

# Employment

IN NEW YORK STATE

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor  
Colleen C. Gardner, Commissioner

## At a Glance

In June 2011, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.0%, up from May's rate of 7.8%. The nation's unemployment rate was 9.2% in June. After seasonal adjustment, New York State had 8,622,500 nonfarm jobs in June 2011, including 7,150,500 private sector jobs. The number of seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in the state increased by 0.2% between May and June, while the nation increased by 0.1%. From June 2010 to June 2011, the number of private sector jobs increased by 1.6% in the state and by 1.7% in the U.S. (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators increased at an annual rate of 1.1% in June 2011.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs

June 2010 - June 2011

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	52.6	0.6
Private Sector	113.6	1.6
Goods-producing	0.2	0.0
Nat. res. & mining	0.0	0.0
Construction	2.7	0.9
Manufacturing	-2.5	-0.5
Durable gds.	0.4	0.2
Nondurable gds.	-2.9	-1.5
Service-providing	52.4	0.7
Trade, trans. & util.	10.4	0.7
Wholesale trade	8.9	2.7
Retail trade	-1.8	-0.2
Trans., wrhs. & util.	3.3	1.3
Information	1.8	0.7
Financial activities	7.0	1.0
Prof. & bus. svcs.	38.8	3.5
Educ. & health svcs.	32.4	1.9
Leisure & hospitality	17.5	2.3
Other services	5.5	1.5
Government	-61.0	-3.9

New Study Links College Major and Earnings...

## What's That College Degree Really Worth?

More than 200,000 first-time students entered New York State colleges and universities in the fall of 2010. They know that going for a college degree represents a big financial commitment. For the 2010-11 school year, in-state tuition and fees at public four-year colleges in New York stood at \$6,414. The average at private four-year (nonprofit) institutions in the state was \$31,693 per year. (Note: Figures are from the State Education Department.)

Still, a college degree clearly matters in today's tough job market. Compared to U.S. workers with only a high school diploma, those with a bachelor's degree and higher tend to enjoy:

- Much higher earnings (at least 66% more over a working lifetime)

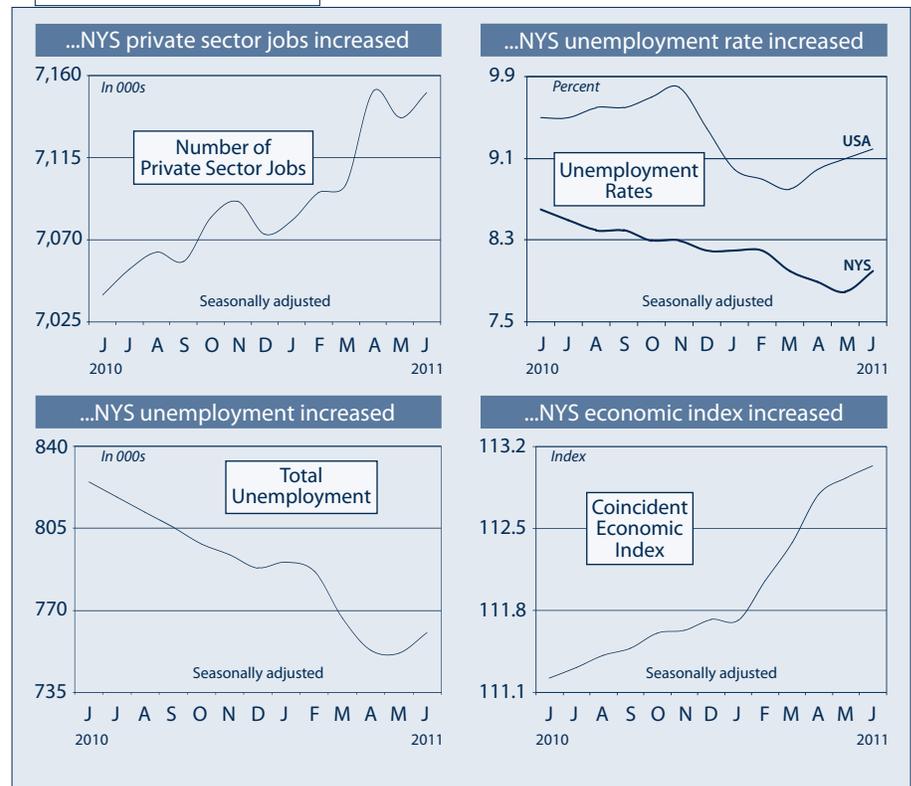
- Lower unemployment rates (4.4% vs. 10.0% in June 2011)
- Higher labor force participation (76.8% vs. 60.6% in June 2011)

Many people seem to get the message. The share of the U.S. population (25 years and older) with at least a bachelor's degree has grown from 20% in 1990 to 30% in 2010.

A college degree clearly helps to find a job and make more money. But, it is just as important to know *which* college major to select if you seek jobs with the highest salaries. This information has not been readily available in government statistics before. Thus,

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### IN JUNE...



## Focus on Central New York

Syracuse Economy's Health Improves

by Karen Knapik-Scalzo, Associate Economist, Central New York

The economy of the Syracuse metro area (Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego counties) is slowly emerging from the recession -- a feat that could take years to complete. As local economic prospects improve, the many attractive features of the Syracuse area persuade more businesses to re-locate or expand here. Against this healthier backdrop, the area struggles with many of the same issues as the nation, including tighter government budgets.

### Winners and Losers

In June 2011, the unemployment rate in the Syracuse metro area stood at 8.0%. This level matched the state's rate, but was well below the nation's rate (9.3%). Although the local rate is below its year-ago level (8.4%), it still has a long way to go to match its pre-recession level of 5.2% (set in June 2008).

With more than 26,000 Syracuse area residents out of work as of June 2011, local firms can select from a deep pool of experienced workers. The area's private sector leads the local jobs recovery. It grew by 1.7% over the year ending June 2011.

Between 2009 and 2010, hospitals added the most jobs in the Syracuse metro area. The hospital job count (public and private sectors) increased by 405, or 3.7%, making it the leading local job generator. Other growth sectors over this period included:

- Food services and drinking places (+371)
- Waste management and remediation services (+247)
- Administrative and support services (+226)

The area received some good news recently when three Onondaga County firms received sizable U.S. Department of Defense contracts:

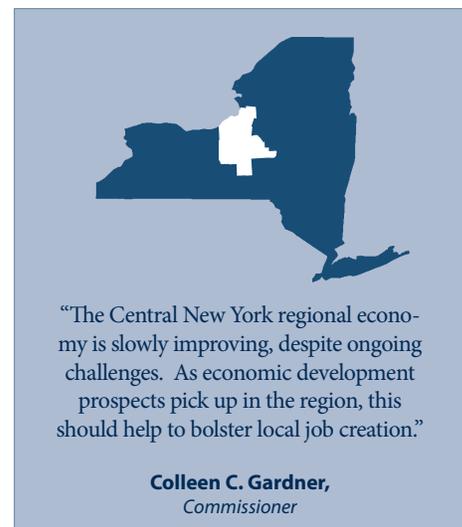
- Lockheed Martin -- \$16.7 million to modernize long-range radars
- Welch Allyn Inc. -- Up to \$43.65 million for patient-monitoring systems
- JGB Enterprises Inc. -- Up to \$99 million over five years for fuel and water system equipment

The bad news is that the area's government job count has dropped (-0.5%) over the past 12 months. More public sector jobs will vanish when Camp Georgetown, a minimum-security state prison in southern Madison County, closes in August 2011. The closure is due to a shrinking inmate population and cost-cutting. The prison employs 85.

The local manufacturing sector also has shed jobs, losing more than 1,300 workers from 2009 to 2010. New Process Gear (auto parts) and Birds Eye (frozen foods) will close their local plants by the end of 2011. Despite a falling job count, manufacturing is still one of the highest-paying sectors in the Syracuse metro area with average annual salaries of \$59,748 in 2010.

### Health Care Partnerships

Against a national backdrop of health care reform and tight budgets, many local health care providers are joining forces. Some hospitals have linked up and others have acquired physician practices. For example, Crouse Hospital in Syracuse (Onondaga County) expanded its service area through a link-up with Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton (Madison County). Crouse will benefit by providing services that Community doesn't perform and the move should improve Community's finances. Crouse will become the corporate parent and Community Memorial will continue to operate as a separate hospital.



### Cheaper = Popular

Syracuse is an affordable place to live. Its overall cost of living is about 18% below the U.S. average, according to Sperling's BestPlaces. Cheaper housing prices factor into the area's lower cost of living. The median price of homes sold in the Syracuse metro area was \$131,000 in June 2011, according to the Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors. This was \$53,300 (almost 30%) less than the U.S. median home price of \$184,300 that month.

The Syracuse metro area also got some good news when the U.S. Census Bureau announced that the area's population is growing again. Between 2000 and 2010, population in the Syracuse metro area expanded by 12,423 (+1.9%). This reverses the loss (-1.5%) experienced from 1990 to 2000.

### Summary

The local economy continues to rebound from the lingering effects of the economic downturn. It faces challenges as it struggles back to pre-recession job levels. However, this effort is greatly aided by the many aspects of the Syracuse metro area that make it a desirable place to work, live, and do business. ■

### What's That College... from page 1

students had little earnings data to help them choose between majors.

### Earnings by Major

A new study by Georgetown's University Center on Education and the Workforce -- *What's it Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors* -- fills a big data void. It links the choice of college major to earning potential, using census data never before collected.

The researchers used 2009 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to analyze 171 majors in 15 broad college major categories (also called "clusters"). (Note: ACS questions regarding college majors were

first asked in 2009.) They focused on full-time, full-year workers between the ages of 25 and 64.

The Georgetown study shows what U.S. workers earn, and the occupations and industries in which they work. The report also shows differences in earnings by gender and race for people who have the same major.

The study shows wide differences in earnings between college majors. With a bachelor's degree, petroleum engineering majors had the highest annual median income (\$120,000). Pharmacy science (\$105,000) and mathematical and computer science (\$98,000) were the next two highest-paying majors. Counseling psychology

was the lowest-paying major at \$29,000. See the table on page 3 for details.

Among the 15 major degree groups, engineering (\$75,000) and computers and mathematics (\$70,000) had the highest annual median wages. At the other end of the pay scale, education (\$42,000) and psychology and social work (\$42,000) were the lowest-paying clusters.

### Interesting Labor Market Facts

The three most popular majors in the U.S. are business management and administration (8% of all majors), general business (5%), and accounting (5%), according to the study. The least

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## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	JUN '10	JUN '11		JUN '10	JUN '11		JUN '10	JUN '11
<b>New York State</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	Dutchess	7.8	7.8	Genesee	6.7	6.7
Albany	7.2	7.3	Orange	8.2	7.9	Livingston	8.4	7.5
Columbia	7.3	7.4	Putnam	6.8	6.8	Monroe	7.9	7.5
Greene	8.2	8.4	Rockland	7.1	6.7	Ontario	7.0	6.8
Rensselaer	7.6	7.5	Sullivan	8.5	8.6	Orleans	9.5	8.7
Saratoga	6.4	6.3	Ulster	8.0	8.2	Seneca	7.4	7.3
Schenectady	7.5	7.5	Westchester	7.0	6.8	Wayne	8.2	7.9
Warren	7.1	7.2	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>	Wyoming	8.3	7.7
Washington	7.1	7.4	Fulton	9.6	9.6	Yates	6.4	7.0
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	Herkimer	7.5	7.6	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Cayuga	7.7	7.5	Montgomery	9.1	9.3	Allegany	9.8	9.5
Cortland	8.9	8.5	Oneida	7.5	7.7	Cattaraugus	8.5	8.5
Madison	7.9	7.8	Otsego	7.3	7.6	Chautauqua	8.4	7.7
Onondaga	8.0	7.5	Schoharie	8.9	8.8	Erie	8.0	7.7
Oswego	10.2	9.9	<b>North Country</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>	Niagara	8.6	7.7
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.9</b>	Clinton	10.2	9.9	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Broome	8.7	8.3	Essex	8.3	8.3	Nassau	7.1	6.9
Chemung	8.3	7.8	Franklin	8.4	8.6	Suffolk	7.2	7.3
Chenango	8.5	8.2	Hamilton	6.4	6.4	<b>New York City</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Delaware	8.3	8.4	Jefferson	8.5	9.0	Bronx	12.6	12.0
Schuyler	7.3	7.5	Lewis	7.8	8.8	Kings	10.1	9.5
Steuben	9.4	9.0	St. Lawrence	10.5	10.7	New York	7.9	7.3
Tioga	7.6	7.6				Queens	8.5	7.9
Tompkins	6.6	6.4				Richmond	8.5	8.0

### What's That College... from page 2

#### College Majors with the Highest and Lowest Annual Median Earnings, U.S.

##### Majors with Highest Earnings

Major	Annual Earnings
Petroleum Engineering	\$120,000
Pharmacy Science	\$105,000
Mathematics and Computer Science	\$98,000
Aerospace Engineering	\$87,000
Chemical Engineering	\$86,000

##### Majors with Lowest Earnings

Major	Annual Earnings
Counseling Psychology	\$29,000
Early Childhood Education	\$36,000
Human Services and Community Organization	\$38,000
Theology and Religious Vocations	\$38,000
Social Work	\$39,000

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

popular majors include military technologies, soil science, and pharmacology (all less than 0.1%).

The Georgetown report showed some close connections between a person's college major and the industry where they work. For example, 84% of nursing majors work in the health industry. On the other hand, biological engineering majors are employed in a much wider variety of industries including: durable manufacturing (16%), construction (11%), and professional services (10%).

No major links perfectly to one occupation. For example, 71% of people who majored in special

needs education work in the education field. In contrast, zoology majors are widely dispersed across occupations. Some 19% work in management titles, 13% in sales, and 10% in life sciences jobs.

Some college majors are associated with relatively high rates of part-time work. Fields with the highest rates included medical assisting (48%), visual and performing arts (35%), and communication disorders (32%).

The study also shows which majors are most popular by gender. For example, early childhood

education is the major with the highest proportion of women (97%). It is followed by medical assisting (96%) and communication disorders (94%). The majors with the highest proportion of men are naval architecture and marine engineering (97%) and mechanical engineering and related technologies (94%).

#### Summary

The new Georgetown study supports the rule of thumb that more education usually leads to a bigger paycheck. It also shows that earnings range widely across college majors. One of the report's authors concludes: "the bottom line is that getting a degree matters, but what you take [as a major] matters more." See the complete study at: [cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth/](http://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth/). ■

by Daniel Crosley

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### CAPITAL

#### James Ross — 518-462-7600

From June 2010 to June 2011, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy metro area rose 4,900, or 1.5 percent, to 336,600. Job gains were concentrated in educational and health services (+5,200), natural resources, mining and construction (+1,100), and professional and business services (+800). Job losses were centered in trade, transportation and utilities (-2,100).

### CENTRAL NY

#### Roger Evans — 315-479-3388

For the 12-month period ending June 2011, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area rose 4,200, or 1.7 percent, to 257,300. Job growth was concentrated in professional and business services (+3,400), leisure and hospitality (+900), other services (+400), and natural resources, mining, and construction (+300). The largest job losses occurred in manufacturing (-800).

### FINGER LAKES

#### Tammy Marino — 585-258-8870

Private sector employment in the Rochester metro area rose over the year by 12,400, or 2.9 percent, to 435,900 in June 2011. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+5,100), professional and business services (+5,100), construction (+1,100), manufacturing (+700), and trade, transportation and utilities (+600). Declines were centered in financial activities (-700) and information (-300).

### HUDSON VALLEY

#### John Nelson — 914-997-8798

Private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased 4,300, or 0.6 percent, to 730,800 for the 12-month period ending June 2011. Employment gains were largest in educational and health services (+2,700), leisure and hospitality (+2,200), trade, transportation and utilities (+1,900), professional and business services (+500), and other services (+500). Job losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-2,700).

### LONG ISLAND

#### Michael Crowell — 516-934-8537

The private sector job count on Long Island fell over the year by 1,400, or 0.1 percent, to 1,034,200 in June 2011. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+3,000), trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,600), and professional and business services (+600). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-1,800), leisure and hospitality (-1,600), information (-1,400) and financial activities (-1,100).

### MOHAWK VALLEY

#### Mark Barbano — 315-793-2282

For the 12-month period ending June 2011, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metro area increased by 2,100, or 2.2 percent, to 99,100. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+1,400), professional and business services (+400) and trade, transportation and utilities (+400). Losses occurred in natural resources, mining and construction (-400).

### NEW YORK CITY

#### James Brown — 212-775-3330

Private sector employment in New York City rose by 51,400, or 1.6 percent, to 3,212,100 for the 12-month period ending June 2011. Job growth occurred in educational and health services (+23,700), professional and business services (+21,300), leisure and hospitality (+6,900), trade, transportation and utilities (+6,600) and financial activities (+5,300). Losses were centered in natural resources, mining and construction (-5,000), manufacturing (-3,300), and other services (-2,800).

### SOUTHERN TIER

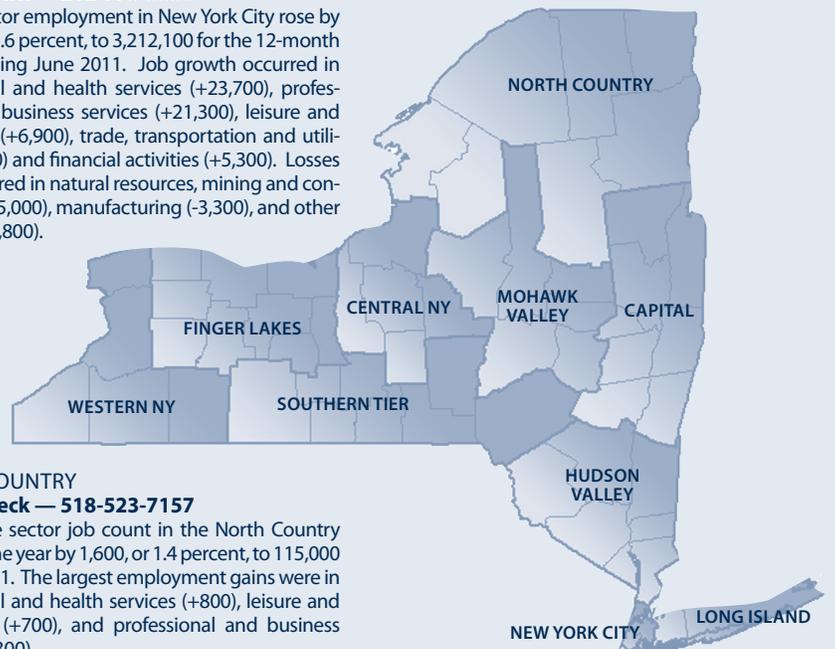
#### Christian Harris — 607-741-4485

Private sector employment in the Southern Tier increased over the year by 2,800, or 1.2 percent, to 232,300 in June 2011. Job gains were largest in educational and health services (+1,200), manufacturing (+1,200) and trade, transportation and utilities (+500). Job losses were centered in natural resources, mining and construction (-300).

### WESTERN NY

#### John Slenker — 716-851-2742

Private sector employment in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area increased by 9,200, or 2.1 percent, to 454,500 over the 12 months ending June 2011. Job gains were centered in trade, transportation and utilities (+3,000), natural resources, mining and construction (+2,400), professional and business services (+1,900) and leisure and hospitality (+1,500). Losses were greatest in financial activities (-400) and information (-400).



### NORTH COUNTRY

#### Alan Beideck — 518-523-7157

The private sector job count in the North Country rose over the year by 1,600, or 1.4 percent, to 115,000 in June 2011. The largest employment gains were in educational and health services (+800), leisure and hospitality (+700), and professional and business services (+300).