

Illinois Job Index



Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity

Release
4/x/2006

data
Jan 1990 / Mar 2006

issue
10.0

www.jobsillinois.us

For the April 2006 Illinois Job Index, the Coalition issued a Positive rating. The state's economy rebounded strongly from the losses in January.

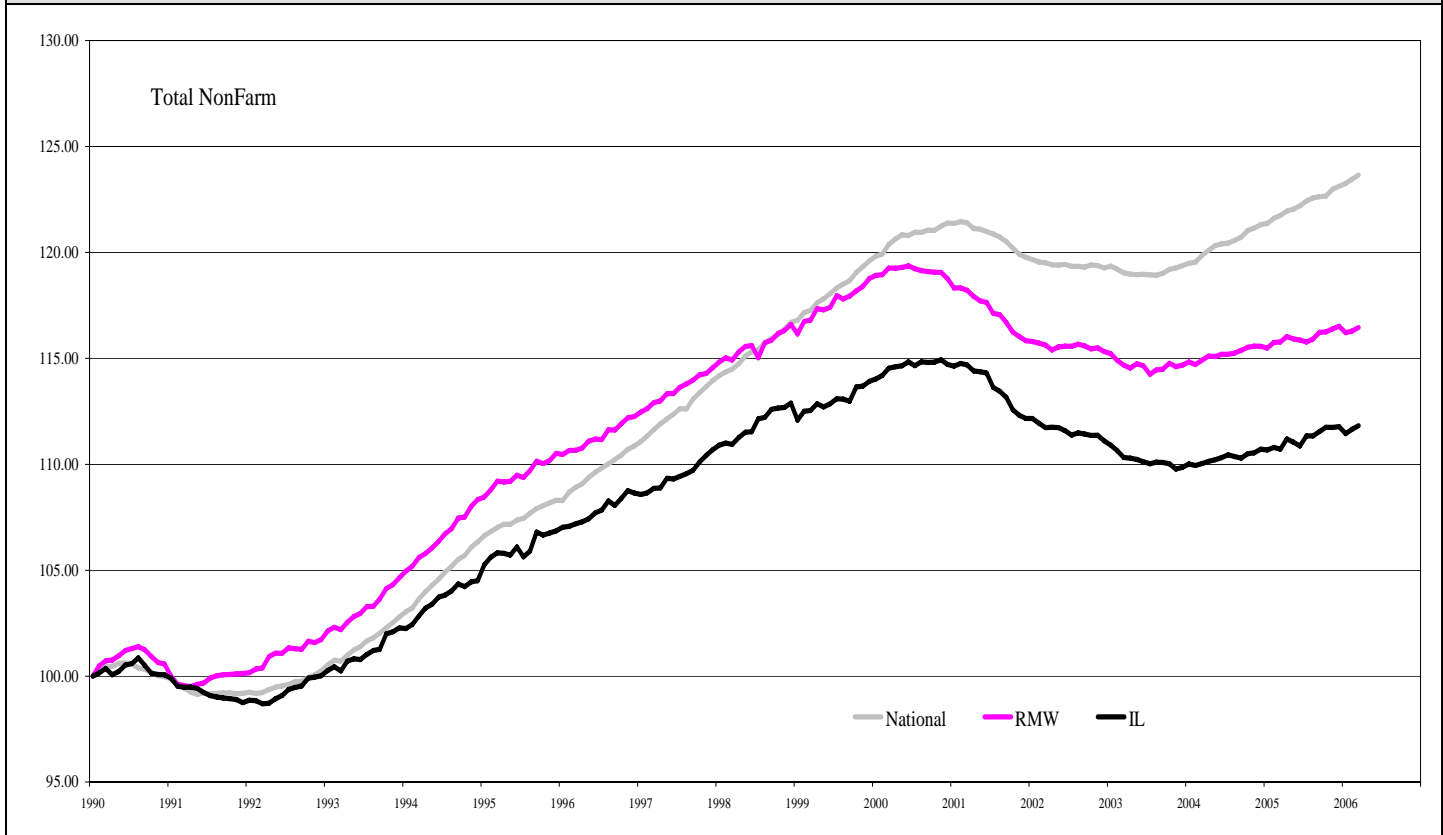
The Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity publishes the monthly Illinois Job Index and MSA Report as tools for elected officials, policy leaders and the public. We can better understand the Illinois economy and business climate by comparing and measuring Illinois employment growth rates against 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.

=	April 2006 Neutral	Feb 2006 - Mar 2006		Last 12 months	
		Total non-farm employment	Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs	Growth Rate%
	Nation	+0.16	+211,000	+1.57	+2,090,000
	RMW	+0.14	+27,000	+0.60	+118,100
	Illinois	+0.15	+8,700	+1.00	+58,400

Talking Points

Illinois Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illinois had similar but slightly slower monthly job growth than Nation with 0.16% growth rate, adding 8,700 new jobs in March. Though this month's job growth slowed down from the growth pattern observed in the previous month, it is twice as fast as the average monthly rate over the last 12-month period, which is 0.08%. For the first time since November 2005, Illinois' job growth in 12-month period rose to 1.00%, while RMW lagged with a 0.60% growth rate. However, compared to Nation, Illinois' rate is only the two thirds of national growth pattern. While RMW lead Illinois for the three months from November 2005 to January 2006, Illinois has grown faster for the last two months. Job index shows that Illinois has now recovered up to the employment level observed in February 2002. However, the job index still lags behind the highest level observed in November 2000. After hitting the lowest level in November 2003 since October 1997, the job index has continuously increased even with some monthly fluctuations. Illinois job growth pattern still has the gap with RMW and Nation over the period 1990-2006
Nation Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nation had stronger monthly job gains, 211,000 in contrast to forecasts of 190,000. However, the monthly gain has been downsized to the revised gain, 225,000 in the previous month. With relatively strong and stable monthly gains for the last few months after the hurricane Katrina in the fall of 2005, the job gain over the 12-month period showed the largest since August 2005. The gaps in terms of job index between Nation and RMW and between Nation and Illinois has been enlarged for the last six months mainly because of the steady but stable job growth pattern at the national level coupled with the fluctuating patterns of RMW and Illinois.

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

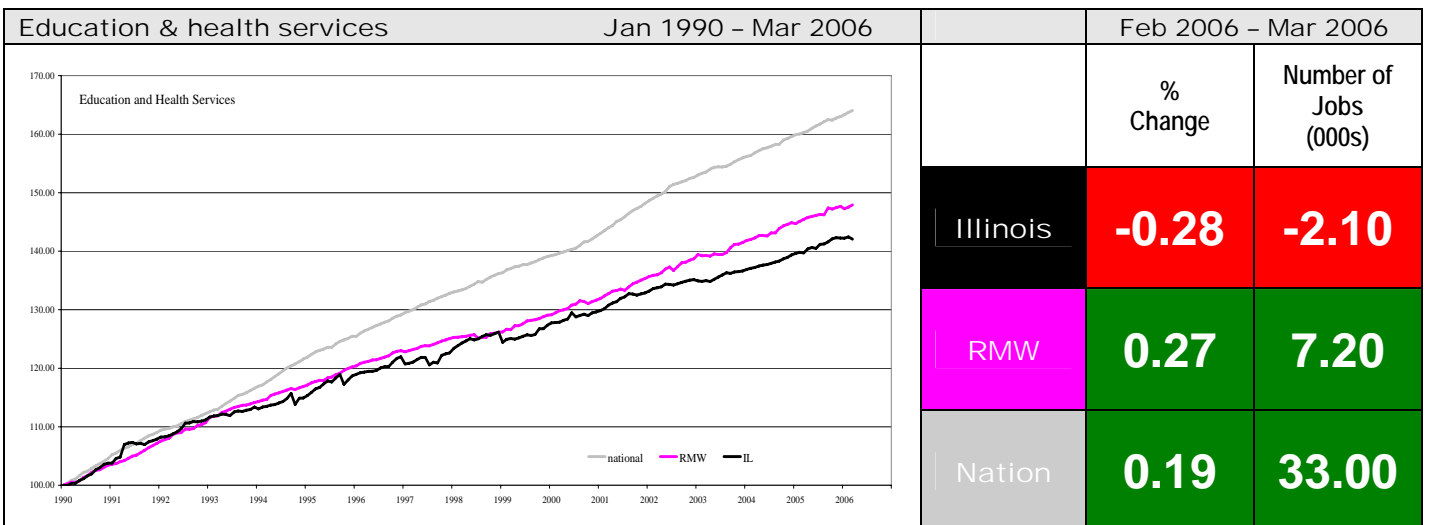
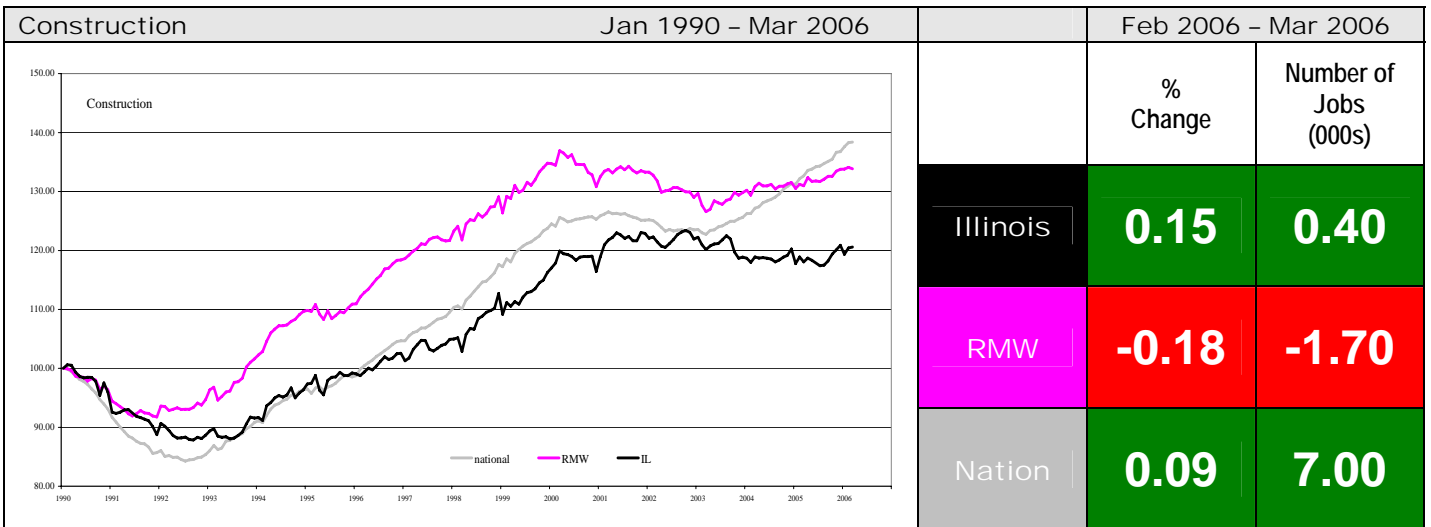


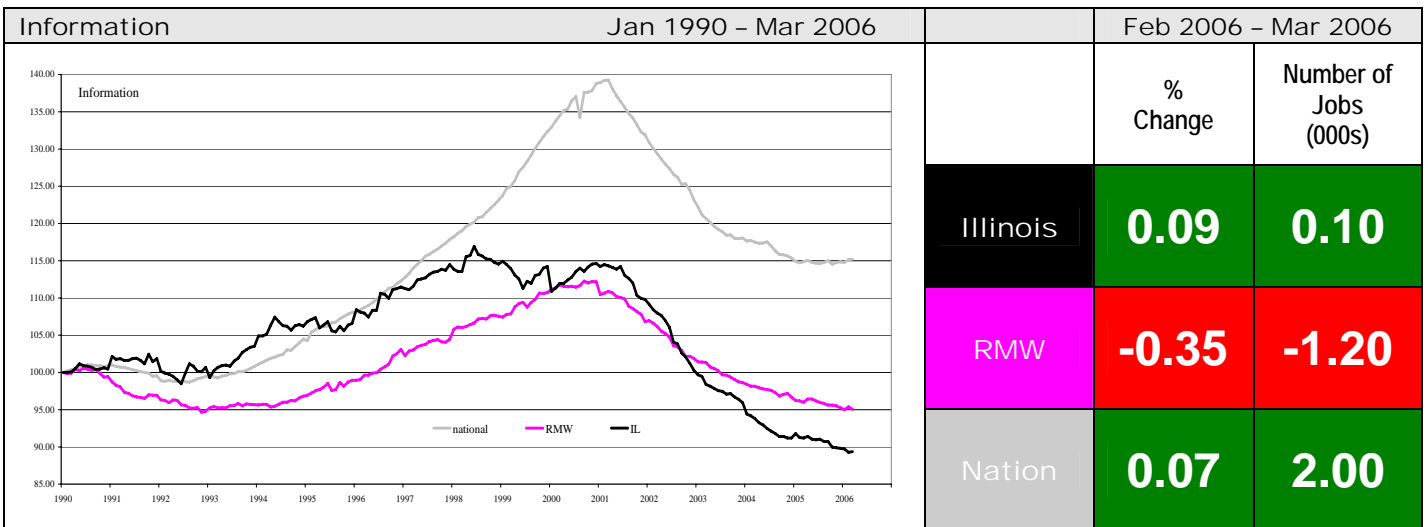
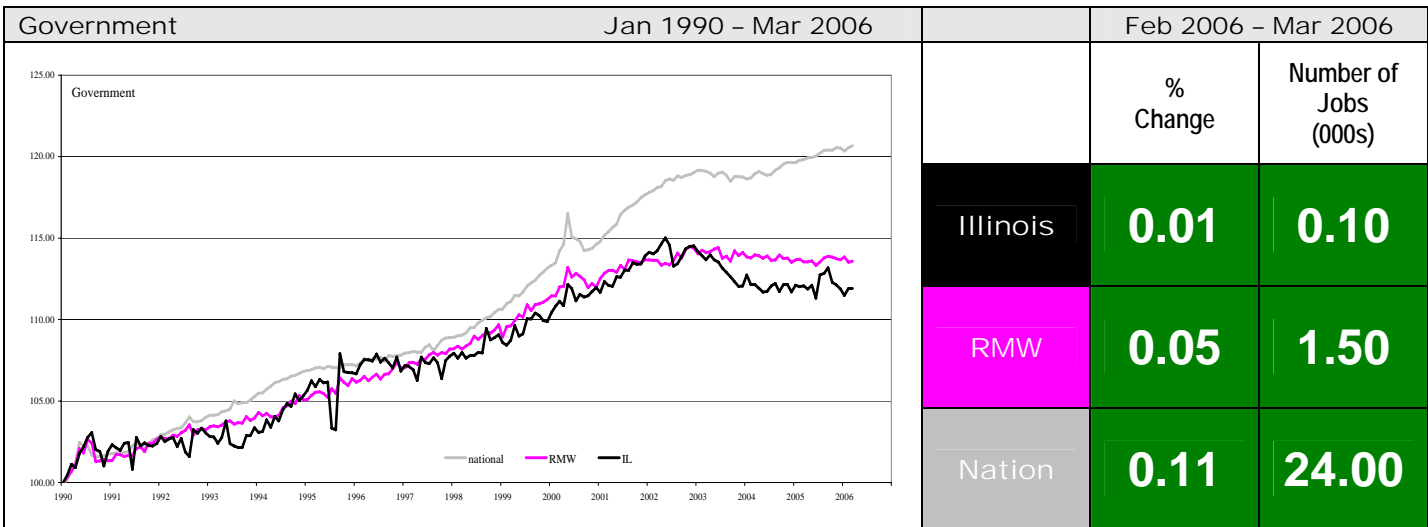
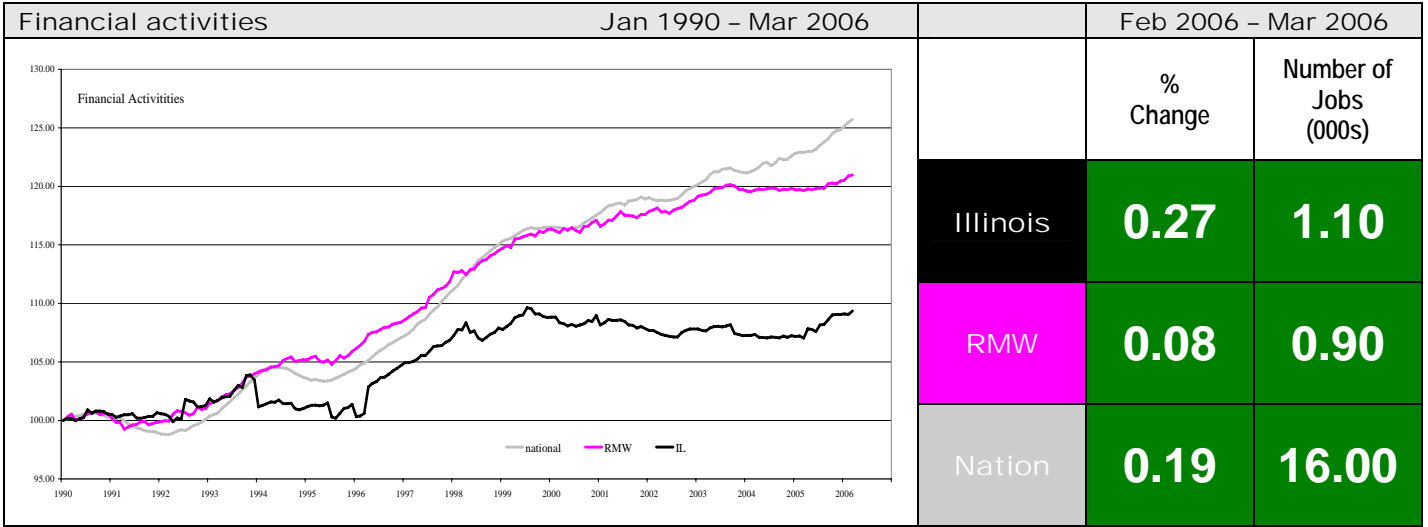
By employment sector:

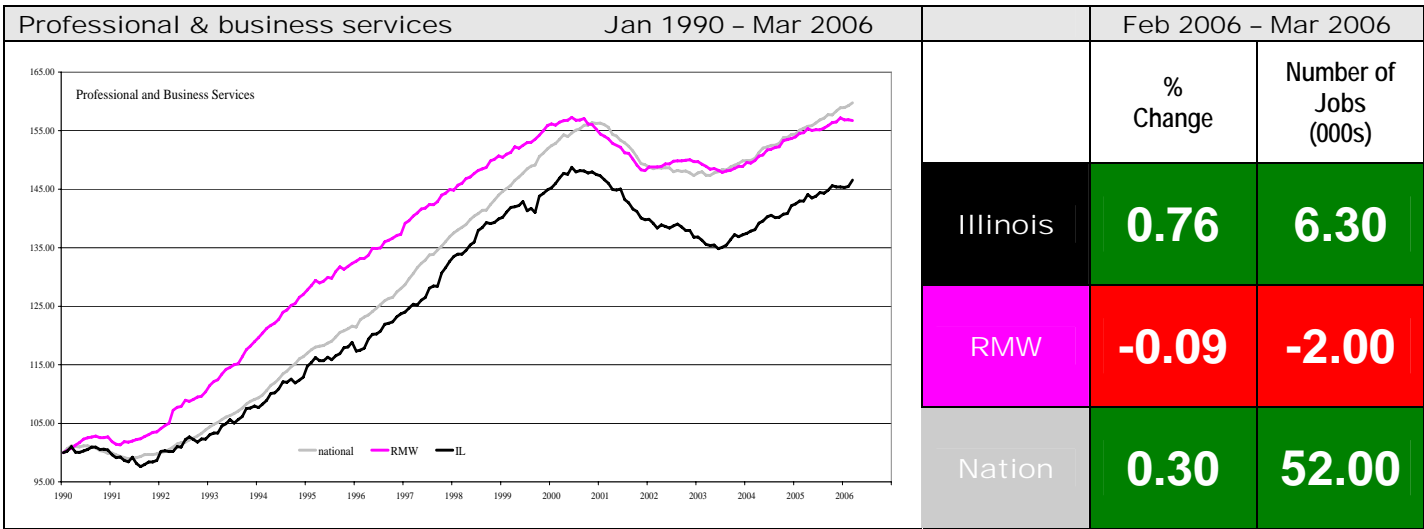
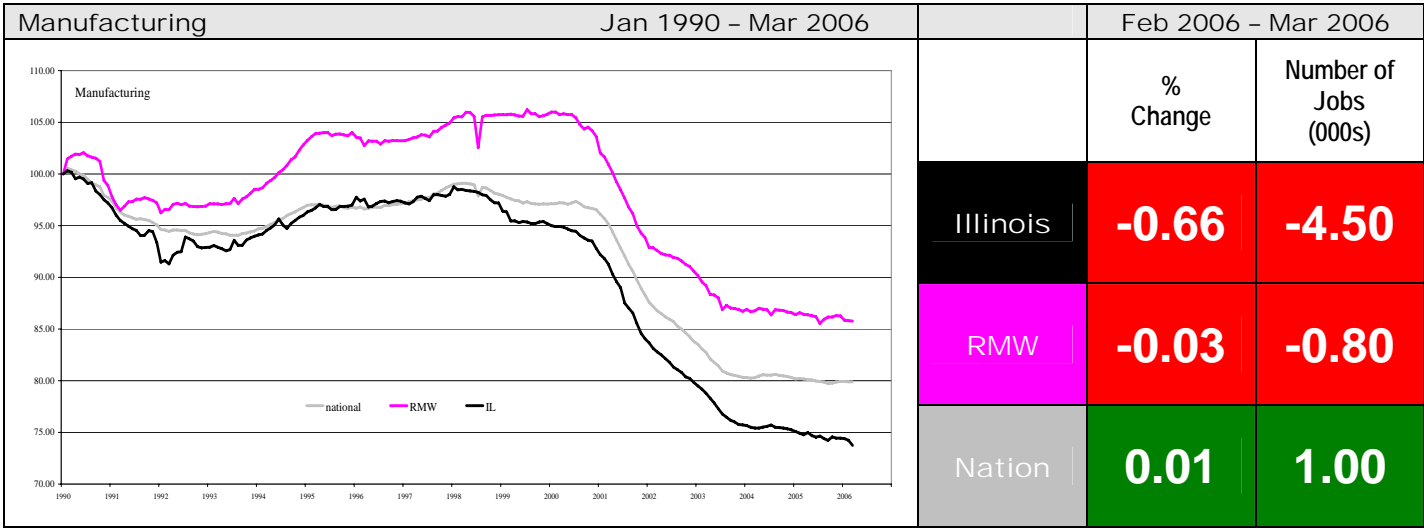
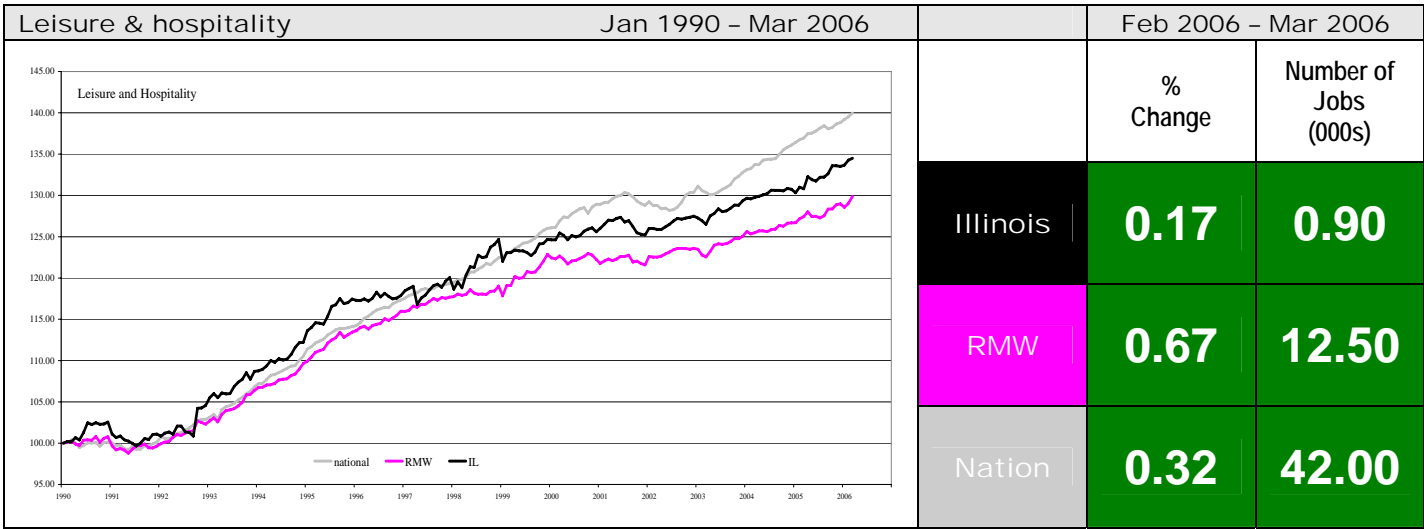
Total non-farm Employment growth rate by sector									
Monthly growth rates	Feb 2006 – Mar 2006			Jan 1990 – Mar 2006					
	Illinois vs. RMW	Illinois vs. Nation	Midwest vs. Nation	Illinois		RMW	Nation		
				vs. RMW	vs. Nation	Rate %	Rate %		
Construction	+	+	-	-	-	46,800	20.58	33.85	38.40
Education & health	-	-	-	-	-	222,500	42.05	47.93	64.02
Financial activities	+	+	-	-	-	34,900	9.36	20.99	25.72
Government	-	-	-	-	-	89,800	11.91	13.58	20.67
Information	+	+	-	-	-	-13,900	-10.64	-4.94	15.21
Leisure & hospitality	-	-	+	+	-	134,000	34.49	29.89	39.98
Manufacturing	-	-	-	-	-	-242,500	-26.26	-14.22	-20.11
Professional & business services	+	+	-	-	-	266,000	46.55	56.72	59.76
Trade, transportation & utilities (TTU)	+	+	+	-	-	38,600	3.36	9.08	14.69
Other Services	+	+	+	+	+	58,100	28.29	22.11	27.86

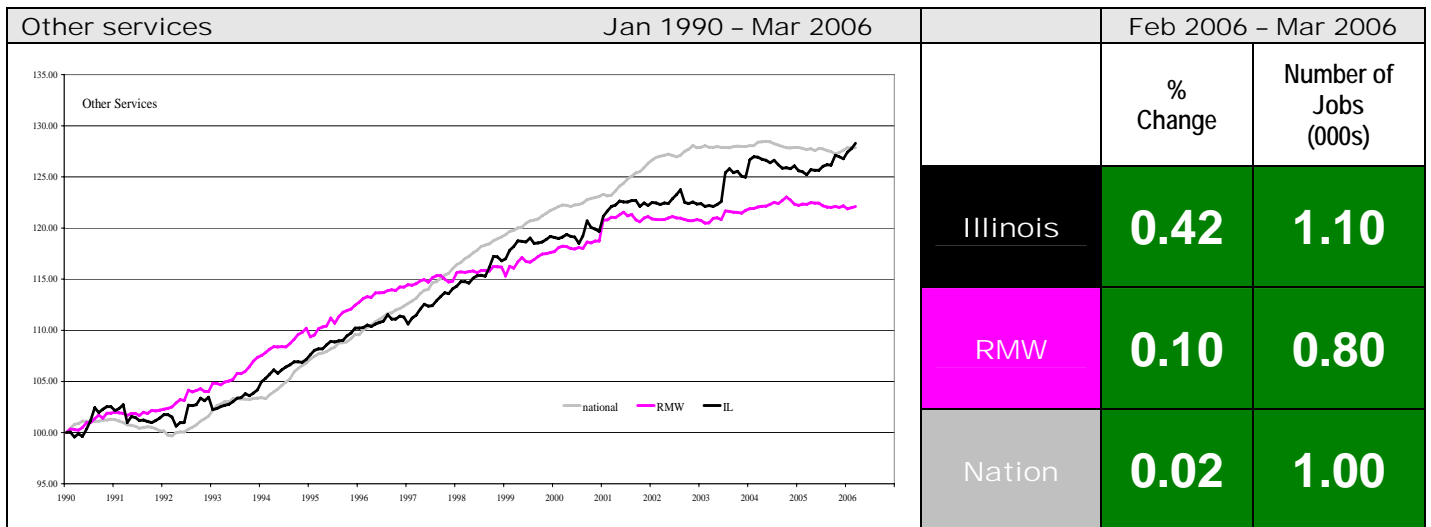
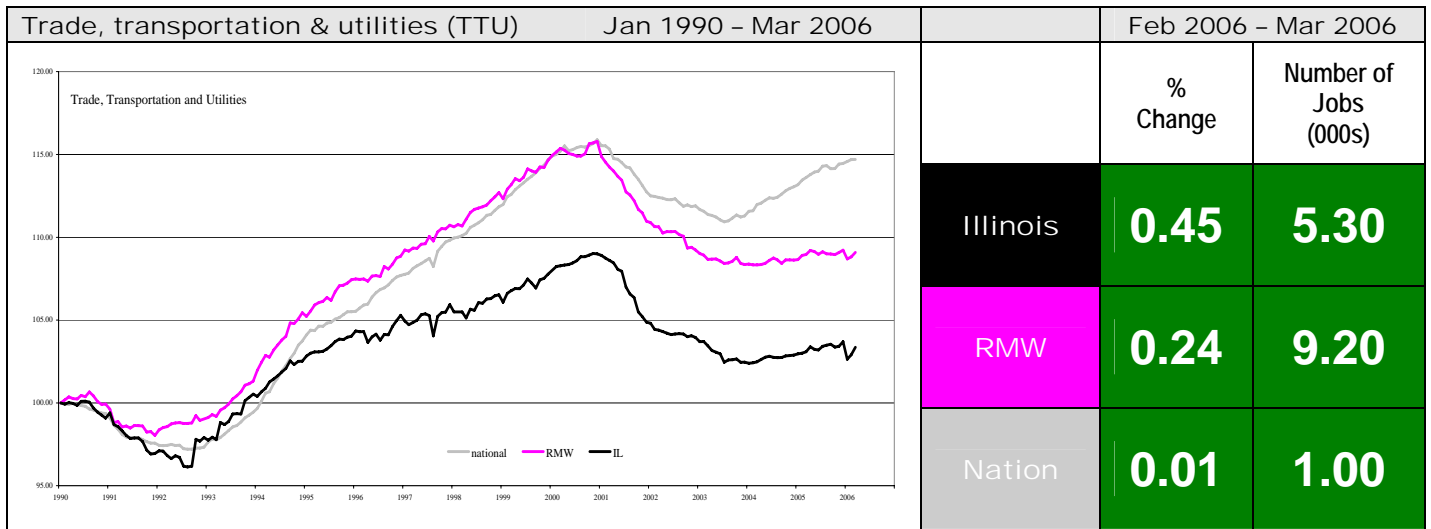
Sector notes

- At the national level, all the 10 sectors had positive net gains in March 2006. Among those, the following service industries led the growth shown with the monthly growth rate in parenthesis.
 - Professional & Business Services: 52,000 (0.30%)
 - Leisure & Hospitality: 42,000 (0.32%)
 - Education & Health Services: 33,000 (0.19%)
 - Government: 24,000 (0.11%)
- Relatively weaker growth patterns can be found in Manufacturing, Trade, Transportation & Utilities and Other Services, each of them adding only 1,000 new jobs nationwide.
- Two sectors in Illinois had net losses: Manufacturing and Education & Health Services. Especially, both Illinois and RMW combined lost 5,300 jobs in Manufacturing while Nation added 1,000 new jobs in this sector.
- Among the gaining sectors in Illinois, the following industries created over 1,000 new jobs.
 - Professional & Business Services: 6,300 (0.76%)
 - Trade, Transportation & Utilities: 5,300 (0.45%)
 - Other Services: 1,100 (0.42%)
 - Financial Activities: 1,100 (0.27%)
- Due to the strong growth patterns of Illinois and RMW in TTU and Other Services sectors, the growth in Midwest was faster than those at the national level.
 - TTU in Midwest: 14,500 new jobs (1,000 new jobs nationwide)
 - Other Services: 1,900 new jobs (1,000 new jobs nationwide)
- There had been no industrial sector in Illinois exceeding the growth pattern of Nation compared to January 1990, however, for the first time, Other Services in Illinois exceeded the growth pattern of both RMW and Nation compared to January 1990.









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.

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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.