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# Illinois loses some jobs, offset by startup gains

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By: [John Pletz](#) January 19, 2012

(Crain's) — Illinois lost more businesses and jobs than it gained in the first nine months of last year as income tax rates rose.

Most of those companies and jobs went south to Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, not to surrounding states, according to Dun & Bradstreet data reported Thursday in the Illinois Innovation Index.

"The numbers . . . reveal that the aggressive campaigns by Illinois' neighbors to lure companies failed to make a significant impact on employment," the report says. "The defection of jobs to Indiana was largely mitigated by new positions crossing the border from Wisconsin. Further, nearly as many businesses moved from Indiana to Illinois as vice-versa."

Illinois had a net loss of 128 jobs to Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. The data show that Illinois lost 27 companies and 719 jobs to Indiana but gained 22 companies and 337 employees from its neighbor.

The index is released by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, World Business Chicago, Illinois Science and Technology Coalition and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Illinois lost 269 businesses employing 8,894 workers in Illinois but attracted 244 companies employing 6,883 workers in the state, the data show. The report called the job loss "negligible" in a state with an employment base of nearly 6 million jobs.

The job losses also were offset by more than 13,000 startups in the Chicago area that produced nearly 23,000 new jobs, led by companies at opposite ends of the spectrum: professional, scientific and technical services firms and administrative and support services.

Illinois had a net loss of 2,256 jobs to Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, while it gained 1,806 jobs from California, Oregon and Washington.

Illinois lost 16 companies and 158 jobs to Michigan but gained 15 companies employing 83 workers. Illinois gained 20 companies and 506 jobs from Wisconsin, while losing 22 companies and 129 jobs to its northern neighbor.

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