

# EMPLOYMENT

in  
New York State

Eliot Spitzer, Governor

February 2008

M. Patricia Smith, Commissioner

## Immigrants Important to State's Economy...

### The Changing Face of NYS

**I**mmigrants play an increasingly important role in New York State's economy. Between 1990 and 2006, the state's foreign-born population expanded by more than 1.3 million (+47 percent) to almost 4.2 million, according to Census Bureau data. By comparison, the state's overall population increased by just under 1.3 million (+7 percent) over this period. Thus, New York's population would have registered a small decline rather than a gain in this time frame, had it not attracted these foreign residents.

With more than one in five (22 percent) New York residents born in another country, we rank second only to California. (New York also ranks second to California in total immigrant population.) The

share of the population born outside of the U.S. varies dramatically across New York. For example, 37 percent of the population of New York City is foreign-born. In stark contrast, the comparable figures for the Downstate suburbs and the 52-county Upstate region are 18 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

New York State has one of the most diversified immigrant populations in the nation. In 2006, the most prevalent country of origin for the state's foreign-born residents was the Dominican Republic, accounting for 10 percent of immigrants. This country was also the state's leading source of foreign-born residents in 1990. Other countries among the top five sources of immigrants in New York in 2006 (in

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### At a Glance

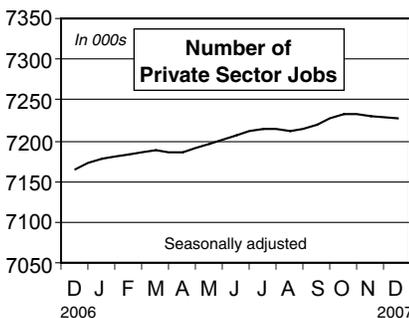
In December 2007, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, up from 4.6 percent in November 2007. (The nation's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in December.) In December 2007, the state had 8,723,200 nonfarm jobs, including 7,226,200 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of private sector jobs in the state decreased by less than 0.1 percent from November. (The nation's private sector job count also decreased by less than 0.1 percent over the month.) From December 2006 to December 2007, the number of private sector jobs increased by 0.9 percent in both the state and nation (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's employment-population ratio, a measure of labor force participation, decreased in December.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs Dec. 2006 - Dec. 2007 (Data not seasonally adjusted, numbers in thousands)

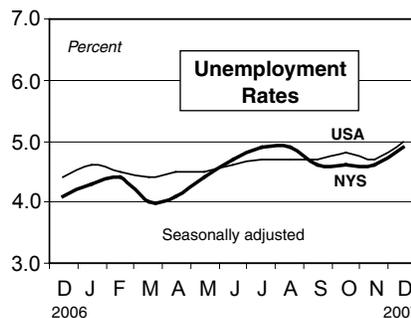
	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	69.0	0.8
Private Sector	62.7	0.9
Goods-producing	-14.1	-1.5
Nat. res. & mining	-0.3	-4.9
Construction	7.4	2.2
Manufacturing	-21.2	-3.8
Durable gds.	-9.6	-2.9
Nondurable gds.	-11.6	-5.0
Service-providing	83.1	1.1
Trade, trans., & util.	8.5	0.5
Wholesale trade	-2.6	-0.7
Retail trade	8.7	0.9
Trans., wrhs., & util.	2.4	0.9
Information	-0.1	0.0
Financial activities	8.7	1.2
Prof. & bus. svcs.	22.4	2.0
Educ. & health svcs.	25.7	1.6
Leisure & hospitality	9.8	1.5
Other services	1.8	0.5
Government	6.3	0.4

### IN DECEMBER...

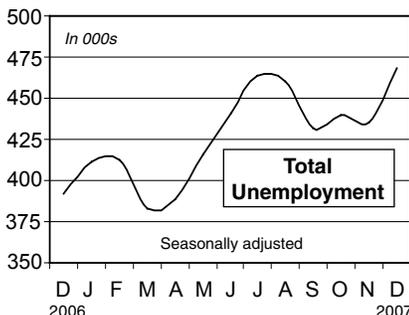
#### ...NYS private sector jobs decreased



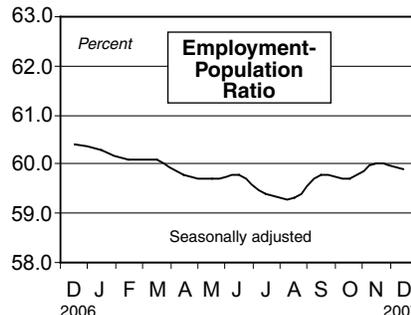
#### ...NYS unemployment rate increased



#### ...NYS unemployment increased



#### ...NYS labor force participation down



# Focus on the Mohawk Valley

## The Mohawk Valley's Export Industries

by Mark Barbano, Labor Market Analyst, Mohawk Valley

**W**hat's in a name? Some places earn their nicknames from their dominant industry. For example, the automotive sector gives Detroit the title of "Motor City," Hollywood is acknowledged as the "Film Capital of the World," and Akron is known as the "Rubber Capital of the World." Other areas defined by local industries include the southern part of the San Francisco Bay area known as "Silicon Valley," and Hershey, which easily earns the sobriquet "Chocolate Town." But what industries define the Mohawk Valley region?

### Location Quotients

Aside from looking at industry employment totals, one of the most useful ways to assess which industries are important to a region's economy is to review their local job concentration. We do this with a tool called a location quotient (LQ). To calculate an LQ, divide the percentage of a region's employment in an industry by the percentage of total national employment in that industry. For example, if an industry accounts for 10 percent of jobs in the Mohawk Valley but only 2 percent of national employment, then that industry's LQ is 5.0 (i.e.,  $10\% \div 2\%$ ). LQs significantly greater than 1.0 (usually above 1.25) typically indicate that a region specializes in that industry and that the industry exports to areas outside the region.



**"The Department of Labor and our workforce partners help businesses and workers meet today's opportunities and tomorrow's challenges."**

Betty Youmans,  
Employment Services Team Leader,  
Mohawk Valley

### Local Export Industries

What are some industries in the Mohawk Valley with high LQs? At 11.08, leather and allied product manufacturing easily has the highest LQ in the region. The industry is centered in Fulton County and employs 590 locally. The industry's average wage was \$36,300 in 2006, higher than the average of \$31,800 for all industries in the region. However, since 2000 this industry's employment count has declined 35 percent. Occupations in the leather industry include shoe and leather workers and repairers, sewing machine operators, inspectors and sales representatives.

The LQ for the Mohawk Valley's warehousing and storage industry is 5.10. The region is home to distribution centers

for companies such as Wal-Mart, Target, Rite-Aid, and Family Dollar. With total employment of 4,665 in 2006, it is the largest of the export industries profiled here. Job growth in this industry has been robust, more than doubling since 2000. Annual industry wages averaged \$31,400 in 2006. Representative occupations include laborers, stock clerks and order fillers, shipping and receiving clerks, industrial truck operators, hand packers and packagers and truck drivers.

Primary metal manufacturing, with a location quotient of 4.50, employed 3,028 in the Mohawk Valley in 2006. Although this industry's employment is well below historical highs, it still rose 11.6 percent from 2003 to 2006. This rate compares favorably to the 7.0 percent decline experienced by all other local manufacturing industries over the same period. The average wage in this industry was \$43,700 in 2006, 37.2 percent higher than the region's average wage. Representative industries include copper wire and aluminium extruded products. Prevalent occupations include furnace operators, material moving laborers, extruding and drawing machine operators, and rolling machine operators.

The local textile mills industry has a location quotient of 2.32. Local industry

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### Foreign-Born Population, New York State, 1990 and 2006

1990		2006			
Country	Population (in 1000s)	Country	Population (in 1000s)	% Arriving Since 1990	% (age 5+) Who Speak English "Less than Well"
Total, Foreign-Born	2,859.1	Total, Foreign-Born	4,179.0	51.6%	26.5%
Dominican Republic	244.2	Dominican Republic	417.4	50.6%	48.2%
Italy	199.3	China	354.4	56.3%	55.3%
Jamaica	147.3	Mexico	230.3	78.0%	60.7%
China	130.7	Jamaica	227.7	43.7%	3.6%
USSR	97.9	Ecuador	162.9	62.7%	51.0%
Poland	90.1	Guyana	159.3	47.0%	6.0%
Haiti	87.4	India	144.4	61.4%	11.4%
Colombia	86.7	Italy	129.5	7.3%	27.8%
Germany	84.4	Haiti	124.5	40.3%	21.7%
Guyana	78.8	Trinidad and Tobago	111.4	46.9%	7.4%

## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	DEC '06	DEC '07		DEC '06	DEC '07		DEC '06	DEC '07
<b>New York State</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>	Dutchess	3.2	3.9	Broome	4.0	4.8
Albany	3.3	4.0	Orange	3.5	4.2	Chemung	4.3	4.8
Columbia	3.3	4.3	Putnam	2.8	3.3	Chenango	4.4	5.7
Greene	4.4	5.1	Rockland	3.0	3.8	Delaware	3.6	5.1
Rensselaer	3.5	4.3	Sullivan	4.8	5.6	Otsego	3.9	4.8
Saratoga	3.1	3.8	Ulster	3.5	4.3	Schuyler	5.1	6.3
Schenectady	3.5	4.3	Westchester	3.1	3.7	Steuben	4.8	5.9
Warren	4.6	5.7	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>	Tioga	3.9	4.2
Washington	3.8	4.4	Fulton	4.9	6.4	Tompkins	2.9	3.1
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	Herkimer	5.0	5.6	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Cayuga	4.2	5.2	Madison	4.4	5.3	Allegany	4.8	6.2
Cortland	4.9	5.5	Montgomery	4.8	5.8	Cattaraugus	4.6	5.7
Onondaga	3.6	4.1	Oneida	3.8	4.6	Chautauqua	4.0	5.0
Oswego	5.4	5.9	Schoharie	4.8	5.7	Erie	4.4	5.0
<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>North Country</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	Niagara	4.9	6.1
Genesee	4.3	5.3	Clinton	4.9	5.5	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Livingston	4.3	5.6	Essex	5.6	6.7	Nassau	3.1	3.7
Monroe	3.7	4.5	Franklin	5.1	6.3	Suffolk	3.3	3.9
Ontario	4.0	4.7	Hamilton	6.5	8.2	<b>New York City</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Orleans	5.1	6.2	Jefferson	5.3	6.3	Bronx	5.5	6.9
Seneca	4.1	4.9	Lewis	4.8	6.0	Kings	4.4	5.6
Wayne	4.3	5.3	St. Lawrence	4.9	5.7	New York	3.5	4.5
Wyoming	4.6	5.7				Queens	3.6	4.6
Yates	3.9	4.7				Richmond	3.5	4.6

### Mohawk Valley...

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employment, which is centered in Fulton and Montgomery counties, totaled 654 in 2006, while the average wage was \$35,800. The industry's job count has been in long-term decline, dropping 790 (or almost 55 percent) between 2000 and 2006. However, employment levels have been relatively steady since 2002. Occupations in this industry include sales representatives, textile knitting and weaving machine operators, textile bleaching and dyeing machine operators, sewing machine operators and coating, painting and spraying machine operators.

### Summary

Although the four export industries profiled here only account for about 5 percent of total employment in the Mohawk Valley, their high location quotients indicate they play a key role in the region's economy by bringing in money from outside the region. These funds, in turn, produce additional income and employment within the region. Most of these export industries have wage levels at or above the region's average. And while some industries, such as leather and allied product manufacturing, have declined markedly in recent years, other, newer industries have grown robustly. The "Warehousing and Storage Capital of New York State" may not be as catchy a phrase as the "Motor City" or "Silicon Valley," but this industry plays an integral part in the region's economy.

### Changing Face...

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descending order) include China, Mexico, Jamaica, and Ecuador (see table on page 2). Ecuador and Mexico are newcomers to this list, and were not even among the top 10 in 1990. On the other hand, Italy dropped from second place in 1990 to eighth in 2006, while several other European countries including Poland and Germany dropped out of the top 10 altogether.

Data in the table also highlight the wide variation in immigrants' ability to speak English. These differences are largely the result of two factors: whether English is widely used in their homeland, and how recently the majority of each group arrived in the U.S. For example, since English is the official language of Jamaica, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, and is used extensively in India, residents from these countries speak it well (by U.S. standards) about 90-95 percent of the time.

Although English is not the official language of Italy, almost three-quarters (72 percent) of New York State's long-established Italian-born population speaks English well, as 93 percent arrived before 1990. In contrast, only 39 percent of the state's relatively newly-arrived Mexican-born population (78 percent arrived after 1990) does so.

While foreign-born residents have played a critical role in the state's economy in recent years by helping to maintain population levels, strong future expansion in this group is not assured. Since

2000, growth in the state's foreign-born population slowed to 8 percent, ranking New York 47th out of the 50 states. (The nation increased by 21 percent between 2000 and 2006.)

Immigrants have a long history here; however, some recent policy suggestions regarding immigration reform have led to a great deal of debate and uncertainty. The New York State Department of Labor recently established a Bureau of Immigrant Workers' Rights to address work-related concerns of the immigrant community. Given their growing contributions to the state's economy, it behooves us all to learn more about immigrants, to see how we can best assist them, and to take advantage of the skills they offer.

by Kevin Hannel

### Employment in New York State

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### FINGER LAKES Tammy Marino 585-258-8870

Private sector employment in the Rochester area rose over the year by 2,000, or 0.5 percent, to 439,300 in December 2007. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+2,500) and leisure and hospitality (+900). Declines were concentrated in manufacturing (-3,300).

### CENTRAL NY Roger Evans 315-479-3388

For the 12-month period ending December 2007, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area rose 1,900, or 0.7 percent, to 268,900. Growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+1,300). Job losses were largest in manufacturing (-300).

### MOHAWK VALLEY Mark Barbano 315-793-2282

For the 12-month period ending December 2007, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome area increased by 500, or 0.5 percent, to 100,500. Gains were focused in trade, transportation and utilities (+600) and educational and health services (+500). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-600).

### NORTH COUNTRY Alan Beideck 518-891-6680

Private sector jobs in the North Country rose over the year by 1,300, or 1.1 percent, to 117,500 in December 2007. The largest gains were in trade, transportation and utilities (+1,300) and leisure and hospitality (+600). Losses were centered in educational and health services (-300).

### CAPITAL DISTRICT James Ross 518-462-7600

From December 2006 to December 2007, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area fell by 1,200, or 0.3 percent, to 344,000. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+1,300) and professional and business services (+800). Losses were centered in trade, transportation and utilities (-1,900).

### HUDSON VALLEY John Nelson 914-997-8798

Private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased over the year by 6,900, or 0.9 percent, to 767,800 in December 2007. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+4,000) and professional and business services (+2,400). Losses were centered in manufacturing (-1,400) and financial activities (-800).

### WESTERN NY John Slenker 716-851-2742

Private sector jobs in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area increased by 2,700, or 0.6 percent, to 458,000 over the 12 months ending December 2007. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+2,800) and professional and business services (+2,600). Losses were largest in manufacturing (-2,100).

### SOUTHERN TIER Christian Harris 607-741-4485

The private sector job count in the Southern Tier grew over the year by 1,000, or 0.4 percent, to 259,800 in December 2007. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+600) and trade, transportation and utilities (+600). Losses were centered in leisure and hospitality (-500).

### NEW YORK CITY James Brown 212-775-3330

Private sector jobs in New York City rose 45,800, or 1.4 percent, to 3,233,100 for the 12-month period ending December 2007. Growth was largest in professional and business services (+15,400), financial activities (+10,500), and educational and health services (+6,500). Manufacturing lost jobs over the year (-6,000).

### LONG ISLAND Gary Huth 516-934-8533

Private sector jobs on Long Island increased over the year by 4,400, or 0.4 percent, to 1,077,000 in December 2007. The largest gains occurred in educational and health services (+3,100) and professional and business services (+2,400). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-2,600) and financial activities (-2,300).

