



ILLINOIS HAS A \$1 TRILLION ECONOMY

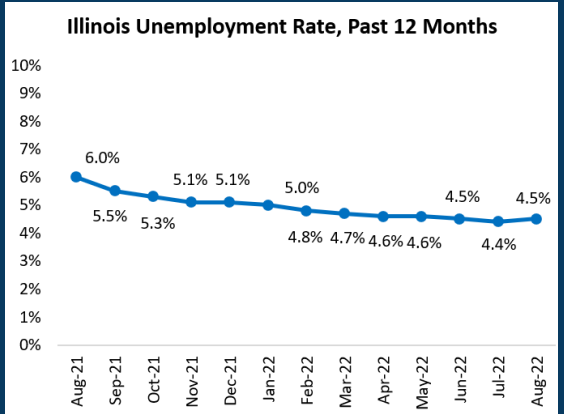
A 2022 study by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI) and the Project for Middle Class Renewal (PMCR) at the University of Illinois shows that Illinois now has a \$1 trillion economy. The study, *Illinois at \$1 Trillion: Putting the Historic Economic Achievement in Context*, notes that Illinois is just the fifth state to reach the \$1 trillion mark, following California, New York, Texas, and Florida. If Illinois were its own country, it would have the 19th-largest economy in the world.

This historic economic achievement reveals the strength of Illinois' businesses and the superior productivity of Illinois' workers. Illinois' workers are between 12% and 28% more productive than their peers in neighboring states. Illinois also has private industries that contribute more to the U.S. economy than entire states. For example, the state's manufacturing industry adds more to the economy than all of New Mexico. Our health care industry adds more than all of South Dakota.

Illinois remains the economic engine of the Midwest. The state maintains competitive advantages in terms of workforce quality, job quality, educational attainment, commitments to infrastructure investments, and access to capital for businesses. With sound public policies, Illinois can achieve a \$2 trillion by 2040.

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ILLINOIS ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Jobs added (rank), Aug-21 to Aug-22 = **239,700 jobs (5)**

State unemployment rate (rank), Aug-22 = **4.5% (48)**

Average private sector wage (rank), Aug-22 = **\$32.54 (13)**

Private sector wage growth from Aug-21 to Aug-22 (rank) = **+2.0% (48)**

Illinois Flash Index (as of Sep-22) = **104.1**

THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT WOULD PROMOTE JOB QUALITY & DELIVER VALUE FOR TAXPAYERS

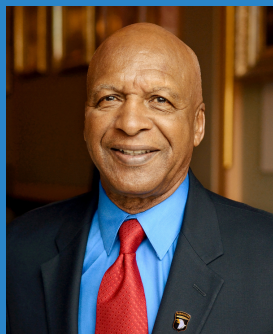
Two 2022 studies released jointly by ILEPI and PMCR demonstrate how the Workers' Rights Amendment would promote job quality and support public budgets in Illinois. Passed by a [bipartisan](#) supermajority in the Illinois General Assembly, the Workers' Rights Amendment would enshrine the fundamental right to unionize and collectively bargain in the state's constitution.



The Workers' Rights Amendment and Its Impact on Protecting Quality Jobs and Essential Industries in Illinois finds that Illinois workers earn 15% higher incomes and are 9% more likely to have health insurance coverage than their counterparts in states that have weakened collective bargaining rights. That is directly due to collective bargaining. Union members earn more, have better benefits, and are more likely to be homeowners—preventing Illinois' property tax base from shrinking. Union workers also contribute more in taxes and are half as likely to rely on government assistance programs like Medicaid and food stamps, which is good for public budgets.

The Workers' Rights Amendment comes at a time when 7-in-10 Americans approve of labor unions, according to *The State of the Unions 2022: A Profile of Unionization in Chicago, in Illinois, and in the United States*. Illinois added 16,000 union members in 2021, the first increase since 2017. The 60% success rate in organizing new workplaces is the labor movement's the highest level in more than a decade. The report concludes that Illinois' union members earn 15% higher wages than their nonunion counterparts, delivering robust pathways into the middle class.

ILEPI'S SPRINGFIELD RECEPTION HONORING ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE



Join us in honoring Secretary of State Jesse White's lifetime of service to Illinois at our Springfield Reception on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

Visit www.illinoisepi.org/events for tickets and sponsorship opportunities!

WELCOME CHYNNA HAMPTON TO THE ILEPI BOARD



ILEPI is pleased to welcome Chynna Hampton, Equity Director of Climate Jobs Illinois, to our Board of Directors!

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