

Economic Overview

LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties



JOBS e Q

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Demographic Profile

The population in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties was 756,808 per American Community Survey data for 2013-2017.

The region has a civilian labor force of 404,482 with a participation rate of 69.8%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties, 33.8% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 32.3% in the nation.

The median household income in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties is \$74,783 and the median house value is \$215,299.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties	Illinois	USA	LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties	Illinois	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	756,808	12,854,526	321,004,407
Male	49.7%	49.1%	49.2%	375,932	6,312,600	158,018,753
Female	50.3%	50.9%	50.8%	380,876	6,541,926	162,985,654
Median Age ²	—	—	—	35.4	37.7	37.8
Under 18 Years	26.5%	23.0%	22.9%	200,416	2,958,997	73,601,279
18 to 24 Years	10.2%	9.6%	9.7%	77,444	1,229,450	31,131,484
25 to 34 Years	12.7%	13.9%	13.7%	95,820	1,782,100	44,044,173
35 to 44 Years	13.8%	12.9%	12.7%	104,793	1,661,674	40,656,419
45 to 54 Years	13.8%	13.5%	13.4%	104,797	1,739,014	43,091,143
55 to 64 Years	11.3%	12.7%	12.7%	85,842	1,635,359	40,747,520
65 to 74 Years	7.0%	8.1%	8.6%	53,091	1,045,472	27,503,389
75 Years, and Over	4.6%	6.2%	6.3%	34,605	802,460	20,229,000
Race: White	75.5%	71.9%	73.0%	571,298	9,236,701	234,370,202
Race: Black or African American	6.1%	14.3%	12.7%	45,862	1,833,501	40,610,815
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.2%	0.8%	2,403	29,696	2,632,102
Race: Asian	3.6%	5.2%	5.4%	27,329	671,811	17,186,320
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	148	4,275	570,116
Race: Some Other Race	12.0%	6.0%	4.8%	91,168	767,145	15,553,808
Race: Two or More Races	2.5%	2.4%	3.1%	18,600	311,397	10,081,044
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	26.5%	16.8%	17.6%	200,191	2,162,070	56,510,571
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁵	—	—	—	765,618	12,802,023	325,719,178
Population Annual Average Growth ⁵	0.9%	0.1%	0.8%	6,520	10,616	2,448,797
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	69.8%	65.3%	63.3%	404,482	6,672,963	161,159,470
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	119	17,232	1,024,855
Veterans, Age 18-64	3.3%	3.6%	4.9%	15,366	287,377	9,667,749
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	81.9%	77.1%	75.8%	12,582	221,639	7,326,514
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$74,783	\$61,229	\$57,652
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$32,504	\$32,924	\$31,177
Poverty Level (of all people)	10.7%	13.5%	14.6%	79,391	1,698,613	45,650,345

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties	Illinois	USA	LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties	Illinois	USA
Households Receiving Food Stamps	11.1%	13.3%	12.6%	28,111	638,654	15,029,498
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	29.2	28.7	26.4
Commute via Public Transportation	2.6%	9.4%	5.1%	9,681	569,355	7,607,907
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	13.6%	10.0%	11.4%	53,076	685,186	19,230,541
High School Graduate	21.5%	24.2%	26.0%	84,052	1,651,493	43,784,920
Some College, No Degree	22.3%	21.3%	21.2%	87,085	1,451,093	35,803,629
Associate's Degree	8.9%	8.7%	9.0%	34,737	591,369	15,199,517
Bachelor's Degree	22.2%	22.4%	20.5%	86,937	1,525,384	34,602,913
Postgraduate Degree	11.6%	13.4%	11.8%	45,365	913,622	19,917,735
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	268,172	5,334,847	135,393,564
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$215,299	\$179,700	\$193,500
Homeowner Vacancy	1.3%	1.9%	1.7%	2,462	63,465	1,346,331
Rental Vacancy	3.7%	6.4%	6.1%	2,736	112,856	2,838,344
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	27.8%	33.9%	36.2%	70,474	1,633,310	42,992,786
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.4%	10.8%	8.8%	11,146	519,591	10,468,418
Social						
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%	13,320	185,041	4,437,324
Disconnected Youth ⁴	2.0%	2.6%	2.7%	902	17,665	456,548
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	27.8%	33.4%	34.5%	53,687	947,525	24,106,567
With a Disability, Age 18-64	6.8%	8.6%	10.3%	31,742	680,678	20,276,199
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	48.3%	43.1%	41.4%	15,340	293,115	8,395,884
Foreign Born	15.2%	14.0%	13.4%	115,014	1,800,858	43,028,127
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	10.9%	8.9%	8.5%	77,222	1,072,312	25,654,421
Union Membership						
Total ⁵	15.1%	14.7%	10.7%	—	—	—
Private Sector ³	8.3%	9.0%	6.4%	—	—	—
Manufacturing ³	9.8%	10.5%	8.7%	—	—	—
Public Sector ³	50.0%	51.7%	35.1%	—	—	—

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2013-2017, unless noted 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.

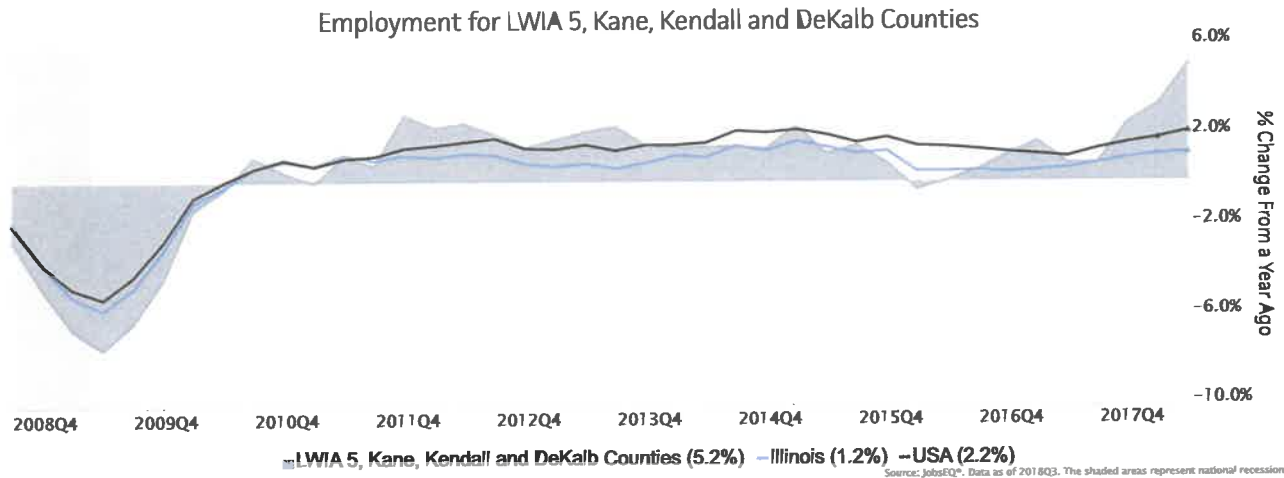
3. 2017; Current Population Survey, unionstats.com, and Chmura; county- and zip-level data are best estimates based upon industry-, MSA-, and state-level data

4. 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.

5. Census 2017, annual average growth rate since 2007

Employment Trends

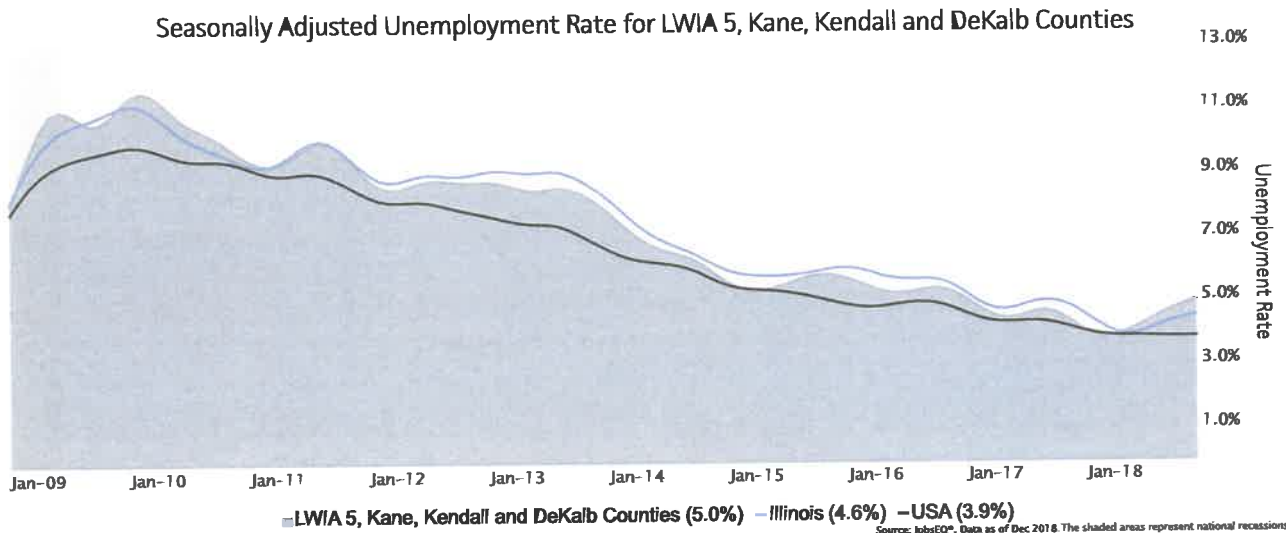
As of 2018Q3, total employment for the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties was 303,853 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2018Q3, employment increased 5.2% in the region.



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 2018Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q3.

Unemployment Rate

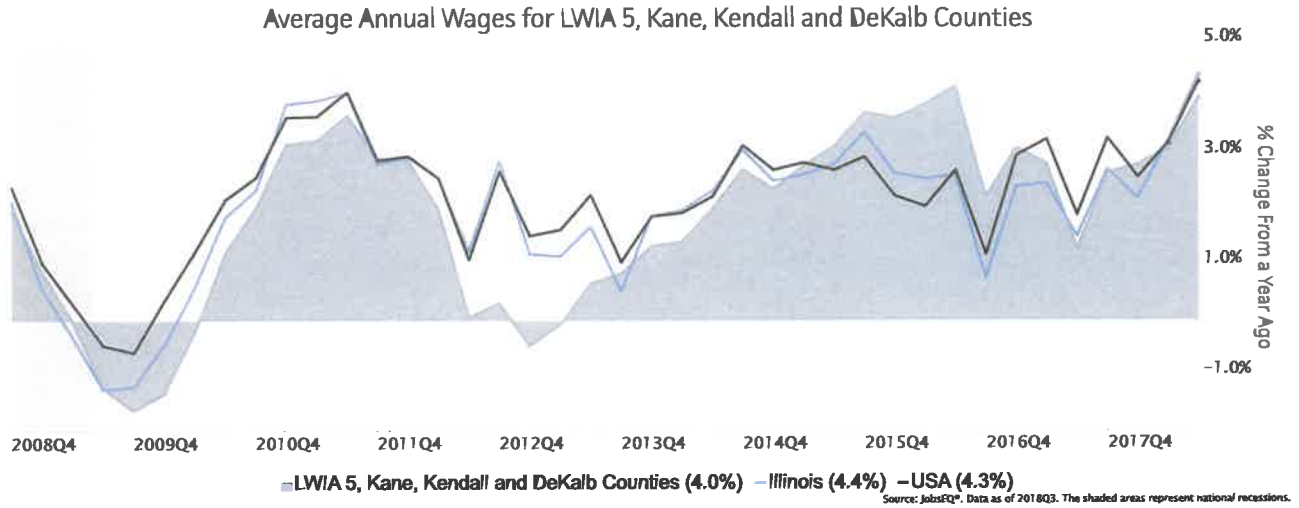
The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties was 5.0% as of December 2018. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 3.9%. One year earlier, in December 2017, the unemployment rate in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties was 4.3%.



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through December 2018.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties earned annual wages of \$47,281 as of 2018Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 4.0% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$55,994 in the nation as of 2018Q3.



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 2018Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q3.

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 19.1% higher in LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties than the U.S. average.

	Cost of Living Information		
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties	\$47,281	119.1	\$39,688
Illinois	\$58,613	109.3	\$53,642
USA	\$55,994	100.0	\$55,994

Source: JobsEQ®

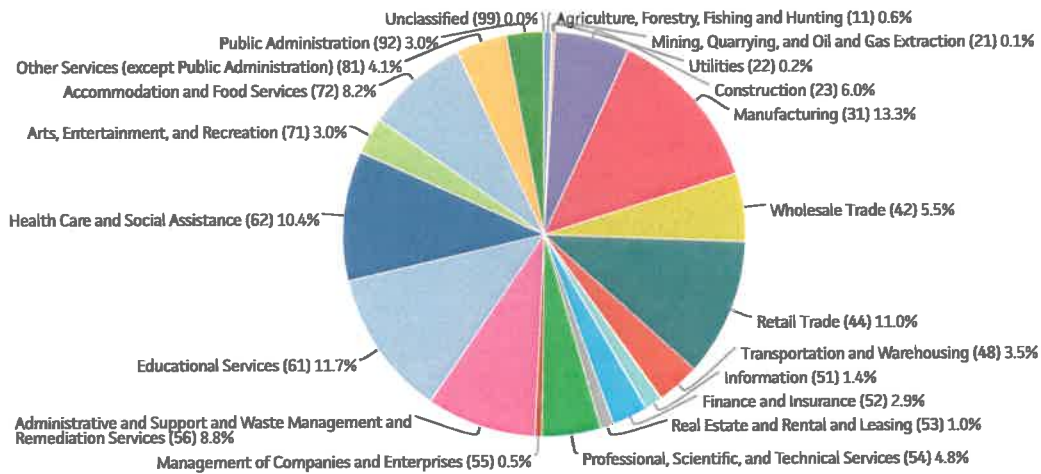
Data as of 2018Q3

Cost of Living per C2ER, data as of 2018q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties is Manufacturing, employing 40,340 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Educational Services (35,664 workers) and Retail Trade (33,495). 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 = 1.61), Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (1.50), and Educational Services (1.43).

Total Workers for LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties by Industry



Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2018Q3

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 2018Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q3.

Sectors in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$104,815), Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$82,535), and Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$79,480). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Accommodation and Food Services (+4,730 jobs), Construction (+4,111), and Retail Trade (+2,691).

Over the next 10 years, employment in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties is projected to expand by 9,810 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +1.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,897 jobs), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+2,035), and Construction (+1,870).

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		10-Year Forecast				
		Four Quarters Ending with 2018Q3			Total Change	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl	Separations (Approximate)			—Growth—	
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl	Region	Total New Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl	Avg Ann Rate
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,946	\$53,327	0.46	-75	-0.8%	2,136	914	1,200	23	0.1%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	153	\$82,535	0.12	2	0.3%	146	50	102	-6	-0.4%
22	Utilities	676	\$104,815	0.43	-71	-2.0%	625	222	392	11	0.2%
23	Construction	18,170	\$67,563	1.06	4,111	5.3%	20,583	6,714	11,999	1,870	1.0%
31	Manufacturing	40,340	\$61,460	1.61	1,828	0.9%	37,124	14,912	25,455	-3,243	-0.8%
42	Wholesale Trade	16,570	\$71,410	1.42	2,319	3.1%	17,212	6,533	10,802	-123	-0.1%
44	Retail Trade	33,495	\$30,508	1.04	2,691	1.7%	44,406	19,663	24,874	-132	0.0%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	10,638	\$49,849	0.80	1,875	4.0%	12,210	4,947	6,637	626	0.6%
51	Information	4,269	\$50,211	0.71	-549	-2.4%	4,354	1,531	2,680	143	0.3%
52	Finance and Insurance	8,808	\$65,332	0.73	-561	-1.2%	8,737	3,215	5,208	314	0.4%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3,130	\$51,267	0.60	265	1.8%	3,353	1,478	1,758	117	0.4%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	14,488	\$69,584	0.72	1,890	2.8%	14,351	4,840	8,114	1,396	0.9%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,638	\$79,480	0.36	549	8.5%	1,566	559	948	60	0.4%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	26,877	\$27,621	1.36	1,927	1.5%	34,124	13,617	18,472	2,035	0.7%
61	Educational Services	35,664	\$46,053	1.43	1,509	0.9%	32,896	15,846	17,062	-12	0.0%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	31,565	\$51,256	0.73	-285	-0.2%	35,259	15,411	15,950	3,897	1.2%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9,065	\$23,409	1.50	257	0.6%	13,588	5,863	7,192	533	0.6%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	24,852	\$17,518	0.91	4,730	4.3%	42,900	18,329	23,068	1,503	0.6%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	12,353	\$30,639	0.93	658	1.1%	14,954	6,548	7,799	606	0.5%
92	Public Administration	9,021	\$66,737	0.63	118	0.3%	8,547	3,548	4,815	183	0.2%
99	Unclassified	136	\$37,114	0.26	-50	-6.0%	161	66	90	5	0.4%
	Total - All Industries	303,853	\$47,281	1.00	23,139	1.6%	346,283	144,105	192,367	9,810	0.3%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

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 2018Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 41,416 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (32,110 workers) and Production Occupations (29,340). 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 = 1.59), Education, Training, and Library Occupations (1.43), and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1.18).

Occupation groups in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$108,900), Legal Occupations (\$104,100), and Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$77,600). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Legal Occupations to 6.5% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 10 years, the fastest growing occupation group in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.4% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+1,611 jobs) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+1,547). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Office and Administrative Support Occupations (46,159 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (45,605).

Occupation Snapshot in LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties, 2018q3

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		10-Year Forecast				
		Four Quarters Ending with 2018q3			2018q3			Total Change	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl	Separations			Growth	
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages ¹	LQ	Unempl	Rate	Online Job Ads ²			Total New Demand	Exits	Transfer	Empl	Avg Ann Rate
11-0000	Management	18,194	\$108,900	1.00	394	1.7%	638	1,321	1.5%	15,288	4,822	9,527	939	0.5%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	11,982	\$66,200	0.77	524	3.0%	435	570	1.0%	11,688	3,644	7,264	780	0.6%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	6,095	\$77,600	0.68	244	2.6%	272	176	0.6%	4,649	1,080	3,027	542	0.9%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	4,655	\$73,400	0.90	90	1.5%	168	544	2.5%	3,545	1,188	2,163	193	0.4%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,828	\$64,700	0.73	45	2.0%	240	-225	-2.3%	1,773	493	1,151	130	0.7%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	3,622	\$44,200	0.75	87	2.1%	336	27	0.2%	4,325	1,511	2,505	309	0.8%
23-0000	Legal	1,440	\$104,100	0.58	26	1.2%	8	67	1.0%	973	354	490	129	0.9%
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library	24,308	\$52,800	1.43	1,207	4.8%	985	1,356	1.2%	21,014	10,477	10,091	446	0.2%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	4,747	\$46,700	0.87	139	2.4%	312	241	1.0%	4,875	2,032	2,654	190	0.4%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	14,059	\$74,700	0.82	299	1.6%	950	-120	-0.2%	9,170	3,859	3,765	1,547	1.0%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	6,491	\$29,600	0.76	332	3.4%	372	-193	-0.6%	8,675	3,852	3,825	998	1.4%
33-0000	Protective Service	5,607	\$51,700	0.86	172	2.1%	152	106	0.4%	6,239	2,998	3,099	142	0.3%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	26,029	\$22,100	1.00	2,412	6.5%	1,260	4,473	3.8%	47,216	20,437	25,168	1,611	0.6%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	10,322	\$28,800	0.96	783	5.1%	393	1,270	2.7%	13,658	6,114	6,883	661	0.6%

Occupation Snapshot in LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties, 2018q3

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		10-Year Forecast				
		Four Quarters Ending with 2018q3			---2018q3---			Total Change	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl	Total New Demand	--Separations--		--Growth--	
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages ¹	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ²				Empl	Region	Exits	Transfer
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	10,962	\$26,500	0.92	591	4.1%	502	404	0.8%	18,080	8,354	8,620	1,105	1.0%
41-0000	Sales and Related	32,110	\$37,100	1.04	1,633	3.9%	2,325	2,844	1.9%	43,161	18,477	24,603	80	0.0%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	41,416	\$34,800	0.92	2,582	4.3%	1,671	2,278	1.1%	45,110	21,260	24,899	-1,048	-0.3%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,040	\$26,900	0.52	85	5.8%	15	-21	-0.4%	1,507	382	1,141	-16	-0.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	13,972	\$62,900	0.99	807	4.3%	171	2,704	4.4%	15,800	5,045	9,443	1,311	0.9%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	11,082	\$46,800	0.95	335	2.4%	623	1,247	2.4%	11,127	3,976	6,668	482	0.4%
51-0000	Production	29,340	\$34,100	1.59	1,582	4.4%	925	1,405	1.0%	30,134	11,578	20,301	-1,745	-0.6%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	24,554	\$32,000	1.18	1,979	5.7%	1,582	2,665	2.3%	32,042	12,400	18,617	1,026	0.4%
	Total - All Occupations	303,853	\$45,800	1.00	n/a	n/a	14,336	23,139	1.6%	350,050	144,334	195,905	9,810	0.3%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2018Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

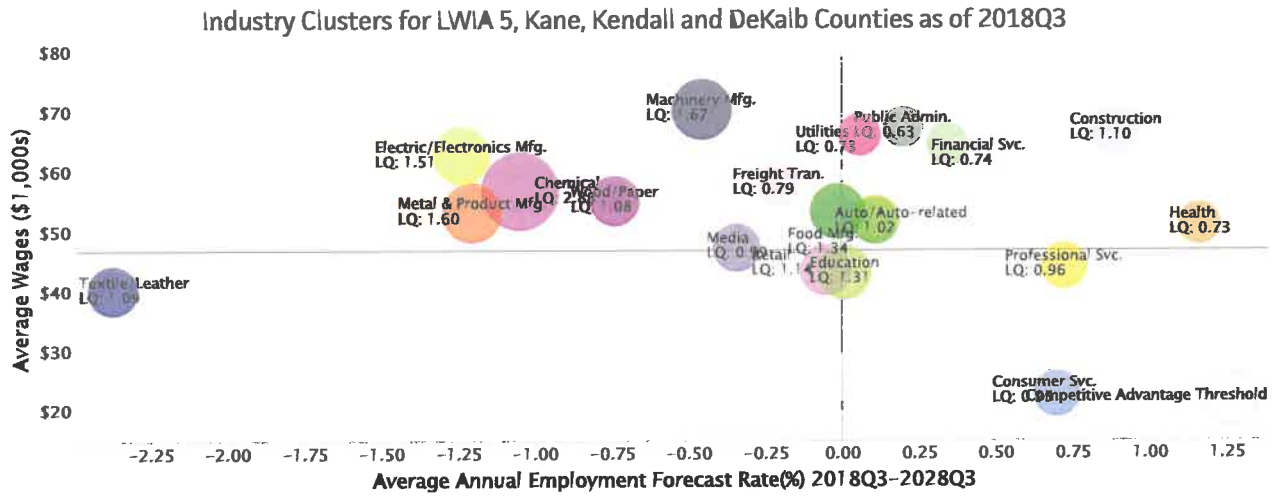
1. Occupation wages are as of 2017 and should be taken as the average for all Covered Employment

2. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings. Ads lacking zip code information but designating a place (city, town, etc.) may be assigned to the zip code with greatest employment in that place for queries in this analytic. 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).

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 2018Q1, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2017 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.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties with the highest relative concentration is Chemical with a location quotient of 2.88. This cluster employs 8,174 workers in the region with an average wage of \$57,172. Employment in the Chemical cluster is projected to contract in the region about 1.0% 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 2018Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q3. 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 the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties is projected to grow 0.3% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.9% per year, those requiring a bachelor’s degree are forecast to grow 0.5% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.7% per year.

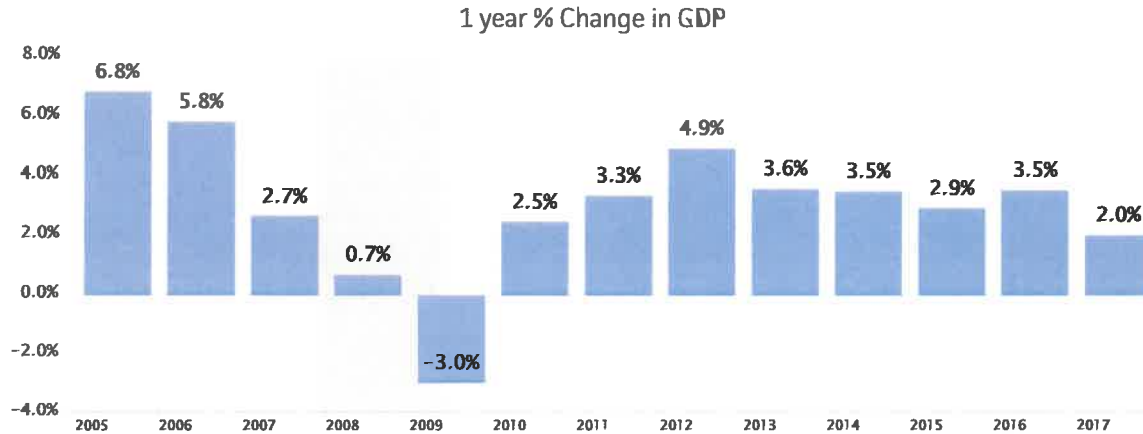
Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required for LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties



Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2018Q3. 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 2017, nominal GDP in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties expanded 2.0%. This follows growth of 3.5% in 2016. As of 2017, total GDP in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties was \$29,374,765,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2017.

Of the sectors in the LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2017, \$5,325,447,000. The next-largest contributions came from Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$2,733,086,000); Educational Services (\$2,728,146,000); and Wholesale Trade (\$2,716,384,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2017.

Region Definition

LWIA 5, Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties is defined as the following counties: DeKalb County, Illinois; Kane County, Illinois; Kendall County, Illinois

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 820 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 23 major groups, 96 minor groups, and 449 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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