

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING NORTH COUNTRY

October 2024

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## North Country Jobs

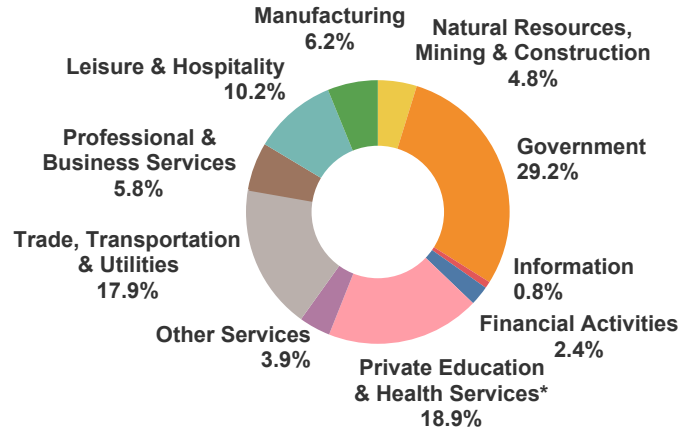
➤ In October 2024, there were 111,500 private sector jobs and 157,400 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

➤ Four industry sectors make up 76% of total nonfarm jobs:

Government	45,900
Private Education & Health Services*	29,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	28,100
Leisure & Hospitality	16,100

## The region's most significant industry is Government

Regional Industry Mix, October 2024



## Job Gains

➤ The region gained 600 nonfarm jobs over the past year, with a gain of 1,000 private sector jobs offset by a loss of 400 government jobs.

➤ 1,000 of the recent job gains occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, Private Education & Health Services, and Leisure & Hospitality.

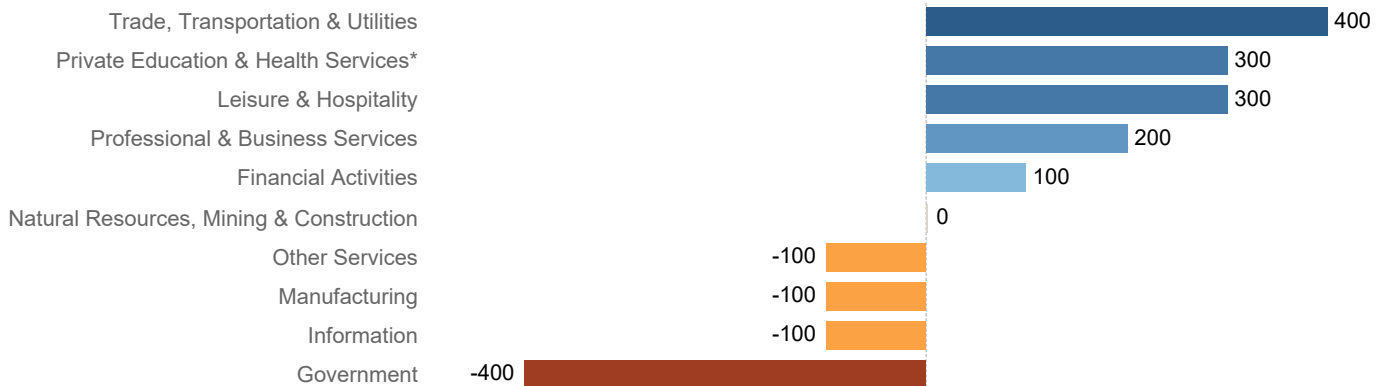
## Private sector employment increased by 0.9% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, October 2024

	October 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	157,400	600	0.4%
Total Private	111,500	1,000	0.9%
Government	45,900	-400	-0.9%

## Most job gains have occurred in Trade, Transportation & Utilities

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, October 2024



\*Private education & health services is in the private sector. Government includes public education and public health services.

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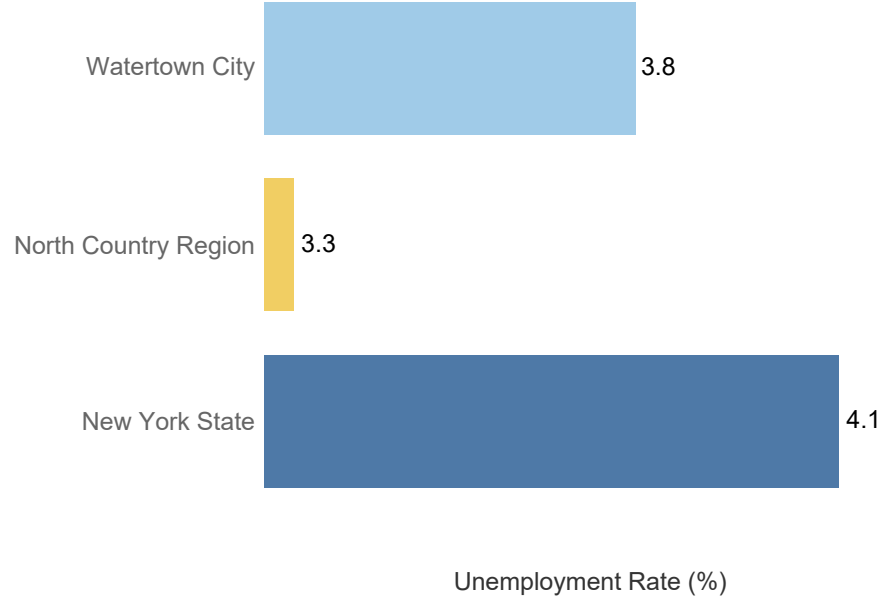
## Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate in the North Country decreased over the past year

Unemployment Rate by Place, October 2024

➤ All of the largest labor force areas in the North Country Region had unemployment rates below the State's unemployment rate in October 2024.

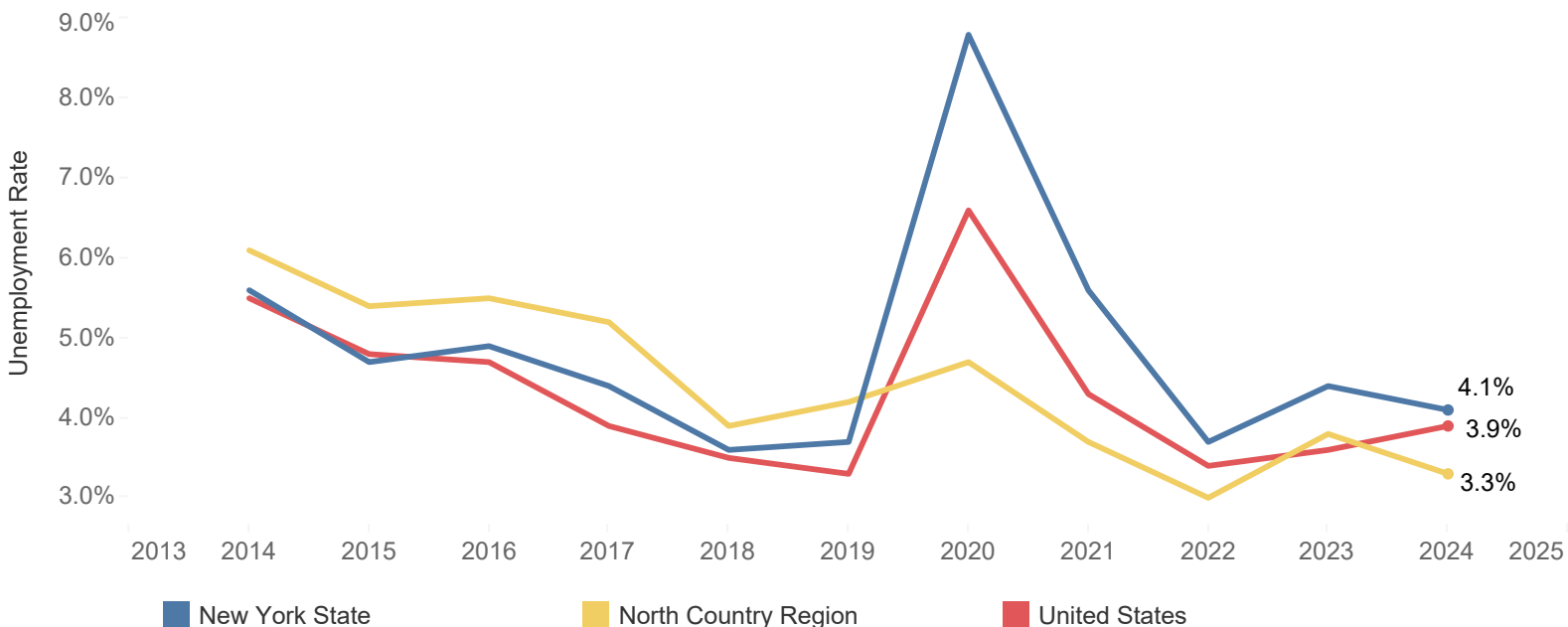
➤ The region's unemployment rate (3.3%) is less than the State's unemployment rate (4.1%) by 0.8 percentage points.



## Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted), 2014-2024

North Country, New York State, United States

October Unemployment Rates, 2014 to 2024



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### Employment

#### North Country employment decreased over the past year

Regional and Metro Area Labor Force Data

	Employment		Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	October 2023	October 2024	October 2023	October 2024	October 2023	October 2024
North Country Region	168,000	166,200	6,600	5,700	3.8%	3.3%
Clinton County	34,900	34,100	1,200	1,100	3.4%	3.1%
Essex County	16,200	16,200	600	500	3.3%	2.7%
Franklin County	18,500	18,400	700	600	3.7%	3.0%
Hamilton County	2,100	2,100	100	100	3.6%	3.0%
Jefferson County	42,500	41,900	1,800	1,600	4.0%	3.6%
Lewis County	11,500	11,800	400	400	3.5%	3.1%
St. Lawrence County	42,300	41,900	1,800	1,600	4.2%	3.6%
Watertown-Fort Drum Metro Area	42,500	41,900	1,800	1,600	4.0%	3.6%
Watertown City	10,000	9,900	500	400	4.3%	3.8%
New York State	9,310,000	9,282,000	427,000	397,900	4.4%	4.1%
United States	161,676,000	161,938,000	6,098,000	6,631,000	3.6%	3.9%

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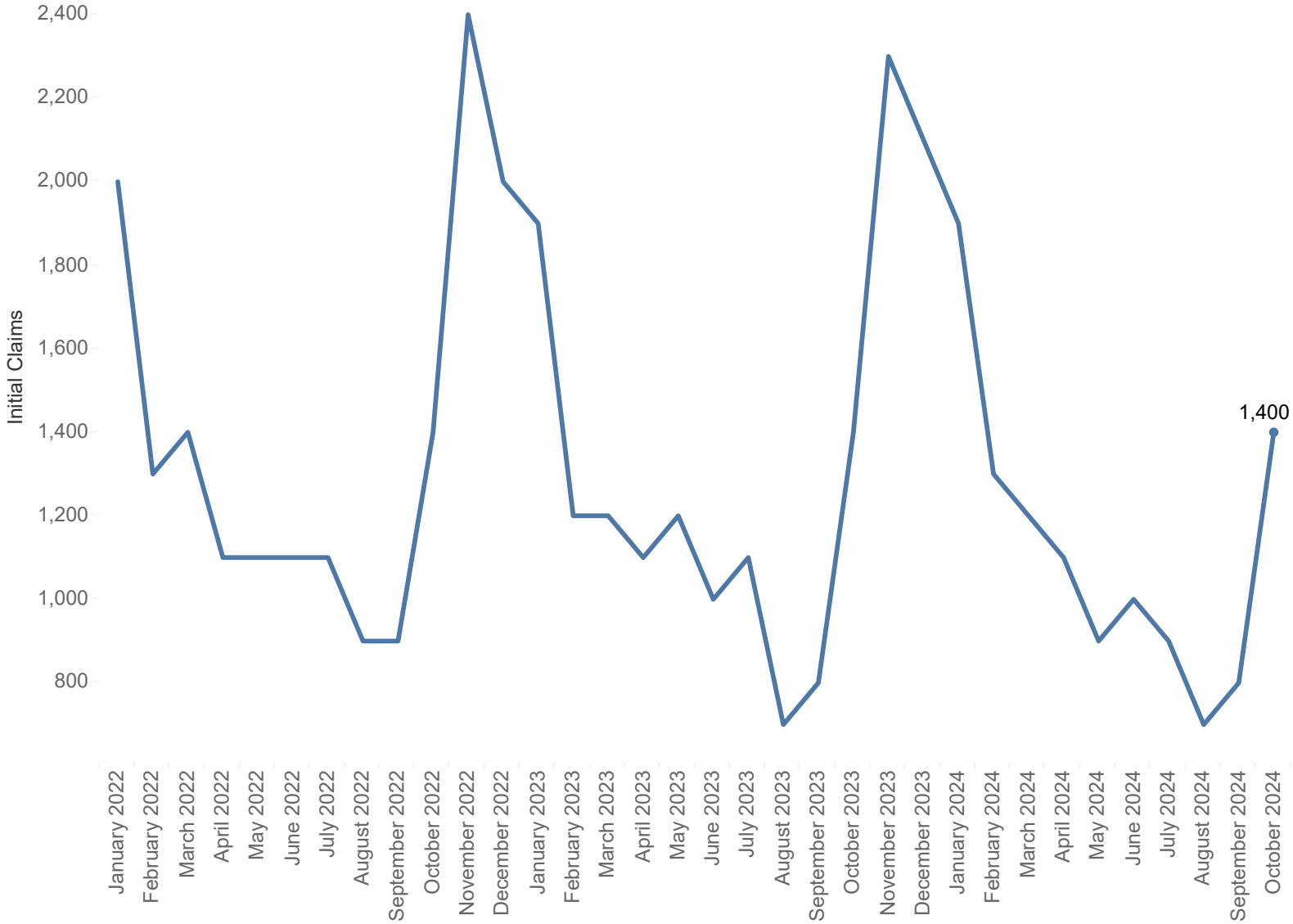
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### Initial claims increased in October 2024

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region



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### Unemployment Insurance

#### Initial claims increased in Clinton County over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region

County	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Clinton	300	200	200	100	50.0%
Essex	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Franklin	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Hamilton	0	-	0	0	
Jefferson	400	200	500	-100	-20.0%
Lewis	100	100	100	0	0.0%
St. Lawrence	300	200	300	0	0.0%
North Country	1,400	800	1,400	0	0.0%
New York State	54,600	50,100	52,600	2,000	3.8%

#### Initial claims increased in government as well as trade, transportation, and utilities over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region

Industry	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	
Government	200	100	100	100	100.0%
Information	-	-	-		
Leisure & Hospitality	300	100	400	-100	-25.0%
Manufacturing	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	200	200	300	-100	-33.3%
Other Services	0	0	0	0	
Private Education & Health Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	100	100	100	100.0%
Unclassified	0	100	100	-100	-100.0%

Note: Initial claims data include Regular Unemployment Insurance Programs (UI, UCFE, UCS and workshare programs). Details may not add to total due to rounding. A "-" indicates data are not releasable due to confidentiality requirements.

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### Unemployment Insurance

**The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries decreased or remained constant in all counties over the year**

UI Beneficiaries by County, North Country Region, All Programs\*

County	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	Net Change	% Change
Clinton	400	300	400	0	0.0%
Essex	100	100	200	-100	-50.0%
Franklin	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Hamilton					
Jefferson	600	600	700	-100	-14.3%
Lewis	100	100	200	-100	-50.0%
St. Lawrence	500	500	500	0	0.0%
North Country	2,000	1,800	2,200	-200	-9.1%
New York State	143,000	164,400	155,600	-12,600	-8.1%

\*Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance Programs (UI, UCFE, UCS and workshare programs)  
Details may not add to total due to rounding

**The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries decreased or remained constant in all industries over the year**

UI Beneficiaries by Industry, North Country Region, All Programs\*

Industry	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities			100		
Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Information					
Leisure & Hospitality	300	200	400	-100	-25.0%
Manufacturing	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	300	300	400	-100	-25.0%
Other Services					
Private Education & Health Services	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	300	400	400	-100	-25.0%
Unclassified					
North Country	2,000	1,800	2,200	-200	-9.1%

\*Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance  
Details may not add to total due to rounding

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## Demographics

### The North Country's population is decreasing and has become more diverse

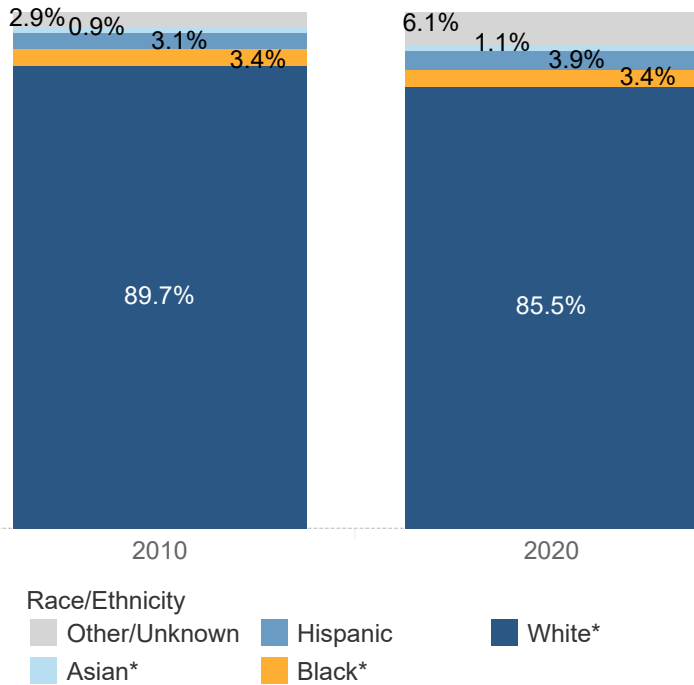
Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

Geography	Population				2010 Population Breakdown				2020 Population Breakdown			
	2010	2020	Net Change	% Change	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic
Clinton	82,128	79,843	-2,285	-2.8%	91.1%	3.6%	1.1%	2.5%	86.7%	3.4%	1.2%	3.6%
Essex	39,370	37,381	-1,989	-5.1%	92.9%	2.5%	0.7%	2.5%	90.2%	1.6%	0.6%	2.6%
Franklin	51,599	47,555	-4,044	-7.8%	82.6%	5.5%	0.4%	2.9%	81.1%	3.5%	0.4%	2.9%
Hamilton	4,836	5,107	271	5.6%	96.4%	0.7%	0.5%	1.1%	93.4%	0.6%	0.2%	2.0%
Jefferson	116,229	116,721	492	0.4%	85.8%	4.7%	1.3%	5.3%	79.5%	5.4%	1.9%	6.8%
Lewis	27,087	26,582	-505	-1.9%	96.8%	0.6%	0.3%	1.3%	93.8%	0.4%	0.2%	1.7%
St. Lawrence	111,944	108,505	-3,439	-3.1%	92.9%	2.0%	1.0%	1.9%	89.0%	2.6%	1.0%	2.6%
North Country	433,193	421,694	-11,499	-2.7%	89.7%	3.4%	0.9%	3.1%	85.5%	3.4%	1.1%	3.9%

\*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population  
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

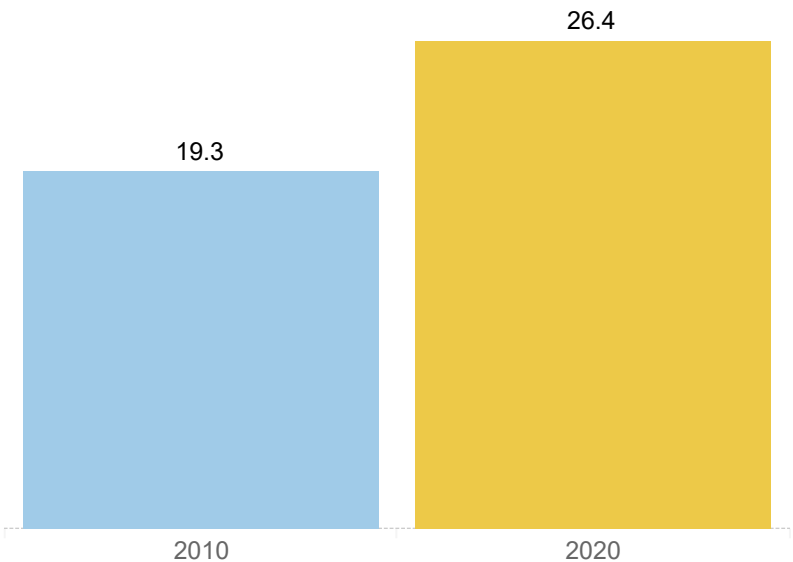
### The North Country has become more diverse

Distribution of North Country Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020



### North Country's Diversity Index increased by 37% from 2010 to 2020

US Census Bureau Diversity Index Scores, 2010 and 2020



\*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population  
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

Source: Population Estimates Program-Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin; July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2020

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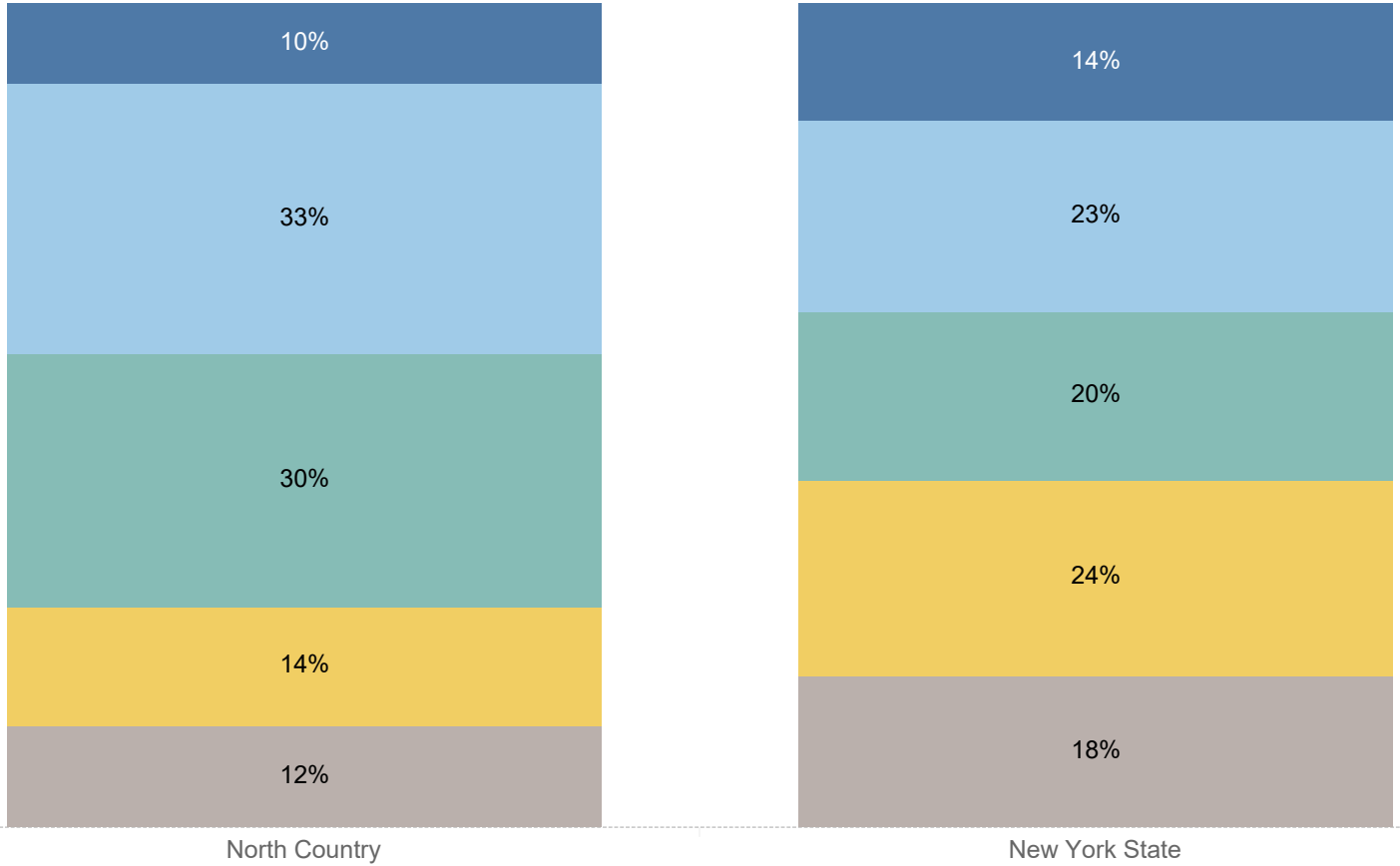
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## On average, educational attainment in the North Country is lower than New York State

Distribution of Population 25 years and over by Educational Attainment, 2023



Source: American Community Survey 2023 One-Year Estimates, Table B15002

- Less Than High School
- High School Diploma
- Some College/Associate's
- Bachelor's Degree
- Higher Than Bachelor's



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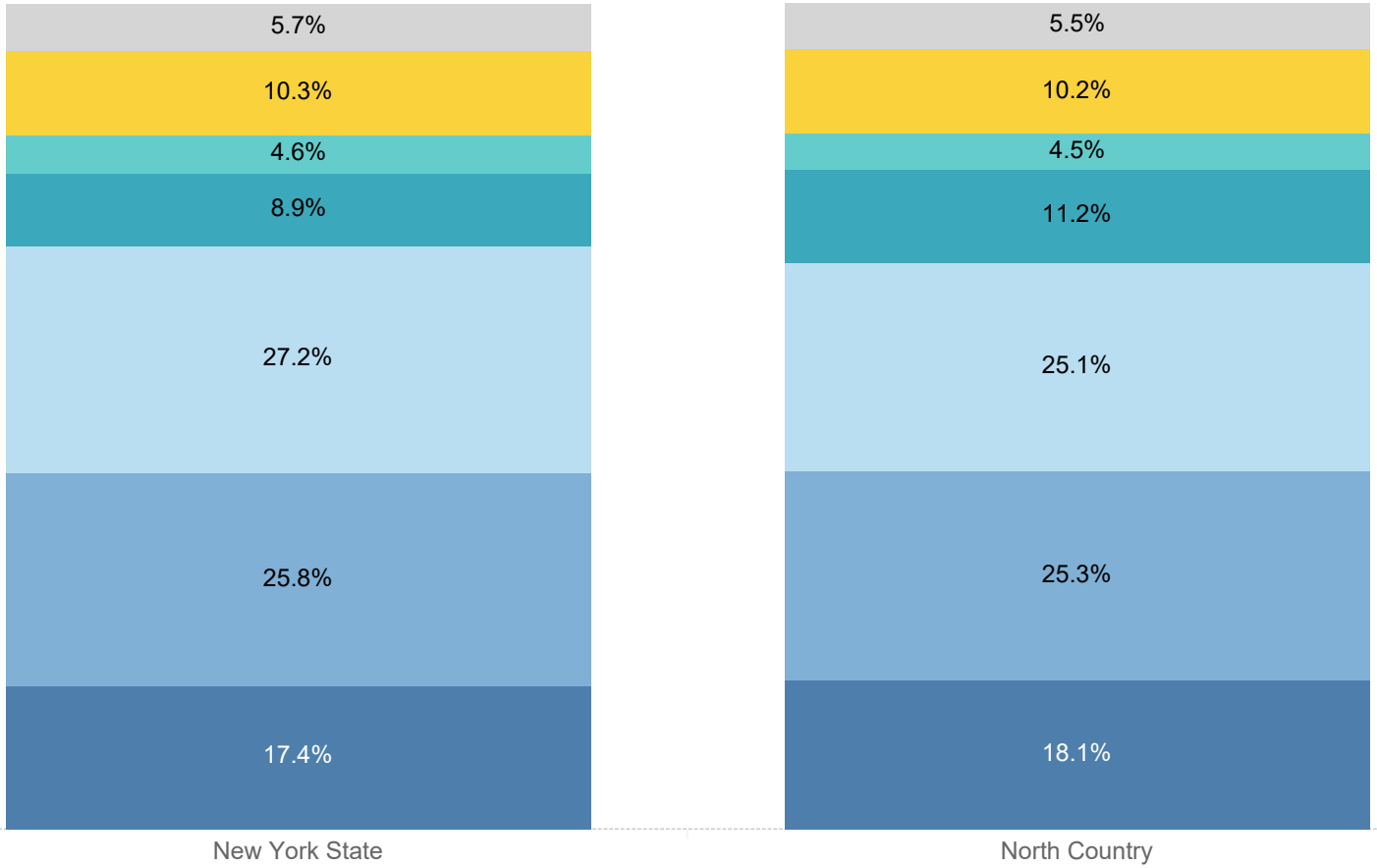
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### The North Country is in line with New York State as a whole

Distribution of Population by Age Group, 2020



Source: Population Estimates Program-Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin; July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2020

- Under 5 Years
- 5 to 13 Years
- 14 to 17 Years
- 18 to 24 Years
- 25 to 44 Years
- 45 to 64 Years
- 65 Years and Over

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### Approximately half of businesses in the North Country have fewer than 5 employees

Number of Firms and Average Monthly Employment, Private Employment

Number of Employees	Firms				Employment			
	Number		% of Total		Number		% of Total	
	2019	2024	2019	2024	2019	2024	2019	2024
1-4	3,450	3,390	53.0%	52.6%	7,100	6,940	6.9%	6.8%
5-9	1,330	1,310	20.4%	20.3%	8,760	8,710	8.5%	8.6%
10-19	830	900	12.7%	14.0%	11,280	12,180	11.0%	12.0%
20-49	570	510	8.8%	7.9%	16,990	15,530	16.5%	15.3%
50-99	170	170	2.6%	2.6%	11,570	11,900	11.2%	11.7%
100-249	100	100	1.5%	1.6%	14,800	14,700	14.4%	14.5%
250-499	40	30	0.6%	0.5%	12,200	9,860	11.9%	9.7%
500-999	10	20	0.2%	0.3%	7,930	9,980	7.7%	9.8%
1000+	10	10	0.2%	0.2%	12,260	11,760	11.9%	11.6%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2019 Q1 and 2024 Q1

\*Size class 1-4 includes firms that have average employment that is >0 but <1

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## Regional Labor Market Developments

### *Good news*

River Trail Beerworks, a sister brewery of Lake Placid Pub & Brewery and Big Slide Brewery and Public House, opened in October 2024 in Saranac Lake (Essex County). Forty people have been hired to run the new brewery and restaurant.

The Children's Home of Jefferson County, the area's long-established non-profit organization, announced the expansion of its mental health services to Lewis County. The new clinic opened this summer in Lowville, offering comprehensive mental health services to local residents of all ages.

### *Bad news*

On October 3, 2024, Walgreens confirmed the upcoming permanent closure of its store in Watertown (Jefferson County). According to various documents, five of the total staff of 15 will be affected by the layoff with the company stating economic reasons as the cause. Walgreens, the second-largest pharmacy store chain in the United States, is planning to close 500 stores in its current fiscal year out of a total of nearly 1,200 locations to be terminated.

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## North Country Region

*Includes Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and Saint Lawrence counties*

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