

Illinois Job Index



Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity

Release
5/x/2006

data
Jan 1990 / Apr 2006

issue
10.0

www.jobsillinois.us

For the May 2006 Illinois Job Index, the Coalition issued a Positive rating. The state's economy accelerated the job gains from the previous months.

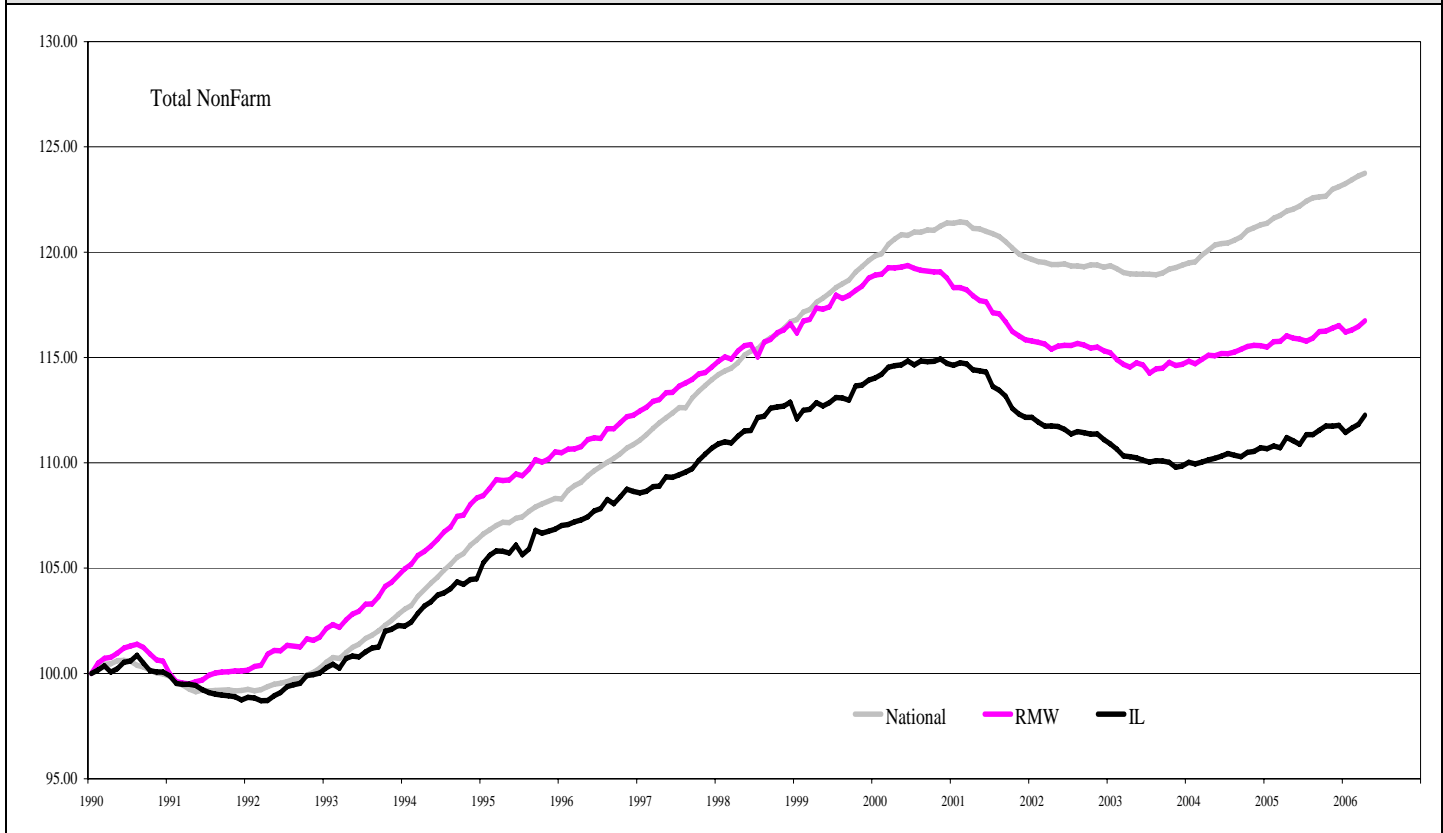
The Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity publishes the monthly Illinois Job Index and MSA Report as tools for elected officials, policy leaders and the public. We can better understand the Illinois economy and business climate by comparing and measuring Illinois employment growth rates against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

↑	May 2006 Positive	Mar 2006 - Apr 2006		Last 12 months		
		Total non-farm employment	Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs	Growth Rate%	Number of Jobs
	Nation		+0.10	+138,000	+1.48	+1,964,000
	RMW		+0.23	+46,100	+0.62	+122,200
	Illinois		+0.39	+23,100	+0.96	+56,500

Talking Points

Illinois Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illinois recorded the largest monthly job gains since July 2005 adding 23,100 new jobs at a monthly growth rate 0.39% . This is the third largest job gain since January 2000, behind two >25,000 job gains recorded last year. For the last three months, Illinois' job market had been quite strong resulting in the largest job gain over 3-month period since the beginning of 2000 with 43,600 jobs. Compared to the Nation, Illinois had shown stronger monthly job growth for the last three months, helping to reduce the gap in job index with Nation down to the level observed in December last year. However, the job growth pattern over 12-month period for Illinois still lags behind the growth at the national scale, 0.96% and 1.48% growth rates, respectively. Illinois job index indicates that state recovered up to the employment level recorded in November 2001; however it still lags behind the previous peak observed in November 2000. RMW shows the similar recovery pattern to the previous peak. With the 9-consecutive months of positive gains since August 2005 except for January 2006, RMW recovered to the employment level of September 2001. For the last three-month period, approximately one-third of new jobs created in Midwest has been in Illinois.
Nation Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nation had the weakest monthly job gains since the period following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. The monthly job gain of 138,000 is the sharp decrease from the revised gain of 200,000 jobs in the previous month. Due to the weaker growth pattern over the last few months, the growth rate over 12-month period fell below 1.50% for the first time since October 2005. This month's job gain is much smaller than the average monthly gain of 171,000 for the last 12 months at the national level, while the monthly gains of RMW and Illinois are much larger than the average monthly gains for the last 12 month period. As a result, the gaps in job index between the Nation and the RMW and between the Nation and Illinois have narrowed from previous months.

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

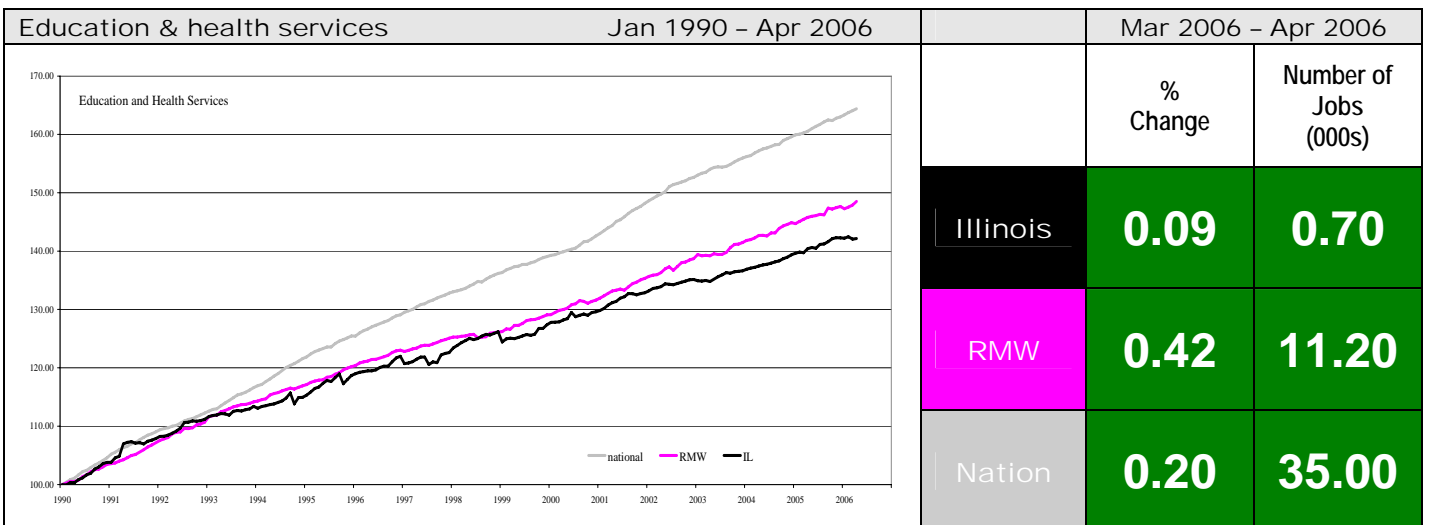
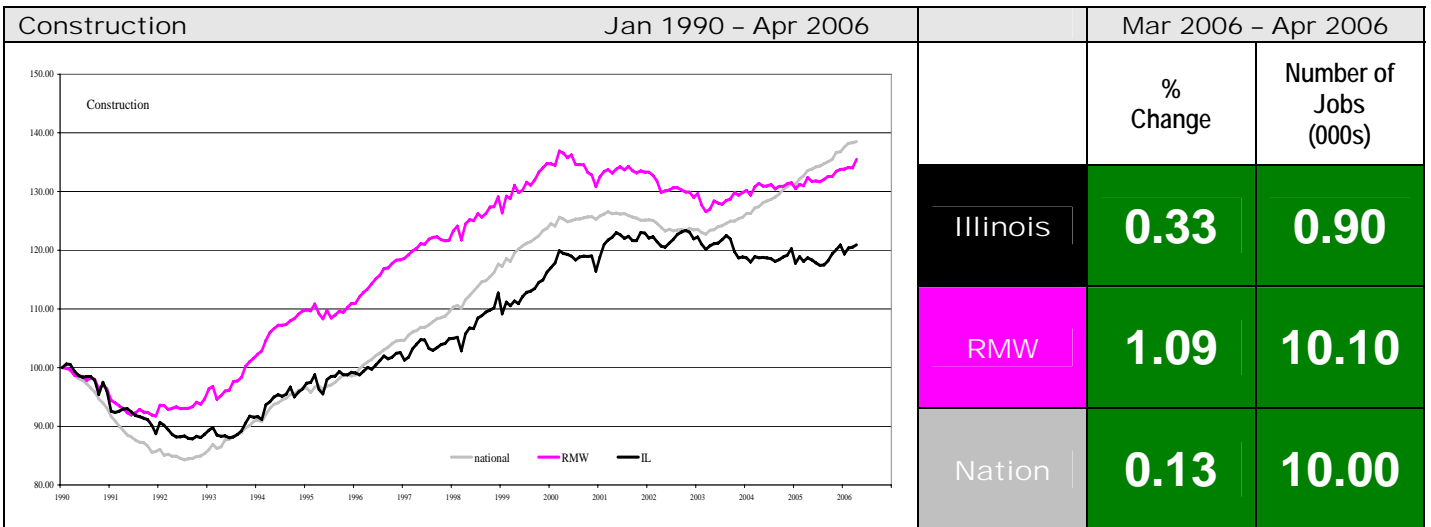


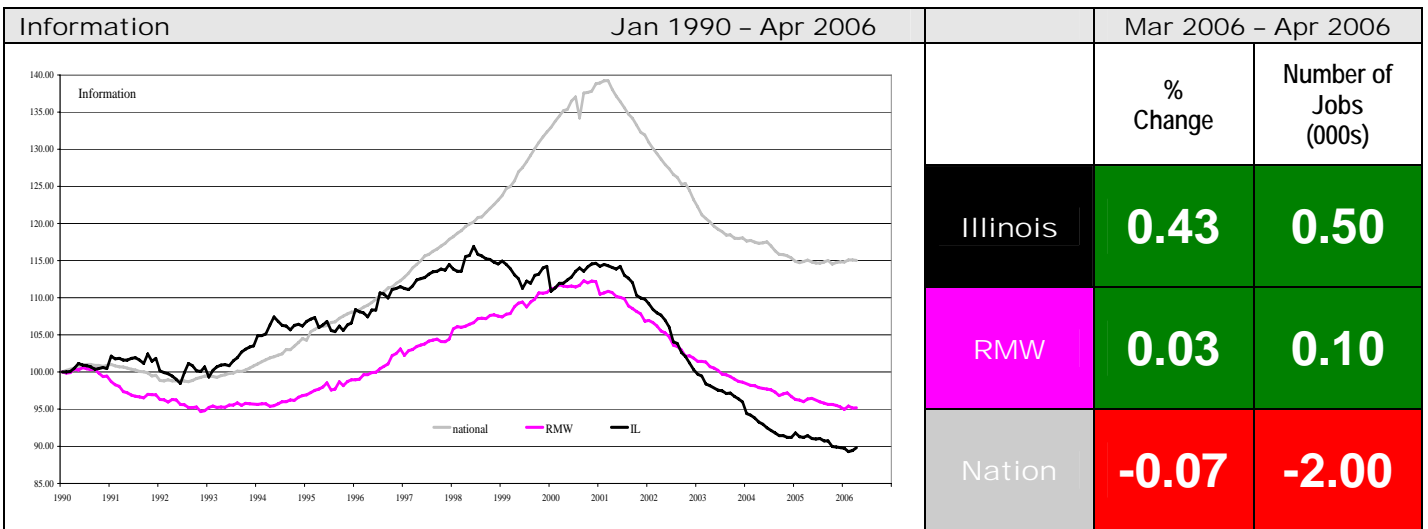
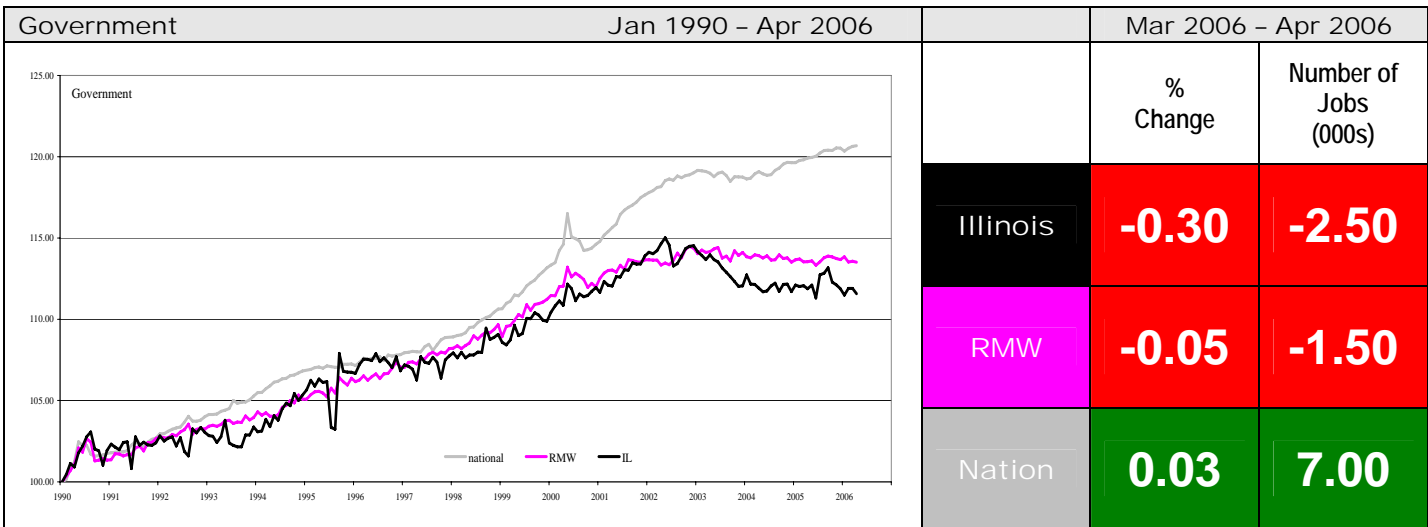
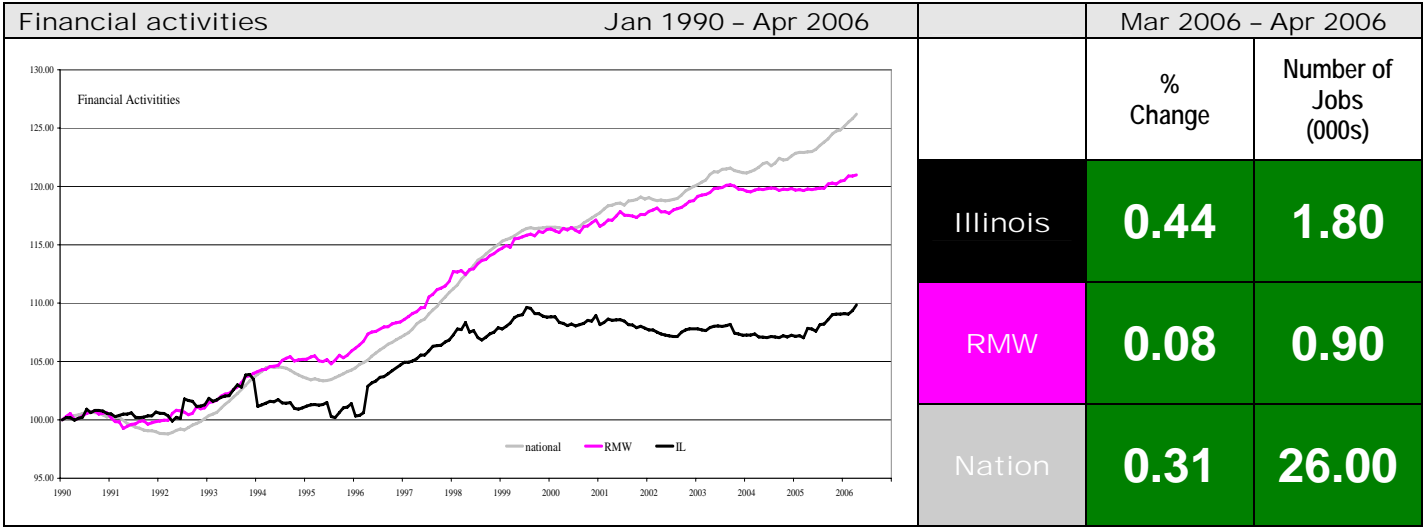
By employment sector:

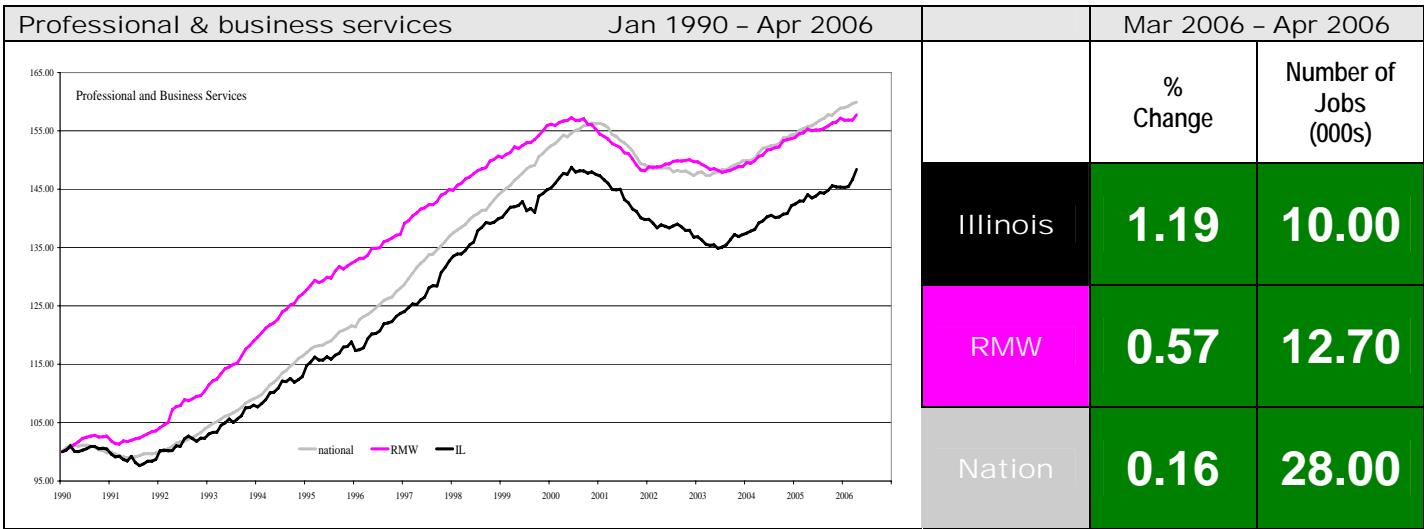
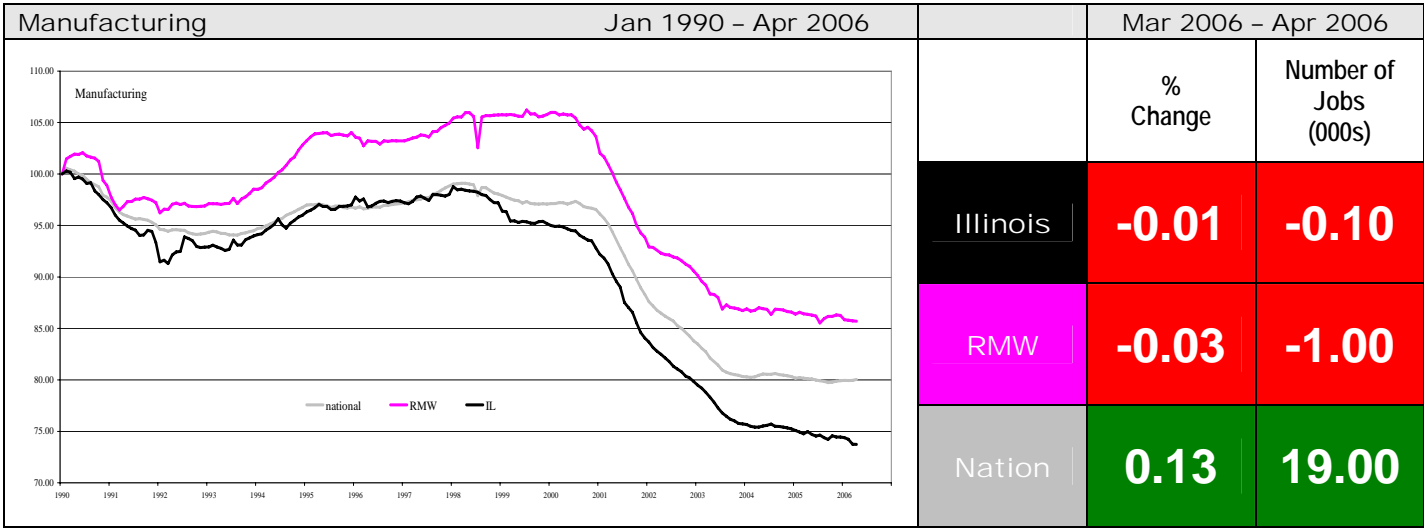
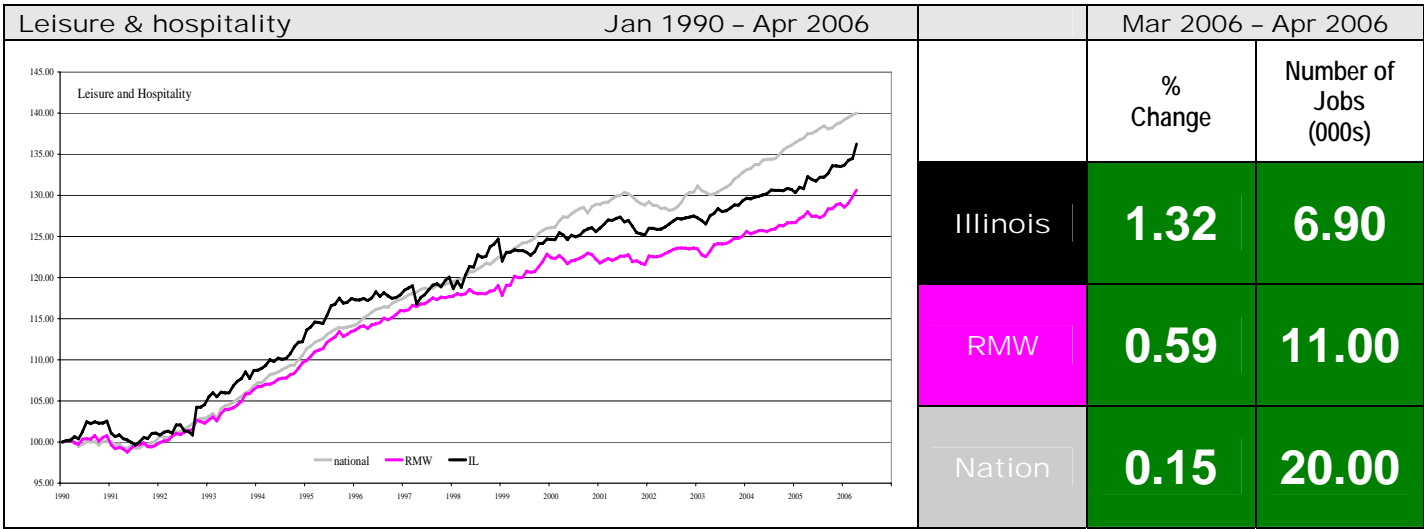
Total non-farm Employment growth rate by sector									
Monthly growth rates	Mar 2006 – Apr 2006			Jan 1990 – Apr 2006					
	Illinois vs. RMW	Illinois vs. Nation	Midwest vs. Nation	Illinois				RMW	Nation
				vs. RMW	vs. Nation	Number of Jobs	Rate %	Rate %	Rate %
Construction	-	+	+	-	-	47,600	20.93	35.51	38.51
Education & health	-	-	+	-	-	223,200	42.18	48.52	64.39
Financial activities	+	+	-	-	-	36,700	9.85	20.99	26.20
Government	-	-	-	-	-	87,200	11.57	13.51	20.68
Information	+	+	+	-	-	-13,300	-10.18	-4.83	15.02
Leisure & hospitality	+	+	+	+	-	140,800	36.24	30.63	40.00
Manufacturing	+	-	-	-	-	-242,500	-26.26	-14.30	-19.95
Professional & business services	+	+	+	-	-	276,600	48.41	57.75	59.94
Trade, transportation & utilities (TTU)	+	+	+	-	-	43,400	3.78	9.18	14.67
Other Services	+	+	-	+	+	58,300	28.38	22.26	27.86

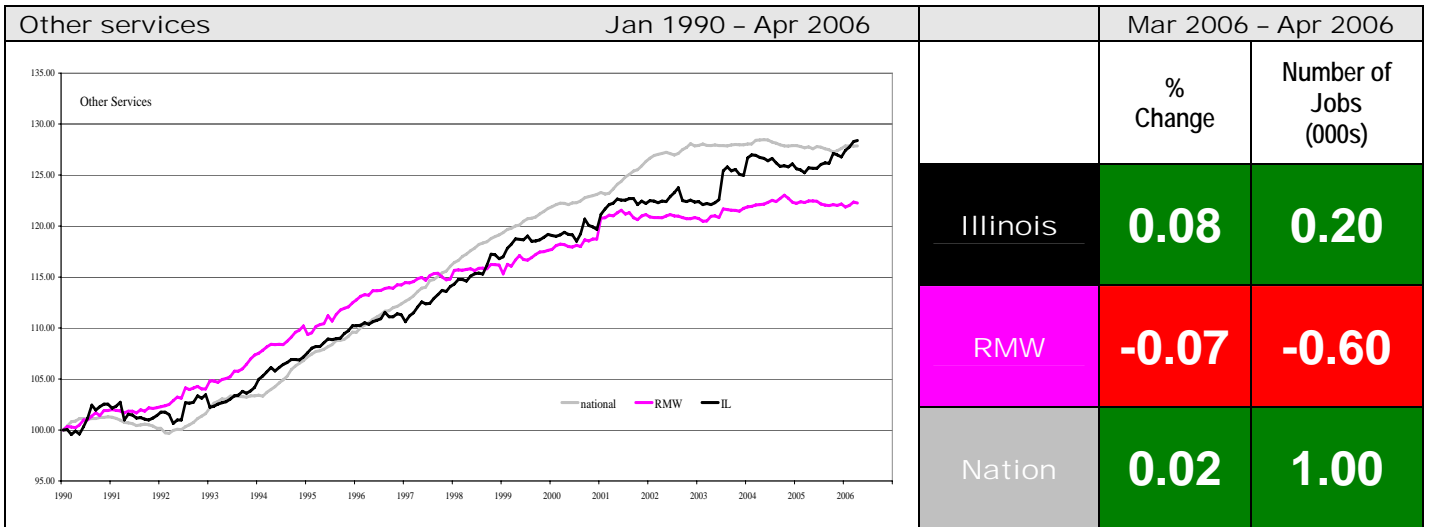
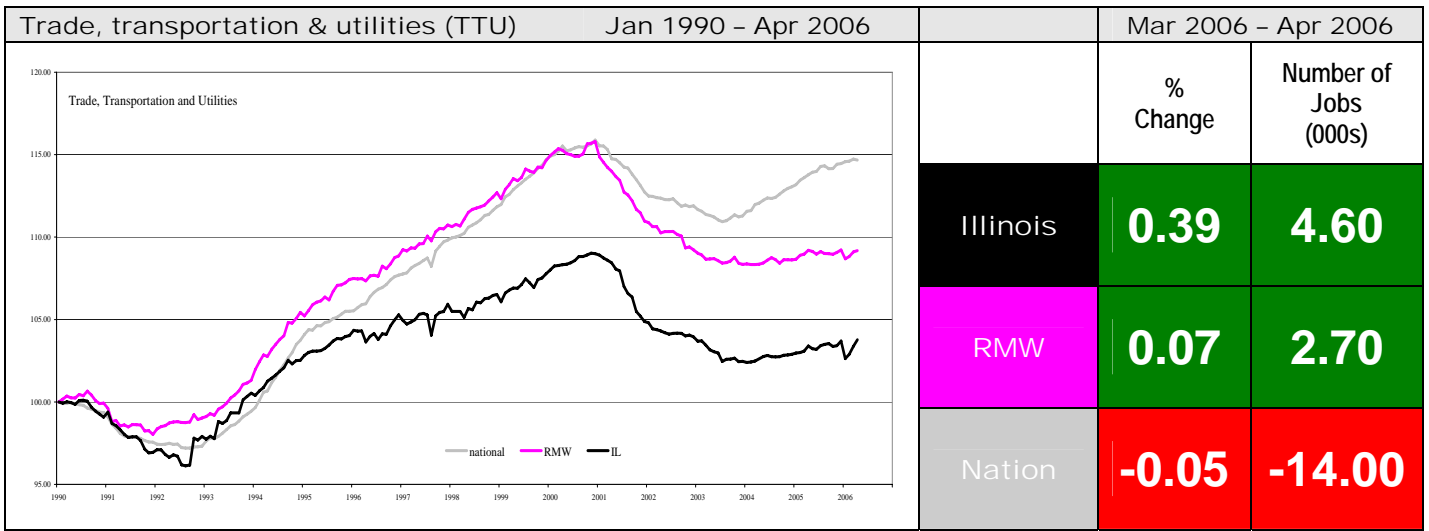
Sector notes

- Nationally, all the sectors except for Information and TTU sectors had positive monthly job gains. Noticeable gains are as follows with the growth rate in parenthesis:
 - Education & health services: 35,000 (0.20%)
 - Professor & business services: 28,000 (0.16%)
 - Financial activities: 26,000 (0.31%)
 - Leisure & hospitality: 20,000 (0.15%)
- At the national level, Manufacturing gained 19,000 jobs at 0.13% of growth rate, which is the largest monthly gain since May 2004.
- The largest losses are from TTU nationally with -14,000 and this is the first loss since September 2005 when national economy affected by the impacts of the hurricanes.
- Illinois had faster job growth patterns than the Nation for most of the sectors with the exception of Education & Health services, Government & Manufacturing. Among these three sectors, Government and Manufacturing had 2,500 and 100 net losses, respectively.
- Strong job gains at the state level are from the following sectors:
 - Professional & business services: 10,000 (1.19%)
 - Leisure & hospitality: 6,900 (1.32%)
 - TTU: 4,600 (0.39%)
 - Financial activities: 1,800 (0.44%)
- Among the strong sectors in Illinois, Leisure & hospitality had added 10,600 new jobs over the last four consecutive months. TTU and Professional & business Services have added more than 10,000 new jobs for the last three consecutive months, 17,800 and 13,100 jobs, respectively.
- Manufacturing in Illinois has lost 7,600 jobs over the last six months.









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.