

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING NORTH COUNTRY

February 2024

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## North Country Jobs

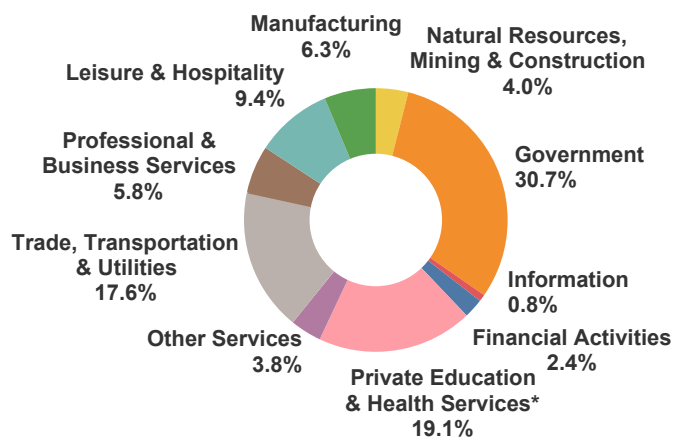
➤ In February 2024, there were 106,400 private sector jobs and 153,500 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

➤ Four industry sectors make up 77% of total nonfarm jobs:

Government	47,100
Private Education & Health Services*	29,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	27,000
Leisure & Hospitality	14,500

## The region's most significant industry is Government

Regional Industry Mix, February 2024



## Job Gains

➤ The region gained 2,300 nonfarm jobs over the past year, including 1,900 private sector jobs and 400 government jobs.

➤ 1,100 of the recent job gains occurred in private education & health services and professional & business services.

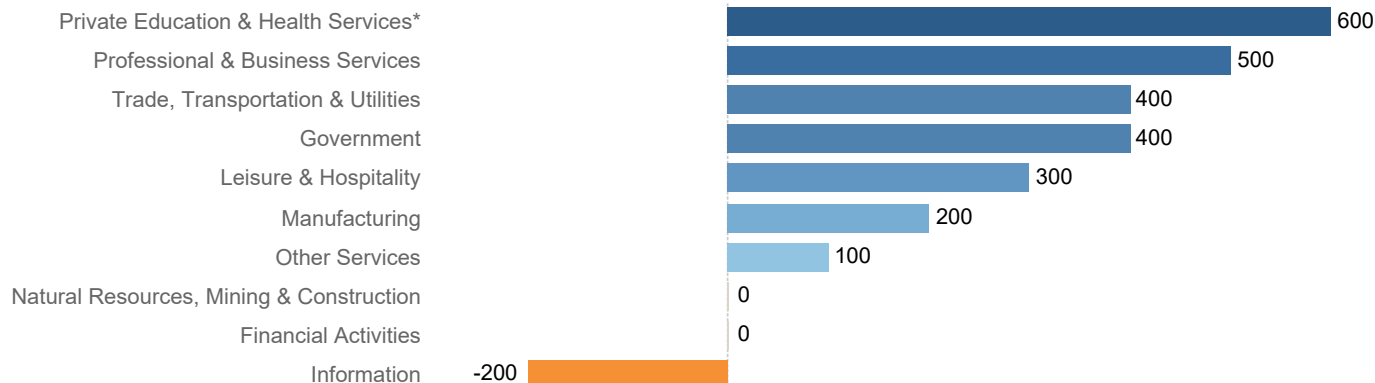
## Private sector employment increased by 1.8% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, February 2024

	February 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	153,500	2,300	1.5%
Total Private	106,400	1,900	1.8%
Government	47,100	400	0.9%

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

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, February 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 increased over the past year

Unemployment Rate by Place, February 2024

» All of the largest labor market areas in the North Country region had unemployment rates above the State's unemployment rate in February 2024.

» The region's unemployment rate (5.5%) exceeds the State's unemployment rate (4.5%) by 1.0 percentage points.

Watertown City

5.4

North Country Region

5.5

New York State

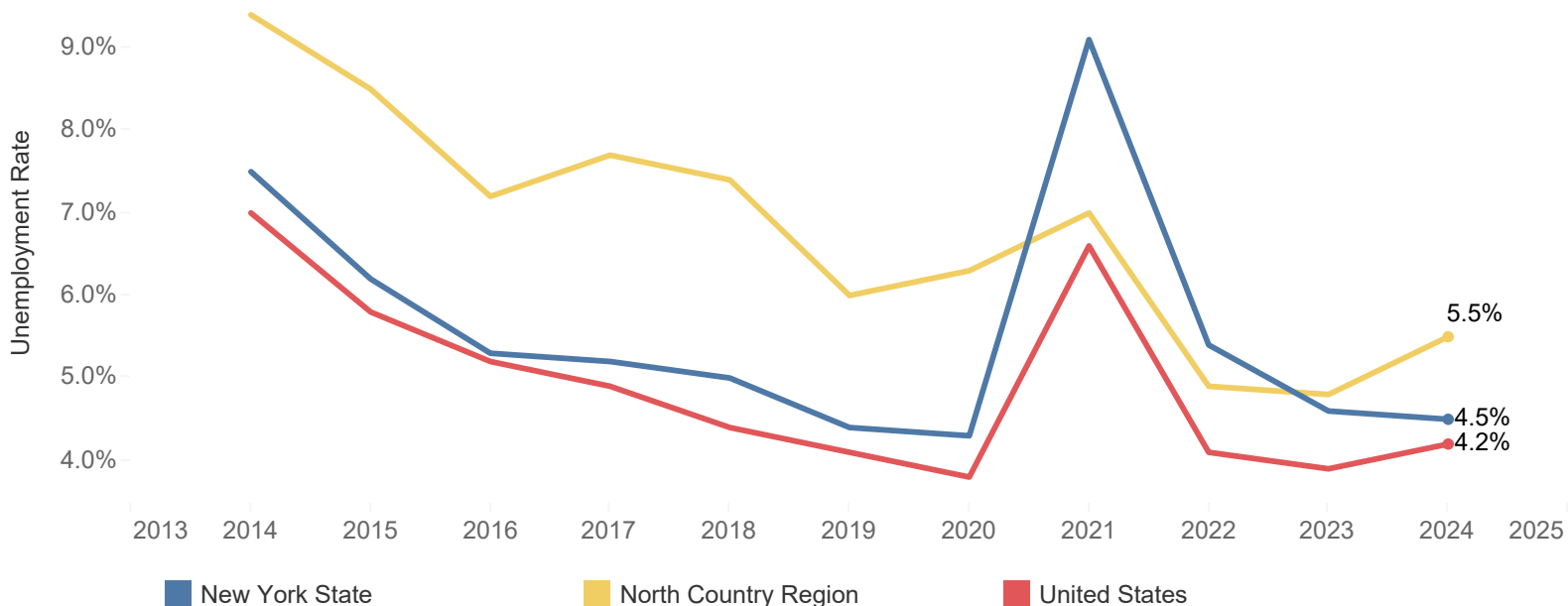
4.5

Unemployment Rate (%)

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

North Country, New York State, United States

### February Unemployment Rates, 2014 to 2024



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## Employment

### North Country employment increased over the past year

Regional and Metro Area Labor Force Data

	Employment		Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	February 2023	February 2024	February 2023	February 2024	February 2023	February 2024
North Country Region	163,800	164,300	8,300	9,500	4.8%	5.5%
Clinton County	34,300	33,900	1,400	1,600	3.9%	4.5%
Essex County	16,200	16,100	800	900	4.9%	5.3%
Franklin County	18,300	18,100	800	900	4.4%	4.9%
Hamilton County	1,900	1,900	100	200	7.1%	7.7%
Jefferson County	40,700	41,500	2,300	2,700	5.4%	6.1%
Lewis County	11,200	11,300	700	800	5.9%	6.8%
St. Lawrence County	41,300	41,400	2,100	2,400	4.8%	5.4%
Watertown-Fort Drum Metro Area	40,700	41,500	2,300	2,700	5.4%	6.1%
Watertown City	9,600	9,800	500	600	4.7%	5.4%
New York State	9,211,100	9,274,400	441,600	441,700	4.6%	4.5%
United States	159,713,000	160,315,000	6,465,000	6,970,000	3.9%	4.2%

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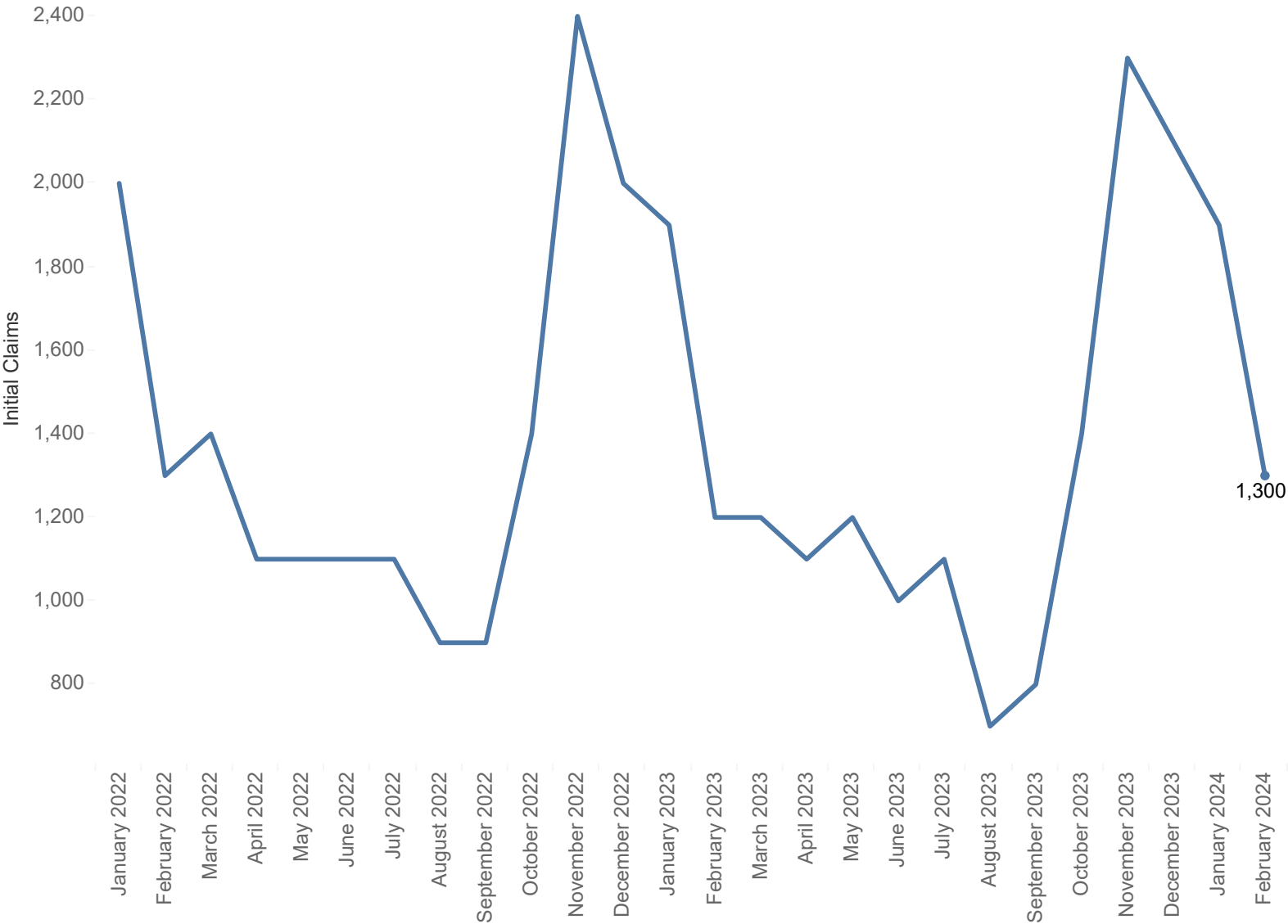
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### Initial claims decreased in February 2024

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region



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## Unemployment Insurance

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

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region

County	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Clinton	200	400	200	0	0.0%
Essex	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Franklin	100	200	100	0	0.0%
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	
Jefferson	400	600	400	0	0.0%
Lewis	100	200	100	0	0.0%
St. Lawrence	400	400	300	100	33.3%
North Country	1,300	1,900	1,200	100	8.3%
New York State	74,100	83,800	69,300	4,800	6.9%

### Initial claims remained constant in all industries over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, North Country Region

Industry	February 2024	January 2024	February 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	200	100	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	400	600	400	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	0	0	0	
Private Education & Health Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	100	200	100	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	200	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.

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## Unemployment Insurance

**The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased the most in Jefferson County over the year**

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

County	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	Net Change	% Change
Clinton	800	800	700	100	14.3%
Essex	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Franklin	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Hamilton	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Jefferson	1,500	1,500	1,300	200	15.4%
Lewis	500	500	400	100	25.0%
St. Lawrence	1,000	1,200	900	100	11.1%
North Country	4,700	4,900	4,200	500	11.9%
New York State	199,900	212,800	174,600	25,300	14.5%

\*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 or remained constant in all industries over the year**

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

Industry	February 2024	January 2024	February 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Government	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Information					
Leisure & Hospitality	800	1,000	800	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,500	1,500	1,400	100	7.1%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	500	500	400	100	25.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	700	700	600	100	16.7%
Unclassified	100				
North Country	4,700	4,900	4,200	500	11.9%

\*Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance

Details may not add to total due to rounding

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### Unemployment Insurance

#### The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased

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

	February 2024	February 2023	February 2024					February 2023				
			White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown
North Country	4,700	4,200	89%	1%	1%	3%	6%	90%	2%	0%	2%	5%
Clinton	800	700	88%	1%	1%	4%	6%	89%	3%	1%	3%	4%
Essex	400	400	94%				6%	95%			3%	3%
Franklin	400	400	81%			2%	17%	81%			3%	16%
Hamilton	100	100	100%					100%				
Jefferson	1,500	1,300	88%	3%	1%	4%	4%	89%	3%	1%	3%	4%
Lewis	500	400	98%				2%	93%			2%	4%
St. Lawrence	1,000	900	90%	1%	1%	2%	6%	91%	1%	1%	2%	4%

*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*

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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%

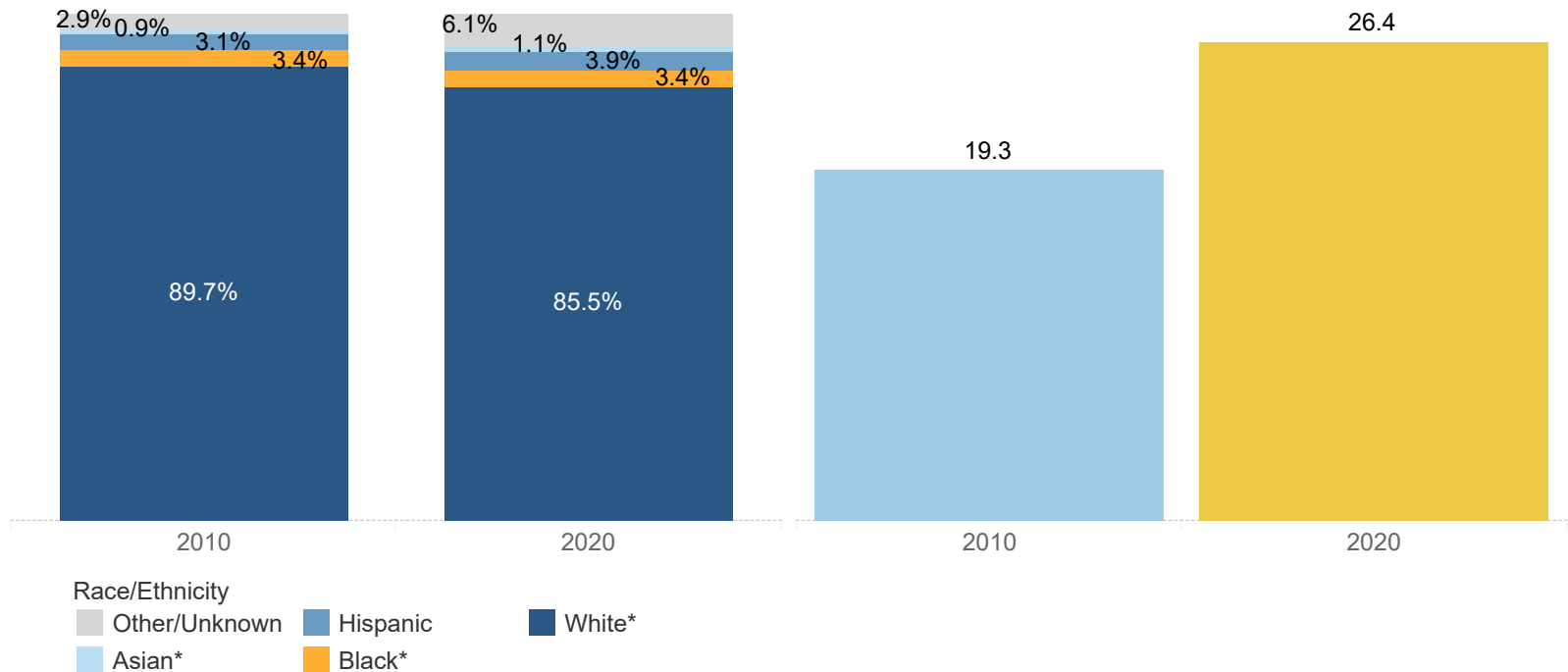
\*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population  
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

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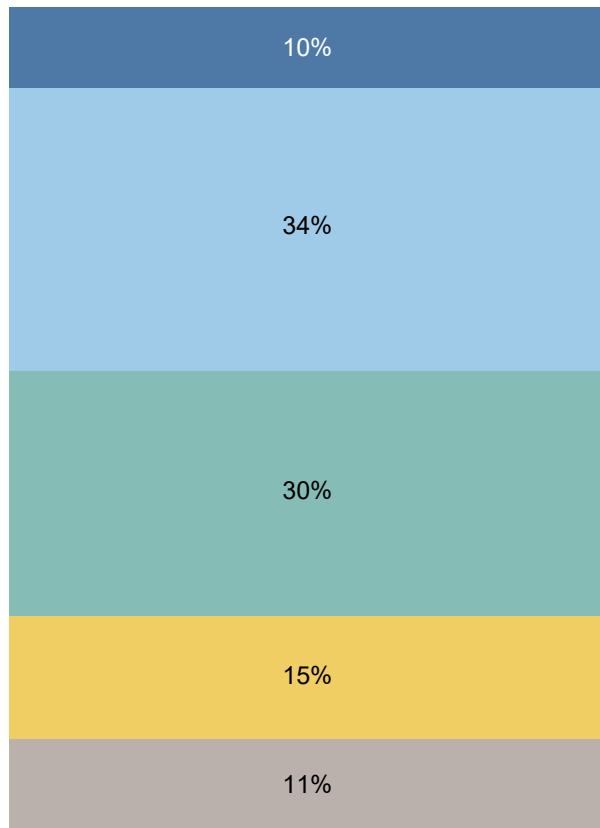
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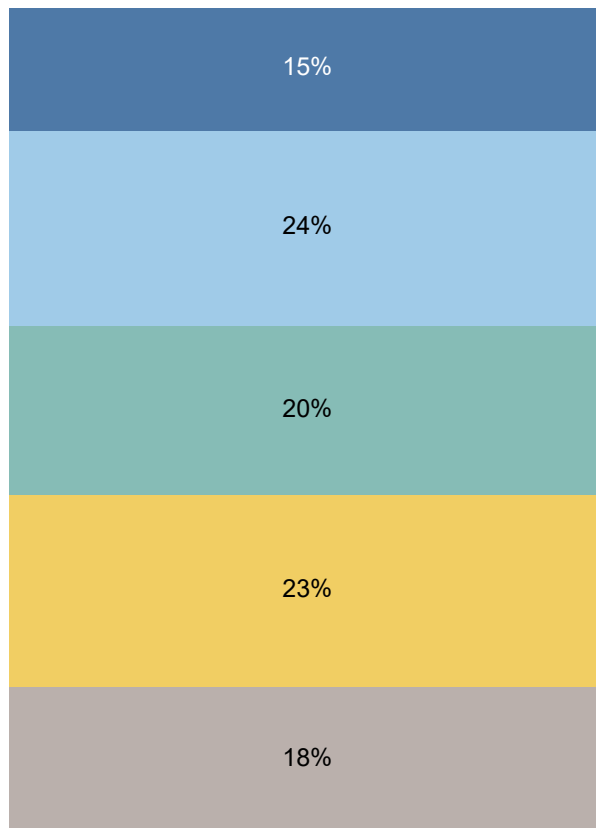
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### On average, educational attainment in the North Country is lower than New York State

Distribution of Population 25 years and over by Educational Attainment, 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

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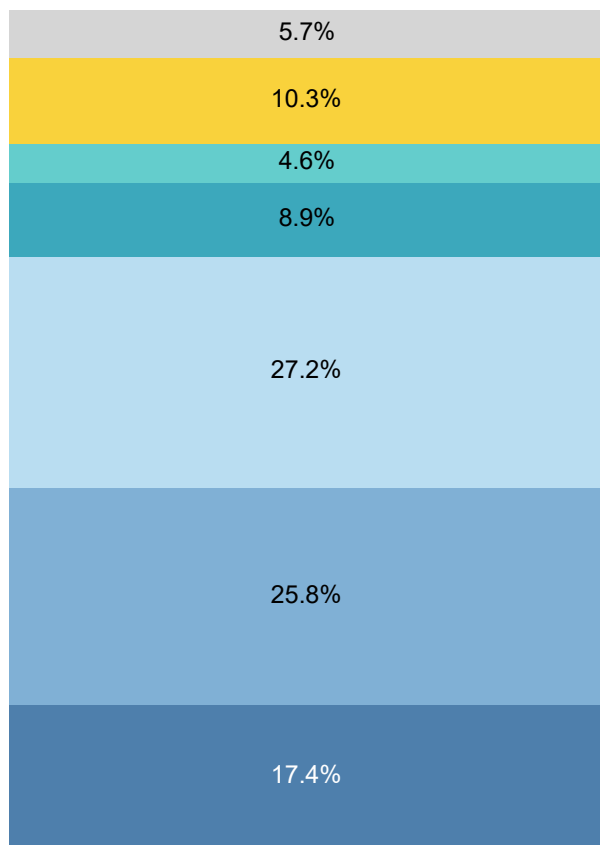
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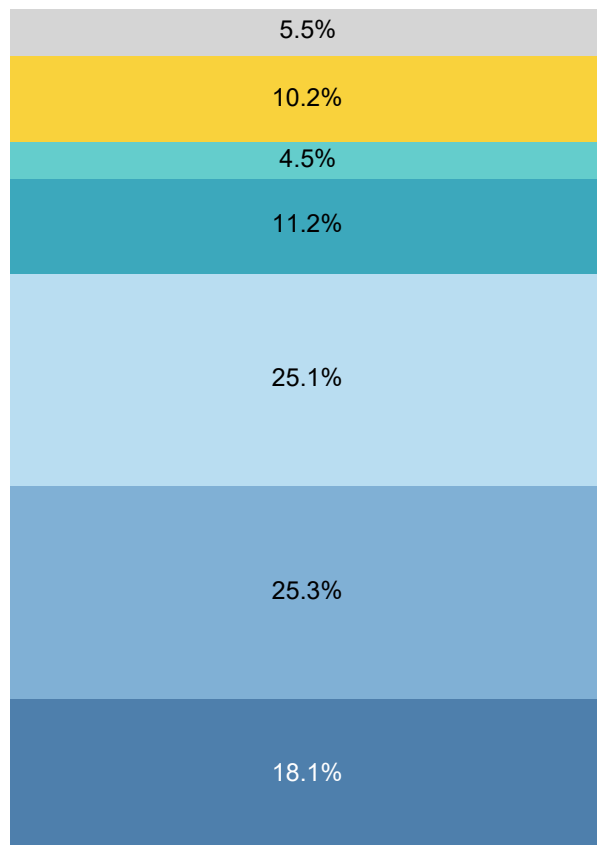
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### The North Country is in line with New York State as a whole

Distribution of Population by Age Group, 2020



New York State



North Country

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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### 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

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## Regional Labor Market Developments

### *Good news*

Charter bus company Hale Transportation plans to undergo a \$1.7 million construction project at its vehicle repair facility in Watertown (Jefferson County). The company will add 4,500 square feet to its existing structure and hire 12 new employees. The business will break ground in early spring 2024 and anticipates completion in fall 2024..

A new primary care practice is planned for Watertown (Jefferson County). According to the physicians opening the practice, the location will help fill the significant need for medical services in Watertown. Initially, the healthcare office plans to hire a nurse and a receptionist.

Cambria Hotel Lake Placid, the first new hotel in Lake Placid (Essex County) since 2013, opened its doors in January 2024. This \$35 million project was made possible in part thanks to \$3 million in New York State funding. The modern hotel features 185 guest rooms, a restaurant, event space and a waterfront gathering area, providing employment opportunities for over 50 full-time workers.

### *Bad news*

United Helpers Assisted Living Program decided to permanently close its only assisted living facility in Canton (St. Lawrence County). The company issued a WARN notice for 33 affected employees to be laid off in April 2024. According to United Helpers management, low reimbursement rates, increased costs and staffing shortages are among the factors that went into the decision to close.

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## North Country Region

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

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