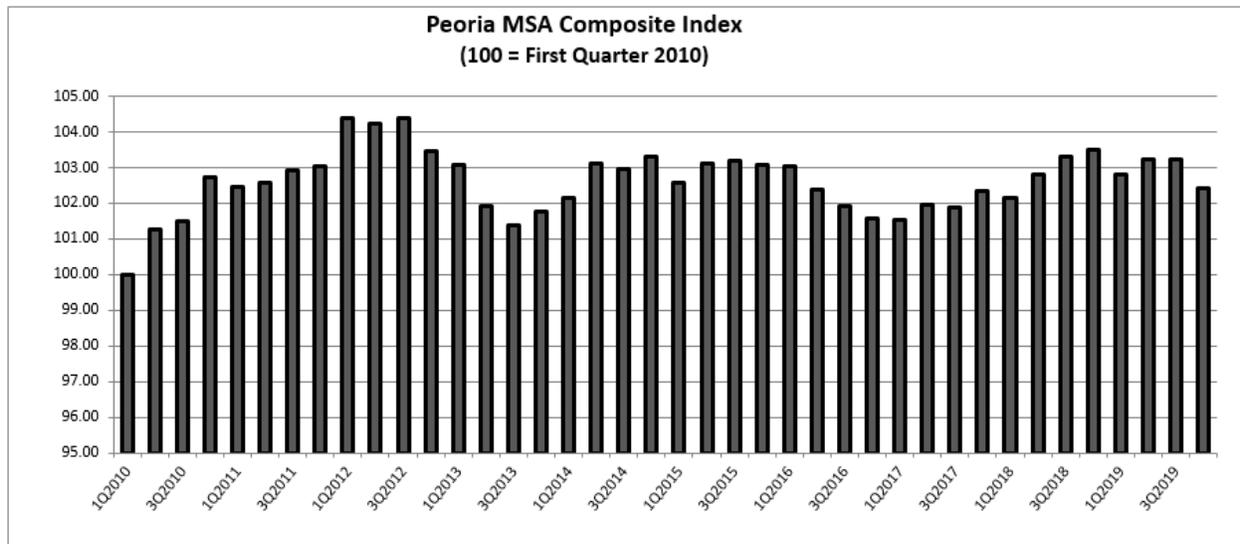


## Fourth Quarter 2019 Business and Economic Indicators for the Peoria-Pekin Metropolitan Statistical Area



The Composite Index of Business and Economic Indicators of the Peoria-Pekin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA; Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Stark and Marshall counties) for the fourth quarter was computed at 102.4, 1.0% below the year earlier level of 103.5, while continuing above the 100 of the base period of the first quarter of 2010 (See chart, above). The Composite Index for the Peoria-Pekin MSA reflects local business and economic activity computed on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Faculty and staff of the Departments of Economics, and of Management and Leadership in the Foster College of Business at Bradley University review over 30 diverse business indicators in the preparation of these quarterly assessments. A detailed analysis of these data appears below. Data reported are adjusted for normal seasonal variation, unless specified otherwise.

## **Labor and Job Markets**

The number of jobs on area employer payrolls fell 1.1% from the year before. The declines in jobs had little impact on the number of area residents who were working, a figure that remained little changed from one year earlier. It should be noted that the number of working area residents includes those on employer payrolls, and classified as self-employed.

The declines in jobs on area employer payrolls also had little impact on local unemployment rates: Rather, the fourth quarter local unemployment rate declined, with its rate of 4.4% 0.8 percentage points below the 5.2% rate of the year before.

## **Industry performance**

Jobs on the payrolls of six private industries are monitored for this study. The number of jobs in the area's largest industry, Education and Health Services (dominated by Health Services employment) rose from the year before. Employment in Construction was unchanged from the year before.

Declines were found for jobs in four of the six private industries monitored for this study, with reduced payrolls in Manufacturing, Professional and Business Services, Hospitality/Entertainment and Retail and Wholesale trade. The declines in these jobs are consistent with the increased local layoffs in the fourth quarter, indicated by increases in the local Unemployment Claims Index to 70.1, up 21.1% from the previous quarter, and putting the Index 13.7% higher than the year before.

## **Local Sales and Related Services**

Fourth quarter estimated retail sales were up 1.6% from the year before, similar to the inflation recorded by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the same period. Reduced numbers were buying homes, with the number of homes sold down 10.9% from the year before, and fewer homes available for sale, with the data showing 17.9% fewer homes available for sale than last year.

Area builders increased their new Single Family Building Permits by 15.0% from the year before. The fourth quarter Single Family Building Permits Index score of 56.5 still remained below the 100 of the base year of 2010.

## **Review and Outlook**

Looking ahead, the local “leading indicators” (that signal future levels of economic performance) are mixed, pointing to little overall growth for area employers in the short term.

Longer term area business and economic growth trends are expected to result from regional capital investment projects; the retirements of members of the large post-World War II “baby boom” cohort replaced by local job seekers (see Reinhold, 2018 for research on retirement and Illinois labor force); and from increases in the numbers of the self-employed and entrepreneurs among area residents.

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Reinhold, Rich, “Declining Labor Force Participation in Illinois: Why Have More People Stopped Working or Looking for Work” Illinois Department of Employment Security | Economic Information and Analysis Division | January 2018 <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/lmi/ILMR/DecliningLaborForce.pdf>

### 4Q2019 SCOPE data table

All data and changes are seasonally adjusted, except those specified as NSA

	4th Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	Year -to- Year Change	4th Q2019 from 3rd Q2019
<b>LEADING INDICATORS</b>				
Single Family Building Permits Index (2010=100) (L)	56.5	49.2	15.0%	NSA
<b>REVERSE SCALE LEADING INDICATORS</b>				
Average Unemp. Rate	4.4%	5.2%	-0.8	-0.2
New Unemployment Claims Index (2010=100) (L)	70.1	61.6	13.7%	21.1%
<b>COINCIDENT INDICATORS</b>				
Employed Residents	171,493	171,135	0.2%	-0.5%
Total Jobs	174,699	176,556	-1.1%	-0.7%
<b>LAGGING INDICATORS</b>				
Prime Rate (U.S.)	4.75%	5.37%	-0.62	-0.38
Mortgage Cost Rate (local)	3.88%	4.75%	-0.87	-0.03
<b>OTHER INDICATORS</b>				
<i>Employment-related</i>				
<i>Employment in:</i>				
Construction	7,406	7,406	0.0%	-2.5%
Manufacturing	23,017	23,749	-3.1%	-2.7%
Total Services/Trade	144,240	145,367	-0.8%	-0.3%
Local Government	17,687	17,458	1.3%	-0.9%
All Private Services/Trade	122,857	124,213	-1.1%	-0.3%
Professional and Business Services	23,837	24,966	-4.5%	-0.8%
Education and Health Services	32,401	31,870	1.7%	1.7%
Hospitality/Entertainment	18,150	18,796	-3.4%	-1.8%
Retail and Wholesale Trade	24,522	24,718	-0.8%	-1.2%
<i>Sales-related</i>				
Estimated Retail Sales (bil) NSA e	\$1.482	\$1.458	1.6%	NSA
Number Homes Sold NSA e	1,303	1,463	-10.9%	NSA
Available Homes For Sale Index (2010=100)	73.4	89.4	-17.9%	-3.6%
Price of Homes Sold Index (2010 = 100)	103.4	98.3	5.1%	3.4%
<b>COMPOSITE PEORIA MSA INDEX (2010=100)</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
<b>BACKGROUND INDICATORS</b>				
Average Illinois Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.2%	-0.4	-0.2
Average US Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.8%	-0.3	-0.1
Midwest Quit Rate	2.37%	2.40%	-0.03	0.03
Average US Hours Worked/Week	41.4	42.0	-1.5%	-0.2%
Average US Overtime Hours/Week, Durable Manufacturing	4.2	4.6	-10.1%	-0.8%
Average Midwest Urban CPI (1982-84=100)	238.9	234.5	1.9%	0.1%
Value of US Dollar Index	92.2	91.5	0.8%	0.4%
Gross Domestic Product (chained dollars, billions)	4,805	4,696	2.3%	0.5%
L = Leading indicator Lg = Lagging Indicator e = Preliminary estimate				

## Background

Business indicator data reported are adjusted for normal seasonal variation, except where indicated otherwise.

We rely on SPSS for seasonal adjustment. The seasonal adjustment procedure removes the impact of seasonal components, i.e., the predictable seasonal variations of the data, so that any underlying trend in the data series can be discerned.

The "Composite Peoria-Pekin MSA Index" consists of the average of 14 key standardized, seasonally adjusted economic indicators. Indicators are standardized using a z transformation. A value of 100 corresponds to the Index value in the first quarter of 2010.

The "Single Family Building Permits" Index includes activity authorized by local building permits issued by the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Tazewell County and Woodford County.

The "New Unemployment Claims Index" refers to the seasonally adjusted number of new weekly unemployment claims in the five-county Peoria-Pekin MSA, with an Index value of 100 reflecting the average weekly number of new unemployment claims in 2010.

A regression model is used to estimate the most recent quarter's taxable retail sales.

The five-county seasonally adjusted Index of available homes for sale is computed relative to the score of 100 in the base year of 2010. The estimate of the seasonally adjusted Index of Price of Homes Sold is computed relative to a score of 100 in the base year of 2010.

US government statistics compiled with seasonal adjustment include Illinois and US unemployment rates, the average number of hours worked/week by production and non-supervisory workers, average number of hours of overtime worked/week in durable goods manufacturing, the Midwest Urban Consumer Price Index (CPI; computed monthly for the Midwest region by the Bureau of Labor Statistics), the Midwest quit rate, and Value of U.S. Dollar Index, and the Gross Domestic Product.

The Quit Rate is the number of quits during the month, divided by the number of employees who worked at that time.