



Metropolitan Chicago Region Overview of the Economy



This report is issued by The Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago (WBMC) and the Metro Economic Growth Alliance of Chicago (MEGA) for the purpose of sharing economic and workforce development information for the metropolitan Chicago region. This report provides the most recent available economic indicator data for the metropolitan Chicago region¹

For purposes of this report, the metropolitan Chicago region includes the City of Chicago and the following counties: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, Livingston, McHenry, and Will. The WBMC is a regional consortium of Workforce Boards that have collaborated for the past nine years on initiatives that address workforce and economic development issues. The Workforce Boards oversee development of a workforce system that provides individuals with education and training required for career opportunities in high demand occupations and provides employers with access to a skilled, competitive workforce. The MEGA is a partnership of lead economic organizations from throughout the metropolitan Chicago region that are committed to growing the regional economy through coordinated, effective business development. Both organizations recognize that the quality of its workforce is intrinsically linked to the strength of its economy.

The Region's Jobs

Figure 1 reflects the geographic distribution of the region's 5,111,872 jobs. A comparison of 2010 and projected 2011 data indicates that the region will gain 74,302 jobs this year. It is anticipated that all counties will post job gains. Counties that will gain the most jobs include: Cook (35,733), DuPage (10,753), Lake (8,333), and Will (7,136). Counties with the largest proportional job gain will include: Kendall (6%), Grundy (4%), DeKalb (3%), and Will (3%).



County	2010	2011	Change	% Change
Cook	3,140,254	3,175,987	35,733	1%
DeKalb	50,720	52,253	1,533	3%
DuPage	681,967	692,720	10,753	2%
Grundy	22,103	22,925	822	4%
Kane	252,137	257,311	5,174	2%
Kankakee	54,348	55,039	691	1%
Kendall	31,080	32,822	1,742	6%
Lake	416,261	424,594	8,333	2%
Livingston	20,018	20,311	293	1%
McHenry	119,816	121,908	2,092	2%
Will	248,866	256,002	7,136	3%
Total	5,037,570	5,111,872	74,302	

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., Analyst, Complete Employment

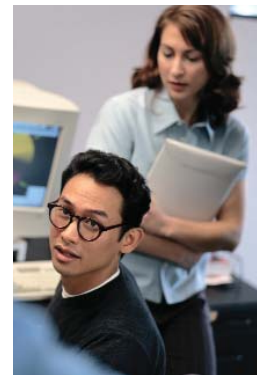
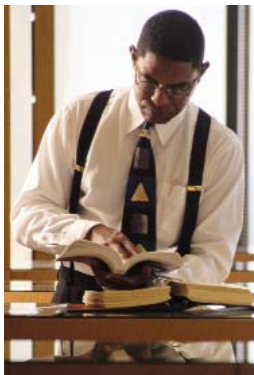
¹Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) complete employment data set utilized for this report was the 2011 1st. quarter data release. EMSI estimates are based on a methodology that combines employment information from the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) with self-employment numbers and EMSI-derived estimates for unsuppressed data. More information related to EMSI data sources and methodologies for compiling projections can be found at <http://workforceboardsmetrochicago.com/publications/>.

**Metropolitan Chicago Region
Jobs by Industry
2010 and 2011
Figure 2**

Description	2010		2011		Change
	Jobs	% Regional Jobs	Jobs	% Regional Jobs	
Accommodation and Food Services	314,525	6.2%	322,195	6.3%	7,670
Administrative and Waste Services	368,109	7.3%	375,146	7.3%	7,037
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,965	<1.0%	11,572	<1.0%	-393
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	110,356	2.2%	113,811	2.2%	3,455
Construction	214,047	4.2%	217,997	4.3%	3,950
Educational Services	154,766	3.1%	161,113	3.2%	6,347
Finance and Insurance	367,927	7.3%	377,173	7.4%	9,246
Government	542,049	10.8%	544,326	10.6%	2,277
Healthcare and Social Assistance	560,337	11.1%	578,760	11.3%	18,423
Information	96,875	1.9%	95,805	1.9%	-1,070
Management of Companies and Enterprises	75,894	1.5%	77,268	1.5%	1,374
Manufacturing	381,713	7.6%	367,490	7.2%	-14,223
Mining	2,240	<1.0%	2,256	<1.0%	16
Other Services, except Public Administration	256,546	5.1%	262,490	5.1%	5,944
Professional and Technical Services	415,809	8.3%	428,876	8.4%	13,067
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	220,046	4.4%	228,672	4.5%	8,626
Retail Trade	464,034	9.2%	463,875	9.1%	-159
Transportation and Warehousing	232,793	4.6%	235,892	4.6%	3,099
Utilities	12,286	<1.0%	11,859	<1.0%	-427
Wholesale Trade	235,250	4.7%	235,296	4.6%	46
Total	5,037,570	100%	5,111,872	100%	74,302

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., Analyst, Complete Employment

Figure 2 provides a comparison of regional jobs by industry for 2010 and 2011. With the exception of five industries, all others are expected to gain jobs by the end of 2011. Those with the highest gains will include: healthcare and social assistance (18,423), professional and technical services (13,067), finance and insurance (9,246), and real estate and rental and leasing (8,626). In terms of job loss, the manufacturing industry represents the majority of regional job loss (-14,223).



Unemployment Summary

The most recent unemployment rates for the region as well as individual counties are reflected in Figure 3. The region's unemployment rate decreased only slightly from February to March but over the past year dropped from 11.2% to 8.9% (-2.3). The region's unemployment rate for March (8.9%) was slightly lower than the State (9.1%) and the nation (9.2%)

For the month of March 2011, Grundy had the highest rate of unemployment (12.8%) followed by Kankakee (12.7%) and Lake (10.5%). DuPage had the lowest unemployment rate at 6.9%. Counties with the highest decreases in unemployment over the past year include: Livingston (-3.1), Kendall (-2.8), Will (-2.6), and Kane (-2.5).

Metropolitan Chicago Region Unemployment Rates Figure 3					
County	March 2011	February 2011	March 2010	Change Over the Month	Change Over the Year
Cook	8.9%	9.1%	11.2%	-0.2	-2.3
DeKalb	8.4%	8.8%	10.7%	-0.4	-2.3
DuPage	6.9%	7.1%	9.0%	-0.2	-2.1
Grundy	12.8%	13.5%	14.8%	-0.7	-2.0
Kane	9.6%	9.8%	12.1%	-0.2	-2.5
Kankakee	12.7%	13.1%	15.0%	-0.4	-2.3
Kendall	8.5%	8.9%	11.3%	-0.4	-2.8
Lake	10.5%	10.8%	12.5%	-0.3	-2.0
Livingston	9.2%	9.5%	12.3%	-0.3	-3.1
McHenry	8.9%	9.1%	11.2%	-0.2	-2.3
Will	9.3%	9.7%	11.9%	-0.4	-2.6
Region	8.9%	9.2%	11.2%	-0.3	-2.3
Illinois	9.1%	9.4%	11.4%	-0.3	-2.3
United States	9.2%	9.5%	10.2%	-0.3	-1.0

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Local Area. Unemployment Statistics, Not Seasonally Adjusted

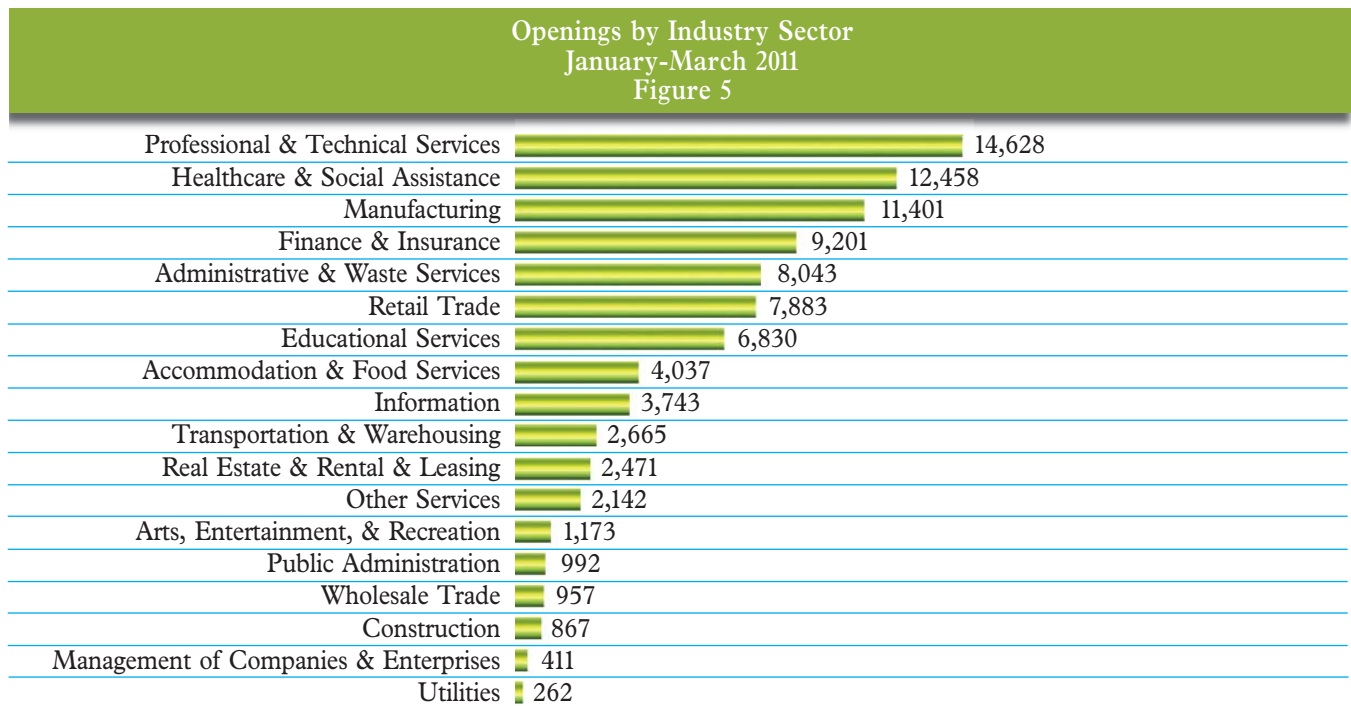
Current Job Openings

This section shares information about current job demand and employer needs based on data available through Burning Glass International, Inc. Their system for aggregating and reporting on online job postings is designed to populate a comprehensive database of real-time job opportunity information in a manner that provides as accurate a representation as possible of the full scope of advertised labor demand. The two critical elements of online job aggregation are data collection (intelligent "spidering" programs that search the Internet for job listings) and de-duplication. Based on a search for job listings from over 16,000 sources, Burning Glass identified 116,675 unique job openings available through employers in the metropolitan Chicago region during the 1st quarter of 2011. This information provides some indication of the types of jobs available, industries that are hiring, and educational and experience requirements for those jobs.

Figure 4 identifies the number of jobs available by occupation group. The top occupation group was computer and mathematical (18,965) followed by business/financial operations (14,796) and management positions (14,477). Those occupation groups representing the fewest jobs include: protective services (719), construction and extraction (631), and building, grounds keeping, and maintenance (581).

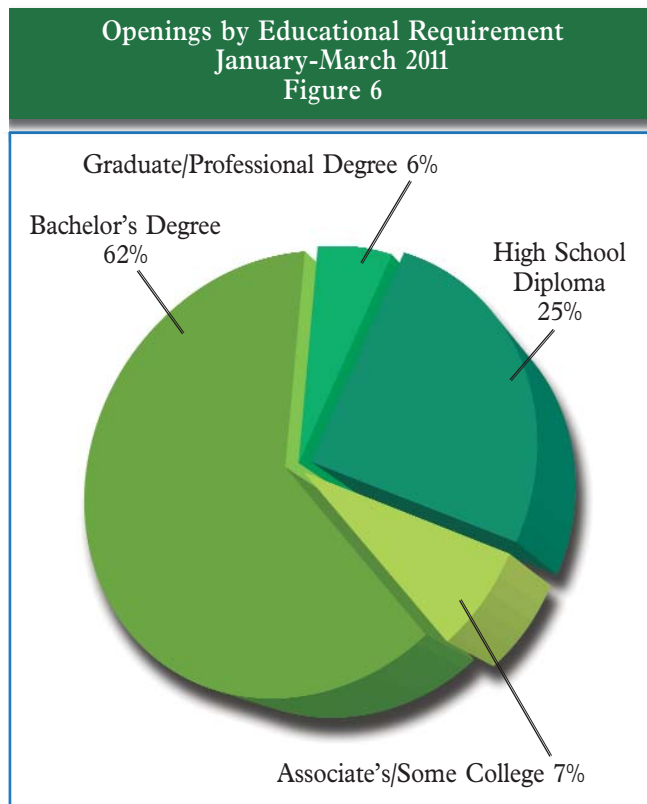
Openings by Occupation Group January-March 2011 Figure 4	
Computer & Mathematical	18,965
Business/Financial Operations	14,796
Management	14,477
Sales & Related	13,849
Office & Administrative Support	11,271
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	7,018
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	4,777
Transportation & Material Moving	4,131
Production	3,787
Architecture & Engineering	3,299
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	2,867
Education, Training, & Library	2,818
Life, Physical, & Social Science	2,597
Personal Care & Service	2,203
Food Preparation & Serving-Related	2,176
Community & Social Services	1,964
Legal	1,499
Healthcare Support	1,237
Protective Service	719
Construction & Extraction	631
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	581

Figure 5 provides a breakout of available jobs by industry. The industries with the greatest number of job postings during the first quarter of 2011 include: professional and technical services (14,628), healthcare and social assistance (12,458), manufacturing (11,401) and finance and insurance (9,201). Industries with the fewest job postings include: construction (867), management of companies and enterprises (411), and utilities (262).

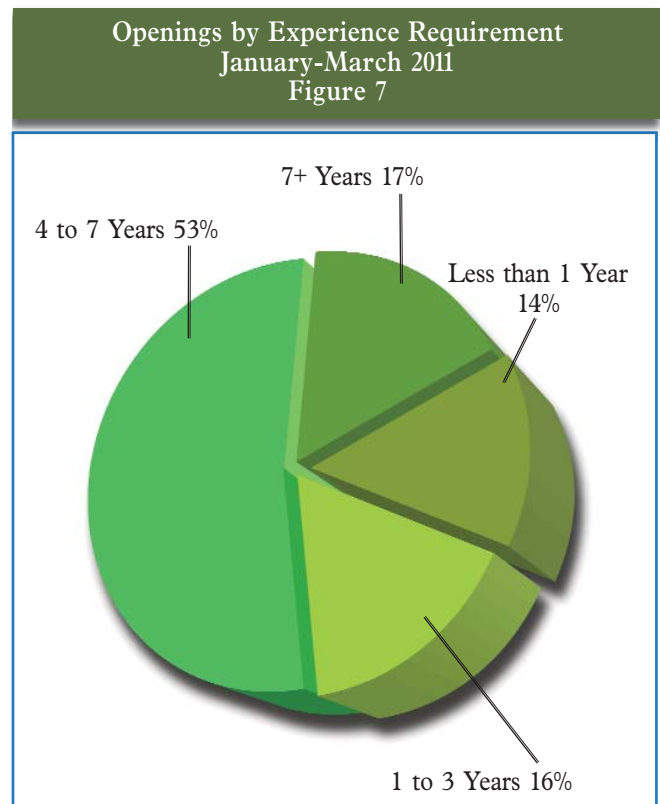


© 2011 Burning Glass International Inc.
Total Postings=116,675; 406 could not be attached to a specific occupation group

Figures 6 and 7 provide some indication of the educational and experience requirements for available jobs. In terms of education, the majority of jobs (62%) require a bachelor's degree. Employers preferred that job candidates have 4 to 7 years of experience (53%).



© 2011 Burning Glass International Inc.
Total Postings=116,675; 41,999 could not be assigned a specific educational level



© 2011 Burning Glass International Inc.
Total Postings=116,675; 41,999 could not be assigned a level of experience

Figure 8 identifies the occupations for which there was the most demand during the first quarter of 2011. Additionally, for those postings that identified a minimum or preferred educational level, the percentage of postings for each occupation that required less than a bachelor degree is provided. With the exception of retail sales and supervisory/management, customer service, and maintenance positions, the employer preferred job candidates have a bachelor's degree.

Top Occupations January-March 2011 Figure 8			
Rank	Occupation Title	Total Number of Openings	Percentage of Jobs Requiring Less than BA
1	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	5,282	31%
2	Computer Programmers	4,768	12%
3	General and Operations Managers	4,117	14%
4	Retail Salespersons	3,127	67%
5	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	2,324	9%
6	Information Technology Project Managers	2,143	12%
7	Registered Nurses	2,049	27%
8	Compensation, Benefits, and Job Analysis Specialists	2,039	17%
9	Accountants	1,951	13%
10	Credit Analysts	1,759	15%
11	Industrial Production Managers	1,475	17%
12	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office and Administrative Support Workers	1,336	27%
13	Office Clerks, General	1,317	40%
14	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	1,277	79%
15	Web Developers	1,264	10%
16	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	1,179	56%
17	Sales Managers	1,178	18%
18	Management Analysts	1,137	7%
19	Marketing Managers	1,117	8%
20	Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,098	71%
21	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Non-Retail Sales Workers	1,029	16%
22	Computer Systems Analysts	1,015	13%
23	Customer Service Representatives	999	65%
24	Database Administrators	946	14%
25	Public Relations Specialists	937	12%
26	Personnel Recruiters	916	18%
27	Financial Analysts	913	10%
28	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	906	74%
29	Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	894	20%
30	Human Resources, Training, and Labor Relations Specialists, All Other	863	18%

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 Percentage of Jobs Requiring Less Than BA – excludes any job postings that did not specify an educational requirement.

Projected Job Growth

This section looks at projected job growth in the metropolitan Chicago region through 2020. The region is expected to add 522,080 jobs, a 10% growth rate as compared to state and national growth of 9%. The region's new jobs will represent 75% of the State's projected growth (691,796).

In looking at projected job growth by industry (Figure 9), healthcare and social assistance (102,051) is expected to have the largest increase in jobs followed by professional, scientific, and technical services (76,744). Interestingly, these two sectors are also the same two with the largest number of job openings during the first quarter of 2011.

In looking at job loss, only two industries are expected to lose jobs, with most of the projected loss coming from manufacturing jobs. However, during the first quarter of 2011 manufacturing was the third ranking industry in the region in terms of job postings.

Metropolitan Chicago Region Job Growth by Industry 2011-2020 Figure 9				
Description	2011 Jobs	2020 Jobs	Change	% Change
Accommodation and Food Services	322,195	355,783	33,588	10%
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	375,146	438,813	63,667	17%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11,572	10,296	(1,276)	(11%)
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	113,811	132,792	18,981	17%
Construction	217,997	232,606	14,609	7%
Educational Services	161,113	193,624	32,511	20%
Finance and Insurance	377,173	434,255	57,082	15%
Government	544,326	564,948	20,622	4%
Healthcare and Social Assistance	578,760	680,811	102,051	18%
Information	95,805	101,746	5,941	6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	77,268	79,960	2,692	3%
Manufacturing	367,490	349,629	(17,861)	(5%)
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	2,256	2,469	213	9%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	262,490	295,785	33,295	13%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	428,876	505,620	76,744	18%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	228,672	266,731	38,059	17%
Retail Trade	463,875	474,714	10,839	2%
Transportation and Warehousing	235,892	259,330	23,438	10%
Utilities	11,859	11,892	33	0%
Wholesale Trade	235,296	242,148	6,852	3%
Region Total	5,111,872	5,633,952	522,080	10%
State Total	7,291,227	7,983,023	691,796	9%
Nation Total	174,415,082	190,797,673	16,382,591	9%

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2011



Figure 10 identifies those occupations that are expected to have the largest growth in the metropolitan Chicago region through 2020. Financial analysts and advisors are expected to show the largest increase (22,270) followed by home health aides (17,270) and fast food and counter workers (13,279). Based on 2010 earnings data, elementary and middle school teachers reflect the highest median hourly earnings (\$36.88) followed by management analysts (\$33.64) and registered nurses (\$32.39) of those occupations with the largest job growth.

Metropolitan Chicago Region Fastest Growing Occupations Figure 10					
Description	2011 Jobs	2020 Jobs	Change	% Change	2010 Median Hourly Earnings
Financial analysts and advisors	83,991	106,261	22,270	27%	\$20.22
Home health aides	66,604	83,874	17,270	26%	\$10.78
Fast food and counter workers	86,059	99,338	13,279	15%	\$8.93
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	52,630	65,744	13,114	25%	\$21.83
Registered nurses	83,320	96,351	13,031	16%	\$32.39
Child care workers	65,378	76,302	10,924	17%	\$8.43
Elementary and middle school teachers	86,090	96,513	10,423	12%	\$36.88
Customer service representatives	73,236	83,533	10,297	14%	\$16.30
Personal and home care aides	26,749	36,821	10,072	38%	\$8.76
Property, real estate, and community association managers	50,638	60,582	9,944	20%	\$10.93
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers	91,454	101,298	9,844	11%	\$17.87
Management analysts	44,831	54,492	9,661	22%	\$33.64
Building cleaning workers	125,268	134,801	9,533	8%	\$10.26
Managers, all other	84,053	93,235	9,182	11%	\$29.74
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	116,223	125,300	9,077	8%	\$18.62

Source: EMSI Complete Employment – 1st Quarter 2011

Summary

This report provides evidence that the economy is improving in the metropolitan Chicago region. Unemployment over the past year (March 2010 to 2011) has decreased from 11.2% to 8.9% and dropped from 9.2% to 8.9% from February 2011 to March 2011. This year the region is expected to add 74,302 jobs, with all counties posting job gains.

During the first three months of 2011, there was high job demand in the professional and technical services, healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing, and the finance and insurance industries. Data projections through 2020 indicate that the healthcare and social assistance and professional and technical services industries will experience high growth and continue to provide employment opportunities.

