

Illinois

Job Index:

MSA Report



Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity

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As a companion to the April 2006 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.

April 2006	Total non-farm employment	Feb 2006 – Mar 2006		Last 12 months	
		Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs	Growth Rate%	Number of Jobs
	Illinois non-Metro (Rural)	+2.00	+9,900	- 0.98	- 5,000
	Illinois non-Chicago (Downstate)	+0.53	+8,900	+0.33	+5,600
	Illinois Metro	- 0.02	- 1,200	+1.19	+63,400
	Illinois	+0.15	+8,700	+1.00	+58,400
	Rest of Midwest (RMW)	+0.14	+27,000	+0.60	+118,100
	Nation	+0.16	+211,000	+1.57	+2,090,000

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

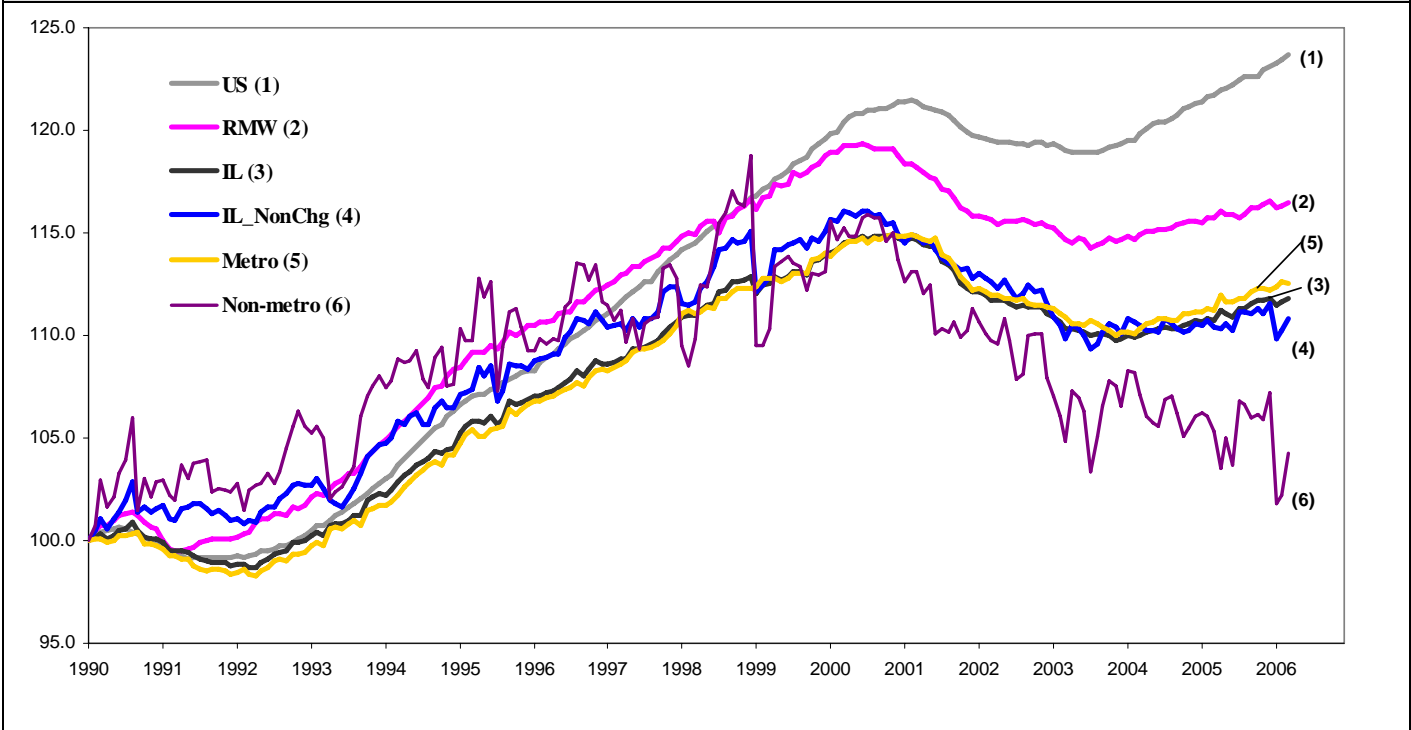
State, Downstate & Metro

- After net losses in January 2006, Illinois has kept pace with the Nation in terms of monthly growth, for the last two months, February and March.
- Also, Illinois recovered up to 1% of 12-month growth rate for the first time since November last year, exceeding that of RMW but still behind that of the Nation.
- Downstate had the fastest monthly growth rate since July 2005 creating 8,900 new jobs while Chicago lost 200 jobs this month. Due to the relatively stronger growth patterns for the last two months, Downstate showed net gains of 5,600 jobs over the 12-month period.
- Metro in Illinois lost 1,200 jobs, while non-Metro regions had 2% of monthly growth adding 9,900 jobs, the largest monthly gain since July last year. Similar pattern could be found from the growth pattern in Downstate.
- Metro areas located downstate lost 1,000 jobs and this deflated the number of new jobs created in Illinois to 8,700 even with the huge number of new jobs created in non-Metro (rural) regions in Illinois.
- Still, non-Metro regions in Illinois are suffering from the net losses of 5,000 jobs over the 12-month period.

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- Unlike the previous month when most of the MSAs except for Kankakee had positive gains, only three MSAs showed net gains this month, namely Bloomington-Normal, Davenport-Rock Island-Moline, and Rockford.
- All the gaining three MSAs listed above also had positive gains in the previous month and Bloomington-Normal and Rockford showed stronger growth pattern compared to state for the last two months.
- The biggest loss was from Champaign-Urbana, 700 losses, followed by Metro-East which lost 600 jobs.
- Only Kankakee experienced a second consecutive month with the net job losses.
- Over 12-month period, Metro-East was the only MSA showing net losses; however the number of losses decreased to 500.

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



Talking Points

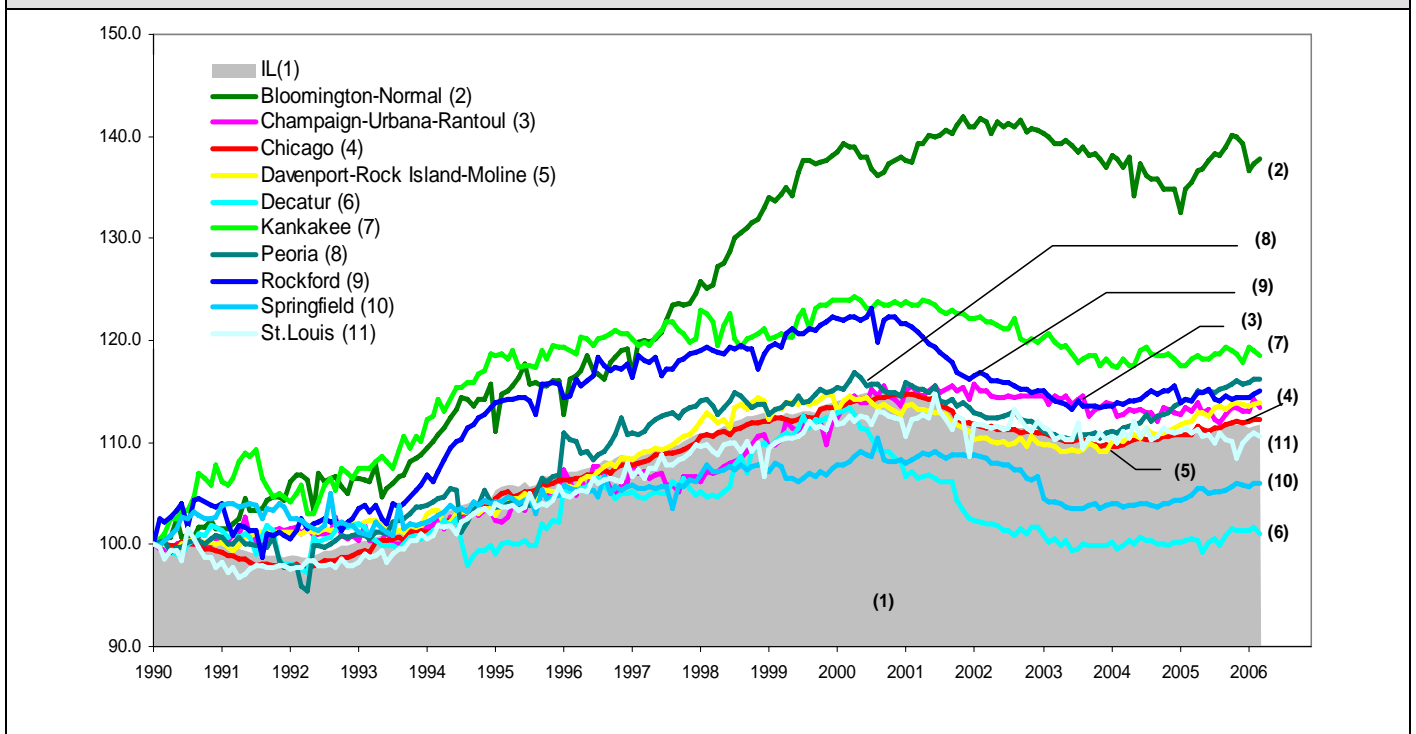
State,
Downstate
& Metro

- Illinois managed to keep the similar growth pattern with Nation but failed to narrow the job index with Nation and RMW.
- Downstate had continuously recovered from the big losses observed in January 2006 but still lag behind the index levels observed in the second half of 2005.
- Even with the net losses in Metro, the job index of Metro indicates no changes compared to the previous month and still leads the job growth pattern in Illinois.

By MSA

Total non-farm employment Seasonally adjusted unless noted*	Feb 2006 - Mar 2006			Last 12 months	
	Change compared to Illinois	Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs	Growth Rate %	Number of Jobs
Bloomington-Normal (B-N)	+	0.33	500	1.69	1,500
Champaign-Urbana (C-U-R)	-	- 0.62	- 700	0.36	400
Chicago	-	- 0.01	- 200	1.27	52,800
Davenport-Rock Island-Moline (D-R-M)	-	0.11	200	1.62	3,000
Decatur	-	- 0.55	- 300	0.55	300
Kankakee	-	- 0.47	- 200	0.24	100
Peoria	-	0.00	0	1.86	3,300
Rockford	+	0.19	300	0.85	1,300
Springfield	-	0.00	0	1.08	1,200
Metro-East*	-	- 0.25	- 600	- 0.21	- 500
Illinois		0.15	8,700	1.00	58,400

Total non-farm Employment growth rate Jan 1990 – Mar 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-Moline-Rock Island (D-R-M):** Henry Co. IL, Mercer Co. IL, Rock Island Co. IL & Scott Co. IA **Decatur:** Macon Co. **Kankakee:** Kankakee Co. **Metro-East:** Bond Co., Calhoun Co., Clinton Co., Jersey Co., Macoupin Co., Madison Co., Monroe Co. & St. Clair Co. **Peoria-Pekin (Peoria):** Marshall Co., Peoria Co., Stark Co., Tazewell Co. & Woodford Co. **Rockford:** Boone Co. & Winnebago Co. **Springfield:** Menard Co. & Sangamon Co.

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.

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