

# EMPLOYMENT in New York State

David A. Paterson, Governor

October 2008

M. Patricia Smith, Commissioner

## Outdoor Pursuits Support Many Jobs ...

### The Great Outdoors: Big Business in NYS

**T**he great outdoors is big business in New York State. A total of 4.6 million New York residents and non-residents (16 years and older) spent \$3.5 billion on wildlife recreation activities (fishing, hunting or wildlife watching) in the state in 2006, according to a recent report (*2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*) released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Participants in wildlife-associated recreation in New York State included 1.4 million sportspersons (1.2 million anglers and 566,000 hunters) and 3.9 million wildlife watchers. (Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.) Of total spending, \$1.6 billion was on equipment,

\$1.5 billion was for trip-related expenses, and \$491 million was for other expenses (licenses, etc.).

These outdoor pursuits have a significant economic impact in the state. A separate analysis of data from the report by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation estimated that fishing and hunting activities alone directly support 28,000 jobs in New York State with a total payroll of \$1 billion.

Furthermore, spending on hunting and fishing-related activities generated \$250 million in state and local taxes and \$254 million in federal taxes according to the foundation's analysis. Since most hunting and fishing takes place in rural areas, much of the spending benefits less affluent areas.

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### At a Glance

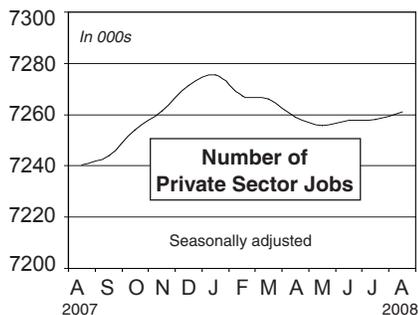
In August 2008, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.8 percent, up from 5.2 percent in July 2008. (The nation's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in August.) In August 2008, the state had 8,781,300 nonfarm jobs, including 7,261,200 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of private sector jobs in the state increased by less than 0.1 percent from July, while the U.S. private sector job count decreased by 0.1 percent. From August 2007 to August 2008, the number of private sector jobs increased by 0.4 percent in the state and decreased by 0.6 percent in the U.S. (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators decreased slightly in August.

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

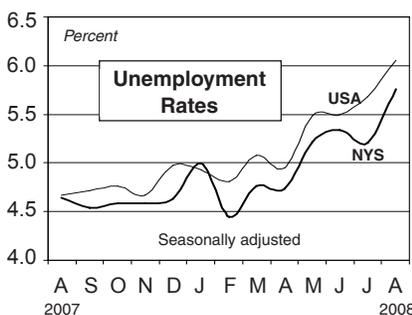
	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	39.7	0.5
Private Sector	32.5	0.4
Goods-producing	-19.9	-2.1
Nat. res. & mining	0.2	2.9
Construction	-2.2	-0.6
Manufacturing	-17.9	-3.2
Durable gds.	-8.2	-2.5
Nondurable gds.	-9.7	-4.3
Service-providing	59.6	0.8
Trade, trans., & util.	2.4	0.2
Wholesale trade	-3.7	-1.0
Retail trade	0.0	0.0
Trans., whrs., & util.	6.1	2.3
Information	2.9	1.1
Financial activities	-9.4	-1.3
Prof. & bus. svcs.	2.8	0.2
Educ. & health svcs.	37.4	2.4
Leisure & hospitality	11.5	1.5
Other services	4.8	1.3
Government	7.2	0.5

## IN AUGUST...

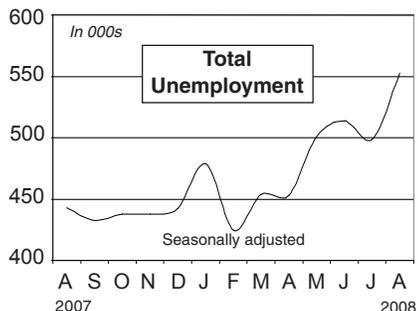
#### ...NYS private sector jobs increased



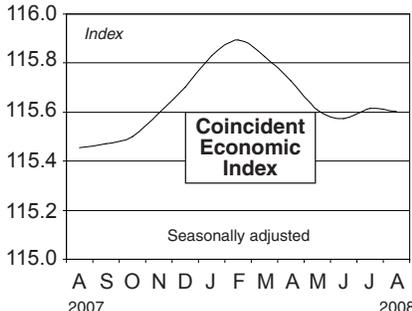
#### ...NYS unemployment rate increased



#### ...NYS unemployment increased



#### ...NYS economic index decreased



# Focus on Long Island

Looking to the Future - Beyond the Turmoil in Financial Services

by Gary Huth, Labor Market Analyst, Long Island Region

**M**uch of the focus of the current global credit crunch has been on Wall Street, due to a series of high-profile bankruptcies, forced mergers, and an unprecedented \$700 billion government financial rescue plan. What is usually overlooked, however, is that the effects of the current U.S. financial crisis actually surfaced first in New York State at mortgage finance companies in the Downstate suburbs of New York City.

Between 2006 and 2007, the job count in Long Island's financial activities sector dropped from 80,400 to 79,600, due largely to the loss of nearly 2,600 jobs at local mortgage-related companies in summer 2007. Published reports indicate the closing of American Home Mortgage, a mortgage loan originator based in Melville, resulted in the loss of 1,500 jobs in August 2007. This was quickly followed by job losses at Delta Funding and other local companies in the industry.

The loss of so many jobs in quick succession poses a serious challenge to the region as those who lost jobs seek good-paying re-employment opportunities. As the Long Island workforce makes the transition through the current economic slowdown and positions itself for the future, the region will need to harness its strengths that make it competitive in today's global economy: technology, innovation, efficiency, and productivity.



**“A key goal of the workforce system is to create high-quality growth opportunities for both local businesses and job seekers.”**

*Bruce Herman,  
Deputy Commissioner  
for Workforce Development*

## Regional Strengths

Several recent studies highlight the region's strengths in technology, which will help to provide employment opportunities for those who lost financial services jobs. A recent study from the Industrial and Technology Assistance Corporation (ITAC) found that the New York metropolitan region has a sizeable base of technology companies, including over 600,000 technology employees. The ITAC study estimated that the number of high-tech jobs in the region is greater, perhaps double or more, than in two other well-known regional technology centers -- Boston and Silicon Valley.

An earlier study by the Gartner Group cited Long Island as not only possessing a

large core of technology companies, but also having high concentrations of technology and IT workers in industries not normally considered high tech, such as health care, wholesale trade, and finance. Increasingly, it is technology and its integration into day-to-day business activities and operations that propel companies forward in terms of innovation and higher productivity.

Technology and innovation not only drives Long Island's advanced manufacturing and defense industry, but boosts local companies. Motorola, for example, has used bar code scanning and radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology acquired from Long Island-based Symbol Technology to become a world leader in its mobility enterprise markets. Companies such as CA (the former Computer Associates), Arrow Electronics, Henry Schein, the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, Northrop Grumman, and Telephonics are using the region's technology capabilities and technology-based workforce to their advantage. The key to expanding Long Island's capability to create good-paying jobs and profitable companies is the use of technology across a broad array of industry sectors.

## Where we are now?

Year-over-year private sector job growth on Long Island slowed in 2008 as the year progressed, dropping from 1.1 percent in the first quarter of the year to 0.4 percent

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## Do We Live in a No-Vacation Nation?

Is the United States becoming a “no-vacation nation”? That is the conclusion of a report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research, which looked at vacation and holiday laws in various countries.

The report's authors, Rebecca Ray and John Schmitt, found that the U.S. was the only developed nation in the study to have no guaranteed paid vacation time for its workers. This stems from the fact that there are no laws requiring paid vacation time.

In contrast, most European Union (EU) nations have a legally stipulated paid vacation floor of four weeks or 20 days per year, while some EU member nations

have more. According to the report, the French enjoy the most days off (30), followed by Sweden (25), and Germany (24). Outside of Europe, Australian workers receive at least 20 days of paid vacation, while workers in Canada and Japan are granted a minimum of 10 days.

Ray and Schmitt also found some interesting details about trends in paid vacation in the U.S. For example, the average private sector worker in the U.S. receives nine paid vacation days and six paid holidays per year. However, about 25 percent of American workers have no paid holiday or vacation days.

The researchers found that the number of paid vacation days and holidays in this country varies tremendously by worker type, but is particularly acute for lower-wage and part-time workers. Lower wage workers (paid less than \$15 per hour) are 19 percent less likely than higher wage workers to receive paid vacation time. In addition, those who earn less also get fewer days off (seven compared to 13 for higher-wage workers). Part-time workers are 54 percent less likely to receive paid vacation than full-time workers, and get less time off (three days for part-time and 12 for full-time employees).

*by Godfrey Brobbey*

## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG '07	AUG '08		AUG '07	AUG '08		AUG '07	AUG '08
<b>New York State</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Capital District</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>	Dutchess	3.7	5.3	Genesee	3.7	4.9
Albany	3.7	5.1	Orange	4.2	5.6	Livingston	4.0	5.2
Columbia	3.5	4.8	Putnam	3.2	4.7	Monroe	4.2	5.9
Greene	4.2	5.8	Rockland	3.9	5.2	Ontario	3.4	4.7
Rensselaer	3.9	5.3	Sullivan	4.1	5.8	Orleans	5.1	7.0
Saratoga	3.3	4.4	Ulster	4.3	5.7	Seneca	3.7	5.1
Schenectady	4.0	5.2	Westchester	3.6	5.1	Wayne	3.8	5.3
Warren	3.4	4.8	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	Wyoming	3.7	4.9
Washington	3.5	5.0	Fulton	4.6	6.6	Yates	3.6	4.3
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	Herkimer	3.5	5.3	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Cayuga	3.9	5.5	Montgomery	5.3	6.7	Allegany	5.0	6.5
Cortland	4.3	6.1	Oneida	3.8	5.3	Cattaraugus	4.6	5.8
Madison	3.9	5.6	Otsego	3.8	5.3	Chautauqua	3.9	5.4
Onondaga	3.7	5.4	Schoharie	5.0	5.9	Erie	4.4	5.8
Oswego	4.7	6.6	<b>North Country</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>	Niagara	4.7	6.7
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	Clinton	4.9	6.3	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Broome	4.1	5.7	Essex	4.0	5.2	Nassau	3.7	5.0
Chemung	4.2	5.7	Franklin	4.5	6.1	Suffolk	3.9	5.3
Chenango	4.1	5.9	Hamilton	2.1	3.0	<b>New York City</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Delaware	3.7	5.6	Jefferson	4.1	5.8	Bronx	7.2	8.0
Schuyler	4.0	5.1	Lewis	3.9	5.7	Kings	5.9	6.4
Steuben	4.3	5.7	St. Lawrence	5.2	7.1	New York	4.4	5.0
Tioga	3.9	5.0				Queens	4.7	5.2
Tompkins	3.4	4.7				Richmond	5.2	5.7

### Long Island..

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in August 2008. Between August 2007 and August 2008, educational and health services added the most local jobs (+6,100), with the largest gains in health services. Technology, particularly information technology, will play an increasing role in cost containment, service improvements and productivity in the health care sector. A recent edition of *Healthcare IT News* noted that medical assistant is a fast-growing occupation that requires specific training in computer applications such as practice management software, scheduling, billing and electronic health records.

Wireless technology and energy conservation/alternative energy technologies are two other key local industry groups that will offer local job opportunities over the next 12-18 months. Stony Brook University has research centers in both wireless technology and advanced energy, while Brookhaven National Laboratory is a national center for alternative energy development. The region's leadership in these two emerging technology areas should help to provide good-paying jobs in the future.

Looking ahead, the Long Island economy is expected to continue to decelerate in response to a slowing national economy as well as ongoing turmoil in the financial services sector. However, increased demand for technology-based workers should help limit the effects of a slowing local economy.

### The Great Outdoors...

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To put that employment figure in context, it represents more jobs than New York State had in warehousing and storage or waste management and remediation service in 2007. It also means that, despite many of these jobs being part-time, the average wage earner working in this industry makes \$35,700 a year.

As the growth of outdoor-oriented big-box retailers like Bass Pro Shops and Gander Mountain attests, the number of sportsmen in New York State remains strong. However, the long-term trend has been negative, with the number of big game hunting licenses sold in New York declining by 30 percent between 1984 and 2007. This long-term decline is often attributed to increased urbanization and the demographics of an aging population.

More recently, the softening national and state economies may be contributing to a recent upturn in the number of New Yorkers with hunting and fishing licenses, helping to reverse the recent trend. As of mid-October 2008, the state Department of Environmental Conservation had sold more than 551,000 hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for the 2008-09 season. That was up about 54,000 from a year earlier, and nearly 58,000 above 2006. Some ascribe this rebound to a weak housing market since many hunters work in construction or related businesses.

Hunters and anglers list the following as among their top reasons they enjoy their sport: recreation; time with friends and family; and getting close to nature. In the last few years, more women and girls have taken up hunting and fishing.

With New York State this year expanding its junior hunter's license program to include big game, 14- and 15-year olds are now hunting alongside licensed adult hunters.

If these trends continue, making these outdoor activities more family-oriented, we can expect the industry to remain vibrant in the future.

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 metro area declined over the year by 4,700, or 1.1 percent, to 433,200 in August 2008. Job gains were focused in educational and health services (+2,000). Manufacturing (-3,000), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,500), and professional and business services (-600) had the largest declines.

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

For the 12-month period ending August 2008, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area fell 400, or 0.1 percent, to 267,900. Job growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+600). The largest job losses occurred in manufacturing (-600) and trade, transportation and utilities (-500).

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

For the 12-month period ending August 2008, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metro area decreased by 1,200, or 1.2 percent, to 100,000. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+500). Financial activities (-500), manufacturing (-500), and trade, transportation and utilities (-400) all experienced losses.

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

Private sector jobs in the North Country rose over the year by 700, or 0.6 percent, to 121,900 in August 2008. Gains were largest in natural resources, mining and construction (+500), educational and health services (+400), leisure and hospitality (+400), and trade, transportation and public utilities (+400). Manufacturing (-600) and financial activities (-300) lost jobs.

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

From August 2007 to August 2008, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area rose 700, or 0.2 percent, to 344,800. Job gains were largest in educational and health services (+2,100) and professional and business services (+1,100). Job losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-1,000), leisure and hospitality (-600), and manufacturing (-600).

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

From August 2007 to August 2008, private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased by 2,800, or 0.4 percent, to 764,200. Employment gains were largest in educational and health services (+3,300), professional and business services (+1,000), and natural resources, mining and construction (+800). Losses were centered in manufacturing (-1,600) and financial activities (-900).

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

Over the 12 months ending August 2008, private sector jobs in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area increased by 100 to 455,300. Gains were centered in leisure and hospitality (+3,600), professional and business services (+900) and financial activities (+700). Losses occurred in natural resources, mining and construction (-1,500) and trade, transportation and utilities (-1,400).

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

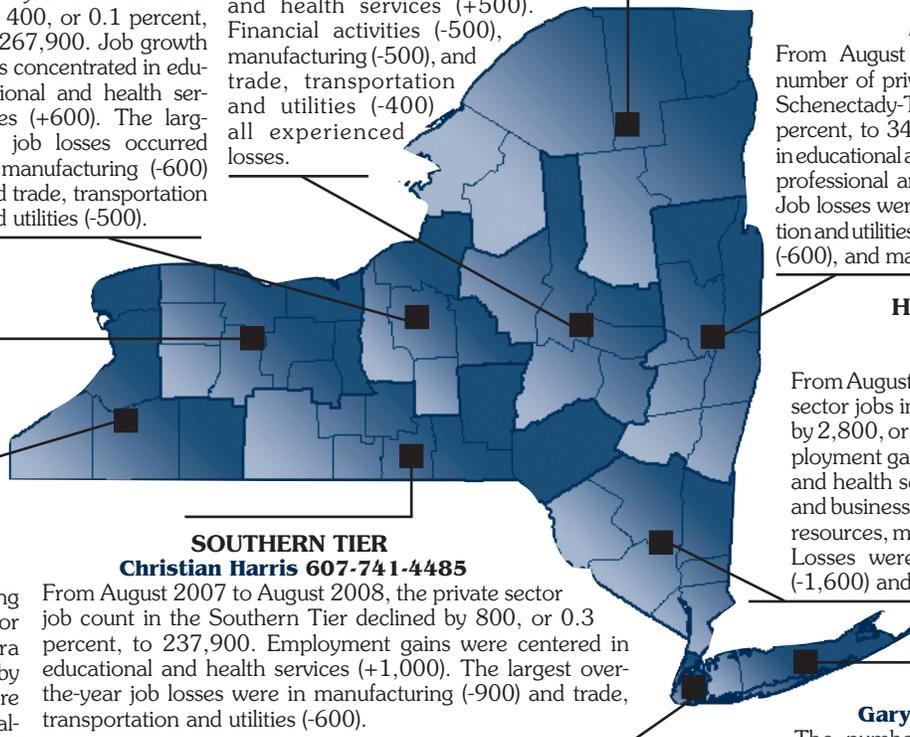
From August 2007 to August 2008, the private sector job count in the Southern Tier declined by 800, or 0.3 percent, to 237,900. Employment gains were centered in educational and health services (+1,000). The largest over-the-year job losses were in manufacturing (-900) and trade, transportation and utilities (-600).

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

Private sector employment in New York City rose 31,000, or 1.0 percent, to 3,196,100 for the 12-month period ending August 2008. Growth was largest in educational and health services (+11,400), trade, transportation and utilities (+10,600), and leisure and hospitality (+8,800). Manufacturing (-6,700) and financial activities (-5,300) lost jobs.

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

The number of private sector jobs on Long Island increased over the year by 4,100, or 0.4 percent, to 1,079,000 in August 2008. The largest gains occurred in educational and health services (+6,100) and trade, transportation and utilities (+2,100). The greatest employment losses were in manufacturing (-2,800) and financial activities (-2,200).



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