

Long wait for employment rebound

It will take four years for Rockford to return to its prerecession employment peak, which occurred in the second quarter of 2007, according to one economic analysis. Rockford's dependence on manufacturing means it will rebound slower than most Illinois metro areas, although a shift in the local economy or several new employers could speed the recovery.

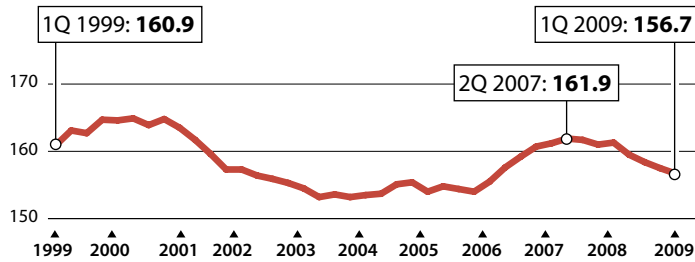
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ESTIMATES*

METRO AREA	RETURN TO PEAK EMPLOYMENT
Champaign-Urbana	1Q 2009
Bloomington-Normal	1Q 2011
Springfield	3Q 2012
Lake County-Kenosha County	4Q 2012
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island	4Q 2012
Peoria	4Q 2012
Rockford	3Q 2013
St. Louis	3Q 2013
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet	1Q 2014
Decatur	Past 2014

*Note: Estimates not made for Kankakee-Bradley and Danville metro areas
Source: IHS Global Insight

QUARTERLY NONFARM EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

Scale in thousands

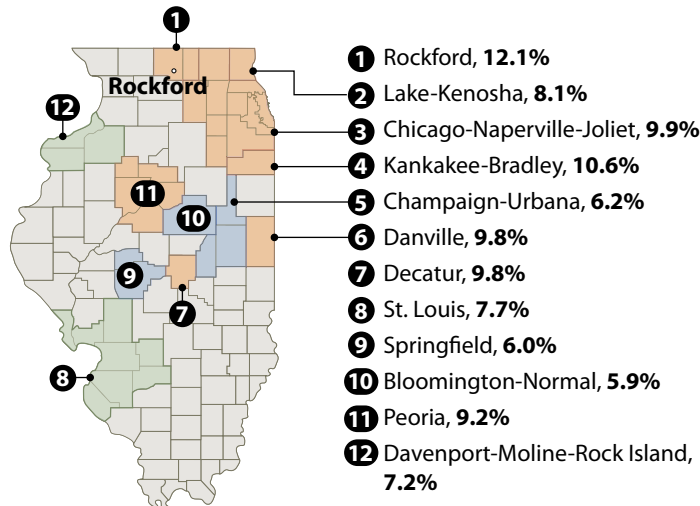


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

ILLINOIS METRO AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

KEY: Unemployment rates

5.1% - 6.5% 6.6% - 8.0% 8.1% or higher



April 2009 not seasonally adjusted

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Economic Information & Analysis Division

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR