

LABOR MARKET BRIEFING WESTERN NY

October 2024

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Western New York Jobs

➤ In October 2024, there were 543,400 private sector jobs and 660,400 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

➤ Four industry sectors make up 65% of total nonfarm jobs:

Government	117,000
Private Education & Health Services*	115,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	113,700
Professional & Business Services	80,900

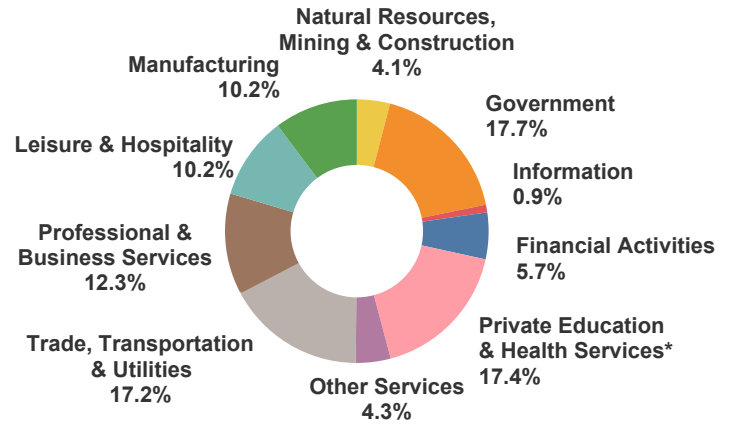
Job Gains

➤ The region gained 4,100 nonfarm jobs over the past year, including 3,200 private sector jobs and 900 government jobs.

➤ 5,200 of the recent job gains occurred in Private Education and Health Services & Government.

The region's most significant industry is Government

Regional Industry Mix, October 2024



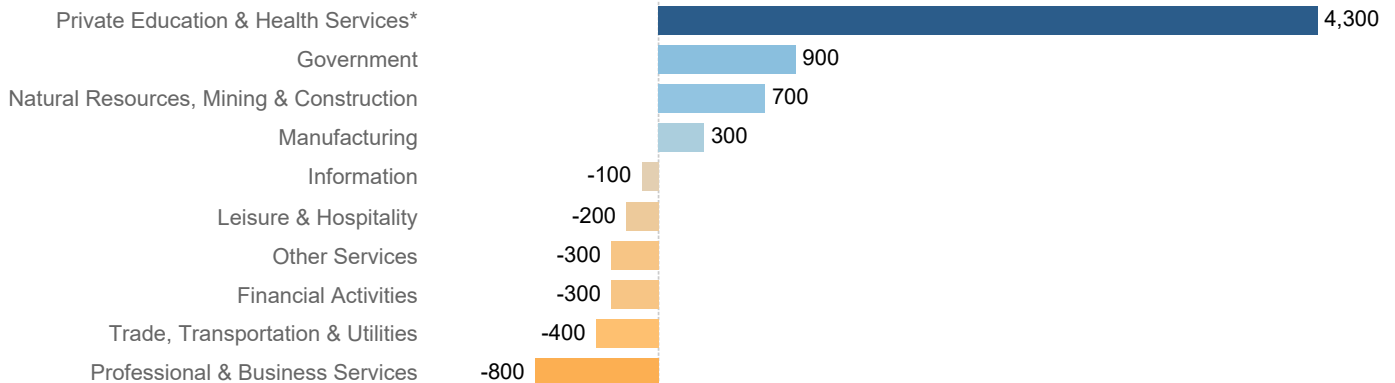
Private sector employment increased by 0.6% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, October 2024

	October 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	660,400	4,100	0.6%
Total Private	543,400	3,200	0.6%
Government	117,000	900	0.8%

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

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.

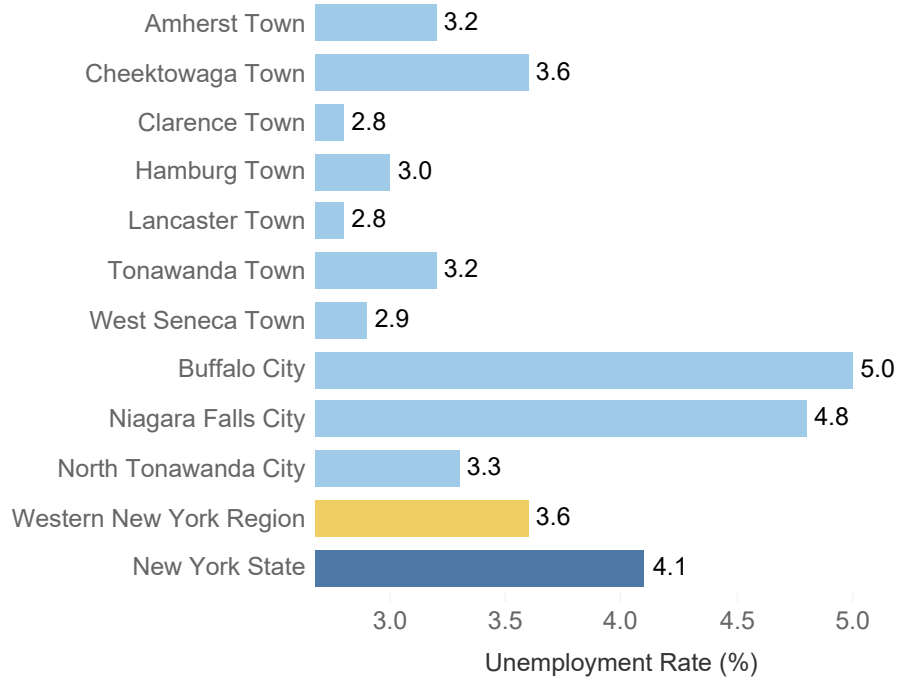
Unemployment Rate

➤ All of the largest labor force areas in the Western New York Region, except the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, had unemployment rates below the State's unemployment rate in October 2024.

➤ The State's unemployment rate (4.1%) exceeds the region's unemployment rate (3.6%) by 0.5 percentage points.

The unemployment rate in the Western New York Region decreased over the past year

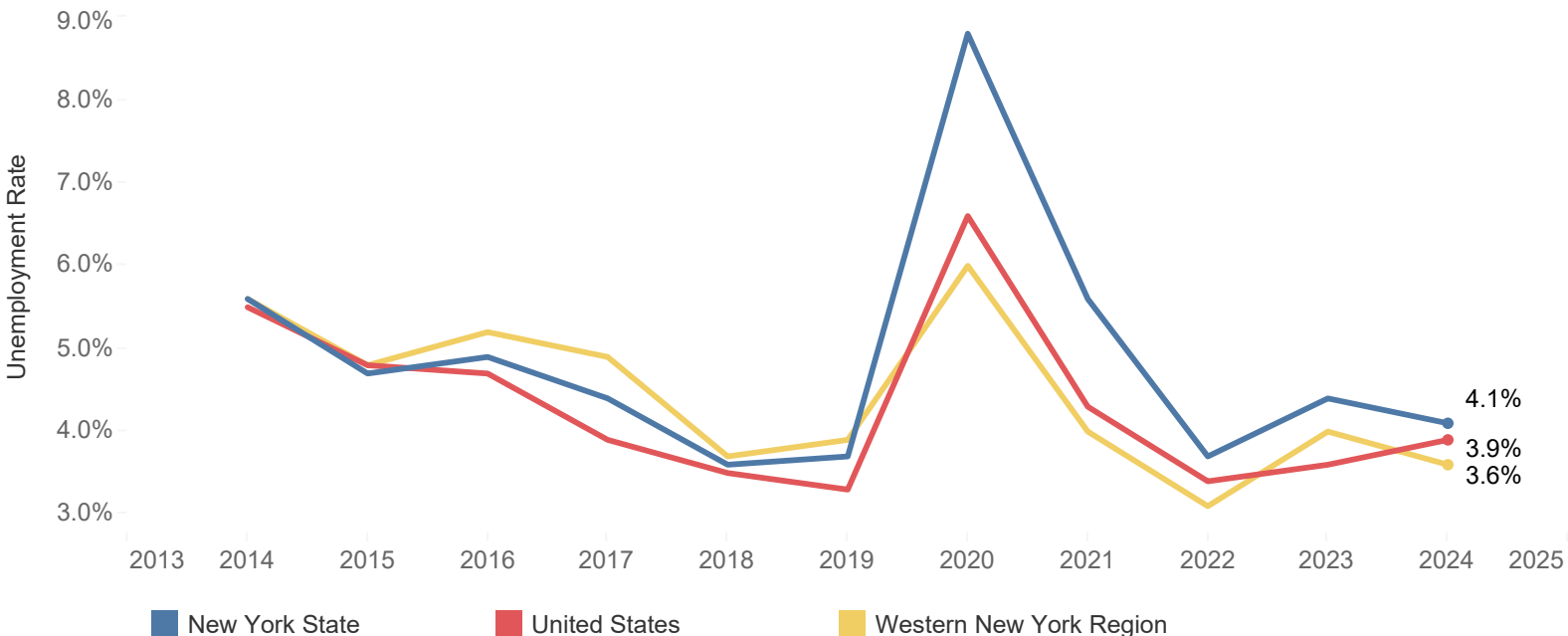
Unemployment Rate by Place, October 2024



Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted), 2014-2024

Western New York, New York State, United States

October Unemployment Rates, 2014 to 2024



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Employment

Western New York 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
Western New York Region	631,700	623,200	26,200	23,000	4.0%	3.6%
Allegany County	19,100	19,300	800	600	3.9%	3.2%
Cattaraugus County	31,900	31,700	1,300	1,100	4.0%	3.4%
Chautauqua County	51,600	51,800	2,200	1,900	4.1%	3.5%
Erie County	433,700	426,400	17,900	15,800	4.0%	3.6%
Niagara County	95,500	94,100	4,000	3,500	4.0%	3.6%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	529,100	520,500	21,900	19,300	4.0%	3.6%
Buffalo City	104,600	102,800	6,000	5,400	5.4%	5.0%
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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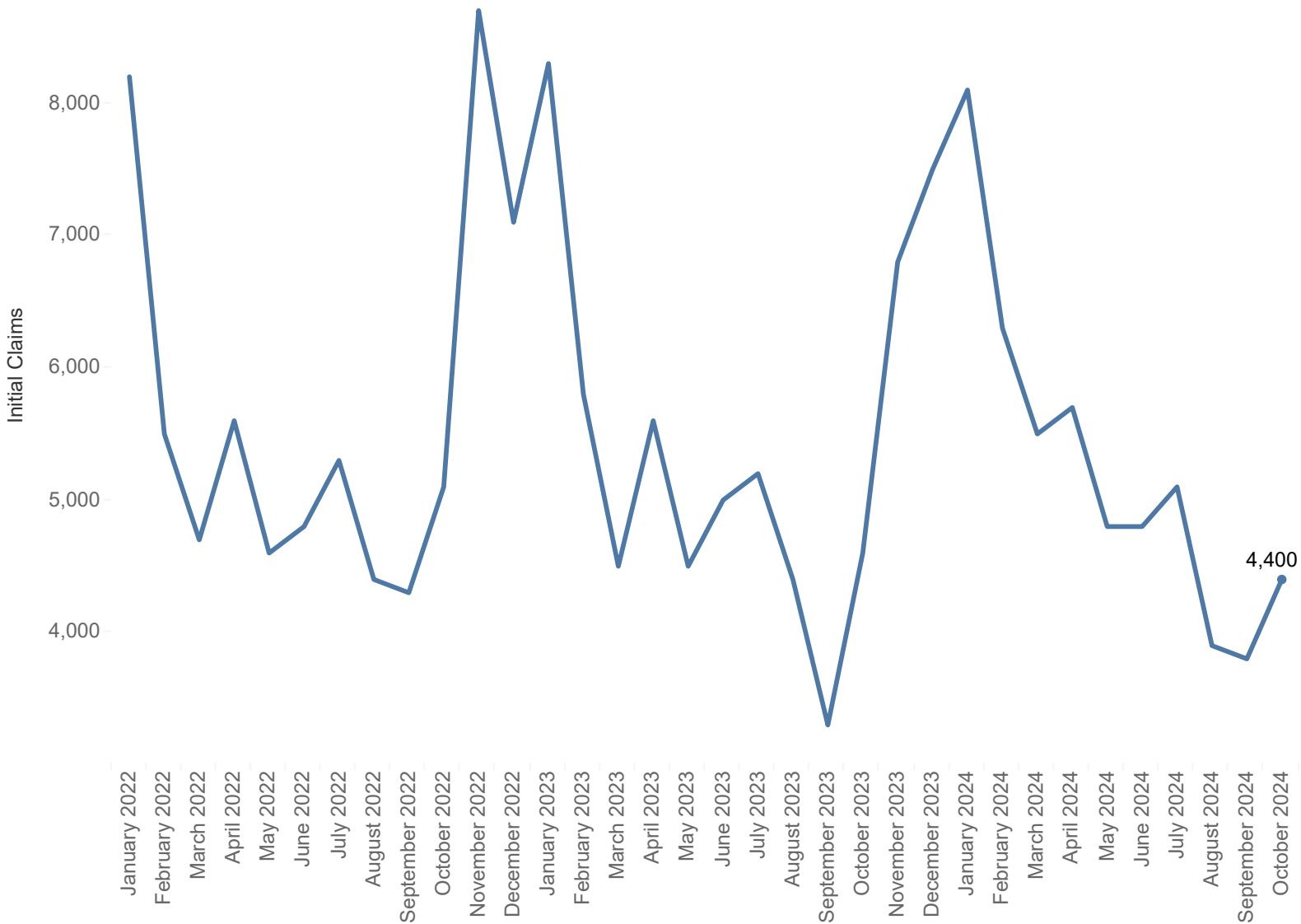
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Department of Labor

Initial claims increased in October 2024

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region



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Unemployment Insurance

Initial claims decreased in Erie County and Niagara County over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

County	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Allegany	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Cattaraugus	300	200	300	0	0.0%
Chautauqua	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Erie	2,800	2,500	2,900	-100	-3.4%
Niagara	800	600	900	-100	-11.1%
Western New York	4,400	3,800	4,600	-200	-4.3%
New York State	54,600	50,100	52,600	2,000	3.8%

Initial claims increased in manufacturing, information, and trade, transportation & utilities over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

Industry	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	200	100	200	0	0.0%
Government	200	100	200	0	0.0%
Information	100	0	0	100	
Leisure & Hospitality	600	400	600	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	700	600	600	100	16.7%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	800	600	900	-100	-11.1%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	700	600	800	-100	-12.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	500	500	100	20.0%
Unclassified	100	200	300	-200	-66.7%
Western New York	4,400	3,800	4,600	-200	-4.3%

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 in Chautauqua County over the year
 UI Beneficiaries by County, Western NY Region, All Programs*

County	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	Net Change	% Change
Allegany	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Cattaraugus	500	400	500	0	0.0%
Chautauqua	800	800	700	100	14.3%
Erie	6,500	7,600	6,700	-200	-3.0%
Niagara	1,500	1,900	1,600	-100	-6.3%
Western NY	9,500	10,800	9,800	-300	-3.1%
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 increased in government and manufacturing over the year

UI Beneficiaries by Industry, Western NY Region, All Programs*

Industry	October 2024	September 2024	October 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Government	400	500	300	100	33.3%
Information	100	100	200	-100	-50.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,000	1,300	1,100	-100	-9.1%
Manufacturing	1,600	1,400	1,400	200	14.3%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,100	1,000	1,200	-100	-8.3%
Other Services	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	1,100	1,300	1,100	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	1,700	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,500	2,600	1,800	-300	-16.7%
Unclassified	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Western NY	9,500	10,800	9,800	-300	-3.1%

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

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Demographics

Western New York's population is increasing 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
Allegany	48,946	46,456	-2,490	-5.1%	95.4%	1.0%	0.9%	1.4%	91.1%	1.7%	0.8%	2.1%
Cattaraugus	80,317	77,042	-3,275	-4.1%	91.9%	1.2%	0.7%	1.7%	87.7%	1.3%	0.7%	2.1%
Chautauqua	134,905	127,657	-7,248	-5.4%	89.3%	2.0%	0.5%	6.1%	83.1%	2.3%	0.6%	9.2%
Erie	919,040	954,236	35,196	3.8%	77.7%	13.0%	2.6%	4.5%	71.1%	13.6%	4.8%	6.3%
Niagara	216,469	212,666	-3,803	-1.8%	87.3%	6.7%	0.8%	2.2%	81.7%	7.6%	1.1%	3.7%
Western New York	1,399,677	1,418,057	18,380	1.3%	81.7%	9.9%	1.9%	4.0%	75.3%	10.6%	3.5%	5.8%

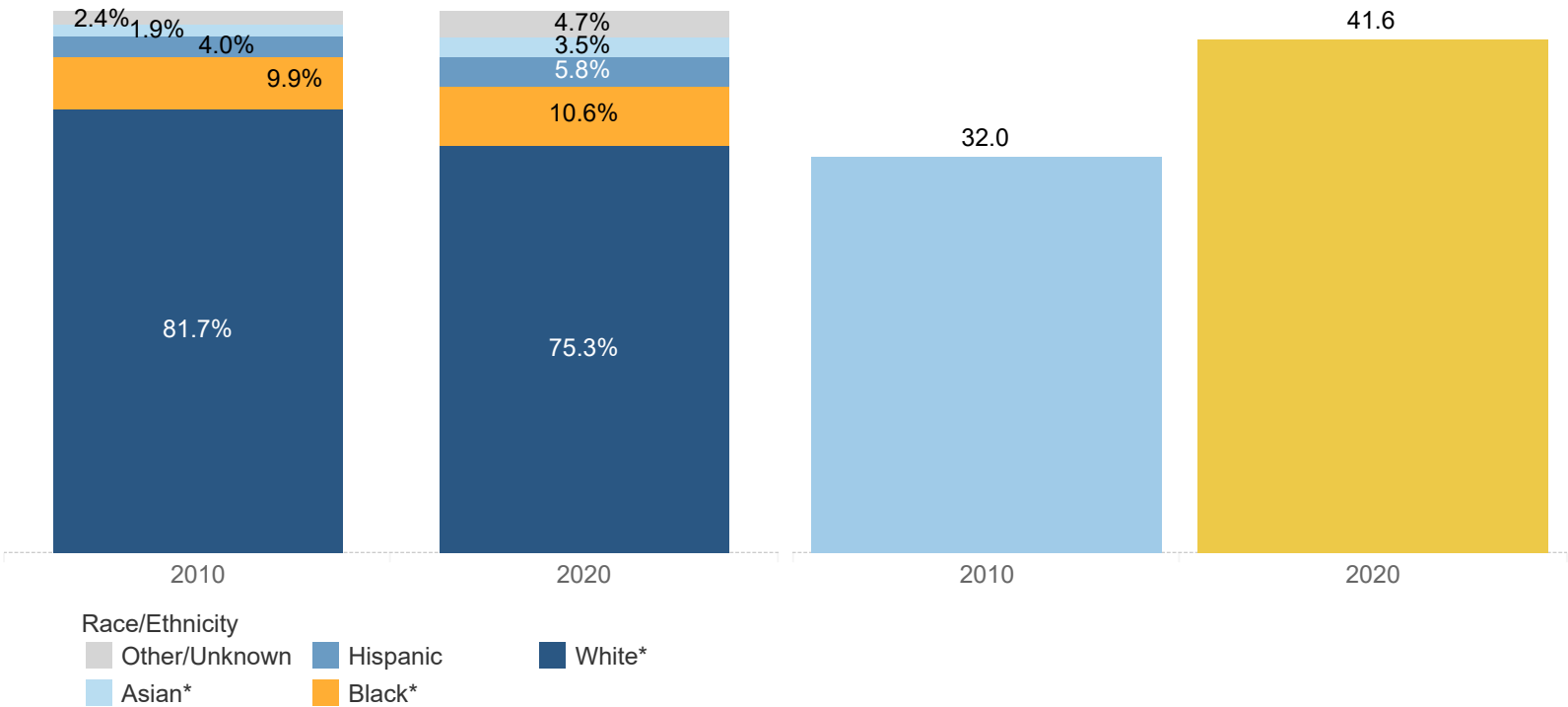
*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

Western New York has become more diverse

Distribution of Western New York Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

Western New York's Diversity Index increased by 30% 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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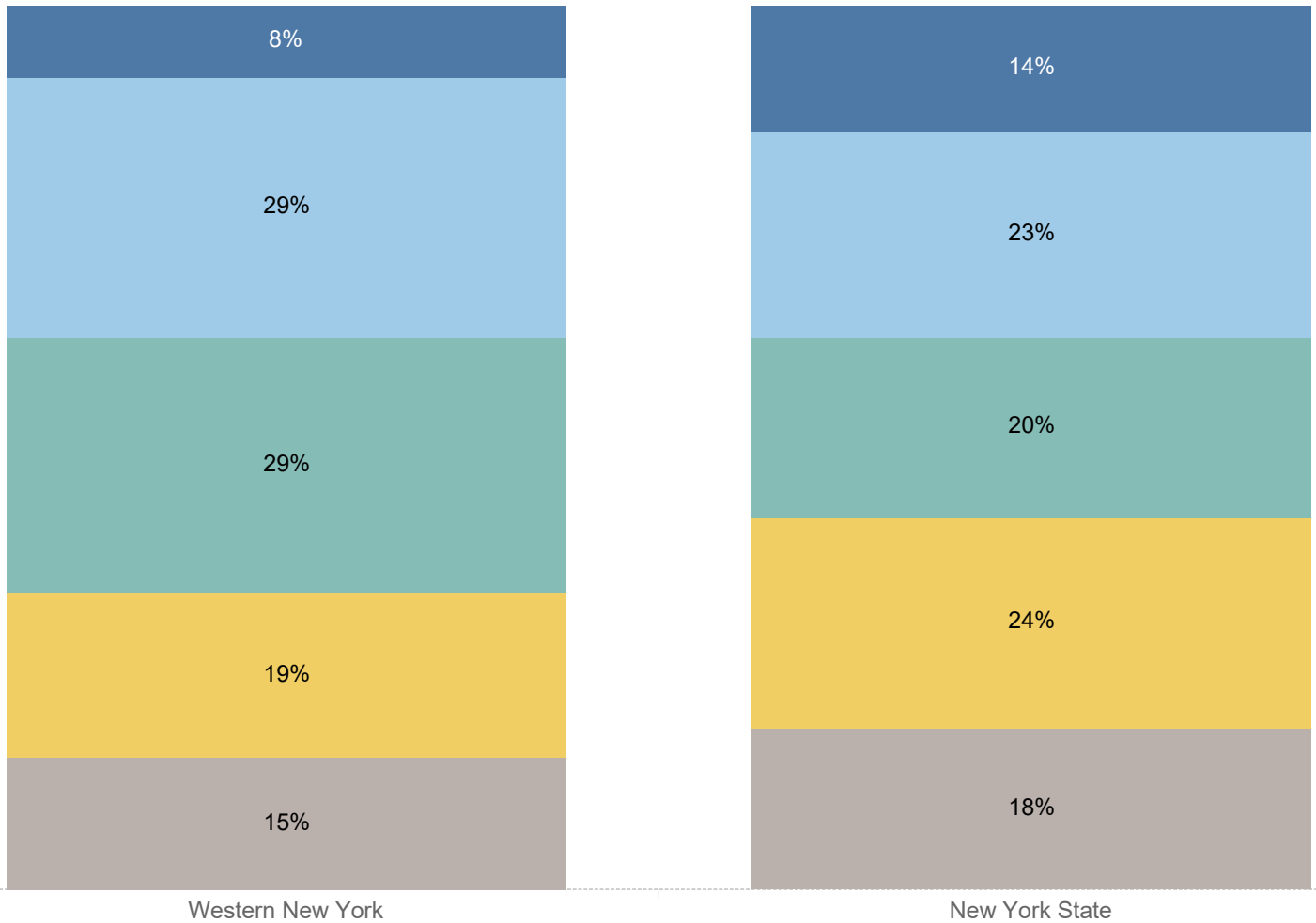
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On average, educational attainment in Western New York is similar to New York State

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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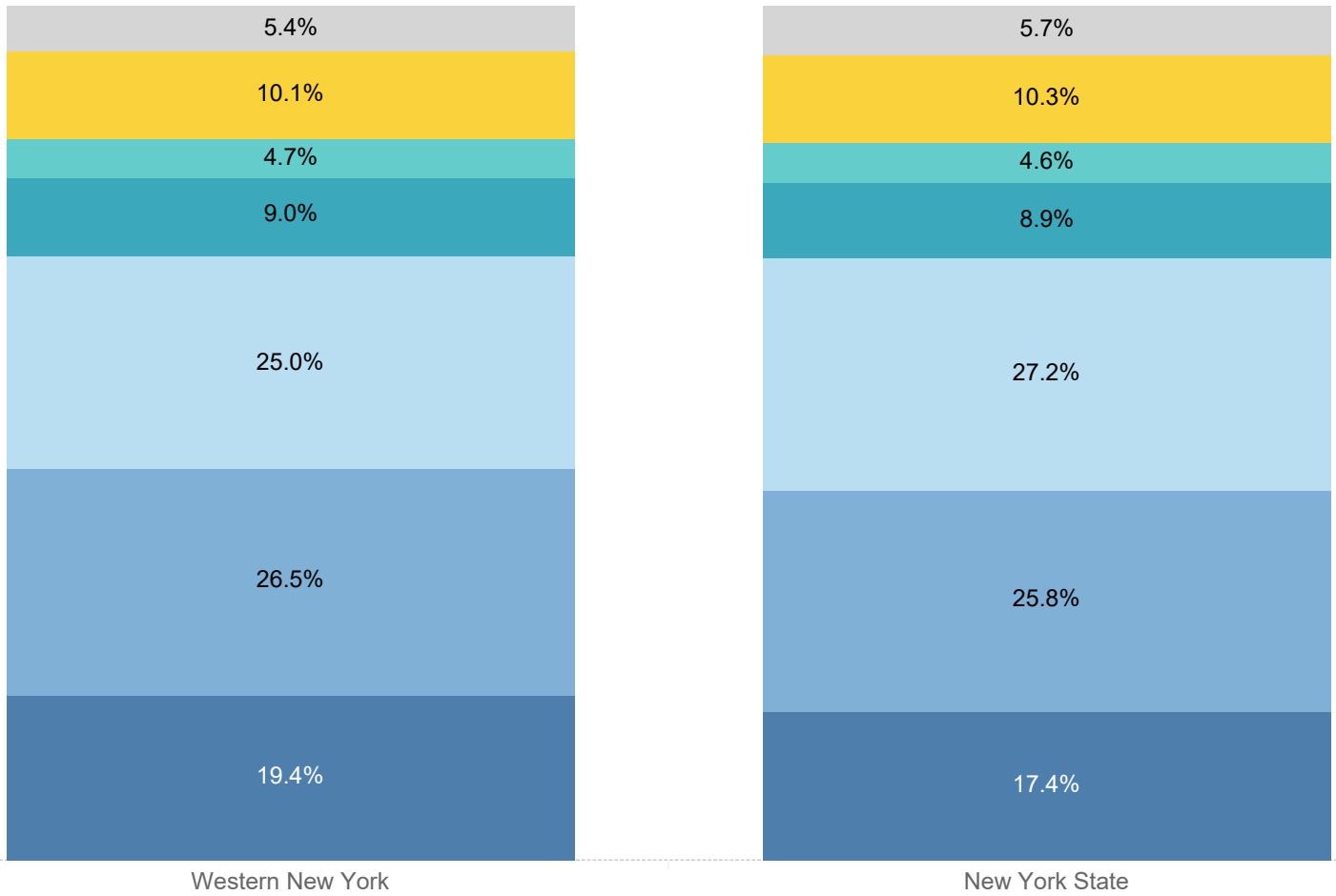
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Western New York is older than New York State as a whole

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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More than half of businesses in Western New York 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	12,540	12,980	51.4%	52.9%	25,090	25,260	4.9%	5.0%
5-9	4,680	4,670	19.2%	19.0%	30,950	30,790	6.0%	6.1%
10-19	3,190	3,020	13.1%	12.3%	43,390	40,820	8.4%	8.1%
20-49	2,320	2,260	9.5%	9.2%	70,940	68,950	13.7%	13.8%
50-99	860	820	3.5%	3.3%	59,190	57,000	11.4%	11.4%
100-249	510	510	2.1%	2.1%	78,820	78,590	15.2%	15.7%
250-499	180	150	0.7%	0.6%	60,520	54,080	11.7%	10.8%
500-999	80	70	0.3%	0.3%	56,620	50,830	10.9%	10.1%
1000+	40	40	0.2%	0.2%	91,560	94,940	17.7%	18.9%

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

Regional Labor Market Developments

Good news

Pfannenberger, the maker of thermal management systems, is moving its North American headquarters from Lancaster (Erie County) to Alden (Erie County) and is seeking more than \$100,000 in tax breaks from the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for the project, according to the Buffalo News. The company spent \$5.1 million to secure the new property and plans to spend another \$11 million into overhauling and expanding the facility. The project will retain 105 jobs and create another 37 new jobs within two years, according to its application with the IDA. The company plans to move into its new location in the second or third quarter of 2025.

Hanes Supply is asking the Erie County IDA for more than \$776,000 in tax breaks for its expansion project. The company has already won city approval to double the size of its facility. The Buffalo manufacturer of wire rope and manufacturing slings will retain 85 full-time and five part-time positions and will create approximately 10 new full-time positions, according to the Buffalo News. Work is expected to begin April 1, 2025, and be completed by November 1, 2025.

Niagara Campground & Resort, formerly known as Branches of Niagara on Grand Island (Erie County), is planning a major expansion that will include glamping tents and permanent RV units for rent. The campground plans to add 51 RV campsites, 20 park-owned RV units and five glamping tents on 13 acres of its property. Currently, there are 230 sites at the park, including RV, cabins and campsites. The expansion will also include a new bathhouse, a second pool, a new maintenance building and offices. The beach will also be expanded by 140 feet of shoreline, according to Business First.

Hamburg developer Alliance Homes has received \$4.8 million in tax breaks to construct a pair of multistory apartment buildings on River Road in North Tonawanda (Niagara County) that would bring 87 market-rate apartment units to the city, along with commercial space. The new buildings will replace two idle equipment warehouses and a vehicle repair shop that sit on the 3.2-acre property across from a riverfront marina. The \$36.7 million project will create 2.5 full-time equivalent jobs.

MT Altimeter received \$3.4 million in tax breaks from the Niagara County IDA for its plan to construct Polaris Cold Storage, a "micro-fulfillment" center with more than 1.25 million cubic feet of refrigerated warehouse space. The \$13.45 million project calls for the construction of an 80,000-square-foot building. According to the Buffalo News, the site will open in 2026 and the company plans to create seven full-time and two part-time jobs within three years.

Tunnels to Towers Foundation, a nonprofit, privately funded organization, is preparing to build an apartment building for homeless veterans in Cheektowaga (Erie County). Demolition of the former Manor Oak nursing home is set to begin to make way for the \$12 million project. Once the vacant building is demolished, construction is expected to start with a targeted completion date of late 2025, according to Business First. The foundation chose Cheektowaga as a site to build the Veterans Village because of the high rate of homelessness there. The upper floors of the building will consist of studio apartments, and the first floor will house supportive services like health care, addiction treatment and job training.

Buffalo Pumps, a North Tonawanda (Niagara County) military contractor and a subsidiary of publicly traded Ampco-Pittsburgh, wants to modernize its factory in Buffalo (Erie County) and purchase new equipment to meet growing demand from both the Navy and commercial customers. The company has supplied pumps to U.S. Navy warships for over 100 years and plans to double its production capacity by investing more than \$10.6 million in new machinery and other upgrades, including \$7.5 million from the Navy itself, according to the Buffalo News. The upgrades will allow the company to produce twice as many centrifugal pumps by 2028, not only for new ships for the Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, but also to repair, refurbish and replace older pumps on existing ships. The company currently employs 81 but expects to add 20 jobs within three years.

SUNY Erie's South Campus in Orchard Park (Erie County) is heading to the auction block, opening up more than 100 acres of developable land next door to the new Buffalo Bills stadium that is currently under construction. SUNY Erie announced its plan to move its South Campus to lease space in August saying that the current campus was too large for its current needs. The move is expected to be completed by the Fall 2025 semester.

Manufacturer Dynabrade Power Tools Inc., based in Clarence (Erie County), is working with the Town Planning Board on a new manufacturing building on Sheridan Drive. According to the application, the one-story facility would have manufacturing and office space and a 99-space parking lot. The new building would be built on six of the 21.8 acres the company owns east of the current 150,000-square foot facility. The new facility would bring both brands that the company operates, Manth and Global Abrasives, together under one roof. The company, which makes abrasives power tools, employs about 144 people locally.

New York City-based Cimolai-Hy has kept jobs alive at the former Dresser-Rand manufacturing plant in Olean (Cattaraugus County), three years after Siemens Energy Inc. announced the closure of the plant and hundreds of layoffs in 2021. The plant was bought by Cimolai-HY for \$7.7 million in 2022. After more than a year of work and a \$56 million investment, production started once again in early 2023. Currently, 90 people are employed at the site which fabricates structural steel, including steel that is being used to build the new Buffalo Bills stadium. The plant is continuing to hire and hopes to hit 200 employees by the end of the year.

Regional Labor Market Developments

Good news continued

Seibel Modern Manufacturing and Welding Corp., a structural steel fabrication business, is planning to build a larger facility in the Town of Lancaster (Erie County) to consolidate its operations and provide more room for anticipated growth, according to the Buffalo News. The company, which also makes powder coated trays for lead-acid batteries, has been approved by the Lancaster IDA for \$1.28 million in tax breaks for the \$14.5 million project. The company will then relocate its current operations from two separate locations. Currently, the company employs 64 people and plans to add four full-time employees.

Developer SAA/EVI is moving forward with plans for a 275-unit development at the former Voelker's Lanes on Amherst St. in Buffalo (Erie County), including a new plan to include a bowling alley in the project, according to Business First. The developer is planning the project in two phases. Phase one would include knocking down the existing bowling alley to build a five-story, 230-unit apartment building, including a new bowling alley and a bar on the first floor of this building. Phase two would entail renovating a historic building at 141 Marion St. to add 15 apartment units and construct a four-story building with another 30 units.

The University at Buffalo's proposed project "AI for Health Equity" has made it to the second round of a national competition. The National Science Foundation's Regional "Innovation Engines" Competition will award \$160 million in federal funding to the winner of the competition. If funded, the university would develop health care solutions by partnering with startup companies to commercialize AI technology that will further health equity in the community aiding providers and community members, according to Business First. The final 71 teams, including four other New York teams, have until February 2025 to submit full proposals, and then final awards will be made.

Bad news

Amherst-based (Erie County) health insurer Independent Health is cutting 66 jobs (about 4% of their 1,600-person workforce) across its operations in a move to cut costs. The workforce cuts follow a comprehensive review in response to ongoing financial pressures. The jobs cuts follow layoffs at its largest local competitor, Highmark Inc., which cut more than 100 jobs this year across its footprint, including jobs in the Buffalo market through Highmark Western and Northeastern New York.

Weinberg Campus in Getzville (Erie County) is shutting down its 180-bed Rosa Coplon Living Center after receiving approval from the state Department of Health, according to Business First. Campus leaders have begun notifying residents of the closure, but no specific date has been listed. Leaders of the facility will work with families and residents to choose a new nursing facility and the transfer process. 300 employees represented by SEIU1199 work at the campus.

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Department
of Labor

Western New York Region

Includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties

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