorkInfo.com)

## Unemployment Rates Fell in All 12 Metro Areas of the State for the Fourth Time This Year

### Champaign Area Recorded Its Lowest Rate for June in 5 Years, Danville Its Lowest in 6 Years

#### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

| Metropolitan Area          | June 2006* | June 2005 |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Bloomington-Normal         | 3.8%       | 4.1%      |
| Champaign-Urbana           | 4.1%       | 4.2%      |
| Chicago-Naperville-Joliet  | 4.7%       | 6.7%      |
| Danville                   | 6.1%       | 6.5%      |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Isl. | 4.1%       | 4.6%      |
| Decatur                    | 6.1%       | 6.4%      |
| Kankakee-Bradley           | 5.8%       | 6.1%      |
| Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI        | 4.5%       | 4.7%      |
| Peoria                     | 4.3%       | 4.8%      |
| Rockford                   | 5.5%       | 6.2%      |
| Springfield                | 4.5%       | 4.7%      |
| St. Louis (IL-Section)     | 5.5%       | 5.9%      |

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO** – Over-the-year unemployment rates fell in all 12 of the metro areas in Illinois during June 2006, according to data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The largest unemployment rate declines were in Chicago-Naperville-Joliet (-2.0 points to 4.7%), Rockford (-0.7 point to 5.5%), Davenport-Moline-Rock Island (-0.5 point to 4.1%) and Peoria (-0.5 point to 4.3%). The Chicago-Naperville-Joliet area reported its lowest unemployment rate for June since 1983.

For the fourth time this year, the unemployment rate fell in all 12 metro areas. Eight metro areas (Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, Decatur, Kankakee-Bradley, Lake-Kenosha, Springfield, and Metro East) saw their lowest June unemployment rate in five years. Danville and Rockford posted their lowest June unemployment rate since 2000; and Peoria's lowest since 1999.

“The 12 metro areas across Illinois experienced a drop in the unemployment rate for the fourth time this year, and all of the areas saw their lowest unemployment rate in at least the last five years with Chicago recording its lowest unemployment rate in 23 years,” IDES

Director Brenda A. Russell said. “As a result of Gov. Blagojevich’s programs to build and maintain economic vitality across the state, the labor market is growing at a strong and steady pace across many different industries.”

Over the year, the metro areas with the largest percentage increases in jobs were Lake-Kenosha (+1.5%, +5,900), Chicago-Naperville-Joliet (+1.2%, +44,100), and Peoria (+0.8%, +1,500). Ten metro areas saw job growth in Education and Health Services, eight in Professional and Business Services, and seven areas reported gains in Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade and Financial Activities.

#### Total Non-Farm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – June 2006

| Metropolitan Area            | June 2006* | June 2005** | Over-the-Year Change |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington-Normal           | 87,600     | 88,400      | -800                 |
| Champaign-Urbana             | 109,000    | 109,700     | -700                 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Joliet    | 3,862,700  | 3,818,600   | 44,100               |
| Danville                     | 32,300     | 32,300      | 0                    |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island | 190,100    | 189,400     | 700                  |
| Decatur                      | 55,100     | 54,700      | 400                  |
| Kankakee-Bradley             | 42,800     | 42,700      | 100                  |
| Lake-Kenosha IL-WI           | 405,700    | 399,800     | 5,900                |
| Peoria                       | 183,300    | 181,800     | 1,500                |
| Rockford                     | 158,400    | 157,200     | 1,200                |
| Springfield                  | 113,000    | 112,600     | 400                  |
| St. Louis (IL-Section)       | 240,200    | 240,500     | -300                 |

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

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

|                             | <b>Jun 06</b> | <b>Jun 05</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Champaign-Urbana MSA</b> |               |               |
| Champaign County            | 4.0 %         | 4.2 %         |
| Ford County                 | 4.5 %         | 4.8 %         |
| Piatt County                | 4.5 %         | 3.9 %         |
| <b>Danville MSA</b>         |               |               |
| Vermilion County            | 6.1 %         | 6.5 %         |
| <b>Cities</b>               |               |               |
| Champaign City              | 4.0 %         | 4.4 %         |
| Urbana City                 | 4.5 %         | 4.6 %         |
| Danville City               | 8.6 %         | 8.8 %         |
| <b>Counties</b>             |               |               |
| Clark County                | 4.7 %         | 5.0 %         |
| Coles County                | 4.8 %         | 5.0 %         |
| DeWitt County               | 4.5 %         | 5.4 %         |
| Douglas County              | 4.5 %         | 4.7 %         |
| Edgar County                | 4.8 %         | 5.2 %         |
| Iroquois County             | 4.3 %         | 4.4 %         |
| Macon County                | 6.1 %         | 6.4 %         |
| McLean County               | 3.8 %         | 4.1 %         |
| Moultrie County             | 3.8 %         | 4.3 %         |
| Sangamon County             | 4.6 %         | 4.7 %         |
| Shelby County               | 4.7 %         | 4.8 %         |

**East Central Illinois Highlights**

**Champaign-Urbana MSA:**

*June's Unemployment Rate Lowest Since 2001*

The unemployment rate decreased slightly over the year, moving from 4.2% in June 2005 to 4.1% in June 2006. The June 2006 unemployment rate was the lowest June rate in five years. The number of employed in the labor force continued to expand over the year and there was a decline in the number of workers unemployed.

The area experienced job gains in Information, Wholesale and Retail Trade, and in Financial Activities.

**Danville MSA:**

*June's Unemployment Rate Lowest Since 2000*

The unemployment rate decreased over the year, moving from 6.5% in June 2005 to 6.1% in June 2006. The June 2006 unemployment rate was the lowest June rate in six years. Total labor force continued to expand from a year ago as the number of individuals employed continued to experience positive gains.

Over the year, the Manufacturing sector had the largest employment increase. Employers also added jobs in Wholesale Trade, Financial Activities, and Leisure-Hospitality.

**Notes:**

- Champaign MSA includes Champaign, Ford & Piatt Counties and the Danville MSA includes Vermilion County.
- Unemployment rates are based upon the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program. Due to changes in geographic definitions for metro areas based on Census population and commuting patterns, the official LAUS data series begins in January 1990. For more information visit the IDES website at <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/laus/lausmenu.htm>.
- Payroll jobs data are based upon the Current Employment Statistics survey of 16,000 firms in Illinois; visit <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/cesfiles/cesmenu.htm> for additional information.
- For description of metropolitan area geographic definitions visit: <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/cesfiles/blsareadef.htm>.
- Per the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), effective with the release of state and local data for February 2006, the LAUS program will no longer revise the prior month's estimates each month. Estimates from the LAUS program will be subject to revision at the beginning of the following calendar year. This change, which results from reduced funding as part of the rescission in the BLS fiscal year 2006 appropriation, applies to all of the more than 7,200 LAUS geographic areas throughout the nation.

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