

**SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE BUREAU OF LABOR  
STATISTICS OF THE ILLINOIS FREE  
EMPLOYMENT OFFICES, FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 1, 1905**

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Seventh Annual Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Illinois Free Employment  
Offices, for the Year Ended October 1, 1905 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

OF THE

ILLINOIS

# Free Employment Offices

FOR THE

Year Ended October 1, 1905.

(Established August 2, 1899.)

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DAVID ROSS, Secretary, Springfield.



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1906

## INTRODUCTION.

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The report for this year shows a substantial and gratifying increase in the number of applications for employment and help, and in the number of positions obtained. Compared with the record for the year preceding the increase numbers 7,830 for employment and 7,874 placed in positions. While the primary purpose in establishing these offices was to aid the common or unskilled laborer in getting work without cost to him or her, their influence has not been limited to that class. The offices are open and available for all people in need of employment. That the opportunities afforded by them have been taken advantage of by those following more specialized occupations will appear upon reference to the table relating to skilled and unskilled labor. From this it is shown that nearly 8,000 people, representing established skilled trades, including commercial and professional pursuits, have secured positions during the year. When it is remembered that the free offices have neither the time nor the means to publicly or personally solicit or place men who have qualified themselves for employment requiring technical ability, the showing made is quite creditable. When the facilities offered by such offices in this direction become more generally known they will be in a better position to meet the demands of the higher and more specialized grades of employment. The modern tendency to specialization is very apparent in this as in other lines of enterprise. The better class of private employment agencies will accept only applications for a certain service, mainly of a professional character. Committed to meet the wants of a particular class all their attention in soliciting applications from firms in need of such help, in looking up references, advertising, etc., etc., is devoted to that purpose. It is not to be expected that offices engaged as those of the State are, in the business of supplying general help, can do much along special lines. To attempt to encourage specialties would in effect diminish their usefulness, and in a measure frustrate the purpose for which they were organized.

There is more or less security in an established trade or profession. When industrial fluctuations take place, it is the common or unskilled workman who is first affected, his services as a rule can be easier and more readily dispensed with; thus it becomes the special concern of the State, through its offices, to render such classes all possible assistance.

We regret having to record the death of two of the officers of the Peoria Free Employment Office—Mr. Charles Easton, Assistant Superintendent, after a brief illness died February 6, 1905; and Mr. Edward E. Walker, Superintendent, March 11, 1905. Mr. Walker had been a sufferer for several months, and his death was not unexpected. Both men were efficient and faithful workers in the line of their duties, laboring to establish and advance the practical usefulness of the office over which they had charge.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.**  
OF THE  
**Illinois Free Employment Offices,**  
**1905.**

(Established August 2, 1899.)

The work accomplished by the Illinois Free Employment offices for the year ended October 1, 1905, is presented in this, the seventh annual report.

The summing up of the business transacted by these offices for the year is presented in the following table:

**TABLE 1—Showing the Combined Business of the Four Offices for the Year Ended October 1, 1905.**

OFFICES. (Three in Chicago, one in Peoria.)	APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT.			APPLICATIONS FOR HELP.	
	Number filed.	Number positions secured.	Number unfilled.	Number filed.	Number unfilled.
North Side Office—Males .....	4,297	4,216	41	4,403	387
North Side Office—Females .....	3,974	2,809	85	4,810	1,001
Totals .....	8,131	*8,025	106	9,413	1,388
South Side Office—Males .....	9,142	8,822	520	9,777	1,155
South Side Office—Females .....	4,280	4,063	177	5,185	1,102
Totals .....	13,402	†12,705	697	14,962	2,257
West Side Office—Males .....	13,323	10,010	3,319	10,034	24
West Side Office—Females .....	2,784	2,030	754	2,823	808
Totals .....	16,113	12,040	4,073	12,857	817
Peoria Office—Males .....	5,345	4,804	541	4,837	133
Peoria Office—Females .....	2,332	2,024	308	2,308	284
Totals .....	7,677	6,828	849	7,245	417
Total Males—Four Offices .....	33,078	27,652	4,421	29,351	1,099
Total Females—Four Offices .....	13,290	11,946	1,304	15,228	3,280
Grand totals .....	45,368	±38,598	5,725	44,577	4,979

\*Of this number 191 males and 113 females, a total of 304 were secured positions on applications filed last year.

†Of this number 18 males and 128 females, a total of 144 were secured positions on applications filed last year.

‡Of this number 207 males and 241 females, a total of 448 were secured positions on applications filed last year.



The total number of persons registering, seeking places to work, was 45,323; of this number 32,073, or 70.77 per cent, were males, and 13,250, or 29.23 per cent, females; the total number is augmented by 448; males 207, females 241, being applications on file and brought forward from the previous year, so that the total number of applications handled during the year was 45,771.

The following table of percentages gives a more explicit reading of the work of each of the four offices regarding both male and female applicants and the positions secured both sexes:

TABLE 2—*Percentages of Applicants for Employment and for Help, and Positions Secured by Each of the Four Offices for the Year.*

OFFICES.	PERCENTAGE OF—					
	APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT.		APPLICATIONS FOR HELP.		POSITIONS SECURED.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
North Side Office .....	52.36	47.64	45.90	51.10	52.54	47.46
South Side Office .....	68.21	31.79	65.35	34.65	67.86	32.14
West Side Office .....	82.72	17.28	77.44	22.56	83.14	16.86
Peoria Office .....	69.65	30.35	68.11	31.89	70.36	29.64
The four offices .....	70.77	29.23	65.84	34.16	69.83	30.17

This is the largest number registered during any one year since the organization of these offices; of this number 83.23 per cent was filed in the three Chicago offices.

The number for whom positions were secured is larger than for either of the past two years, and was only exceeded in 1902; the total number this year is shown to be 39,598; of this number 27,652 or 69.83 per cent were males, and 11,946 or 30.17 per cent, females. These proportions vary but a fraction from those shown for applications for employment.

The total number of applications registered by employers seeking help was 44,577; of this number 29,351, or 65.84 per cent, were for males, and 15,226 or 34.16 per cent for females. The total number registered was nearly 8,000 more than last year.

The results accomplished by each of the four offices are better shown in a table of percentages, giving the proportion of both male and female applicants who were placed in positions; also the corresponding information as to help supplied to employers:

TABLE 3.—Percentages of Positions Secured and Percentages of Help Furnished, both Male and Female.

OFFICES.	PERCENTAGE OF POSITIONS SECURED APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT.			PERCENTAGE OF APPLICATIONS FOR HELP FURNISHED.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
North Side Office.....	99.04	98.32	98.70	91.59	79.19	85.25
South Side Office.....	94.31	95.85	94.80	89.10	78.75	84.92
West Side Office.....	75.10	72.32	74.72	96.76	69.45	92.92
Peoria Office.....	89.88	85.79	88.94	97.31	87.69	94.24
The four offices.....	88.22	90.16	87.37	94.21	78.46	88.83

Observing the Chicago offices, it will be seen that the North Side office secured positions for the largest proportion of both male and female applicants for positions. The West Side office supplied employers with the largest per cent of applications for male help, while the Peoria office furnished the largest percentage of females to employers, and combining both males and females, supplied a larger per cent than either of the other offices.

Considering the work of all the offices in securing positions for those desiring work during the year, the percentages show a decided increase in efficiency over last year. Regarding the supplying of help to employers a similar increase is shown, excepting the furnishing of female help, which shows a slight decrease; altogether the work performed by all the offices presents very satisfactory results.

To bring out fully and in compact form the work accomplished by these offices, since their establishment, a series of tables are introduced, showing for the six complete years, from Oct. 1, 1899, to Oct. 1, 1905, the extent of the business in hand and completed in each year during the period named. The first presentation is arranged by classified occupations, and by years, giving the number

of applications, both for employment and for help, also the number of positions secured, with the percentages of positions secured to both classes of applicants:

TABLE 4—Classified Occupations (Male and Female) with percentages—for Six Years.

SEX AND CLASSES OF OCCUPATIONS.	Number of occu- pations in each class.	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR—		Number of positions secured.	PERCENTAGES OF POSITIONS SECURED FOR—	
		Employment.	Help.		Applicants for employment.	Applicants for help.
Males—totals six years.....		151,196	142,208	128,123	84.74	90.10
NOT CLASSIFIED.....				4,065		
AGRICULTURAL.....		7,305	7,029	6,459	88.42	84.66
1900.....	5	902	1,006	919	95.53	91.17
1901.....	5	727	841	696	94.34	81.57
1902.....	6	1,306	1,169	1,210	89.67	82.37
1903.....	4	1,152	1,265	1,009	87.69	79.70
1904.....	7	1,330	1,338	1,134	84.51	84.01
1905.....	6	1,738	1,707	1,511	86.94	86.52
CLERICAL.....		2,787	968	823	29.89	95.97
1900.....	7	370	43	39	12.19	90.70
1901.....	7	193	21	17	10.52	80.86
1902.....	11	638	184	138	30.32	96.91
1903.....	13	490	123	111	25.81	90.24
1904.....	13	645	191	188	30.42	98.43
1905.....	12	651	296	290	44.55	97.97
COMMERCIAL.....		3,678	3,679	2,841	50.04	77.22
1900.....	22	1,022	968	509	26.48	63.00
1901.....	22	802	346	276	34.41	79.76
1902.....	17	1,218	960	826	67.82	86.04
1903.....	14	607	516	425	70.02	76.43
1904.....	14	482	391	305	63.28	80.05
1905.....	13	647	628	500	77.28	79.62
DOMESTIC SERVICE.....		21,845	19,274	18,172	83.19	94.28
1900.....	12	4,242	3,335	3,190	76.27	95.74
1901.....	12	2,103	1,927	1,687	80.89	88.06
1902.....	11	4,100	3,766	3,339	80.34	95.23
1903.....	11	4,534	4,287	3,972	87.22	92.65
1904.....	10	3,108	2,630	2,662	82.58	96.39
1905.....	10	3,738	3,299	3,206	85.77	97.18
MANUAL LABOR.....		95,008	74,102	68,681	96.47	85.94
1900.....	3	5,708	7,326	5,607	98.25	76.54
1901.....	4	6,173	7,088	5,905	95.61	76.81
1902.....	3	18,840	15,915	13,230	95.59	85.14
1903.....	5	18,548	15,057	13,111	96.77	87.03
1904.....	4	10,467	11,450	10,106	96.27	88.26
1905.....	3	18,213	16,696	13,722	98.79	94.84
PROFESSIONAL.....		189	80	83	43.92	93.26
1900.....	14	61	18	16	26.23	88.89
1901.....	9	39	21	19	48.72	90.48
1902.....	4	23	16	15	65.22	93.75
1903.....	5	31	14	14	45.16	100.00
1904.....	5	22	11	11	50.00	100.00
1905.....	4	13	9	8	61.54	88.89