

# EMPLOYMENT in New York State

David A. Paterson, Governor

May 2008

M. Patricia Smith, Commissioner

## Increased Non-Native Population Drives Need...

### Wanted: More ESL Teachers

**N**ew York State's foreign-born population has increased tremendously in recent years, growing by 47 percent, or 1.3 million people, between 1990 and 2006. By 2006, 22 percent of the state's people were born in another country. One result of the rapid influx of foreign immigrants to New York State has been a strong increase in demand for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Unfortunately, there are not enough ESL teachers in New York State and elsewhere around the country to meet the needs of this growing segment of the population.

Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau illustrate the gravity of the situation. In 2006, more than one quarter of all immigrants in New York State classified them-

selves as speaking English "less than very well." The ability to communicate in English at a proficient level is a critical factor for success in today's labor market. In many instances, immigrants with poor language skills have been unable to find employment appropriate for their other job skills.

#### More ESL Teachers Needed

New York City accounts for about 75 percent of English Language Learners (ELL) students in the state. More than one in eight (13.4 percent) of New York City's public school students are classified as ELLs. They are a very diverse group, speaking more than 140 languages. The top five languages spoken at home among ELL students are (in descending order): Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Bengali, and Haitian Creole.

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### At a Glance

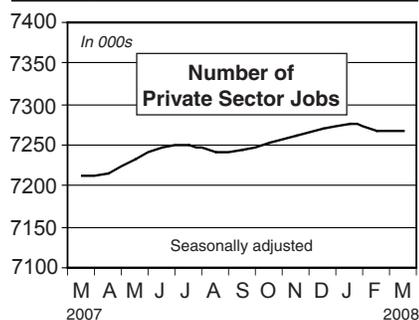
In March 2008, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, up from 4.4 percent in February 2008. (The nation's unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in March.) In March 2008, the state had 8,778,200 nonfarm jobs, including 7,266,300 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. Private sector jobs in the state decreased by 0.1 percent from February. (The U.S. private sector job count decreased by 0.1 percent.) From March 2007 to March 2008, the number of private sector jobs increased by 0.8 percent in the state, and increased by 0.2 percent in the nation (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's employment-population ratio, a measure of labor force participation, decreased in March.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs March 2007 - March 2008 (Data not seasonally adjusted, numbers in thousands)

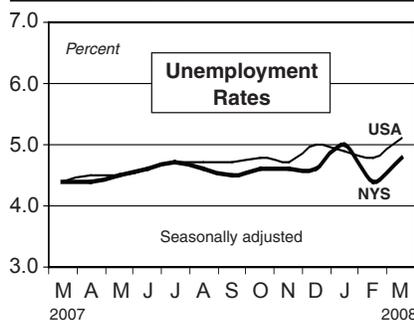
	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	70.3	0.8
Private Sector	54.9	0.8
Goods-producing	-9.8	-1.1
Nat. res. & mining	0.0	0.0
Construction	6.3	2.0
Manufacturing	-16.1	-2.9
Durable gds.	-6.8	-2.1
Nondurable gds.	-9.3	-4.1
Service-providing	80.1	1.0
Trade, trans., & util.	6.4	0.4
Wholesale trade	-2.0	-0.6
Retail trade	5.6	0.6
Trans., whrs., & util.	2.8	1.0
Information	3.9	1.5
Financial activities	-0.1	0.0
Prof. & bus. svcs.	-2.1	-0.2
Educ. & health svcs.	37.3	2.3
Leisure & hospitality	13.9	2.1
Other services	5.4	1.5
Government	15.4	1.0

## IN MARCH...

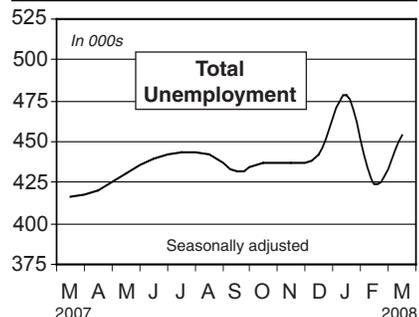
#### ...NYS private sector jobs decreased



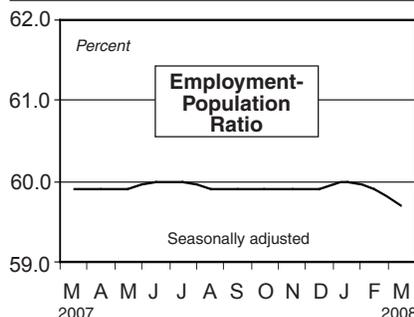
#### ...NYS unemployment rate increased



#### ...NYS unemployment increased



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



# Focus on the North Country

Region Enjoys Slow But Steady Growth

by Alan Beideck, Labor Market Analyst, North Country

**T**he North Country regional economy experienced slow but steady job growth over the last four years. From 2003 to 2007, the region's private sector job count rose 3,800 from 112,700 to 116,500 in 2007, an all-time high for the North Country. This article looks at current developments in trade, transportation and utilities, which added jobs over the past 12 months, and manufacturing and leisure/hospitality, which both lost jobs over the same period.

The job count in trade, transportation and utilities grew for the fourth consecutive year in 2007. Recent employment gains in this sector were largely focused in retail trade. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar significantly increased the number of Canadians shopping at the region's retailers. For the 12-month period ending in March 2008, the value of the Canadian dollar (expressed in U.S. dollar terms) appreciated in value from \$0.856 to \$0.998, a gain of 16.7 percent, according to the Bank of Canada.

Retail job gains are expected to continue this year. Contributing to retail's expected growth in 2008 are the planned openings of Wal-Mart supercenters in Massena and Potsdam (both in St. Lawrence County). A Lowe's Home Improvement Center will



**“The region’s transportation, retail trade, construction and tourism industries will all help to boost the North Country’s economy this year.”**

*John Masella, Jr.  
Employment Services Team Leader,  
Northern Region*

also open in Potsdam in 2008. Furthermore, the continued expansion of Fort Drum will propel further retail growth.

Employment levels in the region's transportation industry will receive a tremendous boost when Laurentian Aerospace Corp. of Quebec, Canada, opens an aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base (Clinton County). Laurentian originally expected to be fully operational by April 2008, and employ more than 700 workers. However, those plans have been delayed because of problems associated with financing the construction of two hangars large enough to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft.

The outlook for the manufacturing sector is mixed. The sector suffered a small employment loss (-200) between March 2007 and March 2008, dropping to 13,500 – the lowest level for the month in more than 15 years. Additional losses are expected in 2008, as General Motors closes its plant in Massena, idling 450 workers. The Jarden Plastic Solutions plant in Tupper Lake, a maker of poker chips and plastic dinnerware, will also close, affecting 70 workers. Company officials cite foreign competition from China for Jarden's closing.

On the upside, the North Country's manufacturing sector will benefit from a number of announced expansions and openings. Akrimax Pharmaceuticals, which purchased the Wyeth Pharmaceuticals plant in Rouses Point (Clinton County), might add 200 people over the next two years. Nova Bus will open a bus-assembly plant in Plattsburgh (Clinton County) in January 2009 employing 150-175 workers. Asept-Pak, a manufacturer of plastic pharmaceutical containers, expects to employ up to 70 workers in Malone (Franklin County). Source Bio-Plastics expects to purchase Michelex Plastics in Massena and produce biode-

*Continued on page 3*

## Entrepreneurs Grow in Empire State

**E**ntrepreneurs in New York State launched more small businesses in 2007 than in the year before, according to a recently-released study from the Kauffman Foundation. The report found 0.35 percent of the state's adult population, or 350 per 100,000 adults, started a new business each month in 2007. This rate translated into approximately 35,300 new businesses per month.

Rates of entrepreneurial activity vary widely by state and region. Rates are generally highest in Western and Southern states, and lowest in the Midwest and Northeast. New York's rate of business creation not only exceeded the nation's rate (300 start-ups per 100,000 adults), but was also faster than most other Northeast states. The Empire State ranked 13th among the 50 states in 2007. The states with the highest entrepreneurial rates in 2007 were Idaho

(460 per 100,000), Arizona (460), Tennessee (440), and Louisiana (440). The lowest rates were in West Virginia (80), Alabama (100), and Delaware (140). The rate of entrepreneurial activity in New York State was up slightly from 2006 (330 per 100,000 adults).

The Kauffman Foundation report also indicates that entrepreneurial activity has been on an upswing in New York over the past decade. Between 1996–1998 and 2005–2007, the rate of business creation in the state increased from 280 to 320 per 100,000 adults. This increase in entrepreneurial activity – 40 new businesses per 100,000 adults – put New York in 12th place among the 50 states over this time frame. Mississippi and Hawaii experienced the largest positive changes in entrepreneurial activity, 130 and 110, respectively. States with the largest declines included Alaska (-250) and New

Mexico (-220). The nation's rate of business creation was unchanged at 290 per 100,000 over this period.

The Kauffman Index measures the monthly rate of business creation at the individual owner level. Capturing new business owners in their first month of significant business activity is important, as it serves as a leading indicator of new business creation in the country. The Index reports the percent of non-business-owning adults who start businesses with more than 15 hours worked per week. The Kauffman study captures all adults 20-64 who initially start a business, including those who own incorporated or unincorporated businesses and those who are employers and non-employers. Data for the report came from the Current Population Survey, a national monthly household survey. For more information, visit [www.kauffman.org](http://www.kauffman.org).

## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	MAR '07	MAR '08		MAR '07	MAR '08		MAR '07	MAR '08
<b>New York State</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Capital District</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>	Dutchess	3.9	4.8	Broome	4.7	5.7
Albany	3.7	4.8	Orange	4.2	5.2	Chemung	4.8	5.5
Columbia	4.0	5.0	Putnam	3.2	4.0	Chenango	5.4	7.1
Greene	5.2	6.0	Rockland	3.6	4.5	Delaware	4.7	6.4
Rensselaer	4.5	5.5	Sullivan	5.8	7.0	Schuyler	5.9	6.8
Saratoga	3.8	4.8	Ulster	4.1	5.2	Steuben	5.6	6.7
Schenectady	4.1	5.2	Westchester	3.6	4.5	Tioga	5.5	5.8
Warren	5.4	6.5	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>	Tompkins	3.3	3.9
Washington	4.6	6.1	Fulton	5.6	7.3	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	Herkimer	5.8	7.2	Allegany	5.8	7.1
Cayuga	4.7	5.9	Montgomery	6.5	8.0	Cattaraugus	5.3	6.7
Cortland	6.1	7.2	Oneida	4.5	5.6	Chautauqua	4.7	5.8
Madison	5.3	6.5	Otsego	5.1	6.2	Erie	4.7	5.9
Onondaga	4.2	5.1	Schoharie	6.4	8.3	Niagara	5.7	7.4
Oswego	5.9	7.5	<b>North Country</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>	Clinton	6.3	6.9	Nassau	3.5	4.3
Genesee	5.0	6.6	Essex	6.4	7.8	Suffolk	3.8	4.8
Livingston	5.4	6.6	Franklin	6.0	7.8	<b>New York City</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Monroe	4.2	5.4	Hamilton	6.6	9.2	Bronx	6.3	6.4
Ontario	4.6	5.8	Jefferson	6.4	7.8	Kings	4.9	4.9
Orleans	6.3	7.6	Lewis	6.7	8.0	New York	3.9	4.0
Seneca	5.1	6.3	St. Lawrence	6.2	7.5	Queens	4.0	4.2
Wayne	5.0	6.5				Richmond	4.1	4.2
Wyoming	5.8	7.3						
Yates	4.8	5.4						

### North Country...

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gradable plastics. The company expects to create 175 jobs. QubicaAMF, a bowling pin manufacturer in Lowville (Lewis County), expects to benefit from the closing of a Brunswick Corporation bowling pin plant in Illinois. Otis Technology in Lowville (Lewis County), a manufacturer of gun cleaning kits, broke ground for an addition to its manufacturing facility. Curran Renewable Energy expects to open a wood pellet plant in St. Lawrence County, which will employ 50 workers.

In 2008, the leisure and hospitality industry is poised for growth. Whiteface Mountain Ski Area is installing a new chairlift that will open up four new ski trails and 52 acres of skiing for the 2008-09 ski season. The Akwesasne-Mohawk Casino in Hogansburg (Franklin County) is undergoing a \$75 million expansion expected to create 270 jobs. The project includes a 200-room hotel, the installation of 1,000 additional slot machines, as well as additional dining facilities and retail shops.

Looking ahead, the North Country's economy looks well positioned to weather a potential national recession. The trade and transportation industries are set for strong growth. Manufacturing will be hurt by the closing of the GM plant in Massena. However, there are numerous other manufacturers forecasting employment growth, while leisure and hospitality is expected to experience significant growth.

### Wanted: More ESL Teachers...

from page 1

New York City ESL classes have an overall 28:1 student-teacher ratio, but they are significantly more effective when class sizes are only 15:1. To achieve the optimal 15:1 ratio, the New York City Office of English Language Learners estimates an additional 6,000 ESL teachers would need to be hired.

There are various models of English language instruction. In addition to traditional ESL classes, there are transitional bilingual education programs. Here, students who speak the same native languages are grouped together with a teacher who is proficient in both English and the students' native language. In the Dual Language program, ELL and non-ELL students work in the same classroom, to develop proficiency in both languages for both groups of students. In New York City, 67% of ELL students are enrolled in ESL classes, 28% participate in transitional classes, and only 3% are enrolled in a Dual Language program.

It is clear that ESL classes in New York City's public schools have yielded positive results for many ELL students, enabling them to enter the world of work or pursue further education. For example, ELL students in New York City who were proficient in English by their senior year due to ESL classes graduated at a rate of 59.3 percent. This was significantly higher than their peers who were still learning English in their senior year. They graduated at a rate of 35.3 percent.

Most ESL teaching positions are classified as part of the broader "Adult Literacy, Remedial Education, and GED Teachers and Instructors" category. Long-term projections from the New York State Department of Labor expect statewide employment in this occupation to increase by over 13 percent between 2004 and 2014, with total annual openings of 190. This job title's prospects are deemed "very favorable" by the department. The median statewide wage for teachers in this category, which typically requires a bachelor's degree, is \$55,200. For more information on becoming an ESL teacher in New York, visit the State Education Department's web site at:

[www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/)

by Jennifer Stacey (student intern)

### Employment in New York State

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Director	Peter A. Neenan
Editor	Kevin Jack
Dir. of Communications	Leo Rosales
Graphic Design	Jeff Mosher
Editorial Advisor	Christine Perham



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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

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

Private sector jobs in the Rochester metro area declined over the year by 600, or 0.1 percent, to 427,600 in March 2008. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+2,600) and construction (+1,100). Declines were concentrated in manufacturing (-3,200) and professional and business services (-800).

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

For the 12-month period ending March 2008, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area rose 2,500, or 1.0 percent, to 262,300. Growth was centered in educational and health services (+800), natural resources, mining and construction (+800), and professional and business services (+500). Manufacturing (-400) lost jobs.

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

For the 12-month period ending March 2008, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metro area increased by 100, or 0.1 percent, to 97,400. Job gains were focused in educational and health services (+400) and leisure and hospitality (+300). Losses were largest in manufacturing (-500) and financial activities (-400).

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

Private sector jobs in the North Country rose over the year by 300, or 0.3 percent, to 111,900 in March 2008. The largest gains were in educational and health services (+300) and natural resources, mining and construction (+300). Losses were concentrated in manufacturing (-200) and leisure and hospitality (-200).

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

From March 2007 to March 2008, the private sector job count in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area was stable – up 100 to a record high for the month, 335,700. Gains were greatest in educational and health services (+1,400) and professional and business services (+1,100). Losses were largest in trade, transportation and utilities (-700).

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

Private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased over the year by 3,400, or 0.5 percent, to 742,800 in March 2008. Gains were largest in professional and business services (+2,400) and educational and health services (+2,300). Job losses were centered in financial activities (-1,500) and manufacturing (-1,400).

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

Private sector jobs in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area decreased over the year by 1,200, or 0.3 percent, to 444,500 in March 2008. Gains were centered in leisure and hospitality (+2,000) and professional and business services (+1,200). Losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-1,800) and manufacturing (-1,700).

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

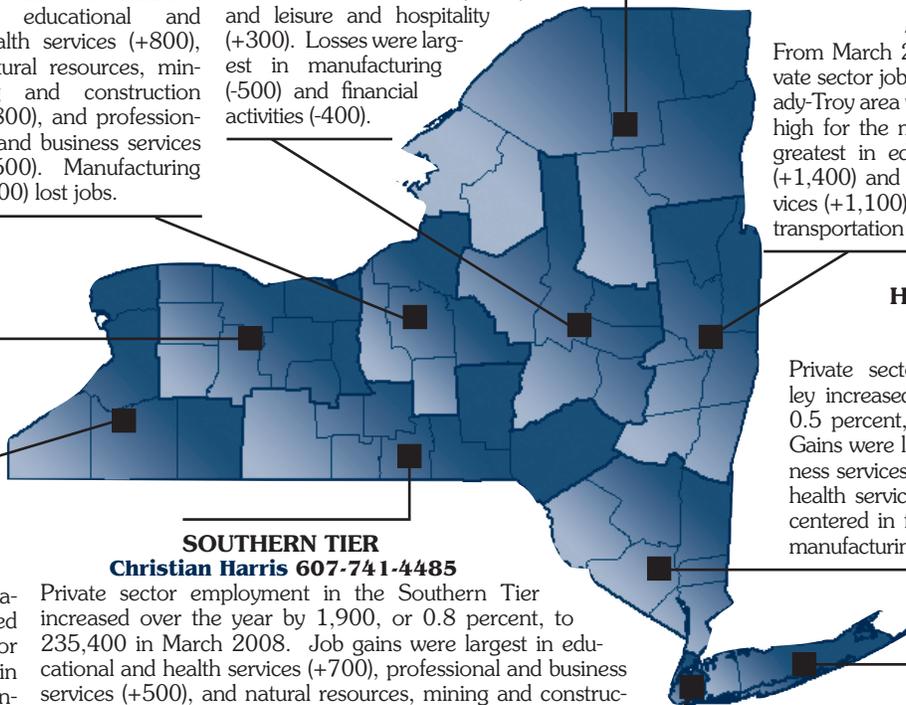
Private sector employment in the Southern Tier increased over the year by 1,900, or 0.8 percent, to 235,400 in March 2008. Job gains were largest in educational and health services (+700), professional and business services (+500), and natural resources, mining and construction (+400).

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

Private sector employment in New York City rose 39,600, or 1.3 percent, to 3,194,500 for the 12-month period ending March 2008. Growth was largest in trade, transportation and utilities (+12,700), educational and health services (+8,400), leisure and hospitality (+7,900), and financial activities (+5,600). Manufacturing lost jobs (-6,900).

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

Private sector jobs on Long Island increased over the year by 8,600, or 0.8 percent, to 1,048,600 in March 2008, a record for the month. The largest gains were in educational and health services (+4,200) and leisure and hospitality (+4,000). Employment losses were greatest in financial activities (-2,500) and manufacturing (-2,300).



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