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MONTHLY BRIEFING

For the Month Ended: APRIL 2026

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COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT
FORECASTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

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Despite Only Modest Gains in Key Month for Receipts, April Revenues Largely Meet Expectations

Eric Noggle, Revenue Manager

In the pivotal month of April, revenues deposited into the State's General Funds increased by \$146 million, or 2.0%. While the overall gains were modest, results generally aligned with expectations. The revenue total of \$7.305 billion represents the second-highest month on record, trailing only the federal stimulus-aided \$8.0 billion collected in April FY 2022. Income tax receipts accounted for the vast majority of the total, while growth in Federal Sources provided additional support. April 2026 had the same number of receipting days as April of last year.

For the month, Personal Income Tax receipts totaled \$5.371 billion, an increase of \$54 million, or 1.0%, over April 2025. This sizeable monthly total—also the second highest on record—reflects the impact of the critical final tax payment period. After accounting for distributions to the Income Tax Refund Fund and the Local Government Distributive Fund, net receipts were \$4.566 billion, or \$47 million above last April. As noted in last month's briefing, a large receipting day at the end of March boosted that month's growth from 1.2% to 8.8%. The timing of that transaction correspondingly dampened April's growth rate to 1.0%. However, when March and April are considered together, the combined increase is 4.1%, closely tracking the year-to-date growth rate of 4.2%. In short, there was no "April Surprise," as receipts remained consistent with recent trends.

Corporate Income Tax receipts also remained on trend, though in negative territory. For the month, gross receipts declined by \$135 million, or 9.0%, while net receipts fell \$98 million compared to

April 2025. These declines were anticipated, reflecting provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) that reduced the taxable base for many businesses, along with another month of net reductions from “true-up” reallocations. Despite the drop, the net total of \$1.104 billion marks only the fifth time this revenue source has exceeded \$1 billion in a single month. A closer look at income tax receipts, and their importance to the overall revenue picture, is provided on page 7.

The largest gain this month came from Federal Sources, which rose \$116 million to \$210 million. While the 123.4% increase appears significant, the monthly total compares to a relatively low base of \$94 million in April of last year, which somewhat overstates the strength of the growth. Even so, this category was a key contributor to the overall increase in receipts.

Sales Tax receipts also rose in April, with gross collections up \$24 million, or 2.4%. After accounting for distributions to the Road Fund and certain transportation funds, the net increase was \$21 million. Although this growth is below the 5.1% pace experienced in the first half of the fiscal year, receipts continue to post gains, likely supported in part by higher prices as inflation has edged up in recent months.

The “All Other State Sources” category continued its solid performance, increasing \$50 million, or 17.5%, in April. This growth was driven primarily by Insurance Taxes, which rose \$29 million, and Interest on State Funds and Investments, which increased \$26 million. Most other sources in this category were essentially flat for the month. The only notable declines were in the Corporate Franchise Tax, down \$4 million, and the Estate Tax, which fell \$2 million.

Transfers In were modestly higher in April, with a combined increase of \$10 million. The casino-related Gaming Transfer declined by \$6 million, but this was offset by gains of \$8 million in the Sports Wagering Transfer, \$5 million in Other Transfers, \$2 million in the Lottery Transfer, and \$1 million in Cannabis Transfers.

<i>Summary of Receipts</i>				
APRIL				
<i>FY 2025 vs. FY 2026</i>				
<i>(\$ millions)</i>				
Revenue Sources	April FY 2025	April FY 2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Net Personal Income Tax	\$4,519	\$4,566	\$47	1.0%
Net Corporate Income Tax	\$1,202	\$1,104	(\$98)	-8.2%
Net Sales Tax	\$895	\$916	\$21	2.3%
All Other State Sources	\$285	\$335	\$50	17.5%
Transfers In	\$164	\$174	\$10	6.1%
Federal Sources [base]	\$94	\$210	\$116	123.4%
Base General Funds	\$7,159	\$7,305	\$146	2.0%
<i>Non-Base Gen Funds Revenues</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total General Funds	\$7,159	\$7,305	\$146	2.0%

CGFA SOURCE: Office of the Comptroller: Some totals may not equal, due to rounding

1-May-26

APRIL
FY 2025 vs. FY 2026
(\$ millions)

Revenue Sources	April FY 2025	April FY 2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
State Taxes				
Personal Income Tax	\$5,317	\$5,371	\$54	1.0%
Corporate Income Tax (regular)	1,500	1,365	(135)	-9.0%
Sales Taxes	1,018	1,042	24	2.4%
Public Utility Taxes (regular)	61	61	0	0.0%
Cigarette Tax	15	15	0	0.0%
Liquor Gallonage Taxes	14	14	0	0.0%
Estate Tax	45	43	(2)	-4.4%
Insurance Taxes and Fees	8	37	29	362.5%
Corporate Franchise Tax & Fees	23	19	(4)	-17.4%
Interest on State Funds & Investments	92	118	26	28.3%
Cook County IGT	0	0	0	N/A
Other Sources	27	28	1	3.7%
Total State Taxes	\$8,120	\$8,113	(\$7)	-0.1%
Transfers In				
Lottery	\$70	\$72	\$2	2.9%
Gaming	16	10	(6)	-37.5%
Sports Wagering	28	36	8	28.6%
Cannabis	9	10	1	11.1%
Refund Fund	0	0	0	N/A
Other	41	46	5	12.2%
Total Transfers In	\$164	\$174	\$10	6.1%
Total State Sources	\$8,284	\$8,287	\$3	0.0%
Federal Sources [base]	\$94	\$210	\$116	123.4%
Total Federal & State Sources	\$8,378	\$8,497	\$119	1.4%
Nongeneral Funds Distributions/Direct Receipts:				
Refund Fund				
Personal Income Tax	(\$485)	(\$489)	(\$4)	0.8%
Corporate Income Tax	(\$210)	(\$181)	29	-13.8%
Local Government Distributive Fund				
Personal Income Tax	(313)	(316)	(3)	1.0%
Corporate Income Tax	(88)	(80)	8	-9.1%
Sales Tax Distributions				
Deposits into Road Fund	(54)	(53)	1	-1.9%
Distribution to the PTF and DPTF	(69)	(73)	(4)	5.8%
General Funds Subtotal [Base]	\$7,159	\$7,305	\$146	2.0%
ARPA Reimb. for Essential Gov't Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Transfers to Repay Payroll Borrowing	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total General Funds	\$7,159	\$7,305	\$146	2.0%

CGFA SOURCE: Office of the Comptroller: Some totals may not equal, due to rounding

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Year to Date

Incorporating April’s modest gains, General Funds receipts now total \$46.564 billion for FY 2026, with only two months remaining in the fiscal year. This amount is \$1.716 billion, or 3.8%, above last year’s ten-month total. From a base revenue perspective, cumulative growth is slightly higher at \$1.778 billion when adjusting for the difference in one-time revenues received in FY 2025 and FY 2026.

<i>Summary of Receipts</i>				
GENERAL FUNDS RECEIPTS: THROUGH APRIL				
<i>FY 2025 vs. FY 2026</i>				
<i>(\$ millions)</i>				
Revenue Sources	FY 2025	FY 2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Net Personal Income Tax	\$23,713	\$24,704	\$991	4.2%
Net Corporate Income Tax	\$3,862	\$3,600	(\$262)	-6.8%
Net Sales Tax	\$8,792	\$8,914	\$122	1.4%
All Other State Sources	\$3,262	\$3,601	\$339	10.4%
Transfers In	\$1,940	\$2,573	\$633	32.6%
Federal Sources [base]	\$3,214	\$3,169	(\$45)	-1.4%
Base General Funds	\$44,783	\$46,561	\$1,778	4.0%
<i>Non-Base Gen Funds Revenues</i>	\$65	\$3	(\$62)	-95.4%
Total General Funds	\$44,848	\$46,564	\$1,716	3.8%
CGFA SOURCE: Office of the Comptroller: Some totals may not equal, due to rounding				1-May-26

The modest increase in Personal Income Tax receipts in April raises the year-to-date gain to \$1.167 billion, an increase of 4.2%. On a net basis, receipts from this source are up \$991 million. As noted in prior briefings, this key revenue source remains comfortably ahead of the 0.9% growth pace needed to meet original budget expectations and continues to track closely with the Commission’s revised forecast released in March.

Corporate Income Tax receipts, by comparison, continue to reflect anticipated weakness. The year-to-date net decline of \$262 million, or 6.8%, is below budget expectations but aligns with projections following the implementation of newly passed federal tax changes. With recent monthly results remaining consistent with those revised estimates, no significant change to this revenue source’s FY 2026 outlook appears warranted at this time. However, the Commission will review the underlying performance in greater detail over the next week to determine whether any adjustments are appropriate.

Sales Tax receipts have also contributed to overall growth, with gross collections up \$387 million, or 4.0%, through April. However, on a net basis, growth is limited to \$122 million, or 1.4%, due to increased distributions to transportation funds in FY 2026. While performance for the year has been solid, growth has slowed in recent months, with gross receipts averaging monthly growth of only 2.1% since January. If this trend persists through the remainder of the fiscal year, final totals could

fall slightly short of the Commission's March estimates. That said, rising costs, particularly for motor fuel, may boost the taxable base and help offset this recent slowdown.

All Other State Sources have posted a combined year-over-year increase of \$339 million through April. Despite a slight decline this month, the Estate Tax has recorded the largest gain, rising \$216 million, or 42.4%, for the year. Insurance Taxes and Fees have continued to perform well, with gains reaching \$121 million, while Interest on State Funds and Investments has exceeded expectations with an increase of \$27 million. The recent decision by the Federal Reserve to hold core interest rates steady should support continued strength in investment related income. These gains have more than offset declines in Other Sources (-\$16 million), the Cigarette Tax (-\$10 million), and Liquor Taxes (-\$5 million).

Transfers In have increased by \$633 million year to date, supported largely by a \$447 million rise in the Income Tax Refund Fund Transfer. Another notable contributor is the Sports Wagering Transfer, which has grown by \$153 million through April following the implementation of the new per wager tax at the start of FY 2026. The Gaming Transfer declined slightly in April but remains up \$55 million for the year, while Lottery Transfers have increased by \$18 million. These gains have offset lower receipts from the Cannabis Transfer, down \$4 million, and Other Transfers, down \$36 million.

Despite April's gains, Federal Sources remain \$45 million below last year's pace through the first ten months of the fiscal year. When adjusting for \$65 million in one-time ARPA revenues received in FY 2025, the shortfall widens to \$110 million. Stronger performance over the final two months will be needed for this category to reach the Commission's March forecast.

In summary, revenues deposited into the State's General Funds since the Commission released its updated FY 2026 and FY 2027 forecasts have generally tracked in line with expectations. While minor adjustments remain possible following a more detailed review, no significant revisions appear necessary at this time. The Commission will evaluate the latest revenue data and updated economic forecasts in the coming days to determine whether any changes to the FY 2026 and FY 2027 outlooks are warranted.

GENERAL FUNDS RECEIPTS: THROUGH APRIL

FY 2025 vs. FY 2026

(\$ millions)

<u>Revenue Sources</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>CHANGE</u>	<u>%</u> <u>CHANGE</u>
State Taxes				
Personal Income Tax	\$27,905	\$29,072	\$1,167	4.2%
Corporate Income Tax (regular)	4,822	4,478	(344)	-7.1%
Sales Taxes	9,757	10,144	387	4.0%
Public Utility Taxes (regular)	614	615	1	0.2%
Cigarette Tax	156	146	(10)	-6.4%
Liquor Gallonage Taxes	146	141	(5)	-3.4%
Estate Tax	510	726	216	42.4%
Insurance Taxes and Fees	407	528	121	29.7%
Corporate Franchise Tax & Fees	171	176	5	2.9%
Interest on State Funds & Investments	649	676	27	4.2%
Cook County IGT	244	244	0	0.0%
Other Sources	365	349	(16)	-4.4%
Total State Taxes	\$45,746	\$47,295	\$1,549	3.4%
Transfers In				
Lottery	\$660	\$678	\$18	2.7%
Gaming	158	213	55	34.8%
Sports Wagering	161	314	153	95.0%
Cannabis	93	89	(4)	-4.3%
Refund Fund	253	700	447	176.7%
Other	615	579	(36)	-5.9%
Total Transfers In	\$1,940	\$2,573	\$633	32.6%
Total State Sources	\$47,686	\$49,868	\$2,182	4.6%
Federal Sources [base]	\$3,214	\$3,169	(\$45)	-1.4%
Total Federal & State Sources	\$50,900	\$53,037	\$2,137	4.2%
Nongeneral Funds Distributions/Direct Receipts:				
Refund Fund				
Personal Income Tax	(\$2,552)	(\$2,659)	(\$107)	4.2%
Corporate Income Tax	(676)	(614)	62	-9.2%
Local Government Distributive Fund				
Personal Income Tax	(1,640)	(1,709)	(69)	4.2%
Corporate Income Tax	(284)	(264)	20	-7.0%
Sales Tax Distributions				
Deposits into Road Fund	(590)	(550)	40	-6.8%
Distribution to the PTF and DPTF	(375)	(680)	(305)	81.3%
General Funds Subtotal [Base]	\$44,783	\$46,561	\$1,778	4.0%
ARPA Reimb. for Essential Gov't Services	\$65	\$0	(\$65)	-100.0%
Transfers to Repay Payroll Borrowing	\$0	\$3	\$3	N/A
Total General Funds	\$44,848	\$46,564	\$1,716	3.8%

CGFA SOURCE: Office of the Comptroller: Some totals may not equal, due to rounding

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The Growing Importance of Income Tax Revenues

Eric Noggle, Revenue Manager

In the Commission's monthly briefings, considerable attention is given to the performance of income tax receipts, and for good reason. The Personal Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax are two of Illinois' three largest revenue sources, along with the Sales Tax, and together they comprise the majority of revenues supporting the State's General Funds.

Their importance is evident in the scale of collections. On a single receipting day this month following the April 15th income tax deadline, more than \$1.5 billion in income tax receipts were collected. This one-day total exceeds the amount generated by each of the State's other revenue sources for the *entire* fiscal year (with the exception of the Sales Tax).

By the end of the fiscal year, net income tax receipts are expected to account for approximately 60% of total FY 2026 revenues. This represents a significant shift from prior decades, as recently as FY 2004 income taxes made up roughly 30% of total revenues. This growing reliance reflects a combination of income tax rate increases, most recently in FY 2018, and the relatively stagnant or declining performance of other revenue sources. A table displaying the growth of net income taxes as a percentage of total General Funds receipts is shown on the following page.

Given this dependence, April serves as a pivotal month for overall revenue performance. In addition to regular withholding payments, April includes a portion of estimated payments and the majority of final payments tied to the prior tax year. Since FY 2010, April has accounted, on average, for approximately 14% of annual Personal Income Tax receipts and 22% of Corporate Income Tax receipts.

This concentration is also evident when viewed in the context of total revenues. In FY 2025, the \$5.7 billion in net income tax receipts collected in April represented 10.6% of all General Funds revenues received during the fiscal year. A similar share, near 10%, is anticipated for FY 2026.

Historically, April income tax receipts have exhibited considerable volatility. Contributing factors have included changes in tax rates, shifts in filing deadlines during the pandemic, and several "April Surprise" years driven by the interaction of federal tax law changes, taxpayer timing decisions, and surges in economically driven income. As summarized in the accompanying table on page 9, these factors have contributed to wide year-to-year swings since FY 2010.

Such volatility has complicated revenue forecasting. However, recent performance has been more stable, reducing the need for significant forecast revisions. As noted earlier, this year produced no "April Surprise," with receipts coming in largely in line with the Commission's expectations. Accordingly, while there may be minor tweaks to the estimate after a review of the components of the tax data and updated economic forecasts are conducted, no major adjustments to the CGFA March 2026 official estimate are anticipated at this time.

Net Income Taxes as a Percentage of General Funds

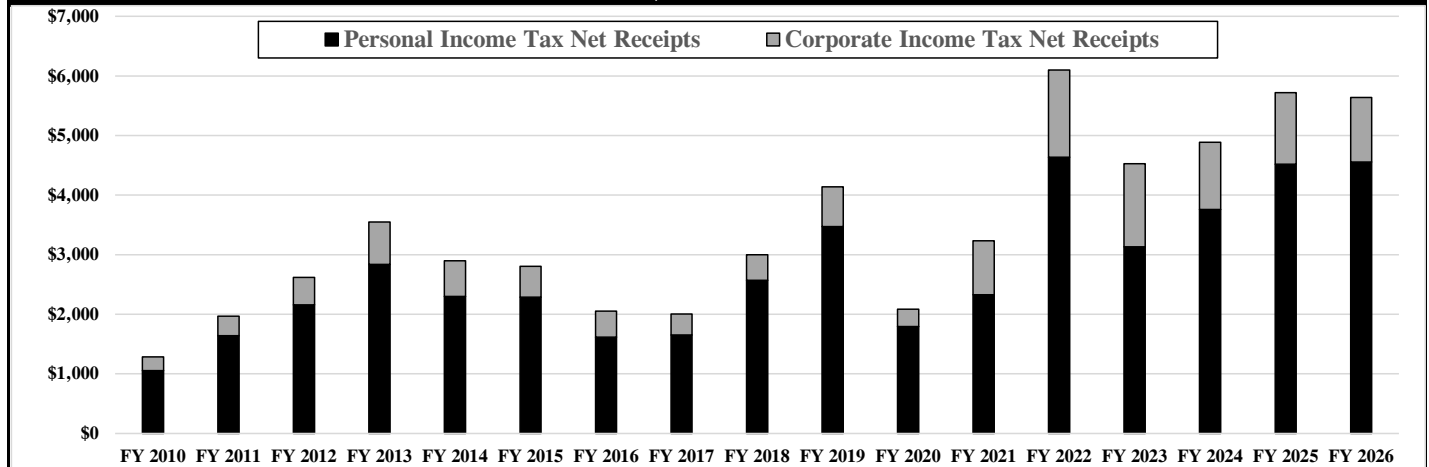
\$ in millions

Fiscal Year	Net Income Taxes	Total Receipts	Income Tax % of Total Receipts
2000	\$8,923	\$23,249	38.4%
2001	\$9,032	\$24,106	37.5%
2002	\$8,274	\$23,605	35.1%
2003	\$8,079	\$24,987	32.3%
2004	\$8,208	\$27,049	30.3%
2005	\$9,151	\$28,183	32.5%
2006	\$10,063	\$28,635	35.1%
2007	\$11,158	\$30,272	36.9%
2008	\$12,180	\$33,838	36.0%
2009	\$10,933	\$32,120	34.0%
2010	\$9,871	\$30,329	32.5%
2011	\$13,076	\$33,797	38.7%
2012	\$17,973	\$34,145	52.6%
2013	\$19,715	\$36,603	53.9%
2014	\$19,806	\$37,043	53.5%
2015	\$18,119	\$36,617	49.5%
2016	\$14,862	\$30,498	48.7%
2017	\$14,065	\$29,405	47.8%
2018	\$19,742	\$41,451	47.6%
2019	\$21,625	\$40,195	53.8%
2020	\$20,552	\$40,119	51.2%
2021	\$26,088	\$47,250	55.2%
2022	\$30,246	\$51,070	59.2%
2023	\$29,578	\$53,134	55.7%
2024	\$30,833	\$52,589	58.6%
2025	\$32,903	\$53,998	60.9%
2026 (est)	\$33,482	\$55,983	59.8%

Note: Actuals through FY25 are amounts shown in the Comptroller's Traditional Budgetary Financial Report. The FY 2026 amounts are CGFA March '26 estimates. "Net Income Taxes" exclude non-General Funds distributions such as to the Income Tax Refund Fund or the LGDF.

The Volatility of April's Personal and Corporate Income Tax "Net" Receipts

\$ in millions



Fiscal Year	April PIT & CIT Net Receipts (\$ in mil)	Yr/Yr Difference (\$ in mil)	Yr/Yr Percent Change	Total Tax Receipts in Fiscal Year	April % of Fiscal Year Total	Reason for Volatility
FY 2010	\$1,283			\$30,329	4.2%	Last fiscal year with income tax rate at 3%/4.8%, as State struggles to recover from the Great Recession.
FY 2011	\$1,966	\$683	53.2%	\$33,797	5.8%	PIT rate increased from 3% to 5%; CIT rate increased from 4.8% to 7% on January 1, 2011.
FY 2012	\$2,620	\$654	33.3%	\$34,072	7.7%	Higher tax rate fully imposed on withholding, estimated, and final payments.
FY 2013	\$3,547	\$927	35.4%	\$36,603	9.7%	"April Surprise" due to taxpayer behavior in anticipation of higher federal taxes in Tax Year 2013.
FY 2014	\$2,898	(\$649)	-18.3%	\$37,043	7.8%	"Falloff" due to tax receipts being compared to prior year "April Surprise".
FY 2015	\$2,803	(\$95)	-3.3%	\$36,617	7.7%	PIT rate lowered from 5% to 3.75%. CIT rate lowered from 7% to 5.25% on Jan 1, 2015.
FY 2016	\$2,051	(\$752)	-26.8%	\$30,498	6.7%	Lower tax rate fully imposed on withholding, estimated, and final payments.
FY 2017	\$2,005	(\$46)	-2.2%	\$29,405	6.8%	No major year-over-year tax changes.
FY 2018	\$2,999	\$994	49.6%	\$41,451	7.2%	PIT/CIT rate increased to 4.95%/7% on July 1, 2017. Tax Year 2017 with a blended final payment rate of 4.35%/6.13%.
FY 2019	\$4,139	\$1,140	38.0%	\$40,195	10.3%	Another "April Surprise" due to timing of tax payments as a result of more Federal tax modifications.
FY 2020	\$2,084	(\$2,055)	-49.6%	\$40,120	5.2%	Due to pandemic, tax deadline was delayed from April 15th to July 15th, thereby lowering April's receipts.
FY 2021	\$3,231	\$1,147	55.0%	\$47,250	6.8%	PIT deadline delayed from April 15th to May 17th. However, CIT deadline returns to April 15th, resulting in significant year over year growth.
FY 2022	\$6,100	\$2,869	88.8%	\$51,070	11.9%	PIT final tax receipts return to April, resulting in significant yr/yr growth. Strong revenues from wages/investments contribute to significant growth.
FY 2023	\$4,527	(\$1,573)	-25.8%	\$53,134	8.5%	"Normal" April receipts in FY 2023 could not duplicate FY 2022's stimulus-aided final tax payment totals, resulting in a sizeable yr/yr decline.
FY 2024	\$4,885	\$358	7.9%	\$52,589	9.3%	Moderate gains in April due to growth in interest and investment income (capital gains), as well as from large "true-up" reallocation deposit to PIT.
FY 2025	\$5,721	\$836	17.1%	\$53,998	10.6%	April income tax receipts boosted by strong market conditions / investment returns in Tax Year 2024 and from higher net "true-up" reallocations.
FY 2026	\$5,639	(\$82)	-1.4%	N/A	N/A	Despite a rise in wages and investment income, revenue gains offset by stagnant employment; reduced "true-up" reallocations; and lower corporate tax base due to federal tax changes.

Illinois Employment Trends After the 2025 Benchmark Revision

Benjamin L. Varner, Chief Economist

Employment estimates published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) are revised annually through a benchmarking process designed to improve the accuracy of previously published employment data. The most recent benchmark revisions resulted in adjustments to employment levels and growth patterns across states. This briefing summarizes the magnitude of those revisions for Illinois, examines their effect on seasonally adjusted employment trends through 2025, and evaluates how Illinois' employment performance compares with other states following these revisions. Overall, the revisions modestly altered employment levels but did not materially change Illinois' broader employment trends.

The annual benchmarking process aligns monthly survey-based employment estimates with more complete employment counts derived from unemployment insurance records compiled through the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), a comprehensive administrative dataset covering nearly all employers. The benchmark establishes updated employment levels using March employment as the reference month, after which estimates for surrounding months are revised to reflect updated employment totals and seasonal patterns.

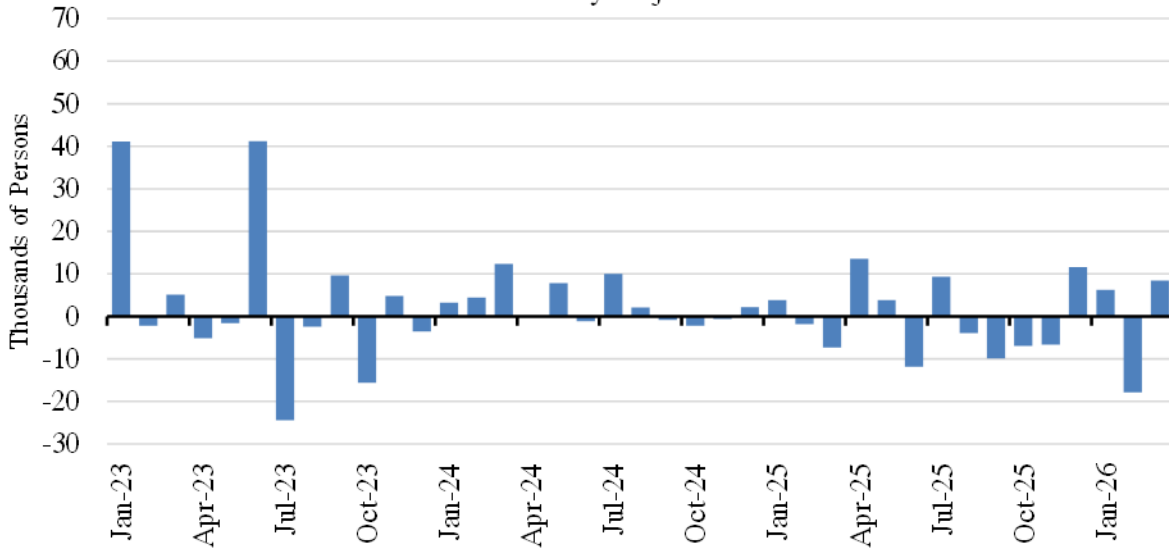
With regard to the magnitude of these revisions, Illinois total nonfarm employment was revised downward by approximately 12,100 jobs, or 0.2 percent, in the January 2026 not seasonally adjusted data following incorporation of the annual benchmark revision. Although this represents a measurable change in employment levels, the relatively small percent revision indicates that previously published employment estimates were generally close to final benchmarked levels. Comparisons of seasonally adjusted employment data before and after benchmarking indicate that the overall pattern of employment growth remained broadly similar.

Looking at seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment, prior to the benchmark revisions, Illinois had growth of 45,100 jobs in 2023, 42,600 jobs in 2024, and a decline of 1,700 jobs in 2025. After the benchmark revision, these figures changed to growth of 47,000 jobs in 2023, 37,200 jobs in 2024, and a decline of 6,300 jobs in 2025. Even with these changes, the overall employment trend remained the same. Illinois experienced slow growth in 2023 and 2024 similar to the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a loss of jobs in 2025. Overall job growth equaled 0.8% in 2023, 0.6% in 2024, and -0.1% in 2025.

The following chart highlights the monthly change in total nonfarm payroll jobs in Illinois over the past three years. The year 2023 included two unusually large monthly increases of approximately +40,000 jobs in the first half of the year, reflecting patterns more common in the period immediately following the COVID-19 pandemic. Growth slowed from an average of 3,900 jobs per month in 2023 to 3,100 per month in 2024, with fewer large monthly gains and more steady but moderate growth. This trend of moderate growth turned negative in the second half of 2025, as five of the last seven months of the year recorded declines averaging approximately 7,800 jobs per month. As noted previously, payroll employment declined by approximately 6,300 jobs in 2025. Payroll activity at the

MONTHLY CHANGE IN TOTAL ILLINOIS NONFARM PAYROLLS

Seasonally Adjusted



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, FRED

start of 2026 was mixed, with payrolls increasing by 6,200 jobs in January, declining by 17,900 jobs in February, and rebounding by 8,400 jobs in March.

To place Illinois’ recent employment trends in context, it is useful to compare the State’s performance with that of other states and the District of Columbia in recent years. As shown in the table on the following page, the United States added approximately 2.5 million jobs in 2023, led by increases in Texas (303,000), Florida (268,000), and New York (171,000). Illinois added 47,000 jobs, ranking 18th among the states in absolute job growth. However, when measured by percent growth, Illinois ranked near the bottom nationally. The United States grew by 1.6% in 2023, while the fastest growing states were Idaho (3.4%), Nevada (3.4%), and South Carolina (2.8%). Illinois grew by just 0.8%, ranking 49th, ahead of only the District of Columbia and California.

In 2024, the national labor market slowed compared to the prior year, as just under 1.5 million jobs were created nationwide. This equaled growth of approximately 0.9%. Illinois contributed just over 37,000 of these jobs. Although this total was lower than in 2023, Illinois ranked as the 11th largest contributor to national job growth, up from 18th the previous year. Similarly, with growth of 0.6%, Illinois’ ranking on a percent change basis improved to 33rd from 49th. While all states recorded employment growth in 2023, employment declined in two states (Massachusetts and Iowa) in 2024, while the District of Columbia was effectively flat.

Job creation slowed considerably in 2025 as total U.S. employment growth fell to approximately 0.1%, representing an increase of about 116,000 jobs nationwide. The slowdown in job growth likely reflected a combination of longer-term demographic trends, shifts in immigration levels, and reductions in federal employment associated with policy changes and the federal government

U.S. PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT BY STATE

State	Total Nonfarm Employment (Thousands)				Annual Change (Thousands)			Rank			Percent Change (%)			Rank		
	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	Dec 2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
	U.S.	154,342	156,857	158,316	158,432	2,515	1,459	116	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.6%	0.9%	0.1%	n/a	n/a
AL	2,133.1	2,176.9	2,191.8	2,196.2	43.8	14.9	4.4	19	24	14	2.1%	0.7%	0.2%	16	28	12
AK	322.0	330.3	336.7	336.9	8.3	6.4	0.2	46	35	21	2.6%	1.9%	0.1%	6	1	18
AZ	3,148.9	3,221.1	3,268.1	3,255.5	72.2	47.0	(12.6)	9	7	42	2.3%	1.5%	-0.4%	10	7	38
AR	1,295.8	1,319.3	1,335.7	1,344.4	23.5	16.4	8.7	32	22	10	1.8%	1.2%	0.7%	22	12	6
CA	17,803.6	17,909.1	18,005.9	18,062.5	105.5	96.8	56.6	5	4	2	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	51	37	11
CO	2,903.0	2,954.3	2,971.1	2,959.4	51.3	16.8	(11.7)	16	21	41	1.8%	0.6%	-0.4%	25	35	40
CT	1,678.5	1,701.6	1,715.8	1,717.0	23.1	14.2	1.2	33	25	18	1.4%	0.8%	0.1%	35	22	17
DE	477.3	487.3	495.1	494.8	10.0	7.8	(0.3)	42	29	24	2.1%	1.6%	-0.1%	14	5	24
DC	762.2	767.2	767.2	725.6	5.0	-	(41.6)	51	49	50	0.7%	0.0%	-5.4%	50	49	51
FL	9,601.5	9,869.7	9,979.3	9,953.9	268.2	109.6	(25.4)	2	3	48	2.8%	1.1%	-0.3%	4	17	34
GA	4,872.7	4,943.5	4,987.2	4,983.1	70.8	43.7	(4.1)	10	9	34	1.5%	0.9%	-0.1%	31	21	25
HI	628.0	633.7	641.3	641.5	5.7	7.6	0.2	48	30	20	0.9%	1.2%	0.0%	47	13	21
ID	836.2	865.0	870.6	882.1	28.8	5.6	11.5	29	40	9	3.4%	0.6%	1.3%	1	29	2
IL	6,070.9	6,117.9	6,155.1	6,148.8	47.0	37.2	(6.3)	18	11	37	0.8%	0.6%	-0.1%	49	33	27
IN	3,212.4	3,252.0	3,269.3	3,241.1	39.6	17.3	(28.2)	23	20	49	1.2%	0.5%	-0.9%	42	38	46
IA	1,582.2	1,600.9	1,594.7	1,578.0	18.7	(6.2)	(16.7)	36	51	44	1.2%	-0.4%	-1.0%	44	51	47
KS	1,430.3	1,448.5	1,463.7	1,464.2	18.2	15.2	0.5	37	23	19	1.3%	1.0%	0.0%	39	18	20
KY	1,992.7	2,029.8	2,035.0	2,029.3	37.1	5.2	(5.7)	25	41	36	1.9%	0.3%	-0.3%	20	46	35
LA	1,942.2	1,970.8	1,993.7	1,997.2	28.6	22.9	3.5	30	18	16	1.5%	1.2%	0.2%	30	15	13
ME	643.0	654.2	661.7	659.1	11.2	7.5	(2.6)	41	31	30	1.7%	1.1%	-0.4%	26	16	39
MD	2,741.2	2,797.9	2,850.6	2,786.1	56.7	52.7	(64.5)	15	6	51	2.1%	1.9%	-2.3%	15	2	50
MA	3,689.9	3,727.3	3,723.0	3,705.7	37.4	(4.3)	(17.3)	24	50	45	1.0%	-0.1%	-0.5%	46	50	43
MI	4,409.9	4,479.1	4,485.5	4,478.8	69.2	6.4	(6.7)	11	37	38	1.6%	0.1%	-0.1%	29	48	29
MN	2,953.0	2,993.1	3,030.5	3,035.0	40.1	37.4	4.5	22	10	13	1.4%	1.2%	0.1%	36	11	14
MS	1,172.3	1,182.1	1,188.0	1,192.6	9.8	5.9	4.6	43	39	12	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	48	40	9
MO	2,937.4	2,979.1	2,992.6	2,985.6	41.7	13.5	(7.0)	21	26	39	1.4%	0.5%	-0.2%	34	42	32
MT	513.6	522.5	525.4	525.3	8.9	2.9	(0.1)	45	45	23	1.7%	0.6%	0.0%	27	36	23
NE	1,035.4	1,054.4	1,061.2	1,059.7	19.0	6.8	(1.5)	35	33	27	1.8%	0.6%	-0.1%	21	30	28
NV	1,513.3	1,564.1	1,572.3	1,600.0	50.8	8.2	27.7	17	28	5	3.4%	0.5%	1.8%	2	39	1
NH	692.8	701.7	705.2	696.4	8.9	3.5	(8.8)	44	43	40	1.3%	0.5%	-1.2%	38	41	49
NJ	4,281.0	4,342.6	4,375.4	4,380.5	61.6	32.8	5.1	14	15	11	1.4%	0.8%	0.1%	32	24	15
NM	865.4	887.1	893.5	889.8	21.7	6.4	(3.7)	34	35	33	2.5%	0.7%	-0.4%	7	26	42
NY	9,614.9	9,785.8	9,943.6	9,983.3	170.9	157.8	39.7	3	2	4	1.8%	1.6%	0.4%	23	4	8
NC	4,878.0	4,997.5	5,028.3	5,068.2	119.5	30.8	39.9	4	16	3	2.4%	0.6%	0.8%	9	32	5
ND	431.7	443.1	447.7	444.6	11.4	4.6	(3.1)	39	42	31	2.6%	1.0%	-0.7%	5	19	45
OH	5,565.3	5,634.0	5,669.0	5,663.4	68.7	35.0	(5.6)	12	13	35	1.2%	0.6%	-0.1%	41	31	26
OK	1,732.2	1,769.3	1,790.4	1,787.0	37.1	21.1	(3.4)	25	19	32	2.1%	1.2%	-0.2%	13	14	30
OR	1,964.5	1,989.0	1,995.3	1,972.5	24.5	6.3	(22.8)	31	38	47	1.2%	0.3%	-1.1%	40	44	48
PA	6,036.0	6,114.3	6,161.2	6,184.0	78.3	46.9	22.8	7	8	7	1.3%	0.8%	0.4%	37	23	10
RI	502.0	509.2	515.9	514.2	7.2	6.7	(1.7)	47	34	28	1.4%	1.3%	-0.3%	33	9	36
SC	2,274.1	2,337.8	2,373.6	2,400.1	63.7	35.8	26.5	13	12	6	2.8%	1.5%	1.1%	3	6	3
SD	455.2	466.5	470.0	470.1	11.3	3.5	0.1	40	43	22	2.5%	0.8%	0.0%	8	25	22
TN	3,289.0	3,361.5	3,368.8	3,370.2	72.5	7.3	1.4	8	32	17	2.2%	0.2%	0.0%	12	47	19
TX	13,720.7	14,024.1	14,259.4	14,339.4	303.4	235.3	80.0	1	1	1	2.2%	1.7%	0.6%	11	3	7
UT	1,698.5	1,732.9	1,758.1	1,772.7	34.4	25.2	14.6	27	17	8	2.0%	1.5%	0.8%	17	8	4
VT	305.3	310.4	312.2	311.5	5.1	1.8	(0.7)	49	48	25	1.7%	0.6%	-0.2%	28	34	31
VA	4,134.6	4,214.3	4,269.2	4,252.8	79.7	54.9	(16.4)	6	5	43	1.9%	1.3%	-0.4%	19	10	37
WA	3,559.0	3,601.3	3,635.5	3,639.3	42.3	34.2	3.8	20	14	15	1.2%	0.9%	0.1%	43	20	16
WV	701.9	715.9	718.0	716.3	14.0	2.1	(1.7)	38	46	29	2.0%	0.3%	-0.2%	18	45	33
WI	2,998.8	3,030.8	3,043.5	3,024.5	32.0	12.7	(19.0)	28	27	46	1.1%	0.4%	-0.6%	45	43	44
WY	287.8	292.9	295.0	293.8	5.1	2.1	(1.2)	49	46	26	1.8%	0.7%	-0.4%	24	27	41

Note: State employment estimates are developed independently of the national total, and the U.S. total includes some employment that is not assigned to individual states. As a result, the sum of state employment changes may not equal the change in total U.S. employment.
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CGFA

shutdown in the fall of 2025. As noted previously, Illinois recorded a decline of approximately 6,300 jobs in 2025, equaling a decrease of 0.1%. This ranked Illinois 27th among the states, placing it slightly below the national median. Illinois was one of twenty-eight states with a year-over-year decline in employment in 2025. The District of Columbia (-5.4%) and Maryland (-2.3%) recorded the largest percentage declines, while Nevada (1.8%) and Idaho (1.3%) posted the largest percentage gains. In terms of absolute growth, Illinois ranked 37th in 2025. Texas had the largest gain with an increase of 80,000 jobs.

Overall, the 2025 benchmark revisions resulted in modest adjustments to Illinois employment levels but did not materially alter the State’s broader employment trends. Illinois experienced moderate job growth in 2023 and 2024 followed by a decline in 2025, consistent with the national slowdown in employment growth over this period. Although Illinois’ relative ranking improved modestly in 2024 and remained near the middle of states in 2025, the State continued to lag behind national growth rates on a percent change basis. As more information becomes available in 2026, it should become clearer whether the early gains seen this year mark a return to more steady job growth or simply short-term fluctuation.

INDICATORS OF ILLINOIS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY			
<u>INDICATORS*</u>	<u>LATEST MONTH</u>	<u>PRIOR MONTH</u>	<u>A YEAR AGO</u>
Unemployment Rate (Average) (Mar.)	5.1%	5.0%	4.6%
Inflation in Chicago (12-month percent change) (Mar.)	2.3%	2.0%	3.7%
	<u>LATEST MONTH</u>	<u>CHANGE OVER PRIOR MONTH</u>	<u>CHANGE OVER A YEAR AGO</u>
Civilian Labor Force (thousands) (Feb.)	6,570.1	0.1%	-1.0%
Employment (thousands) (Feb.)	6,241.6	0.0%	-1.3%
Nonfarm Payroll Employment (Mar.)	6,145,500	8,400	-4,300
New Car & Truck Registration (Mar.)	34,015	27.9%	-1.0%
Single Family Housing Permits (Jan.)	535	-24.8%	-11.1%
Total Exports (\$ bil) (Feb.)	7.75	29.6%	30.8%
Chicago Purchasing Managers Index (Apr.)	49.2	-6.8%	10.3%

* Due to monthly fluctuations, trend best shown by % change from a year ago