

Illinois Job Index



Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity

Release
3/x/2006

data
Jan 1990 / Feb 2006

issue
10.0

www.jobsillinois.us

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

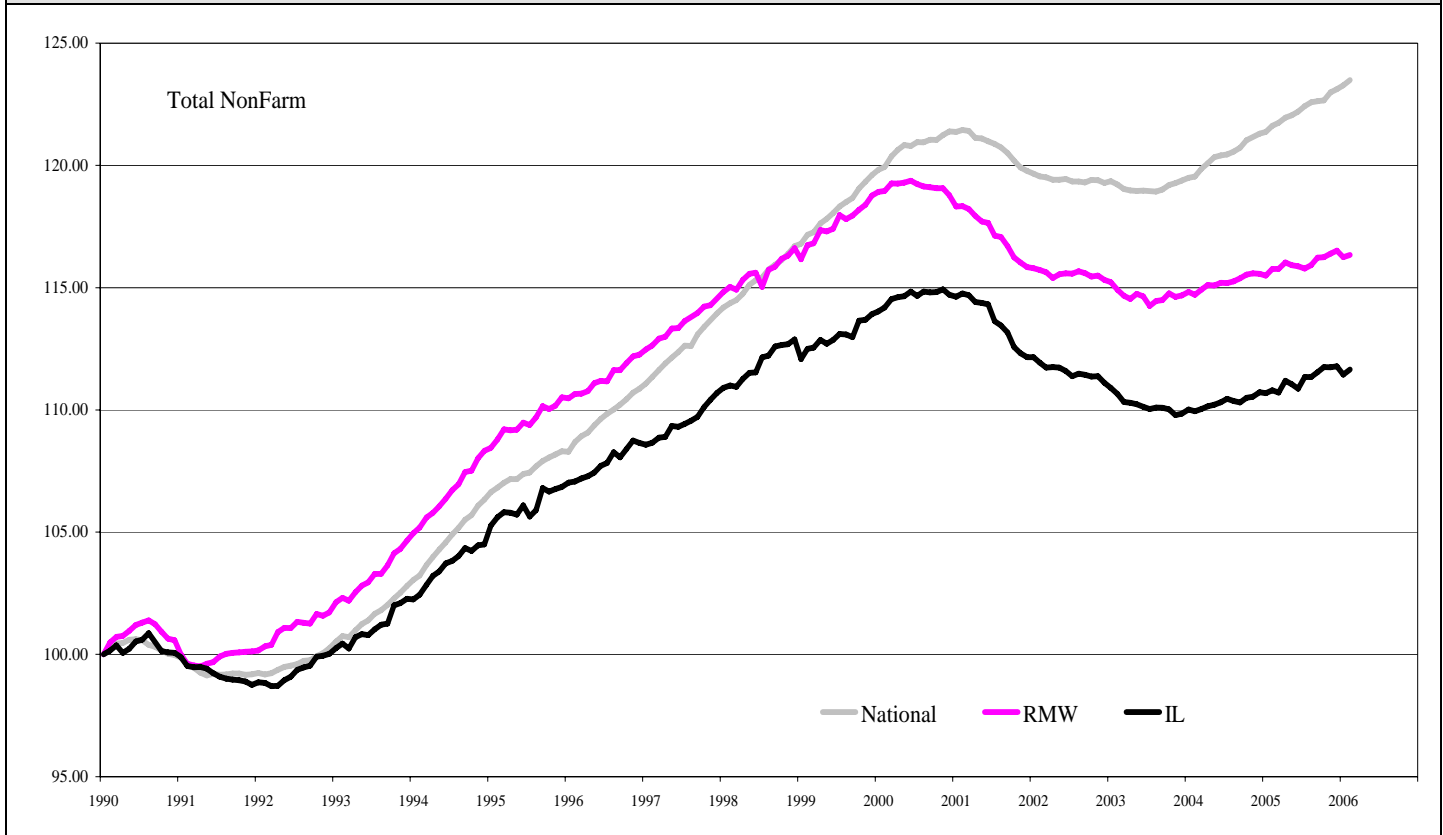
The Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity publishes the monthly Illinois Job Index and MSA Report as tools for elected officials, policy leaders and the public. We can better understand the Illinois economy and business climate by comparing and measuring Illinois employment growth rates against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

↑	March 2006 Positive	Jan 2006 - Feb 2006		Last 12 months	
		Total non-farm employment	Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs	Growth Rate%
	Nation	+0.18	+243,000	+1.55	+2,053,000
	RMW	+0.08	+15,700	+0.50	+99,100
	Illinois	+0.19	+11,000	+0.77	+44,900

Talking Points

Illinois Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In contrast to the job losses in the previous month, Illinois gained 11,000 new jobs at a monthly growth rate of 0.19%, slightly faster than the Nation. For the last five months since October 2005, Illinois' job monthly growth pattern has been fluctuating. The gain recorded in February is the largest monthly gain since July 2005 when Illinois added 25,000 new jobs at the growth rate of 0.43%. For the last five month period, the average monthly growth rate of Illinois is only one seventh of the rate at the national level, 0.02% and 0.14%, respectively. Illinois had shown slower monthly growth for the last three months since November 2005 compared to Nation; however Illinois had slightly faster growth than Nation this month. This pattern also holds for the comparison to RMW. The growth rate over 12-month period is less than 1% for the last three months since December 2005 unlike the over 1% growth rate for the previous three months from September to November 2005. Due to the strong job gains this month, Illinois had a higher job index from the previous month. However, this index level is still below that observed in December 2005.
Nation Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nation gained 243,000 new jobs in February up from the revised gain of 170,000 in the previous month. This monthly gain is greater than the forecast of 210,000 jobs made by economists. The monthly growth in February is the second largest only next to November 2005 during the last 12 months. For the two consecutive months, job gains over 12-month period exceed 2 million. The gap in job index between Nation and Illinois has widened. Due to the weaker growth pattern of RMW, 0.08% of month growth, the gap in job index between Nation and RMW which had been stabilized in the second half of 2005, has widened.

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

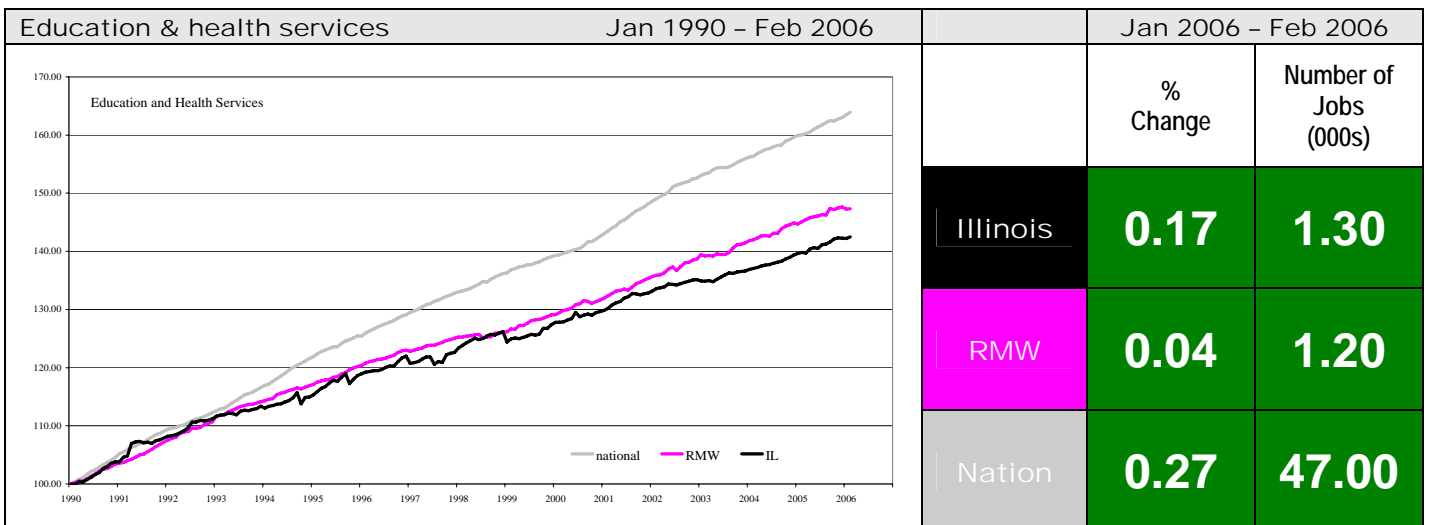
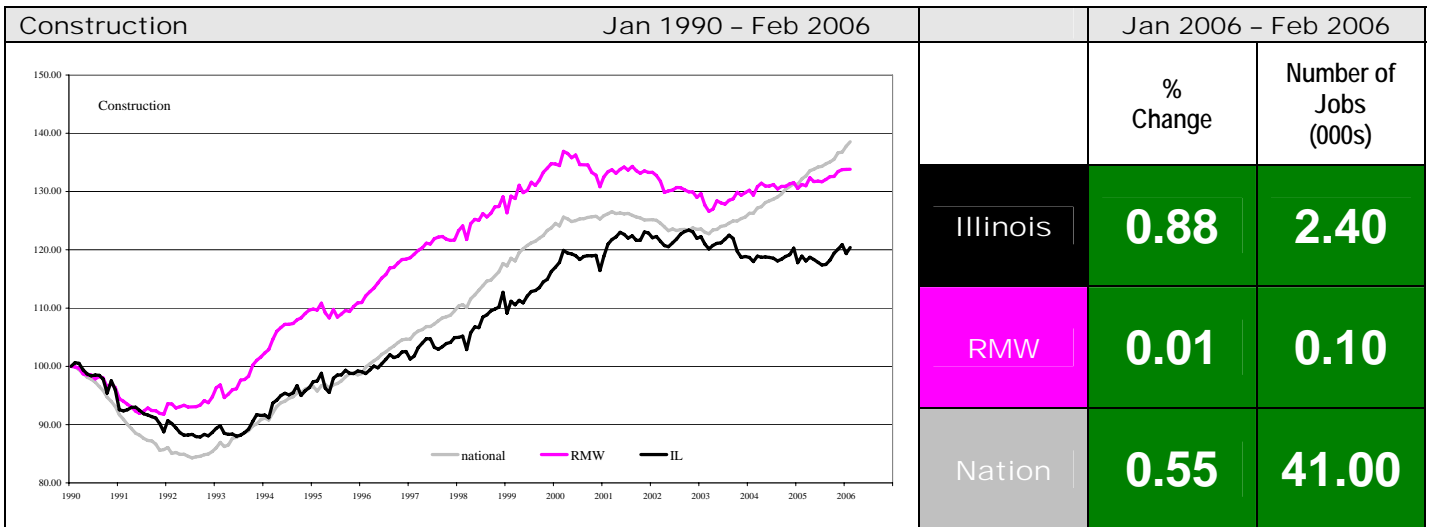


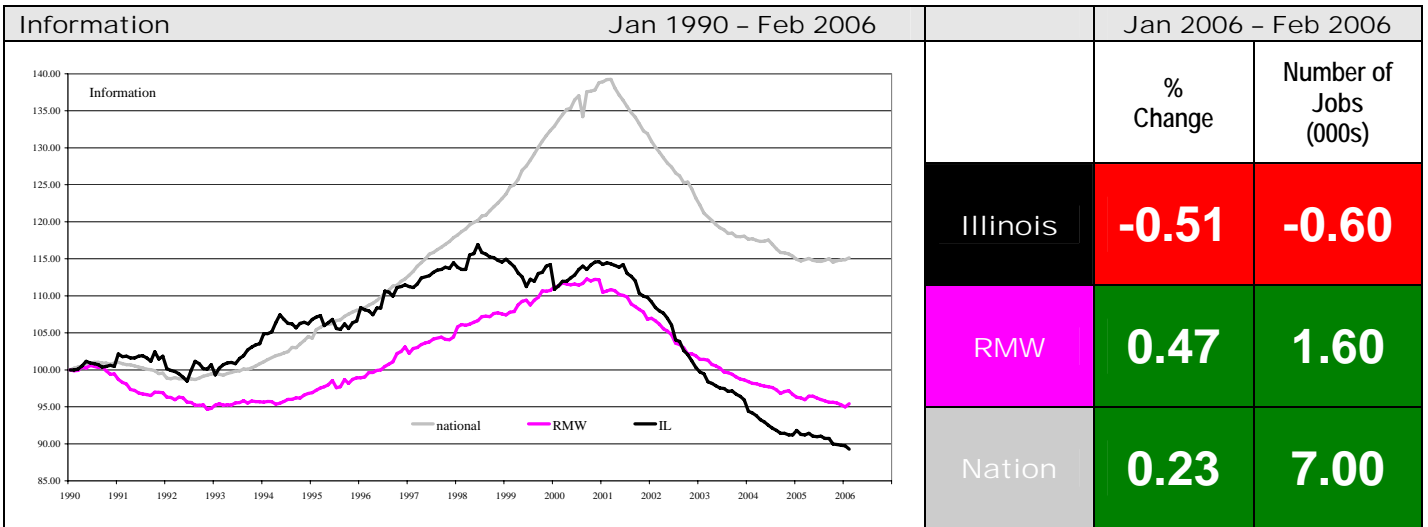
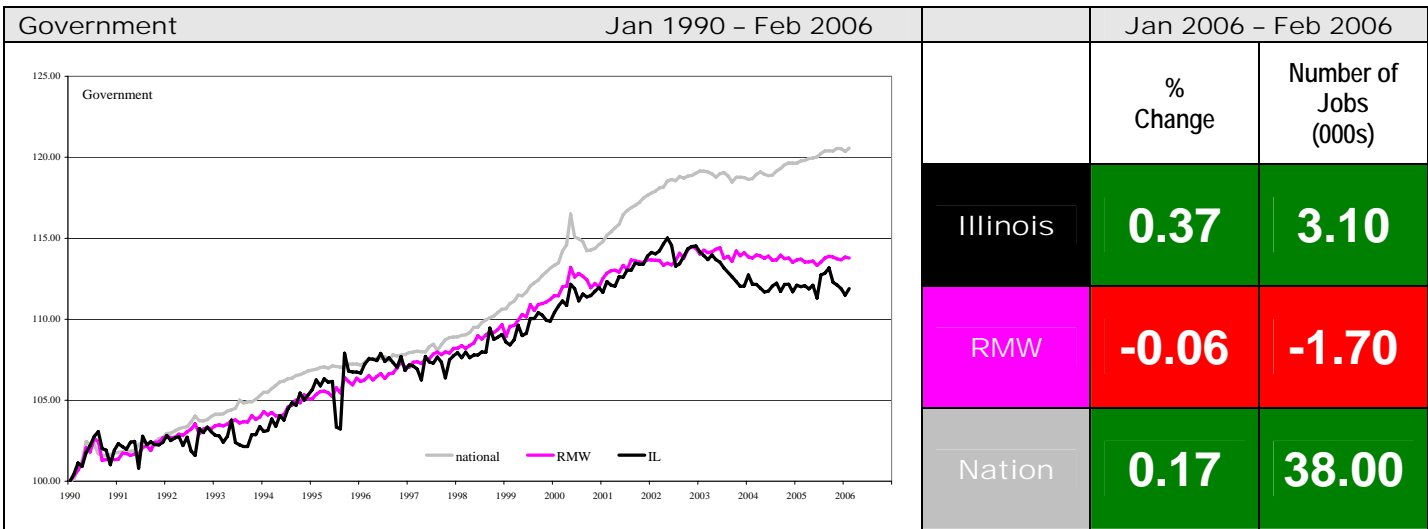
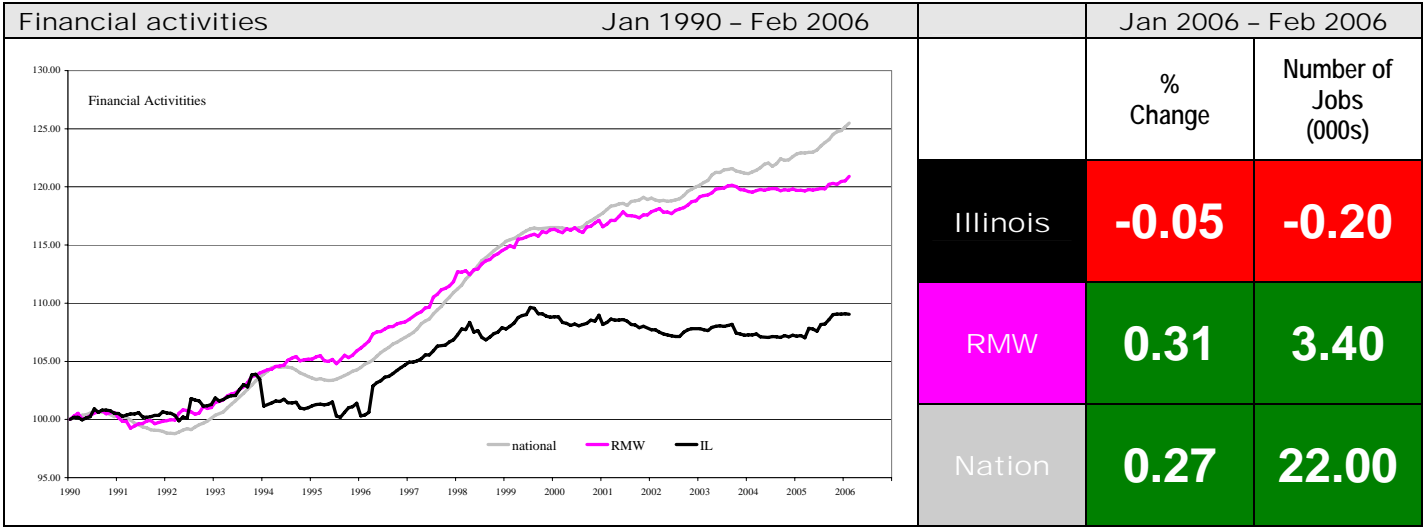
By employment sector:

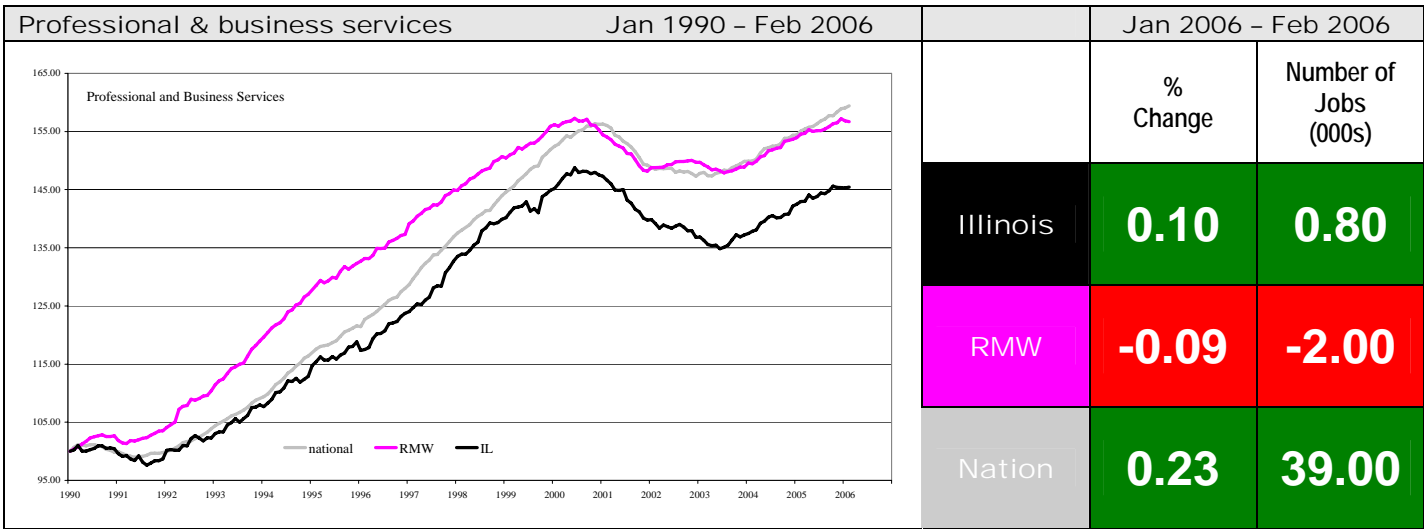
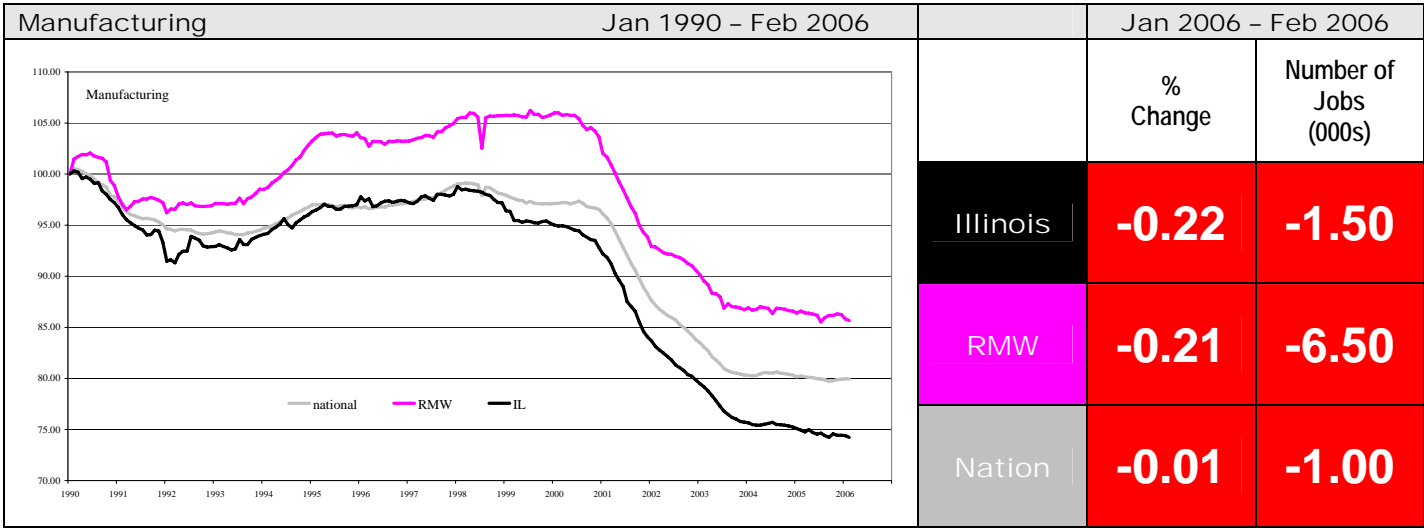
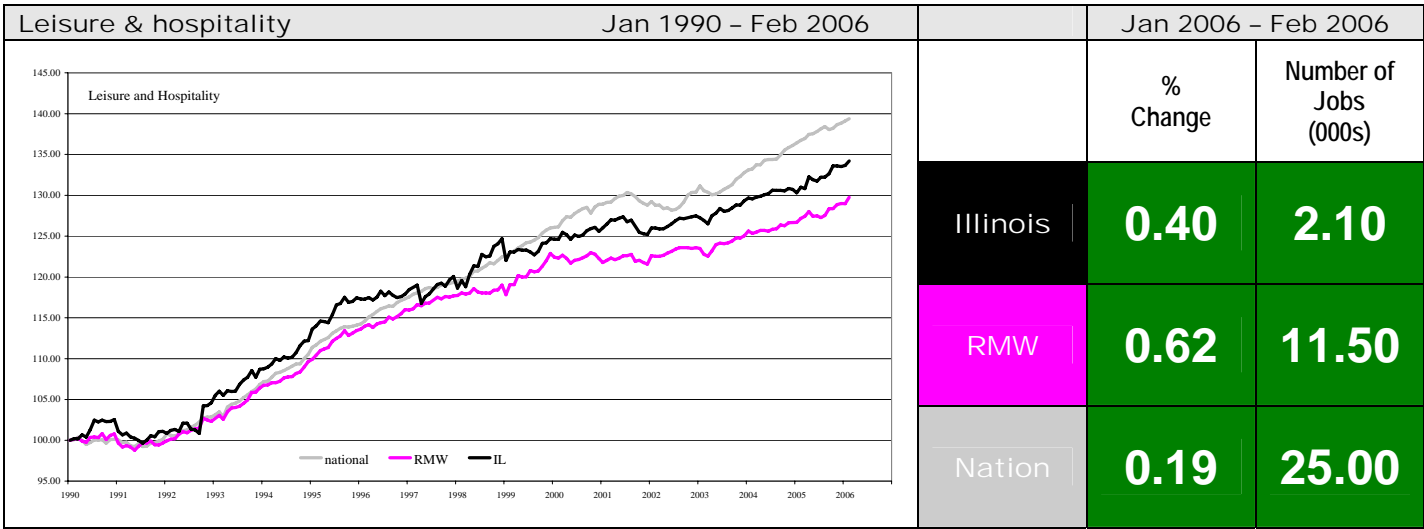
Total non-farm Employment growth rate by sector									
Monthly growth rates	Jan 2006 - Feb 2006			Jan 1990 - Feb 2006					
	Illinois vs. RMW	Illinois vs. Nation	Midwest vs. Nation	Illinois				RMW	Nation
				vs. RMW	vs. Nation	Number of Jobs	Rate %	Rate %	Rate %
Construction	+	+	-	-	-	46,400	20.40	33.82	38.55
Education & health	-	-	-	-	-	224,700	42.47	47.33	63.91
Financial activities	-	-	-	-	-	33,700	9.04	20.90	25.49
Government	+	+	-	-	-	89,700	11.90	13.78	20.57
Information	-	-	-	-	-	-14,000	-10.72	-4.58	15.13
Leisure & hospitality	-	+	+	+	-	132,900	34.21	29.77	39.38
Manufacturing	-	-	-	-	-	-238,000	-25.77	-14.34	-20.05
Professional & business services	+	-	-	-	-	259,600	45.43	56.69	59.42
Trade, transportation & utilities (TTU)	+	+	+	-	-	33,200	2.89	8.90	14.58
Other Services	+	+	-	+	-	57,200	27.85	21.80	27.93

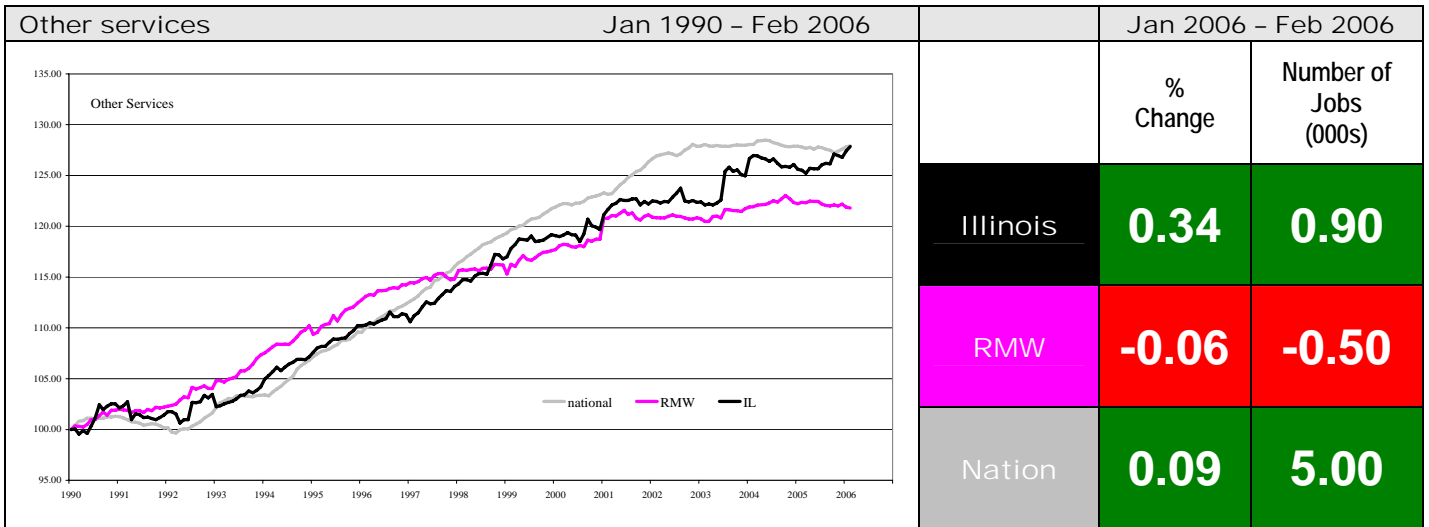
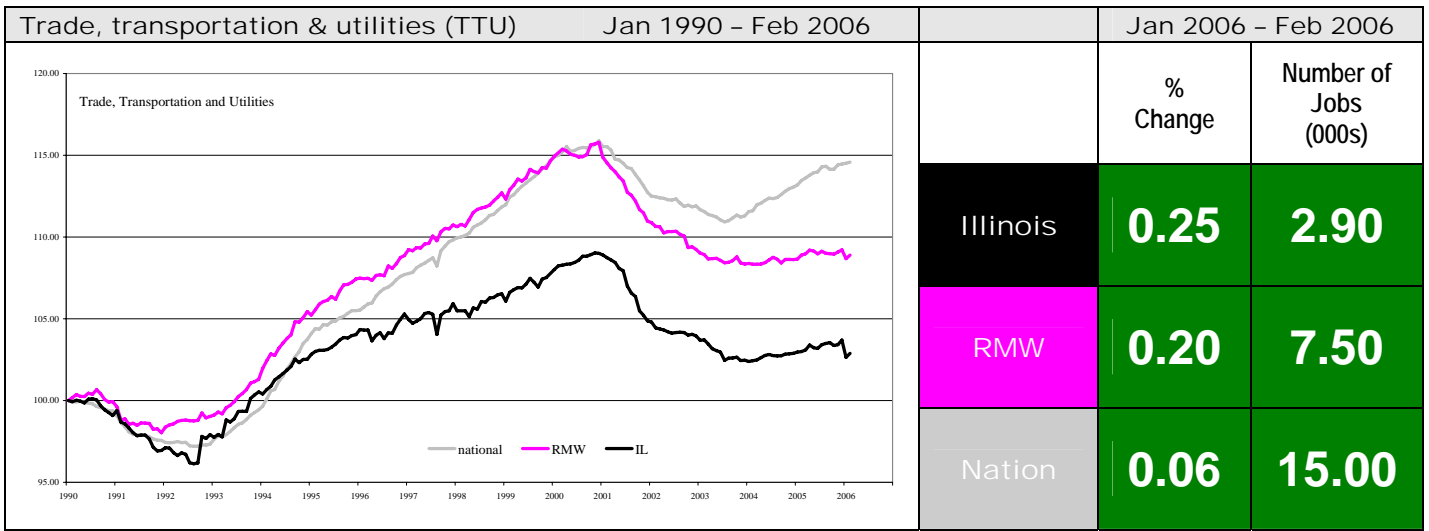
Sector notes

- Illinois created new jobs for most sectors except for three, namely Manufacturing, Information and Financial activities. Among the gaining sectors, the most noticeable were:
 - Government: 3,100 (0.37%)
 - TTU: 2,900 (0.25%)
 - Construction: 2,400 (0.88%)
 - Leisure & hospitality: 2,100 (0.40%)
- In the previous month, the top three gaining sectors shown above, Government, TTU and Construction sectors, were the sectors recoding the largest job losses in Illinois.
- In January 2006, TTU in Illinois lost 12,200 jobs at the monthly rate of -1.02% and RMW also lost 18,800 jobs at the rate of -0.49%. However, both Illinois and RMW had much faster job gains compared to national trend for TTU sector.
- The largest loss at the state level was observed in Manufacturing sector, 1,500 jobs lost. This sector in Illinois had lost 6,500 over the last 12-month period; this loss if at a greater rate than for the nation but lower than for RMW.
- Manufacturing is the only sector with the net loss of jobs at the national level. All the other sectors created new jobs nationally.
- The largest gain at the national level is from Education & health services, 47,000 jobs at 0.27% of monthly rate. The other noticeable gains are as follows:
 - Construction: 41,000 (0.55%)
 - Professional & business services: 39,000 (0.23%)
 - Government: 38,000 (0.17%)
 - Leisure & hospitality: 25,000 (0.19%)









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.