

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



## North Country Jobs

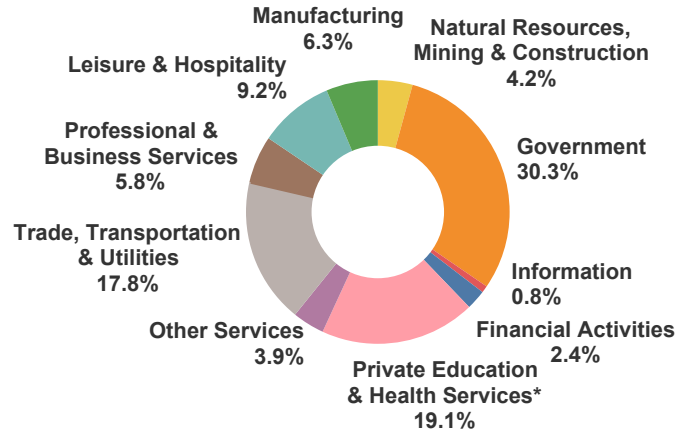
➤ In April 2024, there were 106,700 private sector jobs and 153,100 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

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

Government	46,400
Private Education & Health Services*	29,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	27,300
Leisure & Hospitality	14,100

## The region's most significant industry is Government

Regional Industry Mix, April 2024



## Job Gains

➤ The region gained 2,600 nonfarm jobs over the past year, including 2,000 private sector jobs and 600 government jobs.

➤ 1,300 of the recent job gains occurred in Private Education and Health Services & Government.

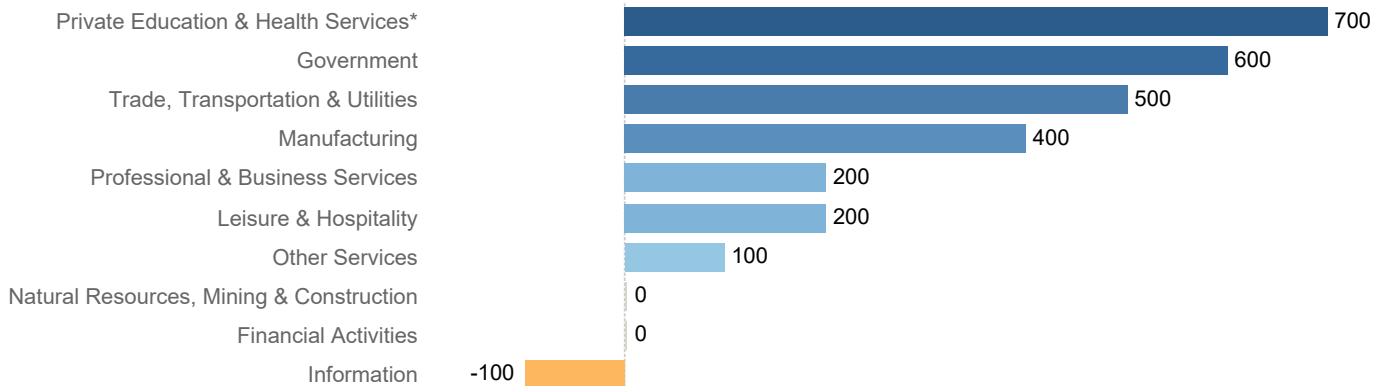
## Private sector employment increased by 1.9% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, April 2024

	April 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	153,100	2,600	1.7%
Total Private	106,700	2,000	1.9%
Government	46,400	600	1.3%

## Most job gains have occurred in Private Education & Health Services\*

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, April 2024



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

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



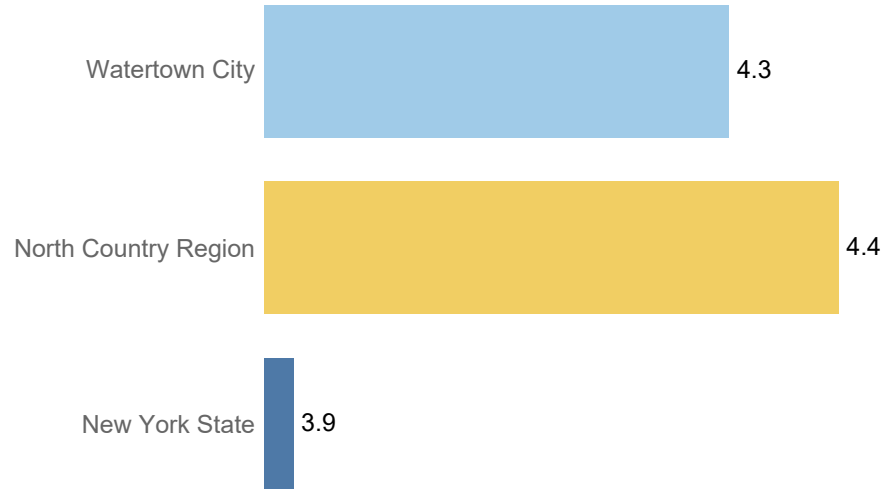
## Unemployment Rate

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

Unemployment Rate by Place, April 2024

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

➤ The region's unemployment rate (4.4%) exceeds the State's unemployment rate (3.9%) by 0.5 percentage points.

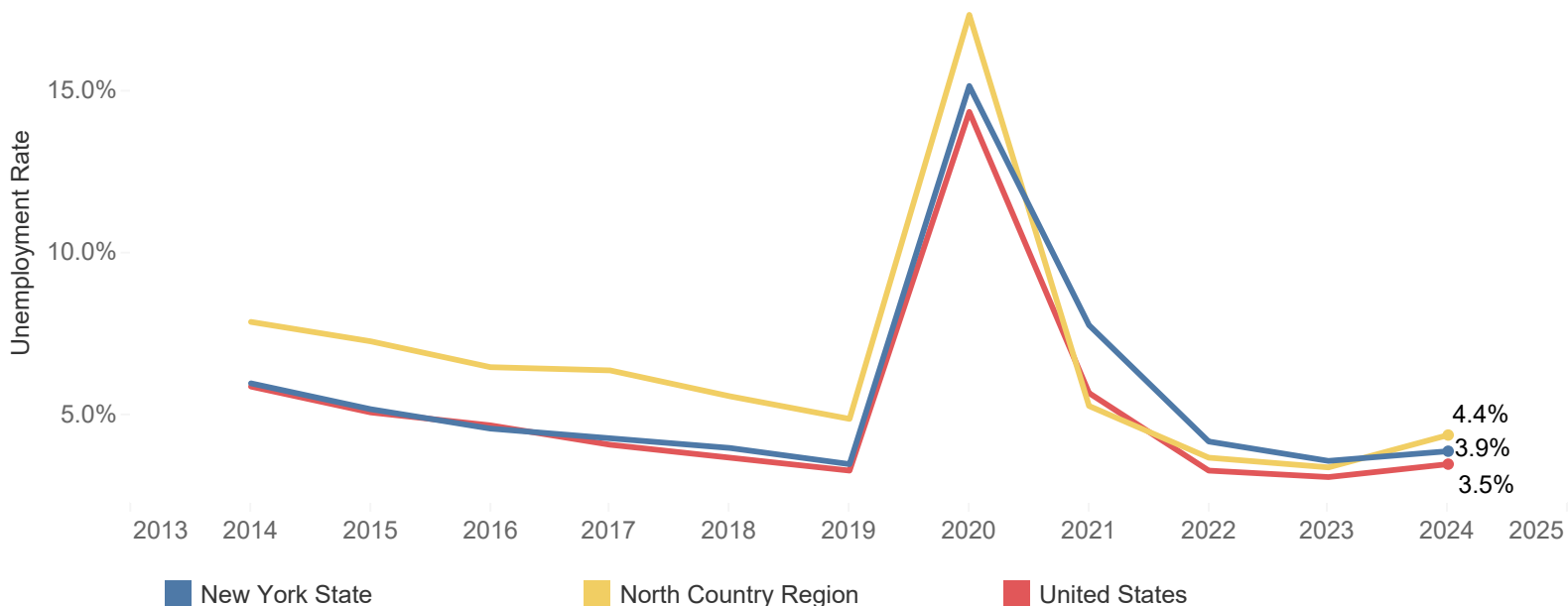


Unemployment Rate (%)

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

North Country, New York State, United States

### April Unemployment Rates, 2014 to 2024



# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



### Employment

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

Regional and Metro Area Labor Force Data

	Employment		Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	April 2023	April 2024	April 2023	April 2024	April 2023	April 2024
North Country Region	164,500	161,800	5,900	7,500	3.4%	4.4%
Clinton County	34,700	33,700	1,000	1,300	2.9%	3.8%
Essex County	15,300	15,000	600	700	3.6%	4.2%
Franklin County	18,200	17,700	600	800	3.2%	4.1%
Hamilton County	1,900	1,900	100	100	5.7%	6.8%
Jefferson County	41,400	41,300	1,600	2,100	3.6%	4.8%
Lewis County	11,100	11,100	500	600	4.0%	4.9%
St. Lawrence County	41,900	41,100	1,500	1,900	3.5%	4.5%
Watertown-Fort Drum Metro Area	41,400	41,300	1,600	2,100	3.6%	4.8%
Watertown City	9,800	9,800	400	400	3.5%	4.3%
New York State	9,302,400	9,283,100	347,900	379,300	3.6%	3.9%
United States	161,075,000	161,590,000	5,146,000	5,894,000	3.1%	3.5%

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING NORTH COUNTRY

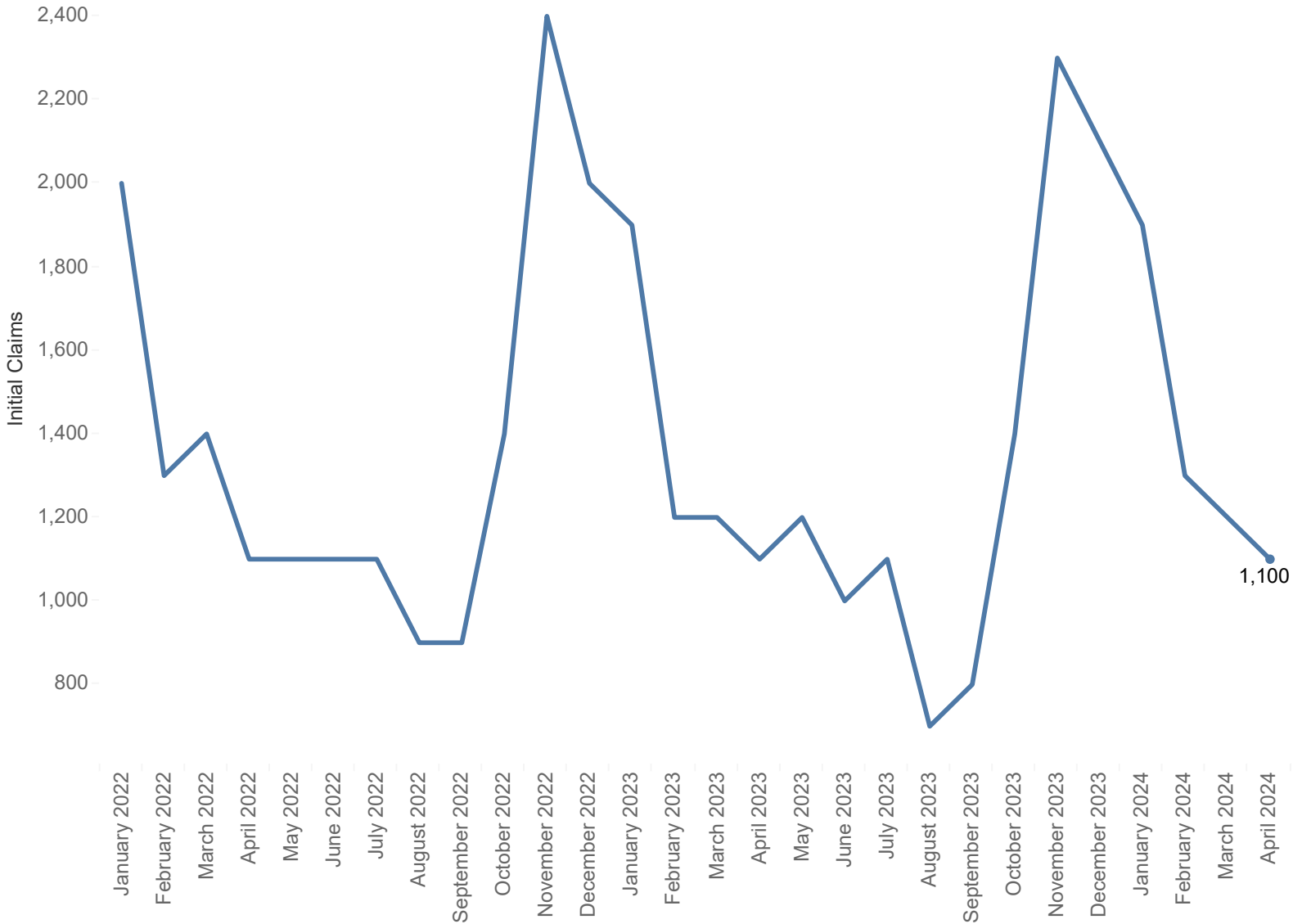
April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



## Initial claims decreased in April 2024

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region



# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



### Unemployment Insurance

#### Initial claims increased in St. Lawrence County over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region

County	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Clinton	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Essex	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Franklin	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	
Jefferson	400	300	400	0	0.0%
Lewis	100	100	100	0	0.0%
St. Lawrence	300	300	200	100	50.0%
North Country	1,100	1,200	1,100	0	0.0%
New York State	66,200	56,700	69,800	-3,600	-5.2%

#### Initial claims increased in natural resources, mining, & construction over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region

Industry	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	
Government	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Information	-	-	-		
Leisure & Hospitality	200	300	200	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	300	400	200	100	50.0%
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	200	0	0.0%
Unclassified	100	100	100	0	0.0%

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.



# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



### Unemployment Insurance

**The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries decreased in Essex County over the year**

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

County	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	Net Change	% Change
Clinton	700	800	700	0	0.0%
Essex	300	400	400	-100	-25.0%
Franklin	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Hamilton	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Jefferson	1,400	1,400	1,200	200	16.7%
Lewis	400	500	400	0	0.0%
St. Lawrence	1,000	1,000	900	100	11.1%
North Country	4,400	4,500	4,000	400	10.0%
New York State	188,700	187,300	172,800	15,900	9.2%

\*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 increased the most in natural resources, mining, & construction over the year**

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

Industry	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Government	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Information					
Leisure & Hospitality	800	800	700	100	14.3%
Manufacturing	400	400	300	100	33.3%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,400	1,500	1,200	200	16.7%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	600	600	0	0.0%
Unclassified		100			
North Country	4,400	4,500	4,000	400	10.0%

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

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



### Unemployment Insurance

#### The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased

UI Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity, North Country Region, All Programs

	April 2024	April 2023	April 2024					April 2023				
			White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown
North Country	4,400	4,000	89%	2%	1%	2%	6%	89%	2%	1%	2%	6%
Clinton	700	700	86%	3%	1%	3%	7%	87%	3%	1%	3%	6%
Essex	300	400	94%				6%	95%			3%	3%
Franklin	400	400	83%			3%	15%	82%			3%	16%
Hamilton	100	100	100%					100%				
Jefferson	1,400	1,200	88%	3%	1%	4%	5%	89%	3%	1%	3%	4%
Lewis	400	400	98%				2%	95%				5%
St. Lawrence	1,000	900	91%	1%		2%	6%	89%	1%	1%	2%	7%

Note: Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance Programs (UI, UCFE, UCS and workshare programs). Race/ethnicity is self-reported.

Unknown includes American Indian, Hawaiian Native and Unknown

\*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population

Details may not add to total due to rounding

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



## Demographics

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

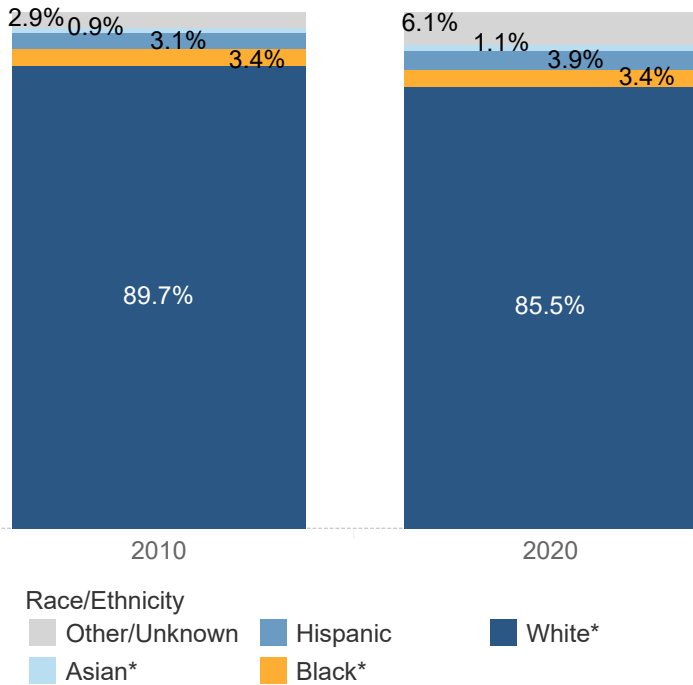
Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

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

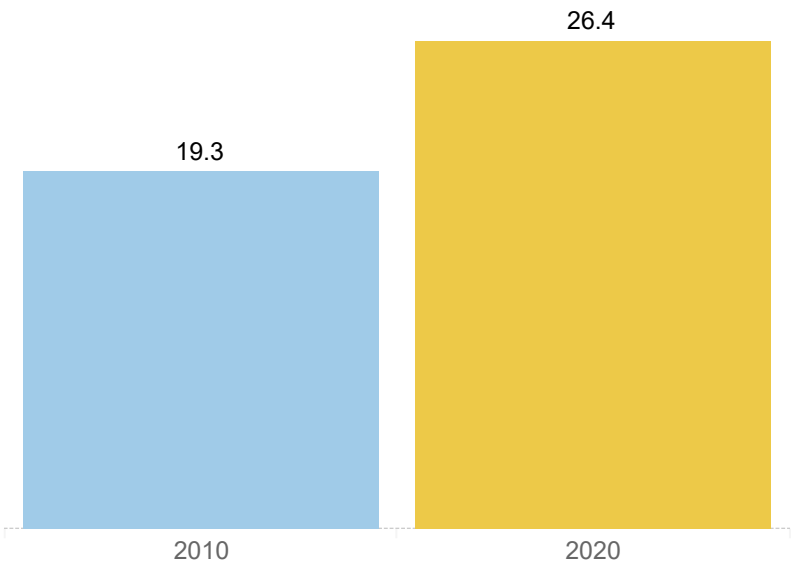
### The North Country has become more diverse

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



# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

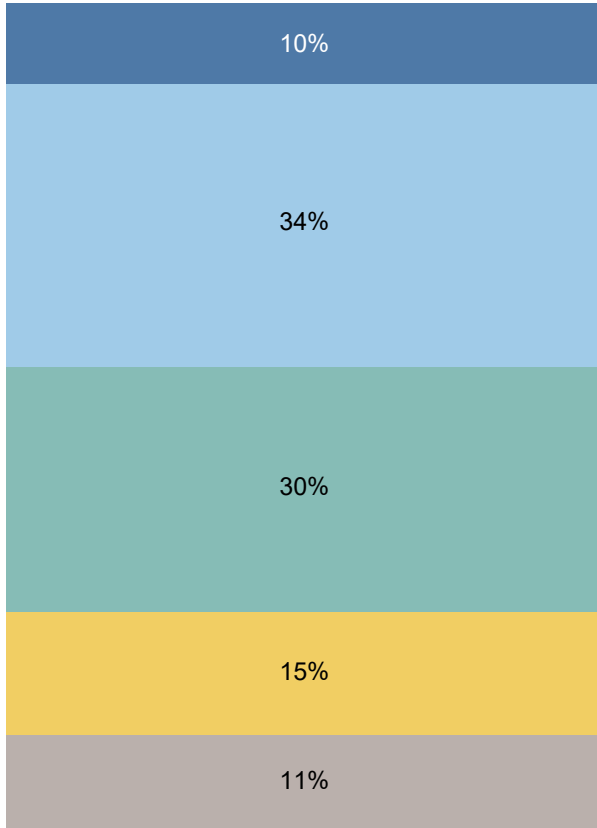
April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL

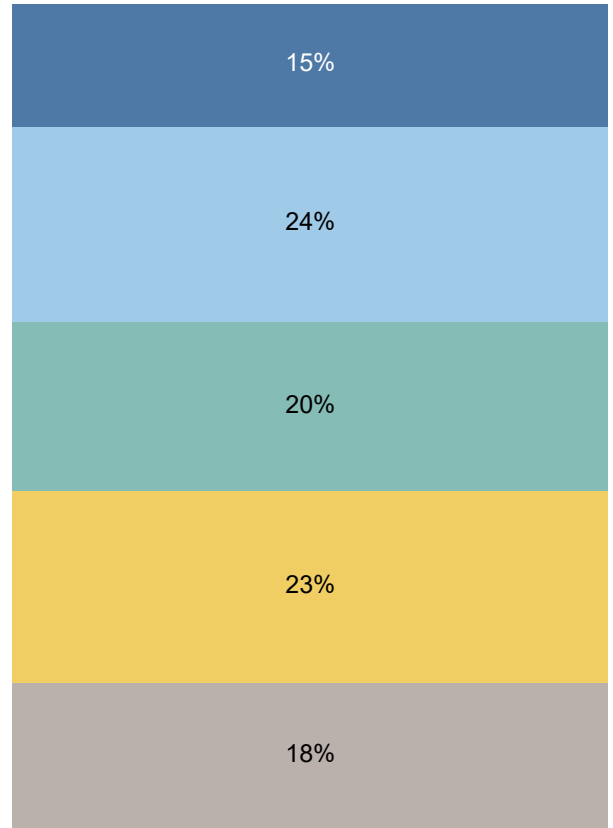


### On average, educational attainment in the North Country is lower than New York State

Distribution of Population 25 years and over by Educational Attainment, 2022



North Country



New York State

Source: American Community Survey 2022 One-Year Estimates, Table B15002

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

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

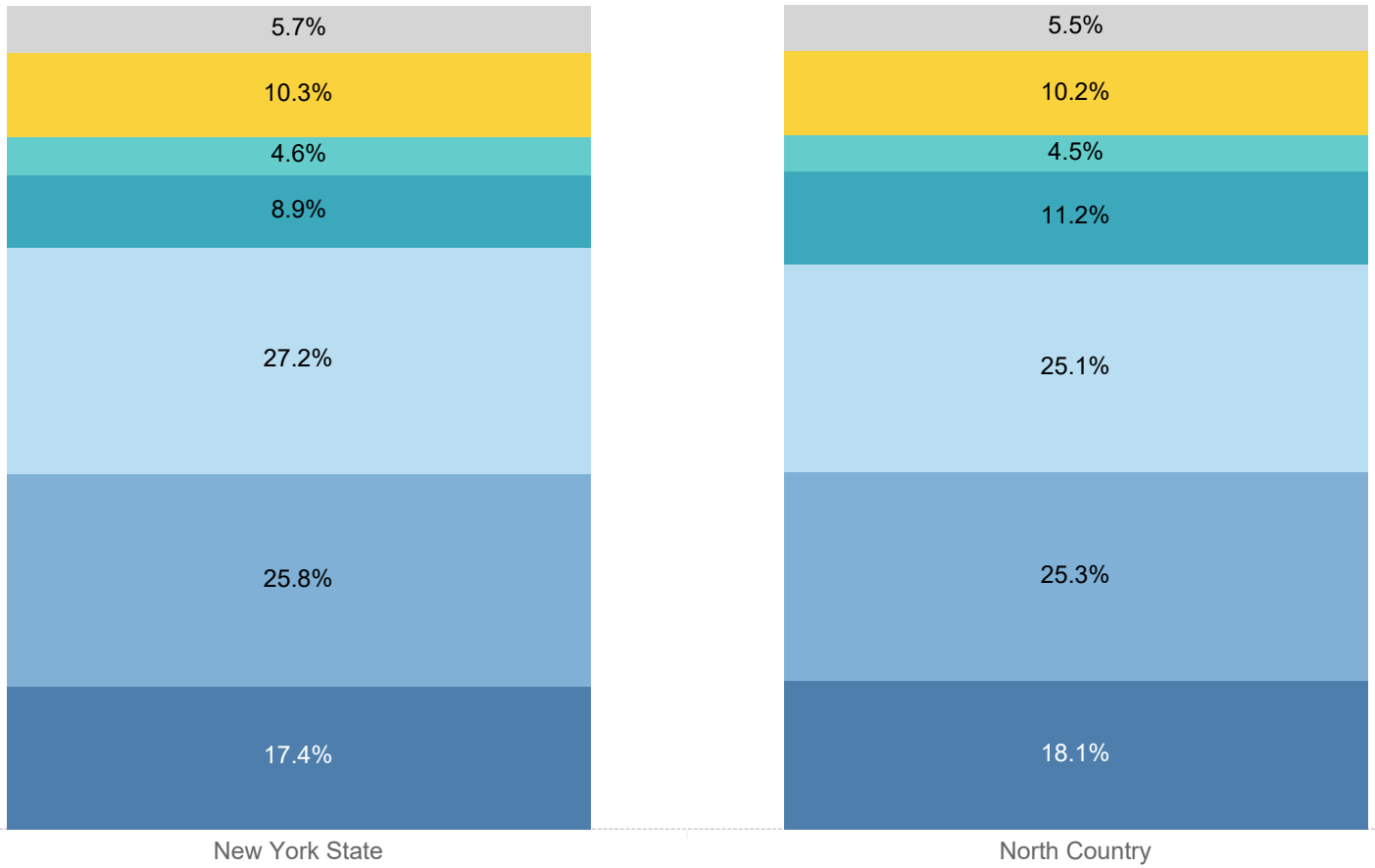
April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



### 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

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



### Nearly 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	
	2018	2023	2018	2023	2018	2023	2018	2023
1-4*	3,520	3,410	49.9%	49.6%	7,420	7,060	6.7%	6.5%
5-9	1,510	1,470	21.4%	21.4%	9,960	9,610	8.9%	8.8%
10-19	980	1,010	13.9%	14.7%	13,190	13,730	11.8%	12.6%
20-49	670	640	9.5%	9.3%	19,790	18,760	17.7%	17.2%
50-99	190	200	2.7%	2.9%	13,110	13,630	11.8%	12.5%
100-249	110	100	1.6%	1.5%	15,500	14,830	13.9%	13.6%
250-499	40	30	0.6%	0.4%	12,110	10,650	10.9%	9.7%
500-999	20	10	0.3%	0.1%	10,210	8,600	9.2%	7.9%
1000+	10	10	0.1%	0.1%	10,220	12,450	9.2%	11.4%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2018 Q3 and 2023 Q3

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

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



## Regional Labor Market Developments

### *Good news*

Dick's Sporting Goods officials cut the ribbon on their new store in the Town Center Plaza in Watertown (Jefferson County). The Town Center storefront replaces a 20-year-old Dick's site formerly found at the Salmon Run Mall.

Jersey Mike's Subs, a sandwich chain headquartered in Manasquan, New Jersey, with about 2,500 locations throughout the U.S., opened its new location in Plattsburgh (Clinton County). The company has hired nearly 40 employees for the new shop.

Confluent Energies Inc. (CEI) plans to invest around \$60 million to build the first phase of a 10-acre hydroponic growing facility in Massena (St. Lawrence County) to produce lettuce and other leafy green vegetables year-round. CEI has entered into a sales and marketing agreement with national fresh produce distributor D'Arrigo Brothers of California to deliver their product throughout the North Country region in New York State and other marketplaces on the East Coast. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

A primary care health center is set to open in the summer of 2024 in Lake Placid (Essex County), pending approval from state and federal health agencies. The center operator, Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN), will create six new jobs, with opportunities for more jobs by the end of 2024. The health center is currently recruiting physicians, internists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

**Update:** Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority's Board of Directors signed a deal with C&S Companies to provide engineering and design services for the 15,000-square-foot childcare facility in Ogdensburg (St. Lawrence County). The design phase of the \$4.7 million project is estimated to be completed by late fall of 2024, and the construction is anticipated to start in early spring 2025. When finished, the center will have 125 childcare slots, with 30 to 40 employees.

According to Advocate Drum's 2023 regional economic impact report, Fort Drum's contribution to the North Country region's economy has amounted to about \$2.5 billion. This level represents the highest in more than a decade and is a nearly 19% increase from the previous fiscal year. Advocate Drum states Fort Drum supported 24,238 jobs in 2023, nearly 21.4% of the region's wage earners in the region, making it the largest single-site employer in New York State.

### *Bad news*

The Walgreens pharmacy in Potsdam (St. Lawrence County) closed in April 2024. Drugstores have been following suit amid the upward trend of brick-and-mortar store closings in recent years. Increased competition from Amazon and Walmart, as well as staffing shortages, are among some of the factors contributing to the closures, according to a January 2024 article from Forbes.com.

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING

## NORTH COUNTRY

April 2024

WE ARE YOUR DOL



## North Country Region

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

### **Konstantin Sikhaou**

NYS Department of Labor

North Elba Town Hall, Suite 302-Third Floor

2693 Main Street

Lake Placid, NY 12946

Phone: (518) 523-7157

Fax: (518) 523-8957

Email: [Konstantin.Sikhaou@labor.ny.gov](mailto:Konstantin.Sikhaou@labor.ny.gov)