

Counties in this EDR:

Clark • Clay • Coles • Crawford • Cumberland
Edgar • Effingham • Fayette • Jasper • Lawrence
Marion • Moultrie • Richland

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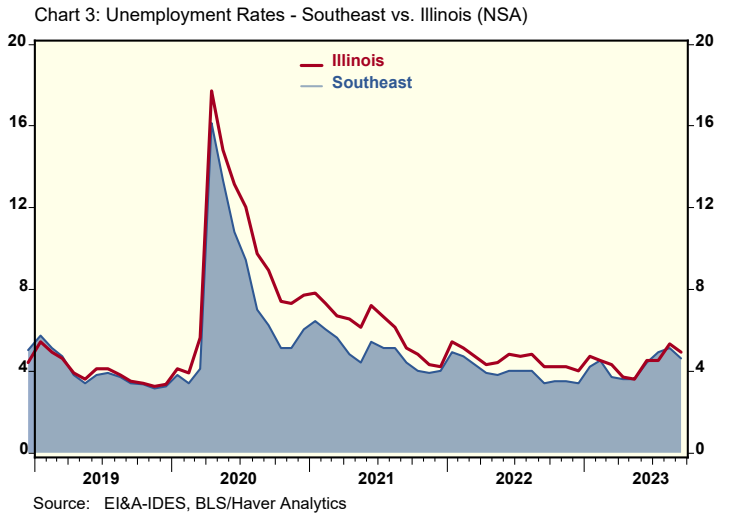
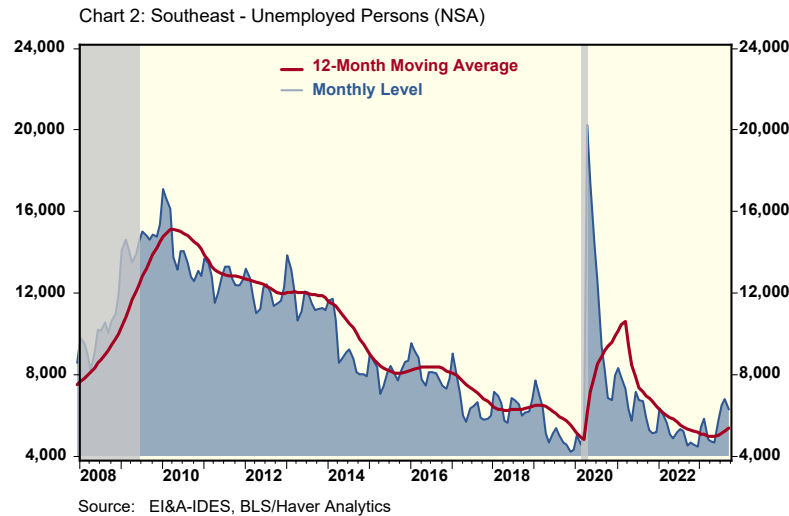
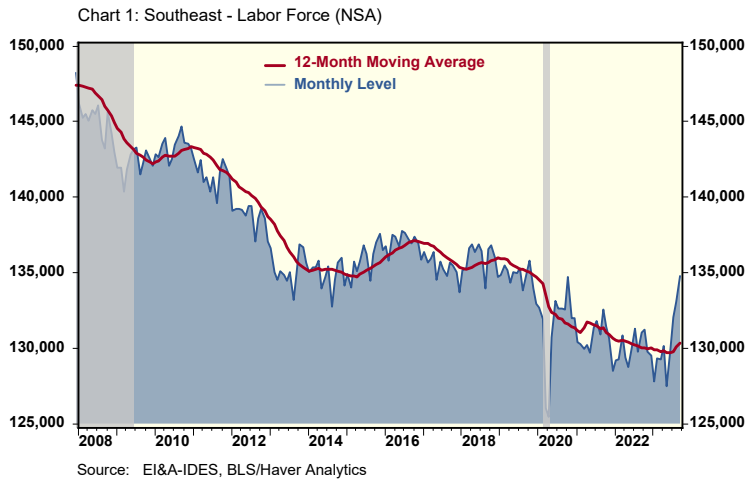
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Labor Force Indicators for the Southeast Region: January 2008 – September 2023

Labor force indicators reveal information about **people** in the region who are employed and available to work.

- Data are not adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, hence the sharp monthly changes in the levels; trends are reflected by the red lines as 12-month moving averages. National recession periods (2008-09 and 2020) are shaded gray in the charts.
- Chart 1 shows labor force levels declining since the 2008-09 recession. The 2020 pandemic-induced recession accelerated the downward trend in the labor force.
- Chart 2 reveals that unemployment rises during a recession and often in the early stages of recovery before declining. The recovery from the 2020 recession was relatively quick compared to the prior recovery beginning in 2010.
- Chart 3 compares the unemployment rate in the Southeast Region to Illinois from January 2019 to September 2023. The rates are similar although the Southeast Region experienced lower unemployment rates than the state between mid-2020 and mid-2023. Over the past few months unemployment rates were nearly identical.



NSA = Not Seasonally Adjusted; EI&A-IDES = Economic Information and Analysis-IL Department of Employment Security; BLS = U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Why Do Labor Force Indicators Matter?

Why do we monitor the labor force?

It measures our economy's labor supply, counting people who are currently employed and those unemployed people who are actively seeking work.

Why not just measure population?

The population contains the broadest measure of people of all ages in a geographic region. Clearly, the very young and the very old would not be available to work. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics counts the noninstitutional population over 16 years of age. Even among working age individuals, some may choose to stay out of the labor force for a variety of reasons: attending school, caregiving for children or elderly family members or retirement.

What factors encourage labor force participation?

Traditionally, men have had higher labor force participation rates than women across all age groups. Also, men and women with higher levels of education are more likely to be in the labor force. (Good) Health is another factor that positively affects labor force participation. Certain age groups (prime aged 25 – 54 years) have stronger ties to the labor force.

Why do we look at long term trends in the labor force?

Long term trends in the labor market are impacted by demographics, while shorter term trends are affected by the business cycle. Demographics refer to population's size, age-cohort, race, gender, education, birth and death rates. Declining growth rates in population around the world points to decreased growth in labor force or supply of potential workers.

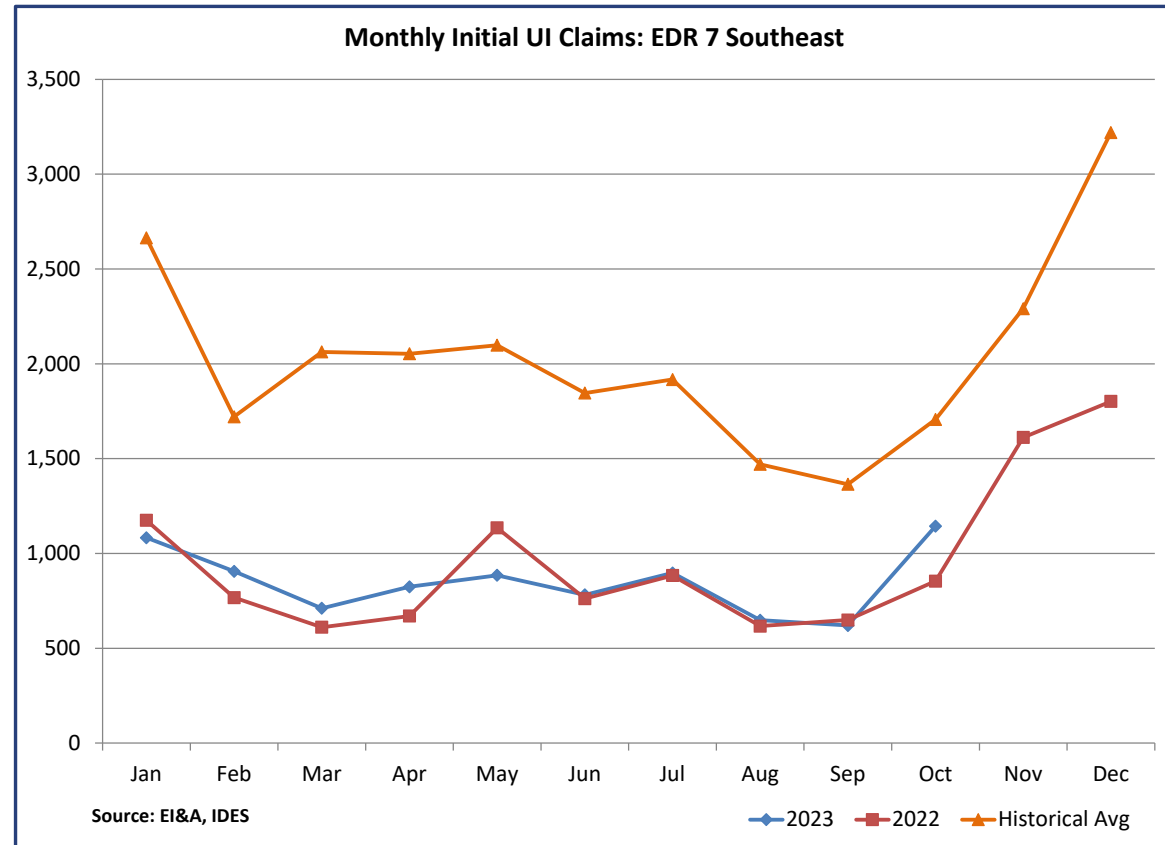
Over the course of the business cycle, labor force participation ebbs and flows depending on the demand for workers along with the options that individuals have for the alternative uses of their time. For instance, during economic downturns, it is not unusual to see some people drop out of the labor force if they can't find a job. As an alternative, they may consider going back to school or staying home to take care of children or elderly family members. During economic expansions, it is easier to find a job with a good salary which may encourage people to re-enter the labor force.



Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims (UI Claims)

Claims data are useful in that they serve as a leading indicator of labor market activity because firms lay off workers when demand is slow. Claims data can reveal a supply of available labor to firms looking to hire in the region.

- Local area unemployment claims data are not adjusted for seasonal variation; seasonal behavior is evident.
- These line charts reveal typical behavior (orange line depicts the historical average) for each month of the year.
- The red line shows data for 2022 and the blue line reflects 2023.
- UI Claims are following typical monthly patterns in this region with slight gains over a year ago in some of the months in the first half of the year. Claims from June to September are virtually identical to year ago levels, though October claims rose slightly.





Why Do Nonfarm Payrolls Matter?

Why do we monitor nonfarm payroll employment?

Nonfarm employment measures critical industries in the region revealing which industries account for the region's economic output and employment. It measures the well-being of the region and also reveals changes in economic and labor market conditions.

Why do we care about industry share?

The industry's relative share of employment in the region has implications for the infrastructure of the region's economy as well as the type of jobs that will be needed in a region. It provides economic developers with information on industry concentration and whether or not the region has necessary infrastructure in place to expand without causing dislocations.

Why do we compare over-the-year growth rates rather than over-the-month growth rates?

Many industries have seasonal components. The most common example is that retail sales typically increase around holidays and decrease in months following the holidays. Housing and road construction increase in the spring and summer and decline in the fall and winter. Local geographies may experience more specific seasonal happenings such as the Illinois State Fair in Springfield in August. In order to compare similar seasonal events, it is more accurate to compare data to the same month of the prior year.

Why do we look at 2019 as the pre-pandemic reference point versus statewide/national monthly business cycle?

Since regional data are not adjusted for seasonal variation, using a specific month's peak or trough to measure the business cycle might overstate or understate the local area's economic strength or weakness. 2019 can be considered the peak year before the nation (and state) fell into the pandemic-induced recession.



Nonfarm Payroll Employment by Industry: September 2023

Three sets of figures are included in this table: the first two columns provide payroll job levels pre-pandemic and current month/current year; the middle columns depict industry shares for the region and the state; the final two columns reveal how far (positive or negative) the region and Illinois are from pre-pandemic levels.

EDR 7: Southeast <i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>	Industry Employment		Industry Share		Difference from 2019	
	Sep-19	Sep-23	Region	State of IL	Region	State of IL
Total Nonfarm	109,942	111,944	100%	100%	1.8%	0.5%
Total Private	90,286	91,052	81.3%	86.6%	0.8%	0.6%
Goods Producing	25,616	25,036	22.4%	13.3%	-2.3%	-1.4%
Construction and Mining	5,436	5,875	5.2%	4.2%	8.1%	2.2%
Manufacturing	20,180	19,161	17.1%	9.2%	-5.0%	-2.9%
Durables	14,117	13,428	12.0%	5.3%	-4.9%	-3.9%
Nondurables	6,063	5,733	5.1%	3.9%	-5.4%	-1.4%
Service-Providing	84,326	86,908	77.6%	86.7%	3.1%	0.8%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	20,604	21,091	18.8%	19.7%	2.4%	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	4,032	3,940	3.5%	4.8%	-2.3%	1.6%
Retail Trade	11,159	11,493	10.3%	9.2%	3.0%	-0.2%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	5,413	5,658	5.1%	5.7%	4.5%	7.6%
Information	1,762	1,492	1.3%	1.5%	-15.3%	-3.9%
Financial Activities	5,086	4,038	3.6%	6.7%	-20.6%	0.9%
Professional and Business Services	5,470	4,647	4.2%	15.7%	-15.0%	1.0%
Educational and Health Services	17,486	18,719	16.7%	15.8%	7.1%	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,154	11,527	10.3%	9.8%	13.5%	-3.8%
Other Services	4,108	4,502	4.0%	4.1%	9.6%	-0.6%
Government	19,656	20,892	18.7%	13.4%	6.3%	-0.4%
Federal Government	861	829	0.7%	1.3%	-3.7%	2.5%
State Government	5,532	6,061	5.4%	2.3%	9.6%	-4.3%
Local Government	13,263	14,002	12.5%	9.8%	5.6%	0.2%

Source: EI&A-IDES, 2019 reference to pre-pandemic levels

Industry Employment:

In September, 111,944 nonfarm payroll jobs were recorded in the Southeast Region. This was 2,002 higher than the same month in 2019, prior to the start of the 2020 recession.

Industry Share:

Key industries in the Southeast Region are not identical to key industries in the state. Industry shares are highlighted in bold when the industry sectors reflect large differences from the state average. For instance, Durable Goods Manufacturing accounts for 12.0% of the Region's payroll jobs but 5.3% of the state's jobs.

Difference from Same Month 2019:

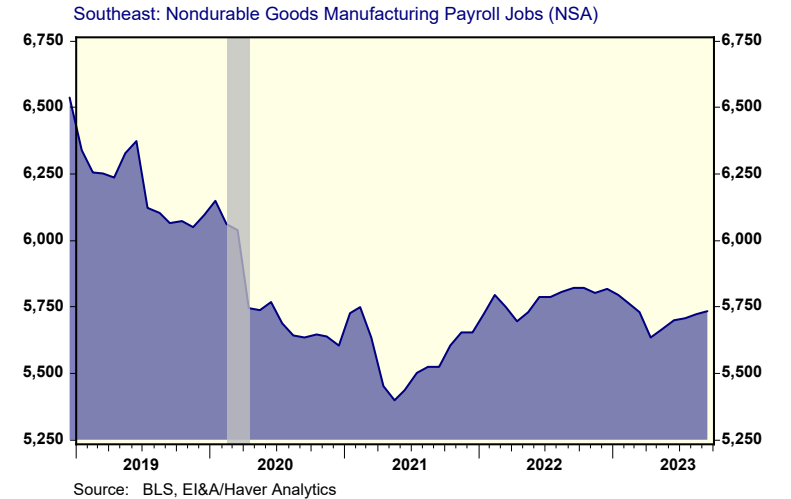
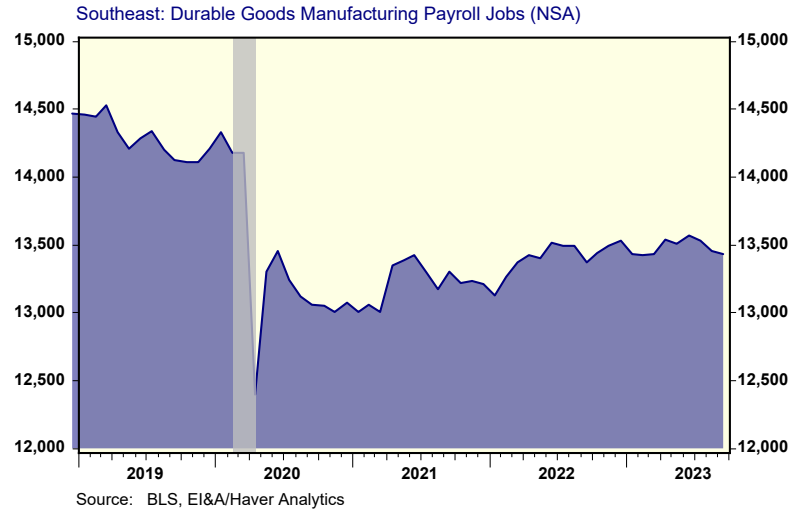
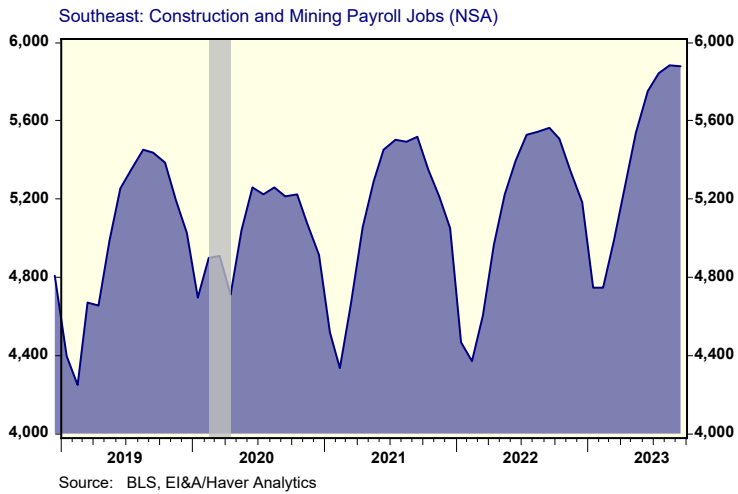
The two columns on the right reveal how far Region and State payrolls were from pre-pandemic levels for the same month in 2019. Nonfarm payrolls in the Southeast Region were 1.8% higher than 4 years ago while state payrolls were 0.5% higher than September 2019.

Losses Gains



Goods-Producing Industries: Construction and Mining, Durable and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

- Construction and Mining payrolls in this region account for a larger share of payroll totals than the state. These payrolls did not post a large seasonal decline during the 2020 recession but reverted to the typical seasonal declines in 2021 and 2022. In September 2023, payrolls were well above 2019 pre-recession levels. Construction and Mining payrolls fluctuate sharply with the seasons of the year.
- Manufacturing jobs have always played an important role in the state and in the Southeast Region. Manufacturing payrolls account for a larger share of total payrolls in this region than the state, largely in the Durable Goods sector.
 - Durable Goods Manufacturing payrolls increased from recession lows but had not yet recaptured 2019 pre-pandemic-induced recession levels by September 2023.
 - Nondurable Goods Manufacturing payrolls began to decline even before the onset of the 2020 recession and continued to decline in this region through mid-2021. September 2023 payrolls were up from their lows, but below pre-recession levels.

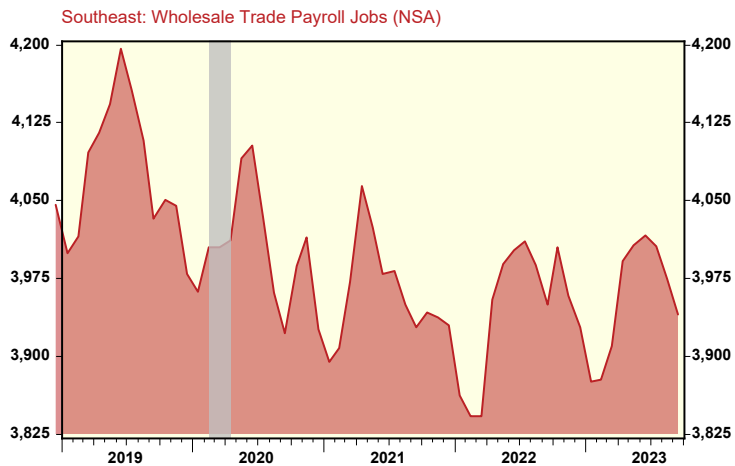




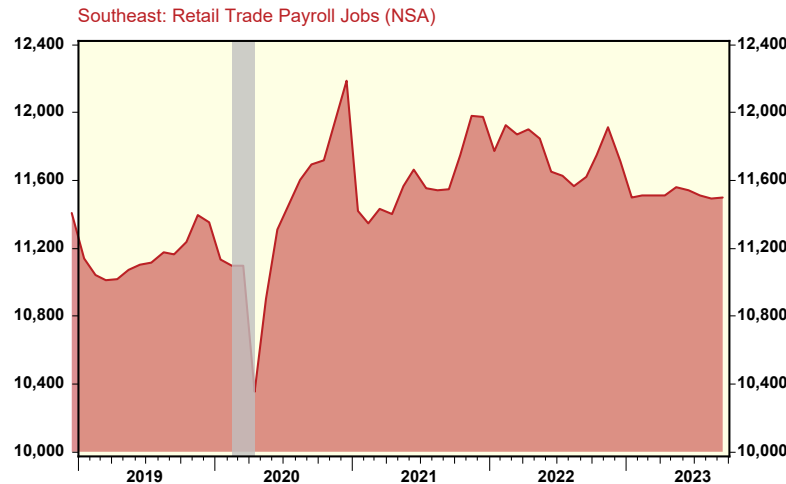
Service-Providing Industries: Trade, Transportation and Utilities

In total, this industry sector recovered from the 2020 recession in the state, and it did also in the Southeast Region.

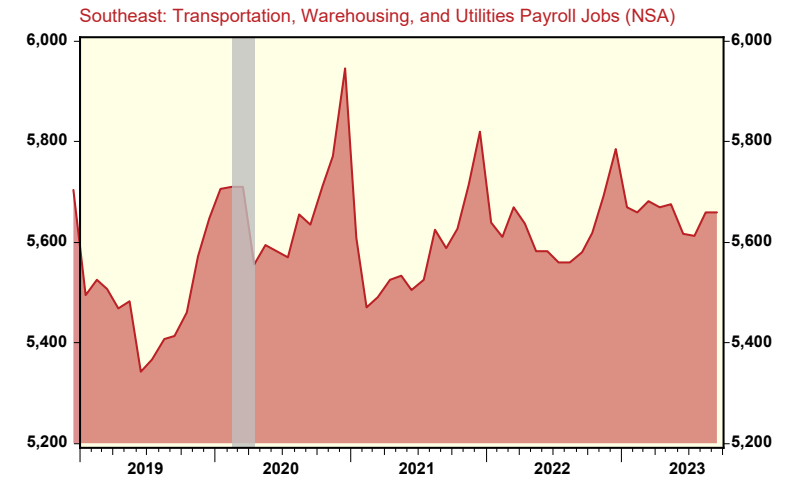
- Wholesale Trade payrolls account for a smaller share of total payrolls in this region than the state. This industry sector headed down further after the end of the recession and during the recovery in 2021 and 2022. Payrolls remained below pre-recession levels in this sector in September 2023.
- Retail Trade payrolls account for a larger share of total payrolls in this region than the state. Payrolls recovered relatively quickly after the 2020 recession and surpassed 2019 pre-recession levels in 2021 and 2022.
- Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities payrolls account for a smaller share of payrolls in this region relative to the state. Payrolls were rising in 2020 even during the recession and throughout the year. Growth slowed in 2021, but by 2022, payrolls surpassed pre-recession levels.



Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics



Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics



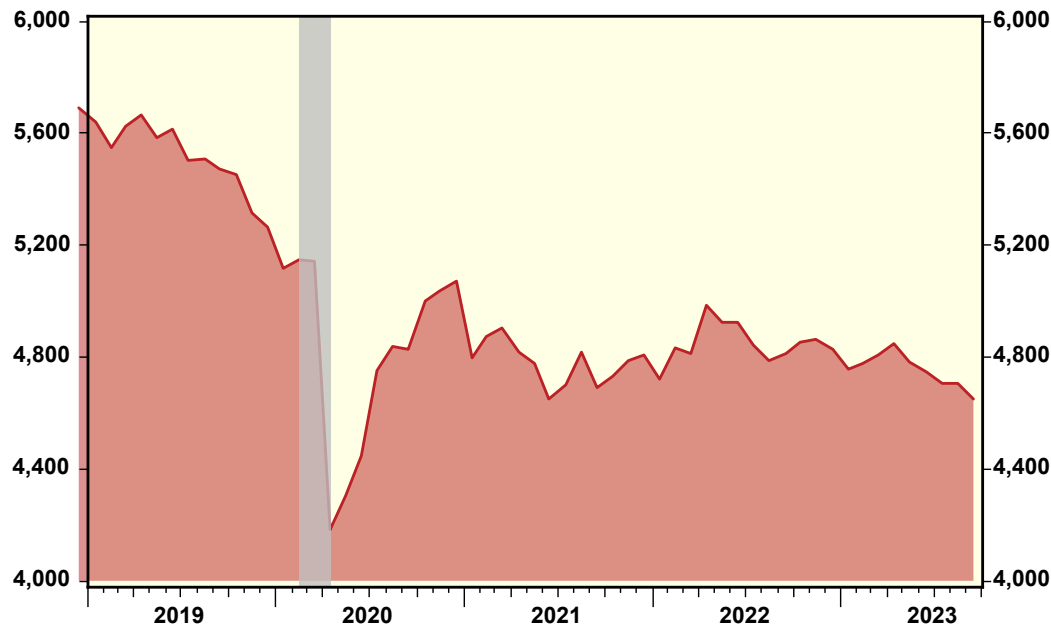
Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics



Service-Providing Industries: Professional and Business Services, Financial Activities

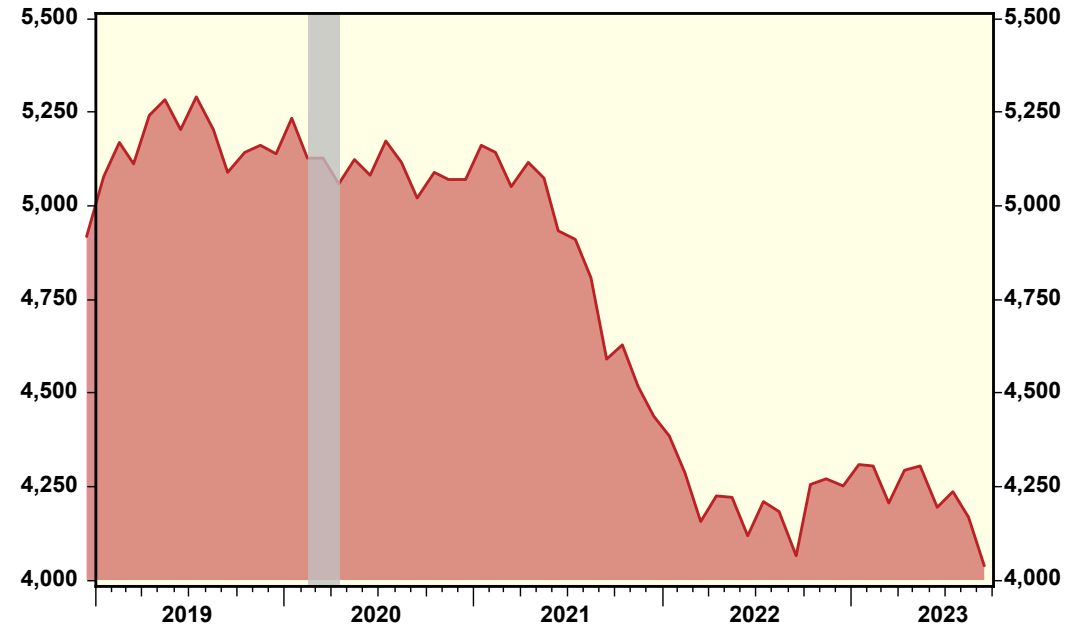
- Professional and Business Services payrolls account for a significantly smaller share of total payrolls in this region than the state. In contrast to the state, this industry did not yet recuperate pandemic losses. Payrolls remained relatively steady at lower levels from 2021 through September 2023.
- Financial Activities payrolls account for a smaller portion of total payrolls in this region than the state. Payrolls were relatively steady through mid-2021 but then declined through the rest of the year and into 2022. September 2023 payrolls in this sector remained well below 2019 pre-recession levels.

Southeast: Professional and Business Services Payroll Jobs (NSA)



Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics

Southeast: Financial Activities Payroll Jobs (NSA)



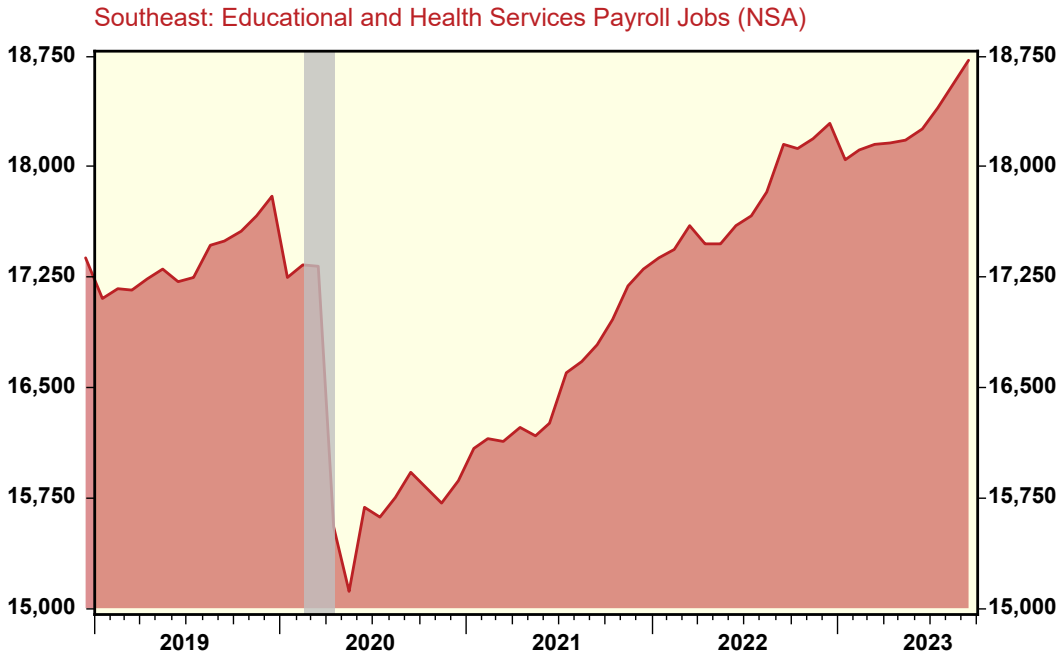
Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics



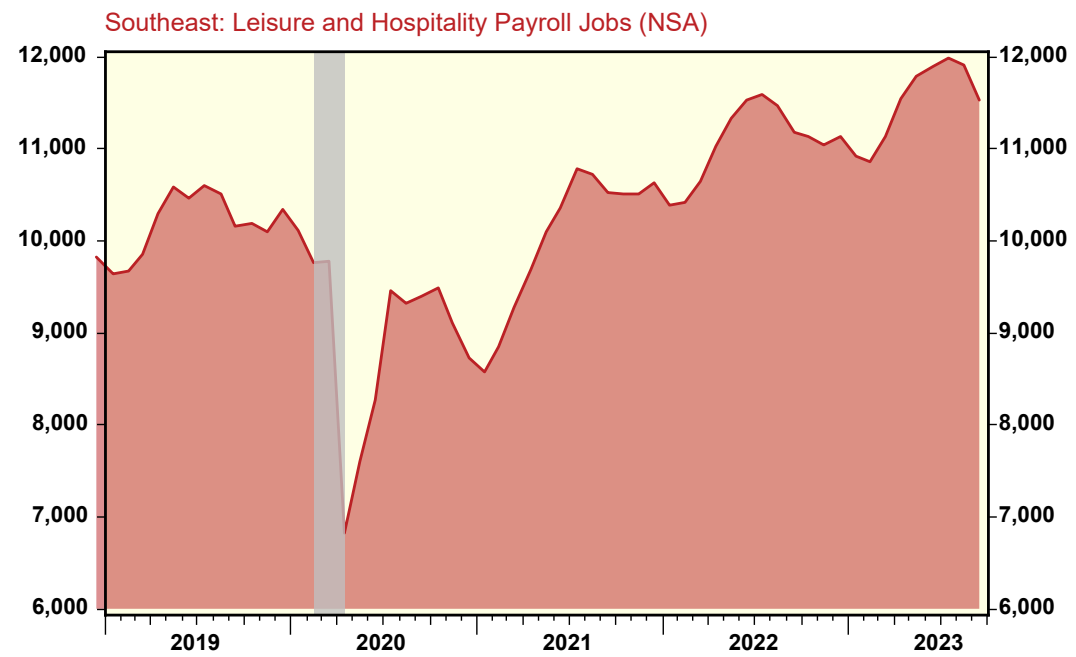
Service-Providing Industries: Educational and Health Services, Leisure and Hospitality

These two industry sectors were particularly hard hit by the pandemic-induced recession of 2020.

- Educational and Health Services payrolls in this region account for roughly the same portion of total payrolls as in the state. Payrolls increased from their recession lows and recovered their 2019 pre-recession levels by mid-2022.
- Leisure and Hospitality payrolls in this region account for a slightly higher portion of total payrolls than the state. Payrolls recovered their pre-recession levels by early 2022 in this region, in sharp contrast to the state which was still showing a shortfall in September 2023.



Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics

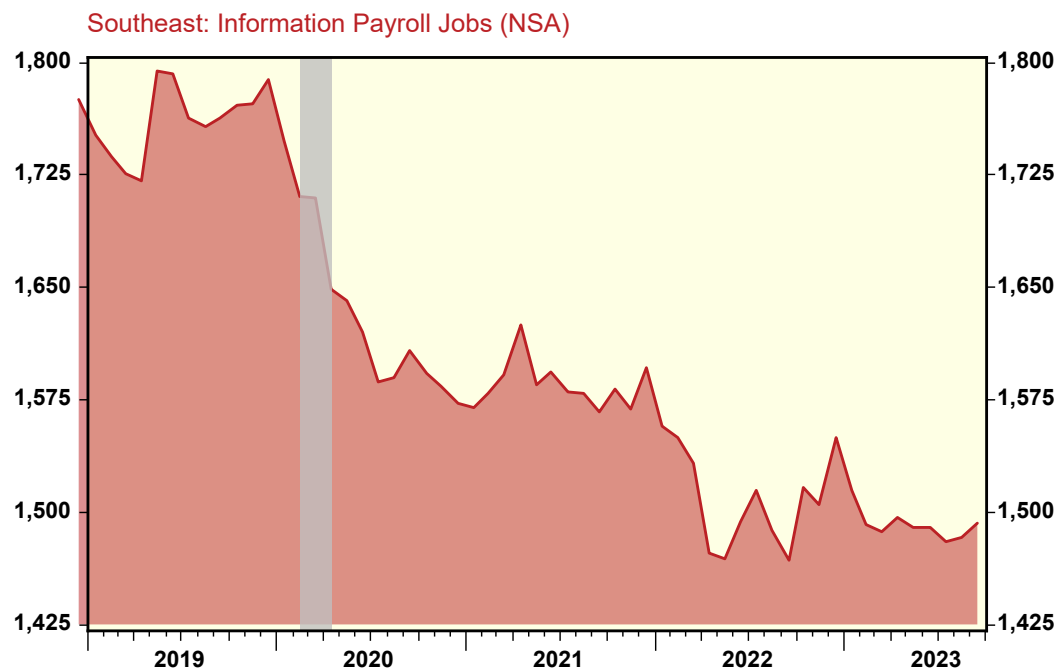


Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics

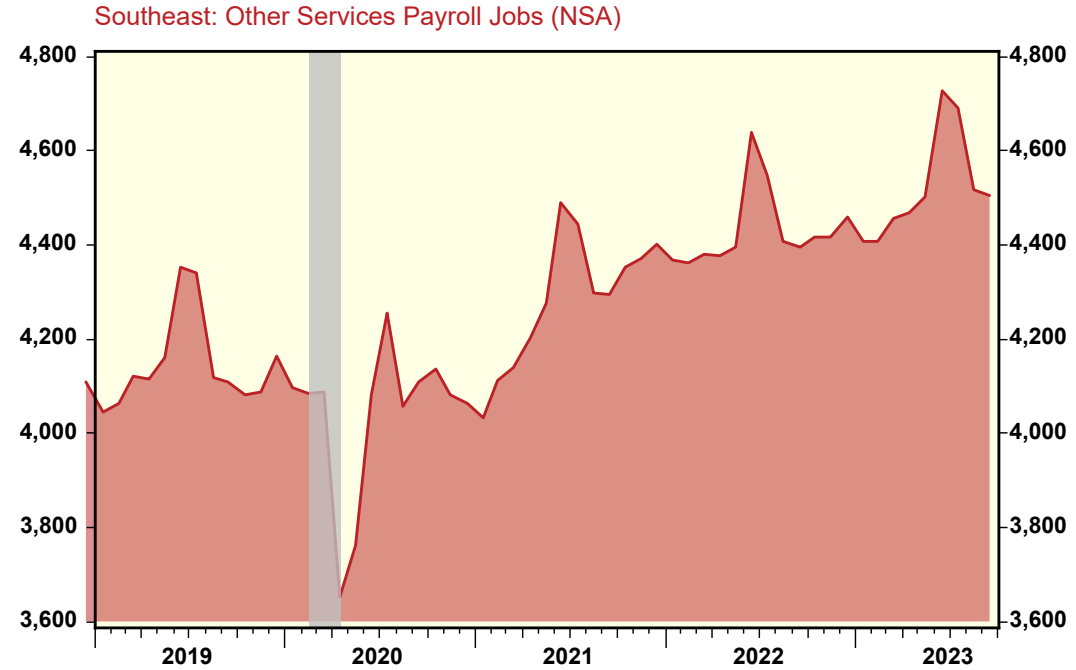


Service-Providing Industries: Information, Other Services

- Information Services account for a small share of total payrolls in this region, even less than the state’s share. Payrolls were headed lower before the recession began and continued to decline into 2021 and 2022. A small recovery began in late 2022, but payrolls remained well below pre-recession levels in September 2023.
- Other Services in this region account for the same share of total payrolls as the state. This sector dropped during the recession but recovered relatively quickly to pre-recession levels, surpassing them in 2021.



Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics

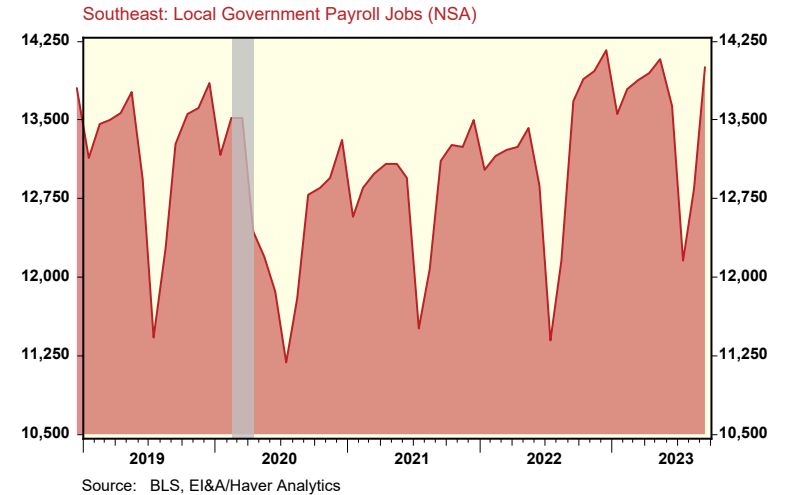
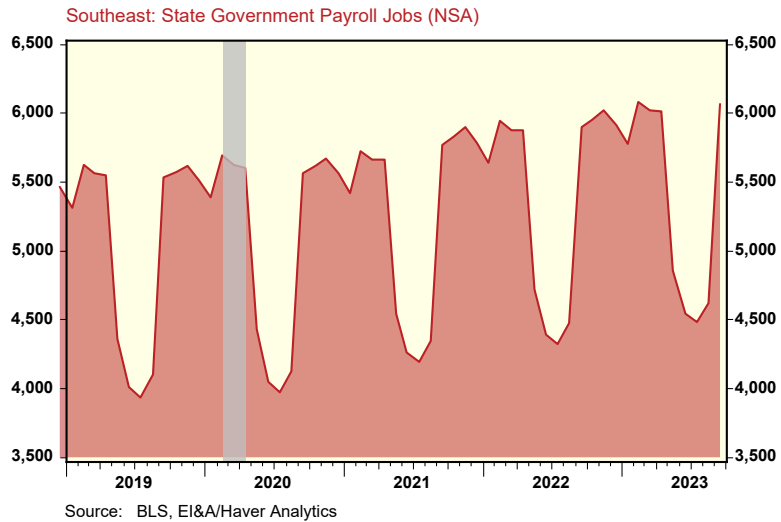
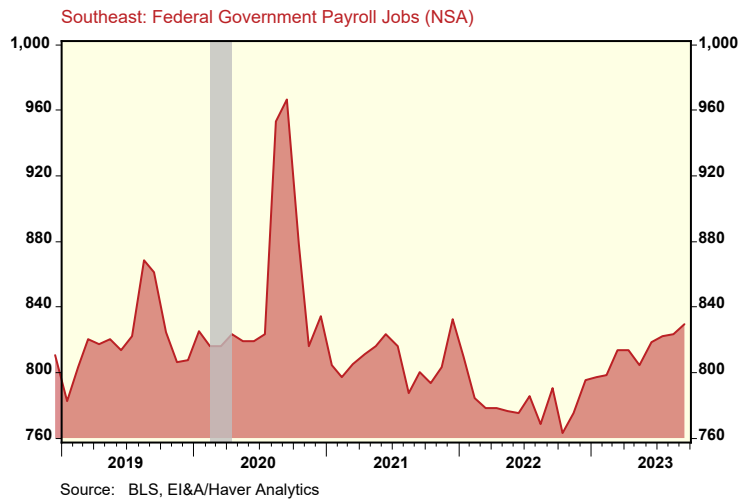


Source: BLS, EI&A/Haver Analytics



Service-Providing Industries: Government

- Federal Government payrolls remained relatively stable during the 2020 recession, although temporary hiring for the decennial Census led to a spike mid-year. Payrolls dipped in 2021 and continued to decline in 2022. September 2023 payrolls were well below 2019 pre-recession levels.
- State Government payrolls account for a much larger share of total payrolls in this region than the state. These were not largely impacted by the 2020 recession and jobs continued to increase in this sector. By 2022, payroll levels were well above 2019 pre-recession levels.
- Local Government payrolls in this region account for a larger share of total payrolls than the state overall. Payrolls declined in 2020 after the recession officially ended but grew in 2021 and 2022. September 2023 payrolls surpassed 2019 pre-recession levels.
- Note that State and Local Government payrolls exhibit sharp seasonal fluctuations. These are at least partly due to the educational calendar as public schools are included in these categories.





Southeast Economic Development Region 7

Job Postings and Wages by Occupational Grouping

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes wages by occupational titles for the U.S. as well as by state and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) annually. The Economic Information & Analysis Division (EI&A) compiles these wages by Economic Development Region. Detailed occupational titles within these groupings are available on the IDES website. EI&A compiles monthly job postings from Help Wanted Online/Lightcast and posts top jobs in demand on the IDES website. This table shows unique job ads posted during a 12-month period ending October 2023.

EDR 7: Southeast								
Soc Code	SOC Occupational Title	Unique Job Postings	Entry Wage		Median Wage		Experienced Wage	
		Nov 2022 - Oct 2023	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual
00-0000	Total all occupations	17,383	\$13.86	\$28,825	\$19.85	\$41,291	\$31.37	\$65,249
11-0000	Management Occupations	1,344	\$23.60	\$49,082	\$41.38	\$86,052	\$62.32	\$129,627
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	449	\$19.85	\$41,290	\$30.11	\$62,618	\$41.27	\$85,854
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	332	\$23.49	\$48,862	\$36.75	\$76,432	\$49.19	\$102,317
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	412	\$25.61	\$53,258	\$38.08	\$79,206	\$46.19	\$96,078
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	227	\$20.91	\$43,501	\$31.63	\$65,794	\$42.13	\$87,630
21-0000	Community and Social Service Occupations	255	\$15.87	\$33,000	\$22.90	\$47,617	\$28.63	\$59,559
23-0000	Legal Occupations	11	\$19.08	\$39,680	\$35.17	\$73,156	\$69.60	\$144,749
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	111	\$14.63	\$30,440	\$23.36	\$48,589	\$31.01	\$64,500
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	268	\$13.63	\$28,351	\$18.64	\$38,765	\$27.92	\$58,077
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	5,523	\$21.04	\$43,767	\$32.66	\$67,927	\$55.65	\$115,750
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	938	\$13.59	\$28,254	\$15.67	\$32,592	\$18.29	\$38,039
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	291	\$17.84	\$37,101	\$29.04	\$60,387	\$34.52	\$71,812
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	774	\$12.71	\$26,446	\$13.78	\$28,661	\$16.06	\$33,426
37-0000	Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	288	\$13.05	\$27,147	\$15.46	\$32,158	\$19.10	\$39,717
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	147	\$12.65	\$26,314	\$13.92	\$28,964	\$18.80	\$39,110
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	1,660	\$12.75	\$26,527	\$14.70	\$30,583	\$24.23	\$50,394
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	847	\$14.37	\$29,876	\$18.86	\$39,231	\$23.77	\$49,446
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	23	\$14.42	\$29,993	\$18.64	\$38,776	\$23.54	\$48,964
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	166	\$17.78	\$36,991	\$25.57	\$53,193	\$34.82	\$72,422
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	625	\$15.91	\$33,088	\$23.28	\$48,421	\$30.19	\$62,801
51-0000	Production Occupations	697	\$15.51	\$32,259	\$19.96	\$41,506	\$24.79	\$51,560
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1,532	\$13.73	\$28,555	\$18.86	\$39,221	\$23.78	\$49,468

Source: Unique Job Postings - Lightcast Q4 2023 Dataset
Source: Wages - Economic Information and Analysis/U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2023 Release (2022 Vintage)

For more information about wages and SOC codes go to this page:

[Wage Information: Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics \(OEWS\) \(illinois.gov\)](#)

For monthly updates on Job Postings, go to this page:

[Help Wanted Online \(HWOL\) \(illinois.gov\)](#)



Sources of Data

[Labor Market Information \(illinois.gov\)](#)

This is the primary page for labor market information. It may be overwhelming for a new user. Here are some of the key links that provide details on smaller geographies such as EDRs and counties.

[Current Employment Statistics \(CES\)](#)

Produces payroll job estimates of Illinois and metro area non-farm industries.

[Employment Projections](#)

Provides short-term and long-term employment projections for both industries and occupations.

[Help Wanted Online \(HWOL\) Reports](#)

Compiles job ads from online job boards, newspapers and aggregator sites and tallies the hottest job opportunities by region each month.

[Local Area Unemployment Statistics \(LAUS\)](#)

Develops monthly and annual estimates of the labor force, employed, unemployed and the unemployment rate for the state.

[Monthly Employment and Unemployment Press Releases](#)

The Illinois Employment Situation: Statewide and metro area employment and unemployment press releases.

[Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages \(QCEW\)](#)

Produces comprehensive quarterly counts of employment and wages for workers covered under Unemployment Insurance programs.

[UI Program Data](#)

Provides data collected on individuals currently applying for and those receiving Unemployment Insurance.

[Wage Information - Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics \(OEWS\)](#)

Information on entry level, median, and experienced hourly (and annual) wages is available for Illinois, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Economic Development Regions (EDRs), counties and the Local Workforce Innovation Areas (LWIAs).



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Contact us if you have any questions regarding these data or need data not provided in this report.

The Economic Information & Analysis Division is the official source of state and local Labor Market Information produced in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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