



ILLINOIS BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE WILL CREATE 25,000 JOBS & GROW ECONOMY

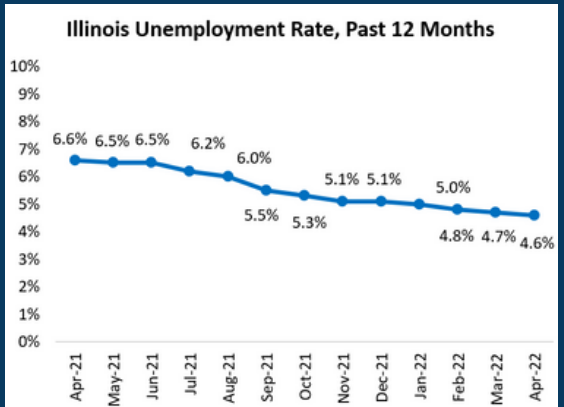
A 2022 study by ILEPI and the Project for Middle Class Renewal (PMCR), *The Economic, Fiscal, and Social Effects of Public Investments in Broadband Internet Access in Illinois*, shows how investments in broadband infrastructure will help address the "digital divide" in Illinois. This divide includes the gap between those with and those without access to affordable broadband internet service. Even among households that have internet connections, many still lack reliable high-speed internet that prevents them from undertaking necessary tasks.

Broadband investments will benefit Illinois' farmers and can improve crop yields while connecting more rural households to high-quality jobs that can be performed remotely. In addition, investments in broadband infrastructure will connect disadvantaged communities and address racial disparities in urban areas.

Illinois is currently in the midst of investing hundreds of millions of dollars in broadband infrastructure due to the state's 2019 capital bill, *Rebuild Illinois*, and the federal government's infrastructure bill. These investments will improve outcomes for Illinois' workers. (cont'd on next page)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter [@IllinoisEPI](#) and now on Instagram [@IllinoisEPI1](#)

ILLINOIS ECONOMIC INDICATORS



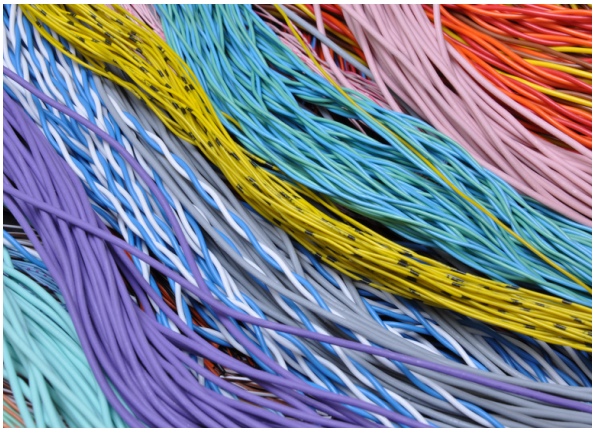
Jobs added (rank), Apr-21 to Apr-22 = **235,800 jobs (6)**

State unemployment rate (rank), Apr-22 = **4.6% (45)**

Average private sector wage (rank), Apr-22 = **\$32.70 (13)**

Private sector wage growth from Apr-21 to Apr-22 (rank) = **+5.3% (30)**

Illinois Flash Index (as of May-22) = **105.7**



ILLINOIS BROADBAND (CONT'D)

The researchers conclude that Illinois' historic investments in broadband infrastructure by 2025 will grow the economy. The investments will connect nearly 565,000 residents to high-speed internet, create nearly 25,000 short-term and long-term jobs, grow the economy by billions of dollars, and generate sufficient tax revenues to pay for itself within a decade. That's a win-win-win for the construction industry, for Illinois residents, and for taxpayers.

CONTRACTOR SURVEYS: THE CONSTRUCTION LABOR SHORTAGE IS LESS SEVERE FOR UNION FIRMS

A new report, *The Union Advantage During the Construction Labor Shortage: Evidence from Surveys of Associated General Contractors of America Member Firms*, reviews 2018-2021 Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) surveys of more than 5,000 member firms nationwide and finds that nonunion construction firms are facing significantly greater workforce supply problems than their union counterparts, and that these problems preceded COVID-19.

The report showed that nonunion firms were 16% more likely to report difficulty filling open positions, 13% more likely to report losing skilled workers, 21% more likely to report project delays due to workforce supply or retention issues, and 27% more likely to report their local workforce training pipeline as "poor" compared to their union signatory peers.

The superior outcomes reported by union firms reveal that long-term investments in job quality and apprenticeship training are every bit as critical to the success of construction employers as the ability to access materials, secure regulatory approvals, or win project bids.

The Skilled Labor Shortage:

Union Contractors vs. Nonunion Contractors



Union contractors are **21% less likely** to experience project delays due to worker shortages



Union contractors are **14% less likely** to experience difficulty in filling craft worker positions



Union contractors have been **8% more likely** to add workers in the current labor market



Joint labor-management (union) programs **train the vast majority** of registered apprentices

*Source: Surveys of Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) member firms, including 1,768 union contractors and 3,893 nonunion contractors.

ILEPI

ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROMOTION
PROJECT FOR MIDDLE CLASS RENEWAL

While collective bargaining agreements establish reliable revenue streams for apprenticeship training in the union sector, there is no comparable system in the nonunion sector. Nonunion contractors often have an incentive to forgo these long-term investments in order to win short-term project bids, which only invites labor supply problems down the line.

On average, skilled union construction workers earn 42% higher wages, are 34% more likely to have private health insurance, and are 6% less likely to live in poverty or rely on Medicaid than their nonunion peers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Benson
Central Blacktop

James Sweeney
IUOE Local 150

DeShana Forney
Peoples Gas

Marc Poulos
III FFC

Robert Bruno
University of Illinois

Dave Sullivan
Former State Senator

Linda Chapa LaVia
Former State Rep.

Karen Kent
UNITE HERE

Jeremy Grey
Hilco (H.R.P.)