

# Message from the President



**Todd Maisch**

*President & CEO*

*Illinois Chamber of  
Commerce*

**May 21, 2020**

This afternoon, the Illinois Department of Employment Security [announced](#) it has processed more than 1.2 million claims in last eleven weeks.

In response to these alarming numbers, the Chamber released the following statement:

### **Illinois Chamber of Commerce Statement on Record Unemployment**

"We are calling on Governor Pritzker to begin including unemployment numbers in his metrics for Illinois' reopening plan," said Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch. "Over 16 percent unemployment is its own crisis and the unemployment statistics need to be considered on equal footing with public health metrics. The administration has assembled a team of public health officials charged with bringing down COVID-19 statistics. The administration needs to appoint a team that is every bit as committed to bringing down the unprecedented figure of 16.4 percent unemployment in Illinois.

"Taking unemployment into account would encourage a more comprehensive and equitable reopening that incorporates ideas from the business community, like those in Senate Bill 3993 that Leader Brady introduced yesterday."

To read more on the Chamber's Responsible Reopening and Rehiring plan introduced by Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady click [here](#).

We will continue to advocate for more aggressive policies to combat the economic crisis along with the public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Todd Maisch  
President and CEO  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

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**ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

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