

Employment in New York State



Research and
Statistics

A Publication of the New York State
Department of Labor

OCTOBER 2016

At a Glance

New York State had 9,385,900 total nonfarm jobs in August 2016, including 7,938,000 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The state's seasonally adjusted private sector job count decreased by 0.2% between July and August 2016, while the nation's increased by 0.1%. From August 2015 to August 2016, the number of private sector jobs increased by 1.5% in the state and by 1.9% in the nation (not seasonally adjusted).

In August 2016, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.7% to 4.8%. The comparable unemployment rate for the nation in August 2016 was 4.9%.

New York State's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators increased at an annual rate of 3.0% in August 2016.

Change in Nonfarm Jobs

August 2015 - August 2016

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	125.7	1.4%
Private Sector	120.4	1.5%
Goods-producing	2.7	0.3%
Nat. res. & mining	-0.3	-5.3%
Construction	5.9	1.5%
Manufacturing	-2.9	-0.6%
Durable gds.	-6.0	-2.2%
Nondurable gds.	3.1	1.6%
Service-providing	123.0	1.5%
Trade, trans. & util.	9.3	0.6%
Wholesale trade	3.0	0.9%
Retail trade	-7.0	-0.7%
Trans., wrhs. & util.	13.3	4.9%
Information	7.4	2.8%
Financial activities	0.3	0.0%
Prof. & bus. svcs.	1.8	0.1%
Educ. & health svcs.	58.5	3.2%
Leisure & hospitality	31.0	3.3%
Other services	9.4	2.3%
Government	5.3	0.4%

NYS sees growing need for specialized, hands-on workers...

Growing Demand in New York State for Workers in the Skilled Trades

A recent survey found two-thirds of U.S. construction firms had difficulty filling skilled trade positions. These findings underscore a problem facing many businesses in construction, manufacturing and some service industries -- namely, there are not enough skilled trade workers to go around. Employers in New York report they face similar labor shortages. Here, we summarize a recent State Department of Labor report that looks at the skilled trades in New York.

Many firms that employ skilled workers have experienced strong consumer growth in recent years. As a result, this has boosted firms' demand for workers in the skilled trades. On the supply side, worker shortages are expected to worsen in the coming years due to a combination of

demographic factors (e.g., baby boomers aging out of the workforce) and changing career preferences. For example, many people, who in the past might have pursued a career in the skilled trades, have opted instead to go to college.

How Many Skilled Trade Workers in NYS?

We estimate there are over 607,000 skilled trade workers in New York, accounting for about 6.8% of all jobs in the state. The skilled trades pay above-average salaries with an overall median wage of \$45,830 per year. This is almost \$3,500 higher than the median annual wage for all jobs in New York State (\$42,340).

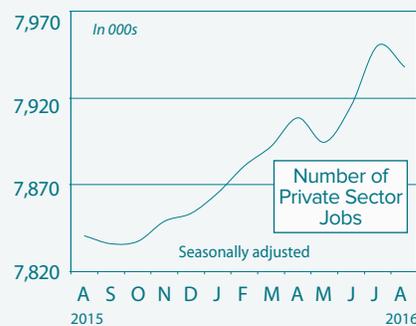
What is a Skilled Trade?

Skilled trade workers are found throughout the construction, manufacturing and

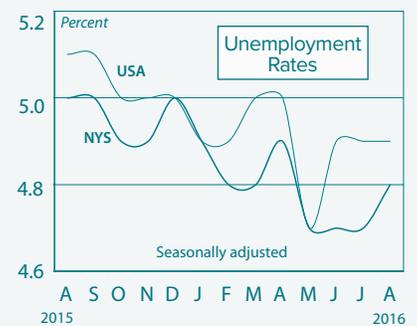
In August...

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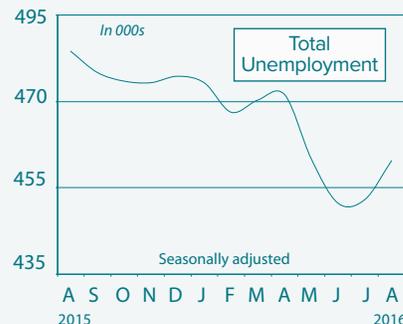
...NYS private sector jobs decreased



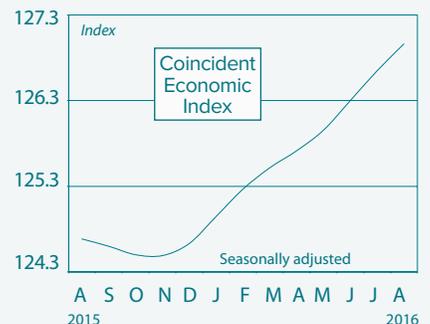
...NYS unemployment rate increased



...NYS unemployment increased



...NYS economic index increased



Focus on Western New York

Western New York: A Place of Opportunity

by John Slenker, Labor Market Analyst, Western New York

The Western New York regional labor market has strengthened in recent years. Here, we look at recent developments in the region that have contributed to Western New York's improved economic outlook.

The most current data available from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) show that between the first quarter of 2010 and the first quarter of 2016, the region added more than 26,000 private sector jobs and 1,600 new businesses. It's important to note these are not estimates, but an actual count of the number of jobs and businesses in the region covered by the state's Unemployment Insurance program.

Over this six-year period, job gains were broad-based with a variety of industries boosting their employment counts. Industries adding the most jobs in the region between the first quarter of 2010 and the first quarter of 2016 included: accommodation and food services (+5,900); construction (+3,500); health care and social assistance (+3,200); retail trade (+3,200); finance and insurance (+2,300); manufacturing (+2,100); and management of companies and enterprises (+2,000).

Western New York's growing job count has helped to push down the region's unemployment rate from 8.2% in August 2010 to 4.8% in August 2016. However, as the region's economy continues to improve, employers now report they face labor shortages in certain skilled occupations.

Labor Shortages

Workers in a variety of skilled trades, such

as electricians, glaziers and industrial machinery mechanics, are in short supply. As baby boomers continue to retire and leave the workforce, these shortages will intensify, creating openings in occupations that pay well and do not necessarily require a college degree.

Workers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) job titles and health care occupations are also in short supply. Demand for these occupations provides the impetus for creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce. People with the appropriate training in these fields are needed to help power the economy in the coming decades.

Buffalo Bounces Back

It is difficult to fathom the changes that have occurred in Western New York since the end of the last recession. Buffalo is no longer just a notch on the Rust Belt. From lifestyle attractions at Canal Side to the Harbor Center's new hotels and restaurants, downtown Buffalo has become dynamic and bustling with activity.

The expansion of the medical corridor and the bioinformatics center in Buffalo has created an advanced life science and medical hub that would have seemed unattainable just a decade ago. Buffalo is not the only benefactor from this regional renaissance.

Athenex is a biotech firm that started on the Buffalo Niagara Medical campus. The company is currently building a state-of-the-art drug manufacturing plant in Dunkirk (Chautauqua County), which is expected to create 900 jobs.



The plant is slated to be up and running in the next two years.

The real estate development that has taken place locally is impressive. Developments such as the Queen City Landing project on Buffalo's Outer Harbor, and the redevelopment of the Trico Building and One Seneca Tower, are bringing residential and mixed-use buildings into downtown Buffalo. Consequently, people are beginning to move into the city and real estate prices are increasing.

As more people move into downtown Buffalo, a growing number of "spin-off" businesses, including new retail stores and restaurants, continue to open. These new firms provide a variety of employment opportunities to local residents.

Looking Ahead

Western New York's labor market continues to improve. For example, March 2016 marked the 72nd straight month of over-the-year private sector job growth in the region, according to the QCEW. What the data do not tell us, however, is how attitudes have changed in Western New York due to the improving economy. The changes taking place here are fundamental and permanent. Western New York is fulfilling its promise as a place people want to live, work and play.

The Skilled Trades... from page 1

service sectors. Examples of specific occupations in the skilled trades include:

Manufacturing: Industrial machinery mechanics; machinery maintenance workers; medical equipment repairers; and machinists.

Construction: Carpenters; electricians; plumbers; boilermakers; and HVAC mechanics and installers.

Service Industries: Emergency medical technicians and paramedics; automotive service technicians and mechanics; dental laboratory technicians; and medical appliance technicians.

While many job titles in the skilled trades do not require formal post-secondary degrees,

workers often need apprenticeship or moderate- to long-term on-the-job training where specialized skills and knowledge can be obtained. Workers that are detailed-oriented and work well with others should be successful in these careers. Many skilled trade occupations share a number of common characteristics. For example, workers training in these job titles should:

- Enjoy working with their hands
- Be able to follow directions
- Have good reading and math skills

Skilled Trades Set to Grow in NYS

Occupational projections show the combined job count in the skilled trades in New York

growing by 116,270, or 17%, in 2014-2024. This is faster than the state's overall projected job growth rate of 13.1% over the same period.

In addition, the skilled trades in New York State are expected to generate almost 25,000 openings each year during this time span. A slight majority (53%) of these annual openings are due to replacement need, while the remaining 47% stem from projected employment growth in skilled trade job titles.

Using the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online (HWOL) data series, we looked at the number of job ads posted by employers in New York State over the September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016 period. This gave us

Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG '15	AUG '16		AUG '15	AUG '16		AUG '15	AUG '16
New York State	5.0	4.9	Hudson Valley	4.5	4.1	Finger Lakes	4.8	4.4
Capital	4.3	3.9	Dutchess	4.3	4.0	Genesee	4.2	3.8
Albany	4.3	4.0	Orange	4.5	4.2	Livingston	4.7	4.2
Columbia	3.6	3.3	Putnam	4.2	3.9	Monroe	4.9	4.6
Greene	5.0	4.4	Rockland	4.5	4.1	Ontario	4.1	3.7
Rensselaer	4.5	4.2	Sullivan	4.7	4.1	Orleans	5.8	5.2
Saratoga	3.9	3.5	Ulster	4.7	4.3	Seneca	4.5	3.9
Schenectady	4.6	4.2	Westchester	4.5	4.2	Wayne	4.6	4.5
Warren	4.3	4.1	Mohawk Valley	5.1	4.5	Wyoming	4.6	4.1
Washington	4.2	3.8	Fulton	5.7	5.2	Yates	4.1	3.8
Central New York	5.0	4.5	Herkimer	5.0	4.4	Western New York	5.3	4.8
Cayuga	4.8	4.5	Montgomery	6.0	5.2	Allegany	5.2	4.9
Cortland	5.0	4.6	Oneida	4.8	4.3	Cattaraugus	5.5	5.2
Madison	5.0	4.6	Otsego	4.6	4.3	Chautauqua	5.4	5.1
Onondaga	4.7	4.2	Schoharie	5.2	4.7	Erie	5.1	4.6
Oswego	6.4	5.7	North Country	5.6	5.1	Niagara	5.7	5.2
Southern Tier	5.1	4.7	Clinton	5.5	5.1	Long Island	4.5	4.1
Broome	5.6	5.0	Essex	4.5	4.1	Nassau	4.2	3.9
Chemung	5.5	5.2	Franklin	5.6	4.9	Suffolk	4.7	4.3
Chenango	4.6	4.4	Hamilton	3.5	2.9	New York City	5.3	5.7
Delaware	5.3	4.9	Jefferson	5.6	5.1	Bronx	7.3	7.8
Schuyler	5.5	4.6	Lewis	5.6	5.4	Kings	5.5	5.9
Steuben	5.6	5.1	St. Lawrence	6.4	5.7	New York	4.5	4.9
Tioga	5.0	4.5				Queens	4.6	5.0
Tompkins	4.0	3.7				Richmond	5.5	6.0

The Skilled Trades... from page 2

Skilled Trade Occupations with Most Online Help-Wanted Ads New York State, September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2016

SOC Code	Job Title	Number of Ads
49-9071	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	18,779
43-6013	Medical Secretaries	14,779
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	10,119
47-2031	Carpenters	8,640
35-1011	Chefs and Head Cooks	7,460
31-9092	Medical Assistants	7,004
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists and Cosmetologists	6,882
31-9091	Dental Assistants	5,535
49-9021	HVAC Mechanics and Installers	4,299
49-3031	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	4,248

Source: Conference Board, Help Wanted Online series

a measure of current demand for workers in the skilled trades. In all, there were more than 125,000 online ads for skilled trade occupations, representing about 7% of all job ads in the state, over the one-year period, according to HWOL.

The table shows the skilled trade occupations with the most posted online job ads. The three job titles with the most postings include: Maintenance and Repair Workers (18,779); Medical Secretaries (14,779); and Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (10,119).

Changing Demographics

As the average age in many skilled trade

trades appear to be gaining traction – there are about 16,000 people currently enrolled in apprenticeship programs in New York State.

Slowed job growth and/or delayed expansion plans are among the consequences when businesses are unable to find the skilled workers they need. However, the need to fill job vacancies in the skilled trades also represents an opportunity for workers to train and enter these relatively high-paying occupations.

Reaching out to underrepresented groups, as well as encouraging young people to train and enter the skilled trade occupations,

occupations continues to climb and older workers begin to exit the labor force, in many cases there are not enough trained people in the pipeline ready to replace those who retire. However, ongoing efforts to attract younger workers to the skilled

could help partially alleviate some of the labor shortages noted above. Many students may not be aware of these types of occupations and the potential they offer.

Summary

The skilled trades represent an excellent career field for many segments of the population in New York State. Increasing demand for employees in these occupations and a growing need to replace retiring workers mean there are many job openings in high-paying occupations with good job security.

To learn more about the skilled trades in New York State, see: labor.ny.gov/stats/PDFs/The-Skilled-Trades-in-NYS.pdf.

by Christian Harris and Karen Knapik-Scalzo

Employment in New York State is published 12 times a year. To request a change of address, write to the address below and provide your old and new addresses.

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Regional Analysts' Corner

CAPITAL

James Ross — 518-242-8245

Over the past year, private sector jobs in the Capital Region fell by 1,700, or 0.4 percent, to 437,100 in August 2016. Employment gains were largest in educational and health services (+800), natural resources, mining and construction (+400) and manufacturing (+200). Losses were greatest in professional and business services (-1,100), leisure and hospitality (-1,000) and financial activities (-500).

CENTRAL NY

Karen Knapik-Scalzo — 315-479-3391

Private sector jobs in the Syracuse metro area fell over the year by 1,200, or 0.5 percent, to 259,100 in August 2016. Growth was centered in trade, transportation and utilities (+2,200). The largest job losses were in professional and business services (-1,900) and educational and health services (-1,500).

FINGER LAKES

Tammy Marino — 585-258-8870

Private sector jobs in the Rochester metro area declined over the year by 2,000, or 0.4 percent, to 449,600 in August 2016. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+1,500), leisure and hospitality (+600) and financial activities (+300). Losses were focused in professional and business services (-3,300) and manufacturing (-1,200).

HUDSON VALLEY

John Nelson — 914-997-8798

Over the past year, private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased by 13,100, or 1.7 percent, to 796,800 in August 2016. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+7,100), trade, transportation and utilities (+3,900), other services (+2,000) and natural resources, mining and construction (+1,000). Job losses were centered in financial activities (-800).

LONG ISLAND

Shital Patel — 516-934-8533

Private sector jobs on Long Island increased over the year by 15,000, or 1.3 percent, to 1,147,100 in August 2016. Job gains were largest in educational and health services (+9,000), natural resources, mining and construction (+6,600), leisure and hospitality (+3,500) and other services (+2,000). Losses were centered in trade, transportation and utilities (-6,200).

MOHAWK VALLEY

Mark Barbano — 315-793-2282

Over the past year, the private sector job count in the Mohawk Valley rose by 800, or 0.5 percent, to 149,700 in August 2016. Employment gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+700), natural resources, mining and construction (+200) and trade, transportation and utilities (+200). Losses were greatest in financial activities (-200).

NEW YORK CITY

James Brown — 212-775-3330

Private sector jobs in New York City rose by 89,400, or 2.4 percent, to 3,752,500 for the year ending August 2016. Growth was largest in educational and health services (+32,500), leisure and hospitality (+25,500), professional and business services (+8,000), information (+7,800), trade, transportation and utilities (+7,700) and other services (+5,700). Losses were focused in financial activities (-2,400).

SOUTHERN TIER

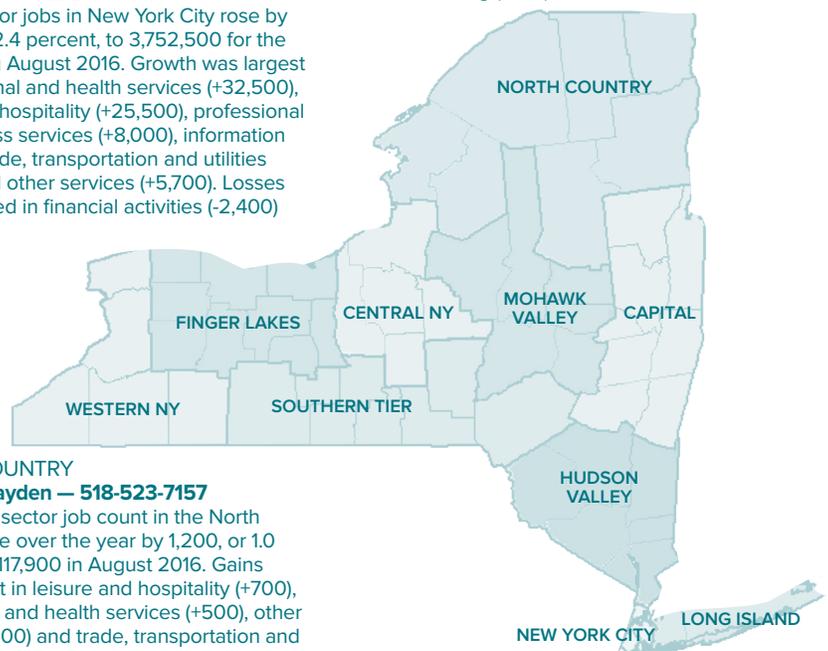
Christian Harris — 607-741-4485

Over the past year, private sector jobs in the Southern Tier declined by 200, or 0.1 percent, to 233,900 in August 2016. Gains were largest in educational and health services (+2,000) and natural resources, mining and construction (+200). Losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-1,100), manufacturing (-600), other services (-300) and professional and business services (-300).

WESTERN NY

John Slenker — 716-851-2742

Private sector jobs in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area rose by 7,900, or 1.7 percent, to 479,500 for the year ending August 2016. Gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+5,500), trade, transportation and utilities (+3,200) and educational and health services (+1,800). Losses were greatest in professional and business services (-1,600), other services (-1,200) and manufacturing (-900).



NORTH COUNTRY

Anthony Hayden — 518-523-7157

The private sector job count in the North Country rose over the year by 1,200, or 1.0 percent, to 117,900 in August 2016. Gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+700), educational and health services (+500), other services (+200) and trade, transportation and utilities (+200). Job losses were greatest in manufacturing (-400).

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