As a companion to the January 2007 Illinois Job Index that reports a Positive Rating, this MSA Report provides a localized picture on Illinois job growth and allows for comparisons between local economies, Illinois, Nation and Rest of the Midwest.

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. The MSA data (unless noted) were seasonally adjusted to be consistent with state totals.

### Talking Points

**State, Downstate & Metro**
- Addition of 8,300 jobs in Illinois payroll in December, after successive periods of slow growth and decline since August 2006, injected some positive news into the state job market. The Illinois Jobs index, as a result, reached the maximum value since August 2001.
- Annual gain of 64,900 jobs in Illinois recorded by the end of 2006 was the highest since 1999 whereas the lowest gain in this period was in 2001.
- Downstate added 9,200 jobs (0.54%) in December after three consecutive months of job loss. In contrast, Chicago, the counterpart, registered net 900 job loss (-0.02%) in December after six months of steady growth.
- During December a similar U-turn was observed in the metro non-metro scenario as well. While metro areas, after six months of continued job addition, lost 1,200 jobs (-0.02%), the non-metro part added 9,500 (0.14%) after three months of net job loss.
- Contrary to the monthly change situation in December, the yearly figure shows that Chicago created twice as many jobs as Downstate and similarly, Metro areas created about three times more jobs than non-metro in 2006.

**MSA page (2-3)**
- Metro East was the only MSA to improve its performance in December by adding 700 jobs up from a 1,900 loss in previous month. Among others, Bloomington-Normal, however, added 200 jobs to maintain a positive rating. While two others had zero growth, the remaining six MSA registered net loss.
- Chicago showed a decline in performance by loosing 900 jobs (-0.02%) in December as opposed to adding 2,500 jobs (0.06%) the previous month. Peoria followed Chicago by loosing 500 jobs (-0.28%) from 400 gain (0.22) in November.
- By the end of 2006, the highest index gain since 1990 was recorded for Bloomington-Normal at 138.0 followed by Kankakee at 118.7.
- During 2006, Rockford performed best among the MSAs with highest 1.62% growth rate, whereas Chicago created the largest number of jobs (50,100) at 1.19%.
- Metro-East, in spite of a good performance in December, registered the largest job loss (1,700) in 2006 followed by Bloomington–Normal and Davenport – Rock Island – Moline which respectively lost 700 and 200 net jobs in that year. All other MSA posted positive rating except Decatur which did not show any change in payroll in 2006.
Talking Points

State, Downstate & Metro

- The growth curve for Illinois, due to a 0.14% rate rose faster in December compared to last four months.
- In December Both Non-metro and Downstate returned from a downward trend by growing at 1.82% and 0.54% respectively. This largely contributed to the net job growth of Illinois while Chicago and Metro areas as a whole experienced net loss.
- Faster growth of Illinois in 2006 compared to RMW during 2006 narrowed the gap between the two job indices.
- Net 0.02% loss in December pulled down the growth performance of Metro which was on the rise since June 2006.

By MSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market Area</th>
<th>Nov 2006 – Dec 2006</th>
<th>Last 12 months</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change compared to</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomington-Normal (B-N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champaign-Urbana (C-U-R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
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<td>-0.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davenport-Rock Island-Moline (D-R-M)</td>
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<td>Decatur</td>
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<td>-0.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kankakee</td>
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<td>Peoria</td>
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<td>Rockford</td>
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<td>Metro-East*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.14</td>
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Total non-farm Employment growth rate Jan 1990 – Dec 2006

Shaded area on above chart represents Illinois growth.

**MSA DESCRIPTION:**
- **Bloomington-Normal (B-N):** McLean Co.  
- **Champaign-Urbana (C-U-R):** Champaign Co., Ford Co. & Piatt Co.  
- **Chicago:** Cook Co. IL, DeKalb Co. IL, DuPage Co. IL, Grundy Co. IL, Kane Co. IL, Kendall Co. IL, Lake Co. IL, McHenry Co. IL, Will Co. IL & Kenosha Co. WI  
- **Davenport-Rock Island-Moline (D-R-M):** Henry Co. IL, Mercer Co. IL, Rock Island Co. IL & Scott Co. IA  
- **Decatur:** Macon Co.  
- **Kankakee:** Kankakee Co.  
- **Rockford:** Boone Co. & Winnebago Co.  
- **Springfield:** Menard Co. & Sangamon Co.

The MSA data (unless noted) were seasonally adjusted to be consistent with state totals.

**ABOUT:** The Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity is a not-for-profit 501-c-4 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.