

John C. Ackerman

Tazewell County Board

Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service

July 1st, 2009

[Local Economic Update](#)

Many of us are very nervous and uncertain about the direction the local economy may or may not take from day-to-day. Locally, our unemployment rate has been better than other parts of the country. With this in mind, I wanted to make you aware of an occurrence that will be happening over the next few weeks throughout Central Illinois. Here is a message I received earlier this week from the Heartland Partnership:

"As is evident across the country and Central Illinois, many businesses will be making use of employee furloughs or rolling layoffs through the summer months of 2009. This will likely affect many regional employees. While we know these furloughs are temporary, they still have the potential for a significant impact on our regional unemployment numbers.

If a person files for unemployment, even if only for two weeks, they are factored in to the monthly unemployment rate. Every 1% of our unemployment rate equals 2000 people.

While we believe those affected by the furloughs will be returning to work in the near future, the bottom line is these temporary layoffs will likely cause our unemployment rate to have significant fluctuation this summer."

I personally understand what they are trying to address. As many of you know, I work at a CAT facility in East Peoria (the Transmission Business Unit). As is the case with other CAT facilities, we will be taking the next few weeks off. While I will not be filing for unemployment, most others will be. Think about the impact on the unemployment rate these two weeks will have. Just remember this this summer when you see the unemployment rate rise and hear conversations about why it is happening.

As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you on the Tazewell County Board and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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