



## STUDY: TRUMP TARIFFS RAISED COSTS ON MIDWEST FAMILIES BY \$2,000 IN 2025

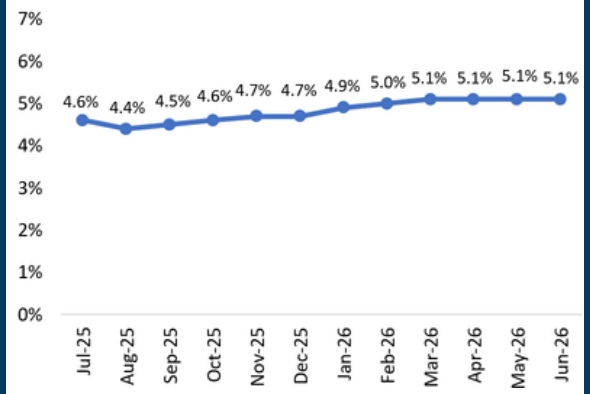
According to a new study by the Midwest Economic Policy Institute and the Project for Middle Class Renewal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, tariffs imposed by the Trump administration in 2025 raised costs for the average Midwest household by more than \$2,000, shrunk the economy by \$18 billion, reduced the region's manufacturing employment by more than 41,000, and disproportionately impacted low-income households.

Read the Report: [Tariffs and the Midwest: Impacts on Households, Manufacturing, and Economies in Six States](#)

In 2025, the Trump administration increased tariffs on imported goods and supply chains to their highest levels since the 1930s, causing some nations to respond with retaliatory measures against U.S. exports. While many of the Trump administration's 2025 levies were ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in February 2026, they were replaced with a temporary 10% global tariff, followed by new tariff rates of 50% on most Canadian goods between 10% and 12.5% on nearly every other U.S. trade partner. The Trump administration has already begun announcing new tariff rates, including a 50% levy on most Canadian goods.

## ILLINOIS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Illinois Unemployment Rate, Past 12 Months



Jobs added (rank), Jul-25 to Jul-26 = **+9,200 jobs (21)**

State unemployment rate (rank), Jul-26 = **5.1% (45)**

Average private sector wage (rank), Jul-26 = **\$36.26 (15)**

Private sector wage growth from Jul-25 to Jul-26 (rank) = **+3.3% (14)**

Illinois Flash Index (as of Jul-26) = **101.2**

*\*October 2025 had no unemployment data due to federal government shutdown*

# INVESTMENTS IN ILLINOIS INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVER A \$2 RETURN PER DOLLAR INVESTED

## ILLINOIS TOLLWAY PROJECTS CREATE \$28 BILLION ECONOMIC BOOST, SUPPORTED 150,000 JOBS SINCE 2012

An ILEPI study published in July found that the Illinois Tollway has supported nearly 150,000 jobs through \$14 billion in infrastructure investments since 2012. Tollway projects have generated a \$28 billion boost to the state's economy during this period—a \$2 return per dollar invested—while generating nearly \$100 million in state and local tax revenues each year.

**Read the Report:** [\*"The Illinois Tollway's Move Illinois Capital Program: Economic Benefits, Infrastructure Improvements, and Lessons for Sustainable Transportation Investment"\*](#)

Funded by user fees that rank the 8th-lowest amongst comparable highway systems across the country, the Illinois Tollway carries approximately 1.7 million vehicles per day and commercial traffic comprises roughly 13% of all vehicle miles travelled on the system.

## REBUILD ILLINOIS CAPITAL PROGRAM CREATED OR SAVED 40,000 JOBS IN EACH OF THE PAST SIX YEARS

A new analysis of the six-year Rebuild Illinois Capital Program shows the state's historic investments in infrastructure delivered nearly \$2 to the Illinois economy per dollar invested, created or saved nearly 40,000 jobs per year, and boosted local and state tax revenues by nearly \$400 million.

**Read the Report,** [\*"Rebuild Illinois Six Years Later: Evaluating Transportation Investments and Economic Impact Statewide"\*](#)

Rebuild Illinois invested more than \$30 billion over the past six years repairing roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure across the state. All told, the initiative repaired more than 21,000 miles of road, more than 800 bridges, and made nearly 1,200 safety improvements. However, despite this initial progress, the report makes clear that significant work remains.

## ILEPI AT THE 2026 LABOR & EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE



ILEPI was proud to present at and attend the 2026 LERA Conference in Minneapolis in May. ILEPI Economist Frank Manzo IV presented on the impacts of prevailing wage laws as part of a panel moderated by Tim Watkins of the Fair Contracting Foundation of Minnesota. He was joined by Todd Stenhouse of Stenhouse Strategies and Mark Ehrlich of Harvard Law School.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Joseph Benson**  
Yard 1, LLC

**Chynna Hampton**  
Climate Jobs Illinois

**James Sweeney**  
IUOE Local 150

**DeShana Forney**  
Peoples Gas

**Marc Poulos**  
III FFC

**Robert Bruno**  
University of Illinois

**Dave Sullivan**  
Former State Legislator (R)

**Antonio Muñoz**  
Former State Legislator (D)

**Jeremy Grey**  
HRP Group

**Karen Kent**  
UNITE HERE