OCTOBER 2009

Employment
IN NEW YORK STATE

David A. Paterson, Governor
M. Patricia Smith, Commissioner

At a Glance

In August 2009, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.0 percent, up from 8.6 percent in July 2009. (The nation's unemployment rate was 9.7 percent in August.) In August 2009, the state had 8,645,400 nonfarm jobs, including 7,083,300 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in the state decreased by less than 0.1 percent from July, while the U.S. private sector job count decreased by 0.2 percent. From August 2008 to August 2009, the number of private sector jobs decreased by 2.8 percent in the state and decreased by 5.1 percent in the U.S. (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators decreased at an annual rate of 0.1 percent in August 2009.

Change in Nonfarm Jobs

August 2008 - August 2009
(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	-167.5	-1.9
Private Sector	-207.2	-2.8
Goods-producing	-71.5	-7.7
Nat. res. & mining	-0.3	-4.3
Construction	-26.0	-6.8
Manufacturing	-45.2	-8.4
Durable gds.	-33.5	-10.5
Nondurable gds.	-11.7	-5.4
Service-providing	-96.0	-1.2
Trade, trans. & util.	-64.2	-4.2
Wholesale trade	-22.5	-6.4
Retail trade	-29.4	-3.3
Trans., wrhs. & util.	-12.3	-4.6
Information	-12.5	-4.7
Financial activities	-42.9	-5.8
Prof. & bus. svcs.	-51.5	-4.4
Educ. & health svcs.	31.8	2.0
Leisure & hospitality	-3.9	-0.5
Other services	7.5	2.0
Government	39.7	2.7

Wealth of New Data Now Available…

NYSDOL Releases Updated State and Regional Wage Data

How much does your dream job pay? Which fields offer the best financial rewards? Which occupations in New York State have the most employment? These are not idle questions -- they are the basis for making sound career choices that can last a lifetime.

Newly-updated wage and employment data for over 750 occupations are now on the State Department of Labor's web site. Information is available for New York State and its 10 labor market regions. Data from the annual Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey are the source for these updated figures. The just-released wage and employment data was collected between 2005 and 2008 from 57,000 New York employers. This information, in turn, was updated to the second quarter of 2009, using cost-of-living adjustments provided by the federal Employment Cost Index.

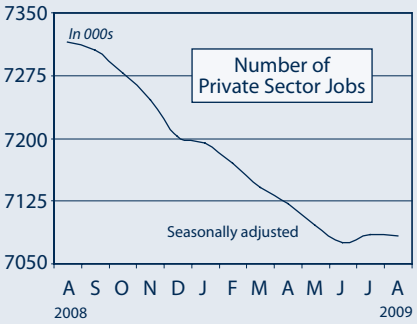
Show Me the Money (and the Jobs)

The table on page 3 lists the employment level and median (middle) wage in 2009 for the 15 highest-paying occupational groups used in the OES survey. (Note: There are a total of 22 groups.) The median, full-time annual occupational wage for the 8.6 million workers in New York State was $38,340 in 2009. Of all occupational groups in the survey, the management category is by far the highest-paying -- with a median annual salary of $108,030.

Continued on page 2

IN AUGUST...

...NYS private sector jobs decreased



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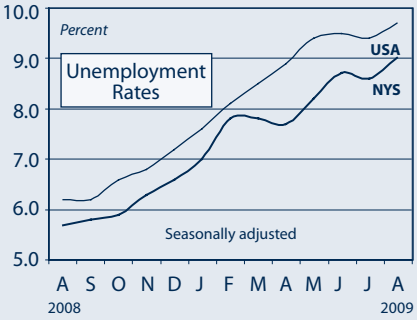

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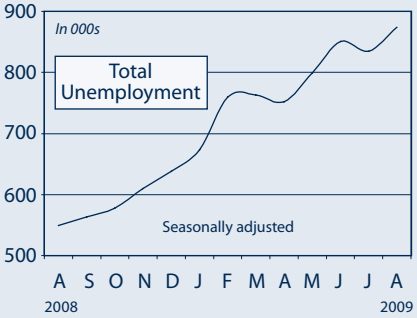
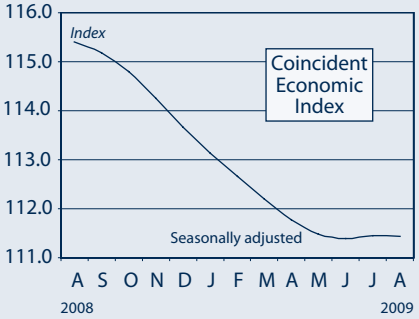


...NYS economic index decreased



Focus on the Mohawk Valley

National Recession Finally Hits the Mohawk Valley
by Mark Barbano, Labor Market Analyst, Mohawk Valley

The current national recession, which officially started in December 2007, finally arrived with a vengeance in the Mohawk Valley region (Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie counties) in the third quarter of 2008. This article reviews how the Mohawk Valley is weathering the latest recessionary storm, how certain key industries have fared, and how this latest slump compares to previous ones in the region.

According to data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program, the economic downturn did not hit the Mohawk Valley until summer 2008. During the first and second quarters of 2008, the region's total job count had been running 400-500 above year-earlier levels. However, the region experienced a reversal of fortune in third quarter 2008 as the regional employment count fell 760 *below* year-ago levels. Over-the-year job losses in the region worsened significantly in fourth quarter 2008 (-1,270) and first quarter 2009 (-4,220).

"This recession has been much more severe."

How Industries Fared During This Recession

Not surprisingly, manufacturing has been hit the hardest of any sector in the region; employment fell by 1,580 between 2008 and 2009. (Note: In this analysis, 2009 refers to the first quarter of 2009 and 2008 refers to the first quarter of 2008.) Factory job reductions were widespread, but concentrated in printing and related support activities, primary metals, wood products and machinery. In 2009, the region's sole bright spot in manufacturing was transportation equipment, which grew to its highest jobs level since 2001. Over the longer term, the region's manufacturers have suffered significant job losses, with sector employment dropping 36.6 percent between 2000 and 2009.

The trade, transportation and utilities sector experienced the second steepest set of job cuts (-1,030) in the region between 2008 and 2009. Most of the decline occurred in retail trade (-870), due in part to losses at motor vehicles and parts dealers brought on by weakened demand for new cars. Other retail job shrinkage was centered in building material and garden supply stores; health and personal care stores; and gasoline stations. Employment drops in warehousing and storage also contributed to the decline; this industry peaked in 2007 following expansion at the numerous distribution centers in the region.

Over the 2008-2009 timeframe, professional and business services suffered the third largest employment decline (-790) of any sector in the Mohawk Valley. More than half of this sector's drop occurred in temporary help agencies (-410) -- typically among the first to contract after the onset of a downturn in the economy.

Natural resources, mining and construction (-540) and financial activities (-460) also experienced relatively large employment shrinkage between 2008 and 2009. The job trimming in the former sector was centered in specialty trade contractors and construction of buildings. The loss in the latter was due in part to the closing of the Federal Reserve's check processing facility in Oneida County, as well as employment drops at commercial banking and insurance companies.

The Mohawk Valley's educational and health services sector has been virtually "recession-proof" during this downturn. With almost 39,000 employees in the first quarter of 2009 and total wages of $1.35 billion paid during the trailing 12-month period, it is one of the largest sectors in the region. Moreover, it was the only sector where employment grew (+740) between 2008 and 2009. Over the 2000-2009 period, jobs in this sector increased every year, growing by a total of 6,730 or 21.1 percent. Long-term projections for the 2006-2016 suggest this trend will continue; sector employment is expected to increase by 13.3 percent over this 10-year span.

"To help businesses deal with the current recession, the New York State Department of Labor offers a special On-the-Job Training program that reimburses employers 50 percent of a worker's wages during their training period."

Bruce Herman
Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development

Not Back to the Future

There are several differences between this downturn and the 2001 recession. First, this recession has been much more severe; total jobs dropped by 4,220 (-2.2 percent) between 2008 and 2009. During the last recession (2001-2002), the local job loss was 2,660 (-1.4 percent).

A second important difference is that in 2001 manufacturing dominated local job losses. From 2001 to 2002, the job count in manufacturing fell by 2,850, or 10.5 percent, as factory job losses actually exceeded total losses in the region -- gains in other sectors offset some of the manufacturing job losses. However, during the current downturn, manufacturing losses represent less than 40 percent of the region's total job decline.

Looking ahead, recovery in the region's labor market will likely lag any advances in overall economic conditions. However, if the national economic picture improves, the outlook for the Mohawk Valley region should gradually follow. ■

NYSDOL Releases... *from page 1*

Most of these occupations require not only a bachelor's degree, but industry or managerial experience, as well. Wages vary depending on the type of manager. Total statewide employment in this category was more than 400,000.

The second highest-paying group is legal jobs, with a $97,270 median wage. Lawyers and judges provide the bulk of the employment within this category. Employment in legal occupations topped 100,000 in 2009.

Rounding out the list of the top five highest-paying categories are: computer and mathematical occupations ($75,690); architecture and engineering ($69,500); and business and financial operations ($68,070). All three of these groups contain a large number of professional occupations -- work that usually requires at least a bachelor's degree to enter, but pays well.

Healthcare practitioners and technical job titles earned a median annual wage of $65,610, ranking that group in sixth place. Considering that this occupational group contains many of the top-paying occupations such as physicians and surgeons, it is somewhat surprising that it does not rank higher. However, doctors do not make up the majority of employment in this group; rather, it is dominated by workers in somewhat lower-paying fields such as nurses and various healthcare technicians.

The life, physical and social science occupational group, which ranks seventh with a median wage of $60,020, follows a pattern similar to healthcare practitioners. Lesser-paid scientific assistants and technicians outnumber higher-paid scientists, helping to drive down the group's overall median wage.

Continued on page 3

Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG '08	AUG '09		AUG '08	AUG '09		AUG '08	AUG '09
New York State	**5.6**	**8.8**	**Hudson Valley**	**5.2**	**7.6**	**Finger Lakes**	**5.4**	**7.9**
Capital District	**4.9**	**7.0**	Dutchess	5.2	8.0	Genesee	4.7	6.9
Albany	5.0	7.0	Orange	5.5	8.3	Livingston	5.1	7.7
Columbia	4.7	7.4	Putnam	4.7	6.9	Monroe	5.7	8.3
Greene	5.5	8.0	Rockland	5.1	7.3	Ontario	4.5	6.7
Rensselaer	5.2	7.6	Sullivan	5.7	7.8	Orleans	6.8	9.3
Saratoga	4.3	6.2	Ulster	5.7	8.1	Seneca	5.0	7.2
Schenectady	5.1	7.6	Westchester	5.0	7.3	Wayne	5.2	7.7
Warren	4.6	6.7	**Mohawk Valley**	**5.5**	**7.5**	Wyoming	4.8	7.9
Washington	4.8	6.8	Fulton	6.4	9.0	Yates	4.2	6.4
Central New York	**5.5**	**8.0**	Herkimer	5.2	7.0	**Western New York**	**5.8**	**8.3**
Cayuga	5.4	8.0	Montgomery	6.6	8.7	Allegany	6.3	8.9
Cortland	5.9	8.7	Oneida	5.2	7.1	Cattaraugus	5.7	8.5
Madison	5.4	7.5	Otsego	5.3	7.0	Chautauqua	5.2	8.0
Onondaga	5.3	7.7	Schoharie	5.9	7.9	Erie	5.7	8.2
Oswego	6.5	9.2	**North Country**	**6.1**	**8.3**	Niagara	6.5	9.0
Southern Tier	**5.3**	**8.1**	Clinton	6.2	9.0	**Long Island**	**5.1**	**7.3**
Broome	5.5	8.3	Essex	5.2	7.3	Nassau	4.9	7.1
Chemung	5.5	8.8	Franklin	6.0	7.8	Suffolk	5.2	7.5
Chenango	5.7	8.4	Hamilton	3.2	4.3	**New York City**	**6.0**	**10.3**
Delaware	5.6	8.3	Jefferson	5.9	7.6	Bronx	8.1	13.2
Schuyler	5.0	7.4	Lewis	5.7	7.6	Kings	6.5	11.1
Steuben	5.5	9.5	St. Lawrence	6.9	9.7	New York	5.1	9.3
Tioga	4.9	7.8				Queens	5.3	9.2
Tompkins	4.6	6.3				Richmond	5.8	9.4

NYSDOL Releases... *from page 2*

Rounding out the top 10 highest-paying groups are: arts, design, entertainment, sports and media jobs ($54,300); education, training and library careers ($51,750), and construction and extraction occupations ($49,830). Many of the jobs in this last category are demanding or dangerous, which helps to explain why they pay wages above the statewide median for all occupations.

Turning to employment, the OES data indicate that office and administrative support occupations, which include titles such as clerks, receptionists and secretaries, had by far the highest employment level: 1,631,020. This group accounted for about one of every five jobs in the State. Sales and related occupations, which include retail salespersons, insurance and retail sales agents, and telemarketers, came in second with 881,460 jobs. Also in the top five were: education, training and library careers (668,300); food preparation and serving-related careers (598,220); and healthcare practitioners (462,470).

15 Highest-Paying Occupational Groups, New York State, 2009

Occupational Category	Median Wage	Employment
Total, All Occupations	**$38,340**	**8,633,580**
Management	$108,030	412,770
Legal	$97,270	108,810
Computer and Mathematical	$75,690	209,490
Architecture and Engineering	$69,500	116,150
Business and Financial Operations	$68,070	418,430
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	$65,610	462,470
Life, Physical, and Social Science	$60,020	90,330
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media	$54,300	180,010
Education, Training and Library	$51,750	668,300
Construction and Extraction	$49,830	341,190
Protective Services	$43,890	263,500
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	$42,530	309,750
Community and Social Services	$41,330	185,120
Office and Administrative Support	$33,350	1,631,020
Transportation and Material Moving	$31,860	448,070

See **www.labor.state.ny.us/workforceindustry data/lswage2.asp** for complete data.

More Data, Please

The State Department of Labor's web site contains a wealth of related information. For example, the new wage and employment data is also used to update staffing patterns. Staffing patterns are data that help answer two related questions: What occupations are employed in an industry? And, what industries employ a particular occupation? For updated staffing patterns data and additional background information, see: **http://www.labor.state.ny.us/workforceindustrydata/staffingpatternshome.asp**.

For more information on the latest wage and employment data, please visit the OES web site at **http://www.labor.state.ny.us/workforceindustrydata/lswage2.asp**. ■

by Daniel Crosley and Kevin Hannel

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CAPITAL DISTRICT
James Ross -- 518-462-7600

From August 2008 to August 2009, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area fell 9,500, or 2.7 percent, to 336,800. Job gains were limited to educational and health services (+1,500). Losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-2,400), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,300), leisure and hospitality (-1,800), professional and business services (-1,800), and manufacturing (-1,400).

CENTRAL NY
Roger Evans -- 315-479-3388

For the 12-month period ending August 2009, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area fell 6,800, or 2.5 percent, to 260,900. Job growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+200). The largest job losses occurred in manufacturing (-2,400), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,300), professional and business services (-800), financial activities (-600), and information (-500).

FINGER LAKES
Tammy Marino -- 585-258-8870

Private sector jobs in the Rochester metro area declined over the year by 10,300, or 2.3 percent, to 430,800 in August 2009. Gains were focused in educational and health services (+1,600). Losses occurred in manufacturing (-4,600), professional and business services (-3,200), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,800), construction (-1,200), financial activities (-700), information (-300), and leisure and hospitality (-300).

HUDSON VALLEY
John Nelson -- 914-997-8798

Private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley decreased by 18,800, or 2.5 percent, to 741,900 for the 12-month period ending August 2009. Gains were recorded in educational and health services (+3,800). The largest declines were recorded in trade, transportation and utilities (-5,600), manufacturing (-4,300), leisure and hospitality (-3,700), professional and business services (-3,700), and natural resources, mining and construction (-2,200).

LONG ISLAND
Gary Huth -- 516-934-8533

The private sector job count on Long Island declined over the year by 37,000, or 3.4 percent, to 1,039,100 in August 2009. Employment grew in other services (+1,500) and educational and health services (+1,100). Losses were largest in trade, transportation and utilities (-15,500), natural resources, mining and construction (-8,200), manufacturing (-5,100), professional and business services (-5,100), financial activities (-2,700), and leisure and hospitality (-1,600).

MOHAWK VALLEY
Mark Barbano -- 315-793-2282

For the 12-month period ending August 2009, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metro area decreased 2,500, or 2.5 percent, to 97,700. Job gains occurred in educational and health services (+300). Over-the-year job losses were largest in leisure and hospitality (-600), manufacturing (-600), professional and business services (-600), and trade, transportation and utilities (-600).

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

Private sector employment in New York City fell by 96,600, or 3.0 percent, to 3,121,900 for the 12-month period ending August 2009. Job growth occurred in educational and health services (+25,900), other services (+3,000), and leisure and hospitality (+1,500). Losses were greatest in financial activities (-40,300), trade, transportation and utilities (-29,700), professional and business services (-26,100), manufacturing (-12,900), and natural resources, mining and construction (-11,000).

NORTH COUNTRY
Alan Beideck -- 518-523-7157

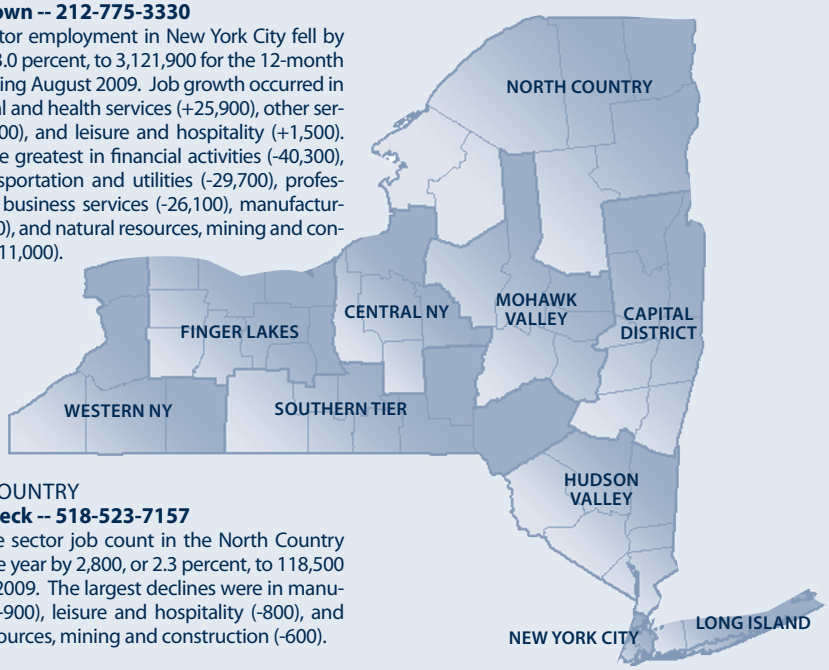
The private sector job count in the North Country fell over the year by 2,800, or 2.3 percent, to 118,500 in August 2009. The largest declines were in manufacturing (-900), leisure and hospitality (-800), and natural resources, mining and construction (-600).

SOUTHERN TIER
Christian Harris -- 607-741-4485

The private sector job count in the Southern Tier declined over the year by 8,600, or 3.6 percent, to 232,200 in August 2009. Job gains were focused in educational and health services (+900). Losses were largest in manufacturing (-4,700), professional and business services (-1,500), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,500), natural resources, mining and construction (-900), and leisure and hospitality (-500).

WESTERN NY
John Slenker -- 716-851-2742

Private sector employment in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area decreased by 12,400, or 2.7 percent, to 449,300 over the 12 months ending August 2009. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+1,800). Losses were largest in manufacturing (-5,000), trade, transportation and utilities (-4,400), natural resources, mining and construction (-2,400), and professional and business services (-1,000).



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