

Economic Overview

Jefferson County, Illinois

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Demographic Profile

The population in Jefferson County, Illinois was 36,808 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022.

The region has a civilian labor force of 17,232 with a participation rate of 58.4%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Jefferson County, Illinois, 18.5% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in Jefferson County, Illinois is \$61,102 and the median house value is \$118,400.

Summary¹

		Value				
	Jefferson			Jefferson		
Downsonwhite	County, Illinois	Illinois	USA	County, Illinois	Illinois	USA
Demographics				25,000	12 502 552	222 207 540
Population (ACS)	- 51.50/	40.40/	40.5%	36,808	12,692,653	332,387,540
Male	51.5%	49.4%	49.5%	18,949	6,270,399	164,545,087
Female Madian Aga ²	48.5%	50.6%	50.5%	17,859	6,422,254	167,842,453
Median Age ² Under 18 Years	22.49/			41.1	38.9	38.7
	22.4%	22.1%	22.2%	8,263	2,808,879	73,645,238
18 to 24 Years	7.3%	9.0%	9.1%	2,703	1,145,167	30,307,641
25 to 34 Years	12.1%	13.6%	13.7%	4,453	1,722,902	45,497,632
35 to 44 Years	12.5%	13.2%	13.1%	4,607	1,681,081	43,492,887
45 to 54 Years	12.4%	12.5%	12.3%	4,548	1,587,855	40,847,713
55 to 64 Years	13.5%	13.0%	12.8%	4,973	1,644,936	42,626,382
65 to 74 Years	11.6%	9.8%	10.0%	4,282	1,246,228	33,293,127
75 Years and Over	8.1%	6.7%	6.8%	2,979	855,605	22,676,920
Race: White	84.9%	63.3%	63.4%	31,241	8,038,512	210,875,446
Race: Black or African American	6.5%	13.8%	12.4%	2,398	1,750,414	41,070,890
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.5%	0.9%	76	66,990	2,924,996
Race: Asian	1.0%	5.8%	5.8%	369	738,308	19,352,659
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	8	5,514	629,292
Race: Some Other Race	0.7%	7.3%	6.6%	245	920,254	21,940,536
Race: Two or More Races	6.7%	9.2%	10.7%	2,471	1,172,661	35,593,721
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2.7%	18.5%	19.0%	1,003	2,348,118	63,131,589
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	_		_	36,320	12,549,689	334,914,895
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	-0.6%	-0.3%	0.6%	-234	-34,609	1,885,495
People per Square Mile ⁴	_	_	_	63.6	226.1	94.8
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	58.4%	65.1%	63.3%	17,232	6,638,033	168,567,852
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	76.6%	84.8%	83.0%	10,410	4,221,692	107,055,165
Work from Home	4.8%	14.0%	13.5%	759	860,338	21,267,373
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	13	20,841	1,287,774
Veterans, Age 18-64	5.3%	3.0%	4.2%	1,130	234,809	8,410,268
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	76.3%	79.5%	77.0%	862	186,611	6,478,181
Median Household Income ²	_	_	_	\$61,102	\$81,702	\$78,538
Per Capita Income	_	_	_	\$31,541	\$45,104	\$43,289
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	_	_	_	19.7	28.1	26.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.3%	6.4%	3.5%	40	392,650	5,528,841
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	8.6%	9.0%	10.0%	1,589	595,959	17,176,172
High School Graduate	31.7%	23.4%	25.0%	5,891	1,554,279	43,057,491

Summary¹

		Percent			Value	
	Jefferson			Jefferson		
	County, Illinois	Illinois	USA	County, Illinois	Illinois	USA
Some College, No Degree	26.4%	19.2%	19.3%	4,908	1,273,537	33,315,654
Associate's Degree	14.8%	8.8%	9.2%	2,756	581,975	15,894,085
Bachelor's Degree	11.6%	24.3%	22.8%	2,163	1,609,603	39,256,774
Postgraduate Degree	6.9%	15.4%	13.8%	1,274	1,021,421	23,764,438
Housing						
Total Housing Units	_	_	_	16,650	5,443,501	142,332,876
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	_	_	_	\$118,400	\$250,500	\$303,400
Homeowner Vacancy	1.6%	1.1%	1.0%	176	38,531	850,724
Rental Vacancy	4.8%	5.2%	5.5%	209	90,930	2,605,688
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	28.1%	33.2%	35.0%	4,167	1,658,870	44,590,828
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	71.9%	66.8%	65.0%	10,638	3,343,034	82,892,037
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.9%	10.9%	8.3%	874	545,425	10,602,826
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	14.2%	11.7%	12.4%	4,975	1,454,217	40,390,045
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	17.5%	13.5%	11.8%	2,585	673,465	15,004,950
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	0.9%	1.4%	1.3%	314	175,845	4,405,676
Disconnected Youth ³	4.9%	2.4%	2.4%	87	16,288	420,352
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	36.1%	33.8%	34.0%	2,796	906,925	23,701,745
Uninsured	7.5%	7.0%	8.6%	2,668	870,603	28,000,876
With a Disability, Age 18-64	15.6%	9.5%	10.7%	3,143	729,202	21,269,700
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	40.2%	49.3%	47.0%	1,263	359,275	10,001,264
Foreign Born	1.8%	14.4%	13.9%	653	1,833,810	46,108,901
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	1.7%	8.8%	8.4%	594	1,056,059	26,299,012

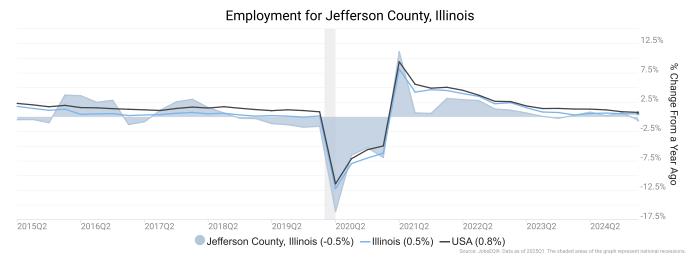
Source: JobsEQ®

^{1.} American Community Survey 2019-2023, unless noted otherwise

^{1.} Anterican Commitments Survey 2019-2025, unless into otherwise
2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.
4. Census Population Estimate for 2023, annual average growth rate since 2013.
5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

Employment Trends

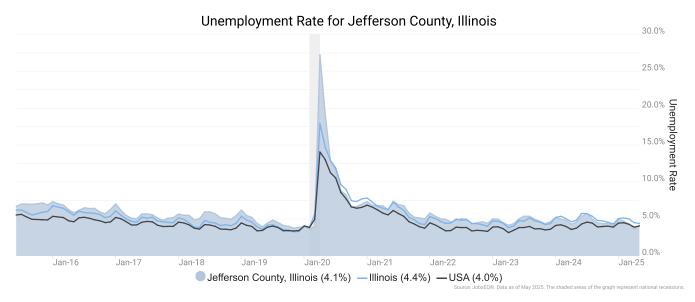
As of 2025Q1, total employment for Jefferson County, Illinois was 20,599 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2025Q1, employment declined 0.5% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q1.

Unemployment Rate

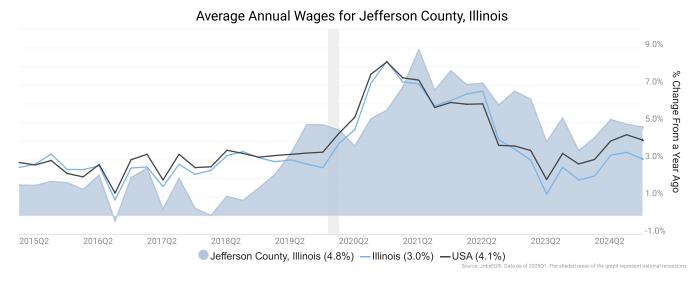
The unemployment rate for Jefferson County, Illinois was 4.1% as of May 2025. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 4.0%. One year earlier, in May 2024, the unemployment rate in Jefferson County, Illinois was 4.6%.



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through May 2025.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Jefferson County, Illinois earned annual wages of \$56,461 as of 2025Q1. Average annual wages per worker increased 4.8% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$74,181 in the nation as of 2025Q1.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q1.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 14.7% lower in Jefferson County, Illinois than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

		Cost of Living Inde	x
	Annual Average Salary	(Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Jefferson County, Illinois	\$56,461	85.3	\$66,224
Illinois	\$75,524	103.7	\$72,837
USA	\$74,181	100.0	\$74,181

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2025Q1

Cost of Living per COLI, data as of 2025Q1, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Jefferson County, Illinois is Manufacturing, employing 4,529 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Health Care and Social Assistance (3,939 workers) and Retail Trade (2,408). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Manufacturing (LQ = 2.81), Transportation and Warehousing (1.49), and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (1.46).

Total Workers for Jefferson County, Illinois by Industry



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q1.

Sectors in Jefferson County, Illinois with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$117,307), Finance and Insurance (\$88,064), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$76,860). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+463 jobs), Manufacturing (+274), and Public Administration (+80).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Jefferson County, Illinois is projected to contract by 123 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +0.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (0 jobs), Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (0), and Utilities (0).

Jefferson County, Illinois, 2025Q11

			Current		5-Year History						
			Avg Ann		Empl		Total			Empl	Ann %
NAICS	Industry	Empl	Wages	LQ	Change	Ann %	Demand	Exits	Transfers	Growth	Growth
31	Manufacturing	4,529	\$74,124	2.81	274	1.3%	419	168	288	-36	-0.8%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	3,939	\$64,019	1.26	463	2.5%	382	175	209	-1	0.0%
44	Retail Trade	2,408	\$35,502	1.21	-117	-0.9%	297	138	190	-31	-1.3%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	1,540	\$52,605	1.49	-332	-3.8%	160	68	99	-6	-0.4%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	1,411	\$25,081	0.79	-359	-4.4%	243	106	143	-7	-0.5%
61	Educational Services	1,400	\$43,558	0.84	13	0.2%	121	59	72	-10	-0.7%
92	Public Administration	951	\$56,193	0.98	80	1.8%	79	35	52	-8	-0.8%
42	Wholesale Trade	741	\$65,706	0.97	32	0.9%	68	27	46	-5	-0.7%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	693	\$37,354	0.79	-208	-5.1%	76	32	46	-3	-0.4%
23	Construction	581	\$61,045	0.47	46	1.7%	47	18	31	-2	-0.4%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	539	\$76,860	0.36	41	1.6%	43	16	27	0	0.0%
52	Finance and Insurance	500	\$88,064	0.62	-71	-2.6%	37	16	25	-4	-0.8%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	430	\$38,405	0.35	-430	-13.0%	46	19	29	-3	-0.7%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	365	\$38,570	1.46	-17	-0.9%	39	21	23	-5	-1.4%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	201	\$20,235	0.46	71	9.1%	29	12	18	0	-0.2%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	108	\$50,458	0.30	-19	-3.2%	9	5	6	-1	-0.8%
22	Utilities	105	\$117,307	0.98	4	0.8%	9	3	6	0	0.0%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	81	\$63,503	1.09	-68	-11.4%	6	3	5	-1	-1.8%
51	Information	61	\$40,762	0.16	-23	-6.2%	4	2	3	-1	-1.4%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	15	\$34,604	0.05	-4	-4.7%	1	0	1	0	-0.2%
99	Unclassified	2	\$47,497	0.06	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	-0.6%
	Total - All Industries	20,599	\$56,461	1.00	-624	-0.6%	2,104	917	1,310	-123	-0.6%

Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2025Q1

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Jefferson County, Illinois is Production Occupations, employing 2,975 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (2,424 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (1,875). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Production Occupations (LQ = 2.68), Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1.37), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (1.34).

Occupation groups in Jefferson County, Illinois with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$110,600), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$105,700), and Legal Occupations (\$102,200). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.4% among Legal Occupations to 8.3% among Production Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Jefferson County, Illinois is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +0.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+2 jobs) and Community and Social Service Occupations (+1). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Production Occupations (311 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (303).

Jefferson County, Illinois, 2025Q11

			Current					5-Year History				1-Year Forecast		
soc	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
51-0000	Production	2,975	\$54,000	2.68	190	8.3%	24	35	0.2%	285	112	199	-27	-0.9%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	2,424	\$46,100	1.37	131	6.5%	72	-365	-2.8%	290	115	188	-13	-0.6%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	1,875	\$47,700	0.80	61	3.5%	43	-163	-1.7%	173	86	112	-25	-1.3%
41-0000	Sales and Related	1,784	\$47,500	1.00	83	5.6%	123	-118	-1.3%	209	100	131	-23	-1.3%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1,660	\$105,700	1.34	18	1.4%	424	151	1.9%	85	46	42	-2	-0.1%
11-0000	Management	1,596	\$110,600	0.98	25	1.9%	43	112	1.5%	120	49	77	-7	-0.4%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	1,407	\$36,100	0.83	80	6.5%	119	-290	-3.7%	254	112	149	-7	-0.5%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	1,136	\$40,600	1.16	36	3.8%	45	92	1.7%	154	69	83	2	0.2%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	978	\$57,100	0.87	24	3.0%	6	7	0.1%	76	38	44	-6	-0.6%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	873	\$62,100	1.10	21	2.9%	43	-9	-0.2%	74	32	45	-2	-0.3%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	760	\$78,400	0.56	19	3.1%	14	36	1.0%	58	21	39	-2	-0.3%
33-0000	Protective Service	511	\$73,700	1.13	10	2.7%	9	8	0.3%	42	19	29	-5	-1.0%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	490	\$76,300	0.53	23	4.8%	2	-56	-2.1%	38	15	25	-2	-0.5%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	435	\$42,800	0.65	19	5.0%	22	-176	-6.6%	54	25	32	-3	-0.6%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	387	\$62,900	1.00	10	3.3%	23	98	6.1%	35	14	20	1	0.2%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	295	\$38,300	0.55	19	6.2%	12	-27	-1.7%	50	19	32	-1	-0.2%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	292	\$93,800	0.90	5	2.4%	2	12	0.8%	18	7	12	-1	-0.2%

Jefferson County, Illinois, 2025Q11

		Current						5-Year History				1-Year Forecast		
soc	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	291	\$94,100	0.44	9	3.4%	0	30	2.2%	17	6	10	0	0.0%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	161	\$59,300	0.43	3	3.5%	7	-5	-0.6%	15	7	9	-1	-0.6%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	121	\$81,100	0.63	2	2.7%	2	16	2.8%	10	2	8	0	-0.3%
23-0000	Legal	90	\$102,200	0.52	1	1.4%	n/a	-16	-3.2%	4	2	3	-1	-0.6%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	59	\$48,200	0.50	4	6.7%	0	5	2.0%	8	3	5	-1	-1.1%
	Total - All Occupations	20,599	\$62,200	1.00	792	4.7%	1,036	-624	-0.6%	2,068	899	1,293	-123	-0.6%

Source: JobsEQ®

Data as of 2025Q1 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

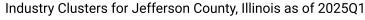
- 1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.
- 2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

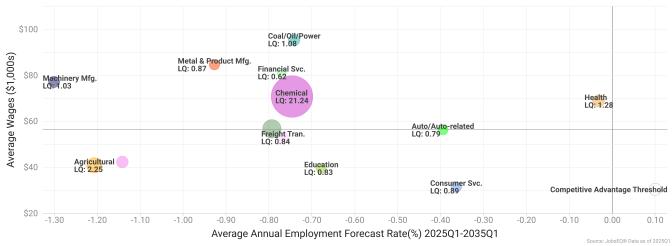
Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2024Q4, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q1. Wages by occupation are as of 2025 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

^{3.} Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Jefferson County, Illinois with the highest relative concentration is Chemical with a location quotient of 21.24. This cluster employs 3,824 workers in the region with an average wage of \$70,761. Employment in the Chemical cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.7% per year over the next ten years.

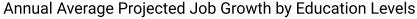


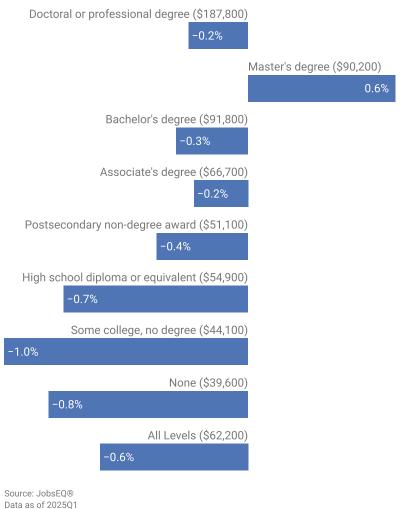


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2024Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Jefferson County, Illinois is projected to contract 0.6% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to contract 0.2% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to contract 0.3% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.2% per year.

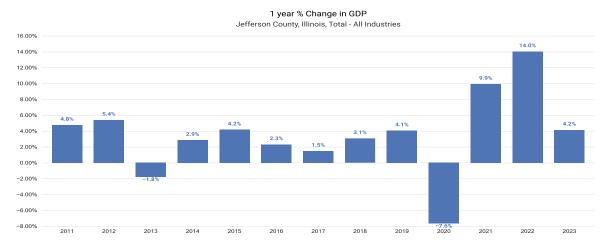




Employment by occupation data are estimates are as of 2025Q1. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2023, nominal GDP in Jefferson County, Illinois expanded 4.2%. This follows growth of 14.0% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in Jefferson County, Illinois was \$2,333,411,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Of the sectors in Jefferson County, Illinois, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2023, \$665,871,000 The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$326,886,000); Retail Trade (\$209,065,000); and Transportation and Warehousing (\$144,264,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Jefferson County, Illinois, 2023

Manufacturing (31)

\$666

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)

\$327

Retail Trade (44)

\$209

Transportation and Warehousing (48)

\$144

Finance and Insurance (52)

\$128

Wholesale Trade (42)

\$126

Educational Services (61)



Public Administration (92)

\$81

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)

\$78

Utilities (22)

\$77

Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Jefferson County, Illinois Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the "all industry" level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the "sector," which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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