

Employment in New York State

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RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

At a Glance

New York State had 9,804,000 total nonfarm jobs in October 2019, including 8,305,800 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The state's seasonally adjusted private sector job count increased by 0.2% in September-October 2019, while the nation's job count increased by 0.1% over this period. From October 2018 to October 2019, the number of private sector jobs increased by 1.2% in the state and by 1.5% in the nation (not seasonally adjusted).

In October 2019, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.9% to 4.0%. The comparable rate for the U.S. in October 2019 was 3.6%.

New York State's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate increased from 60.7% to 60.8% in October 2019.

Change in Nonfarm Jobs

October 2019 - October 2019

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	103.4	1.1%
Private Sector	95.8	1.2%
Goods-producing	-6.7	-0.8%
Nat. res. & mining	0.1	1.7%
Construction	-0.2	0.0%
Manufacturing	-6.6	-1.5%
Durable gds.	-6.8	-2.7%
Nondurable gds.	0.2	0.1%
Service-providing	110.1	1.2%
Trade, trans. & util.	17.2	1.1%
Wholesale trade	-2.7	-0.8%
Retail trade	13.5	1.4%
Trans., wrhs. & util.	6.4	2.1%
Information	0.0	0.0%
Financial activities	-3.6	-0.5%
Prof. & bus. svcs.	22.4	1.7%
Educ. & health svcs.	57.7	2.7%
Leisure & hospitality	12.5	1.3%
Other services	-3.7	-0.9%
Government	7.6	0.5%

Good-paying jobs for those without a 4-year degree...

Opportunity Occupations in New York State

Labor market research shows that college graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher typically have the highest earnings potential. However, that doesn't mean people with less formal education are relegated to low-wage jobs.

There have been several national labor market research initiatives in recent years aimed at identifying good-paying jobs that require less than a 4-year college degree. These efforts recognize the fact that most people in the nation still possess less than a bachelor's degree. In fact, just under three in five New Yorkers (57.8%) of prime working age (ages 25-54) don't have a bachelor's degree.

In 2015, economics researchers at the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia, Cleveland and Atlanta worked together to identify and develop a range of job titles that they called "opportunity occupations."

The researchers defined these occupations as "employment accessible to workers without a bachelor's degree and typically paying above the national annual median wage."

Opportunity Occupations in NYS

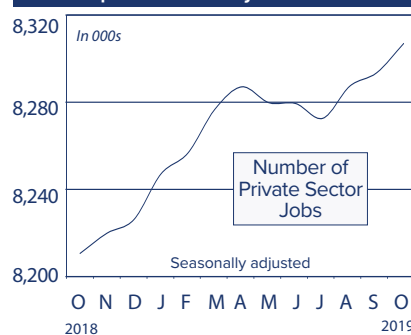
Researchers at the New York State Department of Labor have analyzed "opportunity occupations" in depth, both at the statewide and sub-state regional levels. We define an "opportunity occupation" as one which typically requires less than a bachelor's degree for entry into the job. These education thresholds are developed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In addition, we require "opportunity occupations" to have a median wage paying above the annual median wage in the area (state or sub-state region) where it is located. We also require "opportunity occupations" to be relatively

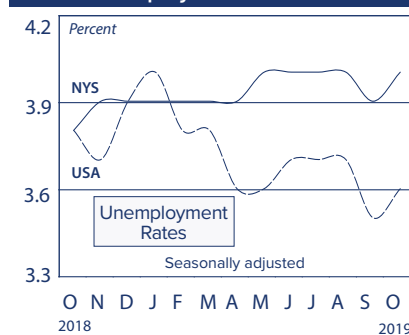
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In October...

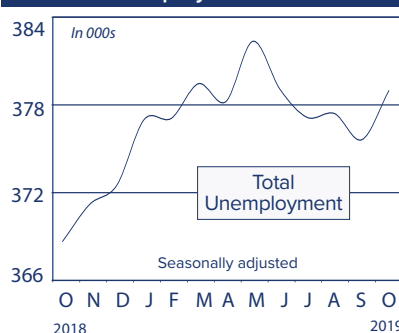
...NYS private sector jobs increased



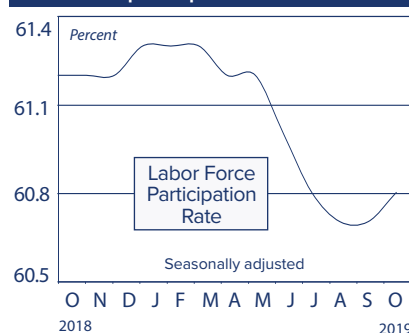
...NYS unemployment rate increased



...NYS unemployment increased



...NYS LF participation rate increased



Focus on Central New York

Skills in Demand in the Syracuse Metro Area

by Karen Knapik-Scalzo, Central New York Labor Market Analyst

The labor market in the Syracuse metro area, which includes Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties, remains robust. For the 12-month period ending October 2019, the number of nonfarm jobs in the metro area increased by 5,200, or 1.6%, to 331,000, its highest level on record. In addition, the Syracuse area had an unemployment rate of 3.9% that month, which is one of the lowest October rates on record.

As the local economy continues to expand and members of the Baby Boom generation (people born 1946-64) age out of the labor force, there are many opportunities for people to enter the labor force and find good jobs in a wide range of local industries. This article explores some of the common traits and skills that Syracuse metro area employers seek in potential job candidates.

Working with One's Hands

Some local employers are seeking employees proficient in using precision tools to complete hands-on tasks. This is especially true in the goods-producing sector, which includes construction, manufacturing and agriculture. Workers in these industries need to have excellent attention to detail, great hand-eye coordination, and math and blueprint reading skills. In addition, the ability to follow directions is highly sought after. These skills may be acquired through multiple avenues, including on-the-job training, BOCES, and the P-Tech program, which is a public-private partnership designed to provide students in high school and community college with programs of study in the high-skill jobs of the future.

Some examples of in-demand occupations include assemblers, roofers, machinists, electricians, plumbers and agricultural equipment operators. Several local manufacturing industries have experienced particularly strong growth recently, including computers and electronic products, beverages and primary metals.

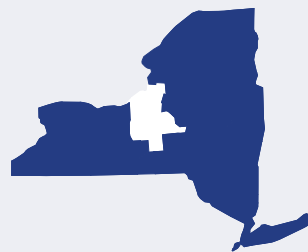
One factor contributing to the strong local demand for construction workers is the \$2 billion rebuild of Interstate 81, which serves as Syracuse's major commuter route. This project is expected to span most of the next decade.

Public Service Jobs

There is currently a high demand for workers in occupations like teachers, police officers, nurses and school bus drivers. These occupations require excellent communication skills, empathy and a desire to help people. Many of these workers are employed by local and state government agencies, hospitals and schools. In 2018, the public sector made up 18% of the Syracuse metro area's employment base and paid an average weekly wage of \$1,100.

Technical Skills

There is a tremendous need for workers that can use computers and technology to create new products and solve problems. R&D professionals, technicians, scientists, engineers and software developers are all in high demand. A growing emphasis on defense contracts, drone technology, alternative fuel sources and health technology has fueled expansion in these sectors. As our dependence on technology grows, the demand for technical skills will also increase.



"Skilled employees have played a key role in supporting the Syracuse metro area's flourishing job market."

Customer Service Skills

The Syracuse metro area's leisure and hospitality sector has seen strong growth. It reached its highest job count for the month of October in 2019, as people spent more of their disposable income on recreational activities. Tourism spending is also robust. In fact, in 2018, the Central New York region hosted over 13.8 million visitors who spent more than \$1.35 billion, according to the latest figures from I Love New York.

As hotels, restaurants, craft brewers, gaming and recreational facilities are expanding their local operations, they are looking for new workers with communication and customer service skills. These attributes are necessary so that visitors to the area feel welcome and their experiences are memorable. Some job titles in demand now include hotel front desk clerks, waiters and waitresses, recreation attendants, gaming dealers, athletic trainers and customer service representatives.

Summary

Skilled employees have played a key role in supporting the Syracuse metro area's flourishing job market and are expected to continue to do so going forward. Jobseekers and students with relevant skills such as hands-on, communication, or technical and scientific skills, are likely to have a greater number of high-quality job opportunities to select from.

Opportunity Occupations... from page 1

fast growing. We accomplish this by requiring the occupation's projected rate of job growth (percentage terms) in 2016-26 to exceed the projected growth rate for overall employment in the area (state or region) under consideration. There are more than 65 job titles in New York State that meet these requirements.

Analysis

The table on page 3 shows the 10 largest "opportunity occupations" at the statewide level, sorted by overall employment level in 2018. Also presented are data on their annual

median wages, projected 2016-26 job growth and typical education credential needed for entry into the occupation.

"Opportunity occupations" accounted for 670,000 jobs, or just over 7% of total employment in New York State in 2018, according to data from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program. The job count in this category was relatively concentrated, with the 10 largest job titles comprising just over one-half (54%) of overall "opportunity occupation" employment in the state.

By definition, "opportunity occupations" are relatively high paying and fast growing. OES data show that "opportunity occupations" as a group paid a median annual wage of \$59,960 in 2018. This was more than \$13,000, or 30%, above the state's overall median wage of \$46,010 that year.

In addition, the statewide job count in this category is projected to grow by 17.5% between 2016 and 2026. This rate of growth is 5.5 percentage points faster than the projected overall rate of job growth over this time period. Not surprisingly, all 10 job

Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT '18	OCT '19		OCT '18	OCT '19		OCT '18	OCT '19
New York State	3.6	3.9	Hudson Valley	3.3	3.6	Finger Lakes	3.4	3.8
Capital	3.1	3.4	Dutchess	3.2	3.5	Genesee	3.3	3.4
Albany	3.1	3.5	Orange	3.4	3.8	Livingston	3.3	3.7
Columbia	2.7	2.8	Putnam	3.2	3.7	Monroe	3.6	4.0
Greene	3.5	3.8	Rockland	3.2	3.5	Ontario	3.1	3.5
Rensselaer	3.2	3.5	Sullivan	3.4	3.6	Orleans	3.5	4.0
Saratoga	2.9	3.2	Ulster	3.2	3.4	Seneca	3.0	3.4
Schenectady	3.4	3.6	Westchester	3.4	3.7	Wayne	3.1	3.5
Warren	3.4	3.7	Mohawk Valley	3.7	4.0	Wyoming	3.1	3.4
Washington	3.2	3.4	Fulton	4.1	4.5	Yates	3.0	3.4
Central New York	3.5	3.9	Herkimer	3.6	4.1	Western New York	3.7	4.1
Cayuga	3.5	3.8	Montgomery	4.1	4.3	Allegany	4.2	4.7
Cortland	3.6	4.0	Oneida	3.6	3.9	Cattaraugus	4.0	4.4
Madison	3.5	3.9	Otsego	3.3	3.7	Chautauqua	4.0	4.2
Onondaga	3.3	3.7	Schoharie	3.4	3.8	Erie	3.6	4.0
Oswego	4.0	4.6	North Country	3.9	4.4	Niagara	3.9	4.4
Southern Tier	3.6	3.9	Clinton	3.4	3.8	Long Island	3.1	3.5
Broome	3.9	4.3	Essex	3.5	3.8	Nassau	3.1	3.4
Chemung	3.9	4.0	Franklin	3.8	4.1	Suffolk	3.2	3.5
Chenango	3.4	3.7	Hamilton	3.9	3.7	New York City	4.0	4.2
Delaware	3.6	4.0	Jefferson	4.1	4.9	Bronx	5.3	5.6
Schuyler	3.5	3.6	Lewis	3.7	4.2	Kings	4.1	4.3
Steuben	3.8	4.0	St. Lawrence	4.2	4.8	New York	3.5	3.7
Tioga	3.4	3.8				Queens	3.5	3.7
Tompkins	3.1	3.5				Richmond	3.9	4.0

Opportunity Occupations... from page 2

Top 10 Opportunity Occupations in New York State

(Ranked by 2018 Employment)

Job Title (SOC code)	2018 Employment	Projected % Job Growth, 2016-26	Median Annual Wage	Typical Education Needed for Entry
All Occupations	9,385,620	+12.0%	\$46,010	
Total, Opportunity Occupations	669,900	+17.5%	\$59,960	
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other (41-3099)	70,340	+16.3%	\$66,090	HS or equivalent
Licensed Practical Nurses (29-2061)	46,500	+18.4%	\$49,470	Post-secondary non-degree award
Computer User Support Specialists (15-1151)	45,190	+15.1%	\$56,980	Some college, no degree
Electricians (47-2111)	42,450	+13.1%	\$72,220	HS or equivalent
Self-Enrichment Education Teachers (25-3021)	31,840	+23.3%	\$46,320	HS or equivalent
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (47-2152)	29,120	+20.5%	\$68,280	HS or equivalent
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers (47-1011)	28,370	+12.1%	\$83,090	HS or equivalent
Paralegals and Legal Assistants (23-2011)	25,500	+16.0%	\$55,350	Associate degree
First-Line Supervisors of Personal Service Workers (39-1021)	21,600	+21.4%	\$46,090	HS or equivalent
Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity (53-3021)	19,630	+14.9%	\$69,520	HS or equivalent

Source: New York State Department of Labor

titles on the statewide list of “opportunity occupations” have “very favorable” job prospects, a measure based on both their projected 2016-26 job growth and expected number of annual openings.

The 10 largest “opportunity occupations” in New York State fall across seven different job groupings. The most commonly represented group is Construction and Extraction Occupations with three job titles.

For Further Reading

“Opportunity occupations” combine fast growth and good pay. To learn more about the projected growth rates and annual wages for 700 job titles in New York State, visit <https://labor.ny.gov/stats/lproj.shtml>.

by Kevin Jack

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Regional Analysts' Corner

CAPITAL

Kevin Alexander — 518-242-8245

Over the past year, the private sector job count in the Capital Region fell by 100 to 450,900 in October 2019. Job gains were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (+800), professional and business services (+800) and educational and health services (+300). Losses were centered in leisure and hospitality (-1,100) and trade, transportation and utilities (-1,000).

CENTRAL NY

Karen Knapik-Scalzo — 315-479-3391

Private sector jobs in the Syracuse metro area rose over the year by 5,000, or 1.9 percent, to 271,900 in October 2019. Growth was centered in professional and business services (+2,600), leisure and hospitality (+2,300), educational and health services (+500), manufacturing (+300) and natural resources, mining and construction (+300). The largest employment loss occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (-600).

FINGER LAKES

Tammy Marino — 585-258-8870

For the 12-month period ending October 2019, the private sector job count in the Rochester metro area rose by 4,300, or 0.9 percent, to 469,000. Job gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+2,300), natural resources, mining and construction (+2,100) and educational and health services (+800). Employment losses were centered in manufacturing (-1,200).

HUDSON VALLEY

John Nelson — 914-997-8798

For the year ending October 2019, private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased by 10,300, or 1.3 percent, to 823,600. Job gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+5,400), educational and health services (+5,100) and natural resources, mining and construction (+3,700). Employment losses were largest in trade, transportation and utilities (-3,000) and other services (-1,100).

LONG ISLAND

Shital Patel — 516-934-8533

The private sector job count on Long Island increased over the past year by 14,700, or 1.3 percent, to 1,165,300 in October 2019. Job gains were focused in educational and health services (+11,200), natural resources, mining and construction (+5,900) and leisure and hospitality (+3,200). Losses were largest in professional and business services (-3,300) and other services (-2,700).

MOHAWK VALLEY

Brion Acton — 315-793-2282

For the 12-month period ending October 2019, the private sector job count in the Mohawk Valley rose by 300, or 0.2 percent, to 149,100. Job gains were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (+300) and professional and business services (+300). Losses were centered in manufacturing (-400).

NEW YORK CITY

Elena Volovelsky — 718-613-3971

Private sector jobs in New York City rose over the year by 55,100, or 1.4 percent, to 4,071,300 in October 2019. Gains were greatest in educational and health services (+37,500), professional and business services (+22,600), trade, transportation and utilities (+8,400) and other services (+2,200). Losses were largest in natural resources, mining and construction (-6,200), financial activities (-5,700) and leisure and hospitality (-2,300).

SOUTHERN TIER

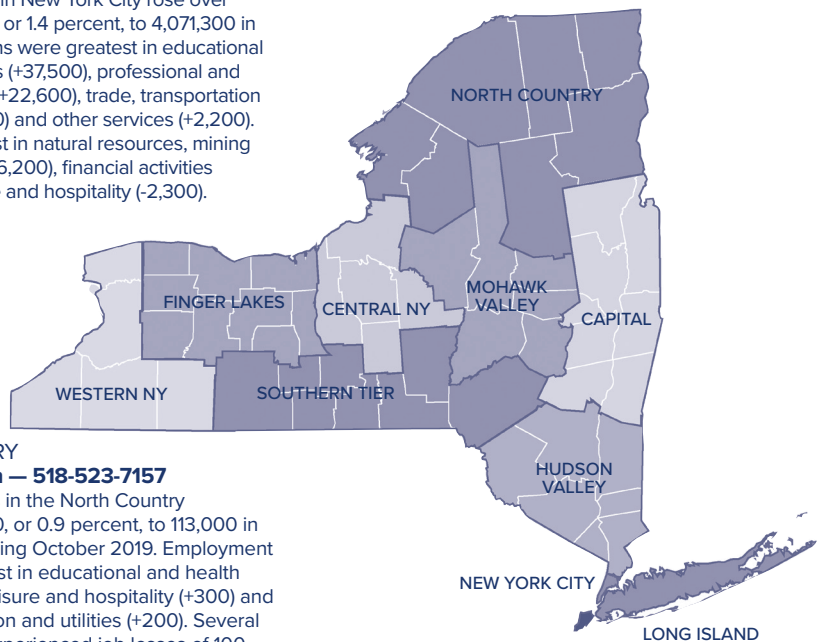
Christian Harris — 607-741-4480

For the year ending October 2019, the private sector job count in the Southern Tier rose by 1,600, or 0.7 percent, to 233,200. Gains were greatest in educational and health services (+1,900), leisure and hospitality (+400) and other services (+200). Losses were centered in trade, transportation and utilities (-500), manufacturing (-200) and natural resources, mining and construction (-200).

WESTERN NY

Timothy Glass — 716-851-2742

Over the past year, the private sector job count in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area rose by 2,300, or 0.5 percent, to 484,000 in October 2019. Gains were greatest in educational and health services (+2,600), trade, transportation and utilities (+2,000), financial activities (+900) and leisure and hospitality (+700). Losses were centered in manufacturing (-3,600) and professional and business services (-700).



NORTH COUNTRY

Anthony Hayden — 518-523-7157

Private sector jobs in the North Country increased by 1,000, or 0.9 percent, to 113,000 in the 12 months ending October 2019. Employment gains were greatest in educational and health services (+500), leisure and hospitality (+300) and trade, transportation and utilities (+200). Several industry sectors experienced job losses of 100 over the past year.