

LABOR MARKET BRIEFING WESTERN NY

November 2024

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Western New York Jobs

➤ In November 2024, there were 543,600 private sector jobs and 660,900 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

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

Government	117,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	115,300
Private Education & Health Services*	115,200
Professional & Business Services	80,800

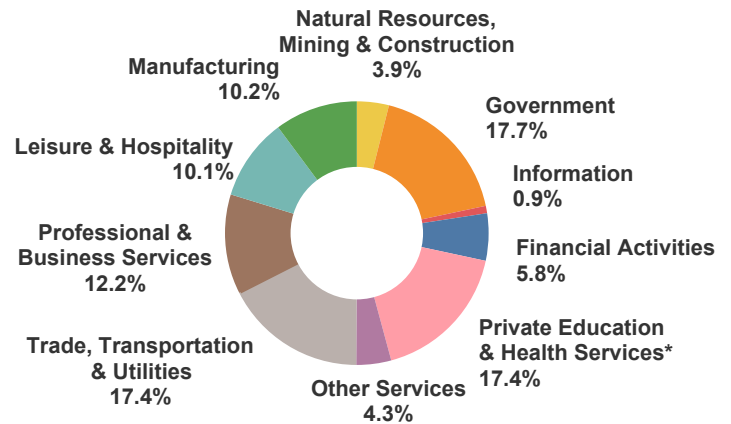
Job Gains

➤ The region gained 4,000 nonfarm jobs over the past year, including 3,400 private sector jobs and 600 government jobs.

➤ 4,600 of the recent job gains occurred in Private Education and Health Services & Leisure and Hospitality.

The region's most significant industry is Government

Regional Industry Mix, November 2024



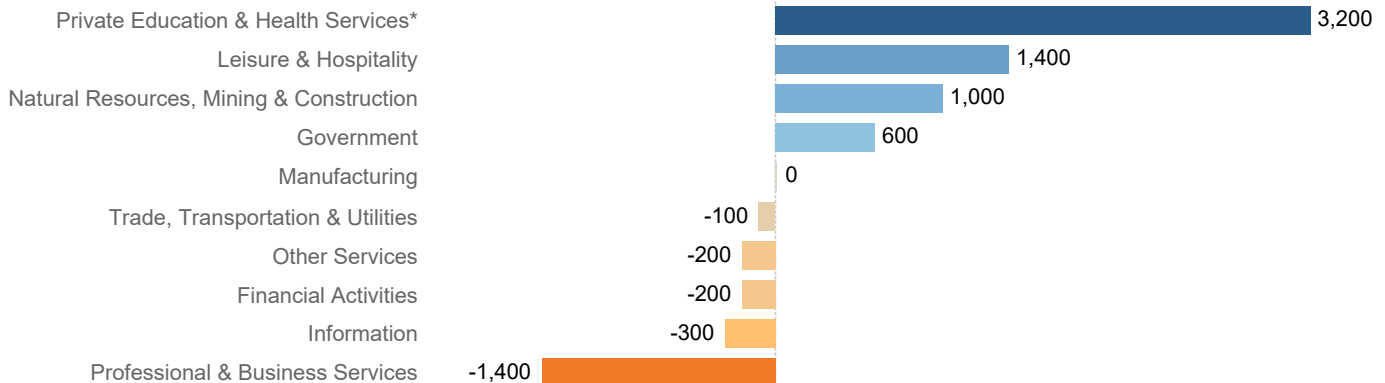
Private sector employment increased by 0.6% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, November 2024

	November 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	660,900	4,000	0.6%
Total Private	543,600	3,400	0.6%
Government	117,300	600	0.5%

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

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, November 2024



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

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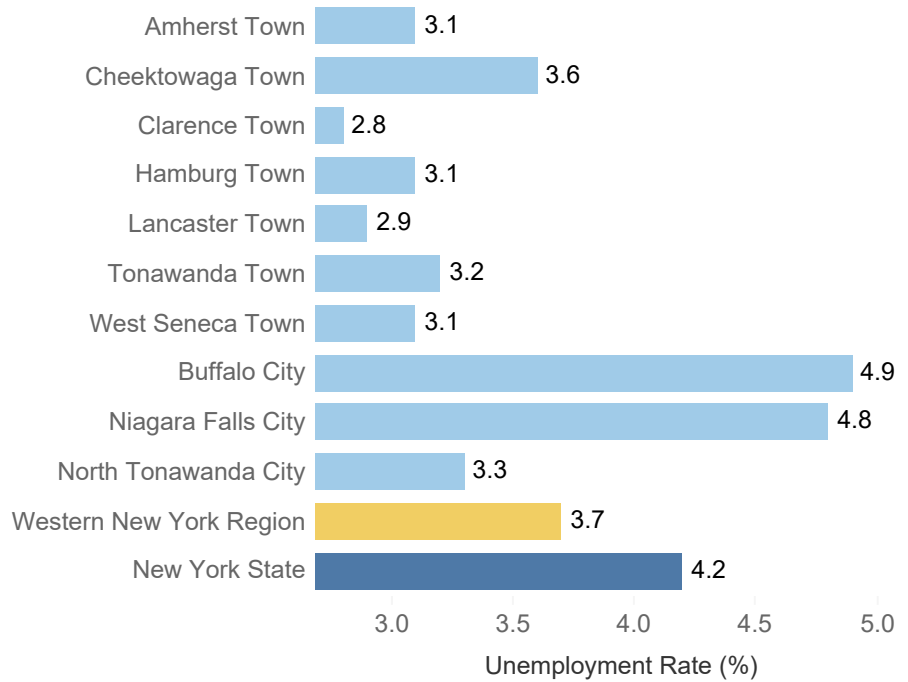
Unemployment Rate

➤ 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 November 2024.

➤ The State's unemployment rate (4.2%) exceeds the region's unemployment rate (3.7%) by 0.5 percentage points.

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

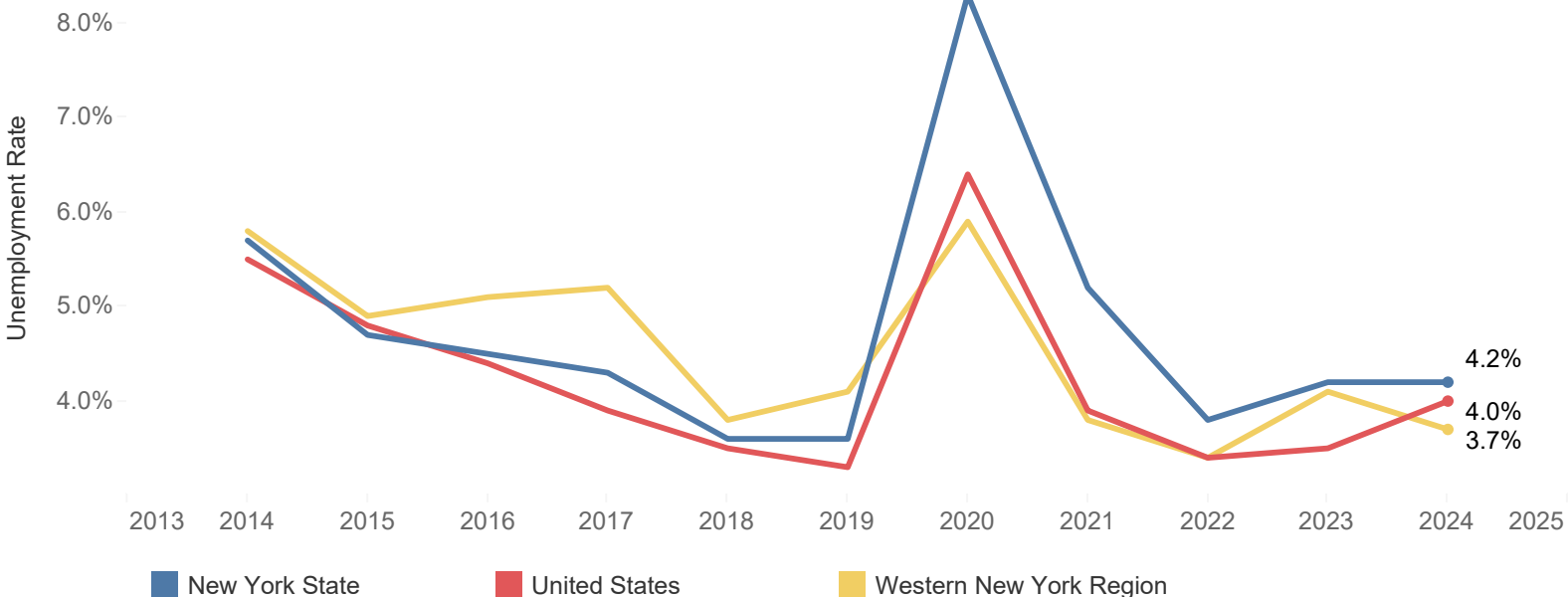
Unemployment Rate by Place, November 2024



Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted), 2014-2024

Western New York, New York State, United States

November 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	
	November 2023	November 2024	November 2023	November 2024	November 2023	November 2024
Western New York Region	632,500	619,900	27,200	23,500	4.1%	3.7%
Allegany County	19,000	18,900	800	700	4.0%	3.6%
Cattaraugus County	31,700	31,200	1,500	1,200	4.4%	3.7%
Chautauqua County	51,000	50,700	2,400	2,000	4.4%	3.8%
Erie County	435,100	425,300	18,300	16,000	4.0%	3.6%
Niagara County	95,700	93,800	4,200	3,700	4.2%	3.7%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	530,800	519,100	22,600	19,600	4.1%	3.6%
Buffalo City	104,900	102,600	6,100	5,300	5.5%	4.9%
New York State	9,335,900	9,239,500	407,600	404,100	4.2%	4.2%
United States	162,149,000	161,456,000	5,827,000	6,708,000	3.5%	4.0%

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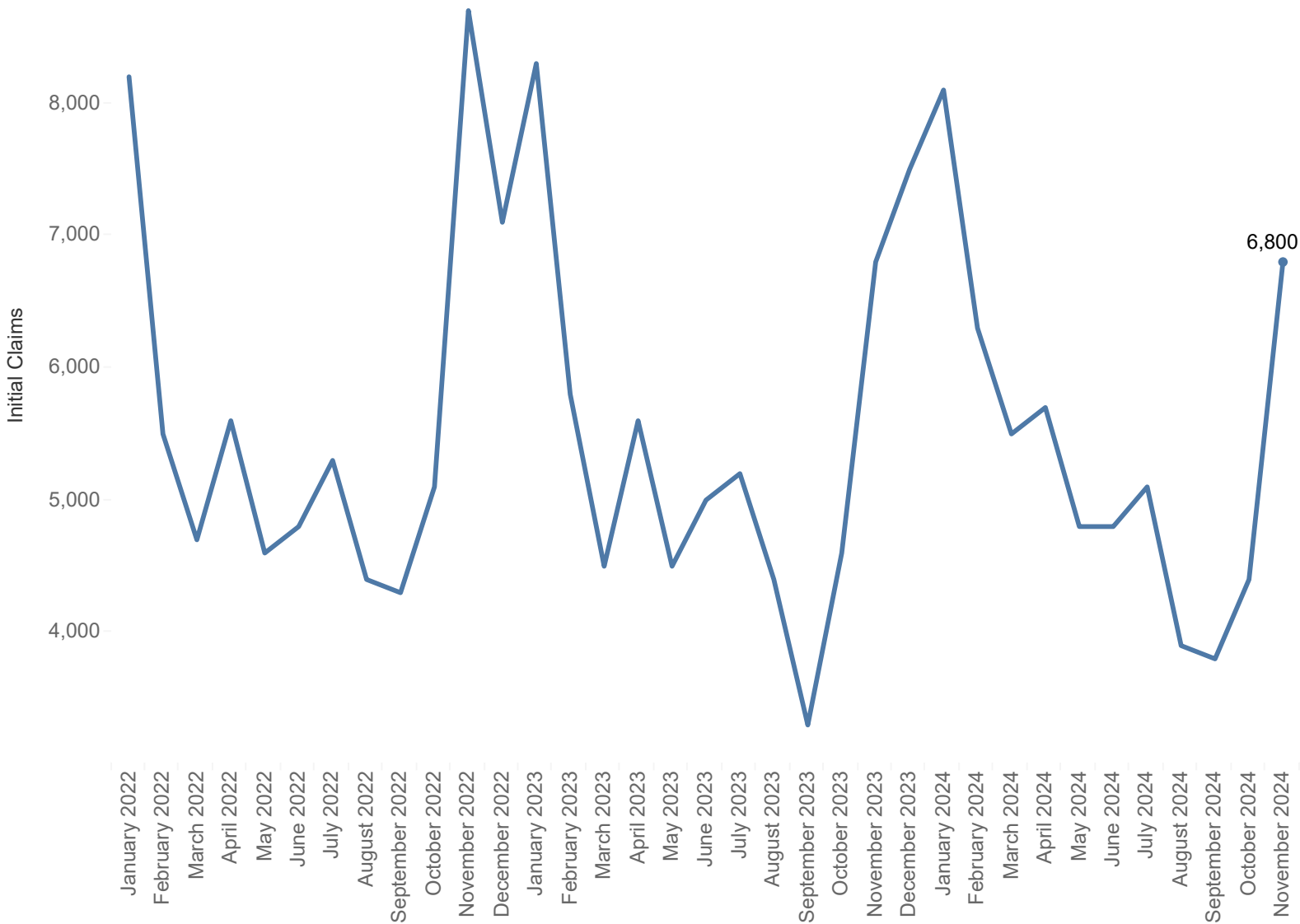
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Department of Labor

Initial claims increased in November 2024

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region



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Unemployment Insurance

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

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

County	November 2024	October 2024	November 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Allegany	200	100	200	0	0.0%
Cattaraugus	400	300	400	0	0.0%
Chautauqua	600	400	700	-100	-14.3%
Erie	4,300	2,800	4,100	200	4.9%
Niagara	1,400	800	1,300	100	7.7%
Western New York	6,800	4,400	6,800	0	0.0%
New York State	58,600	54,600	65,100	-6,500	-10.0%

Initial claims increased in information and manufacturing over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

Industry	November 2024	October 2024	November 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Information	100	100	0	100	
Leisure & Hospitality	900	600	1,100	-200	-18.2%
Manufacturing	1,400	700	500	900	180.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,400	800	1,900	-500	-26.3%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	1,100	700	1,200	-100	-8.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	900	600	900	0	0.0%
Unclassified	100	100	400	-300	-75.0%
Western New York	6,800	4,400	6,800	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 decreased or remained constant in all counties over the year

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

County	November 2024	October 2024	November 2023	Net Change	% Change
Allegany	300	200	300	0	0.0%
Cattaraugus	600	500	700	-100	-14.3%
Chautauqua	1,000	800	1,000	0	0.0%
Erie	7,700	6,500	8,000	-300	-3.8%
Niagara	2,100	1,500	2,200	-100	-4.5%
Western NY	11,700	9,500	12,200	-500	-4.1%
New York State	148,800	143,000	165,500	-16,700	-10.1%

*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	November 2024	October 2024	November 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	500	500	600	-100	-16.7%
Government	500	400	400	100	25.0%
Information	100	100	200	-100	-50.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,400	1,000	1,600	-200	-12.5%
Manufacturing	2,200	1,600	1,400	800	57.1%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,700	1,100	2,200	-500	-22.7%
Other Services	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	2,100	1,700	2,200	-100	-4.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,700	1,500	2,200	-500	-22.7%
Unclassified	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Western NY	11,700	9,500	12,200	-500	-4.1%

*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%

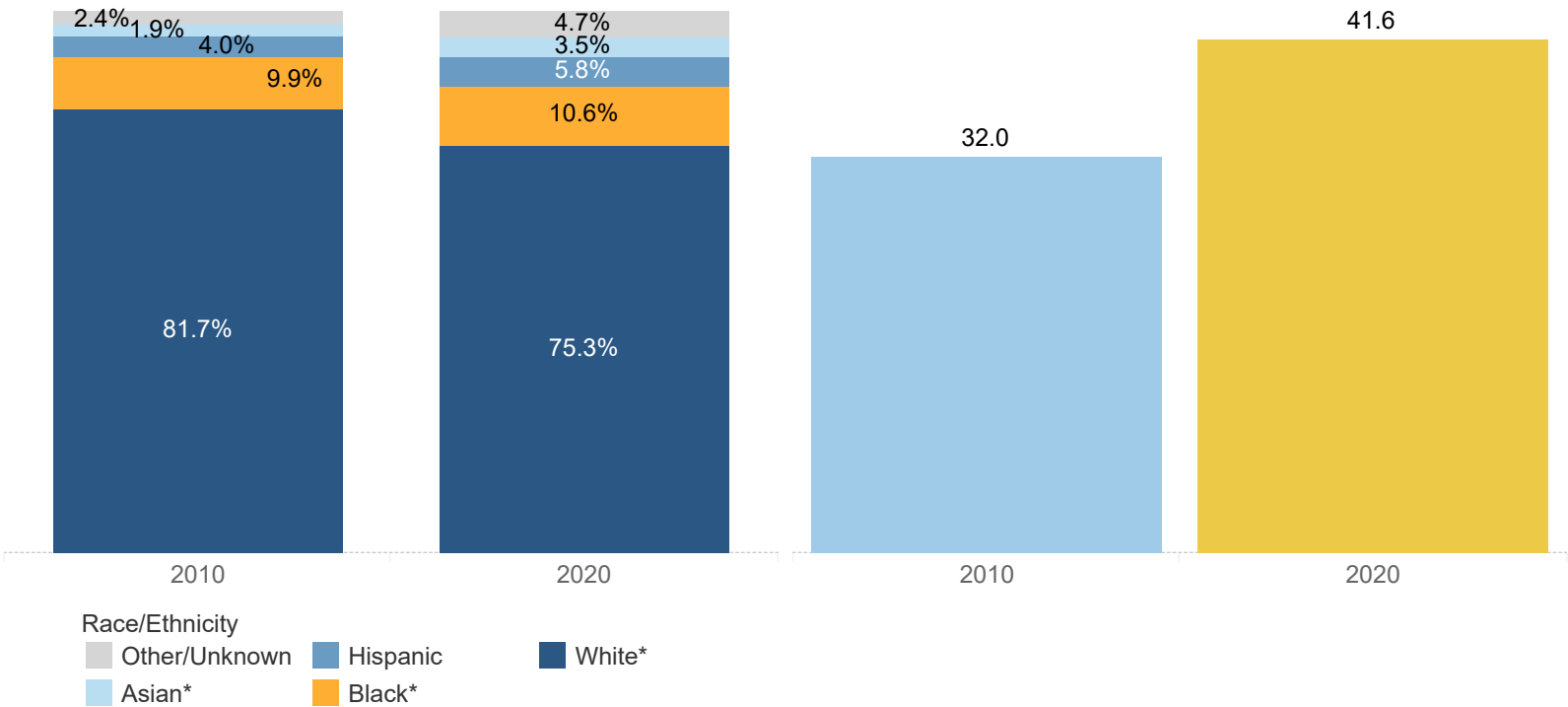
*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

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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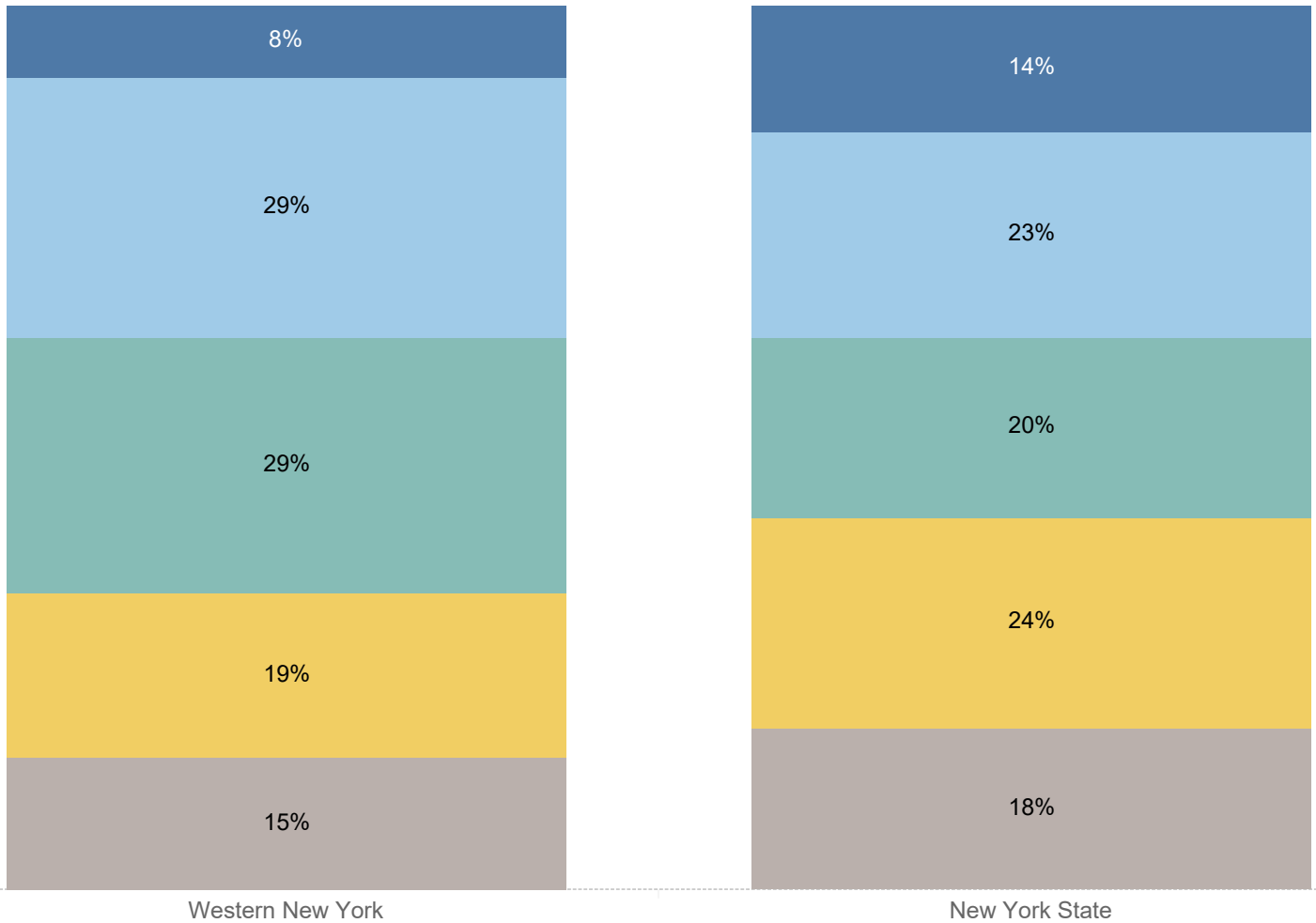
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On average, educational attainment in Western New York is similar to New York State

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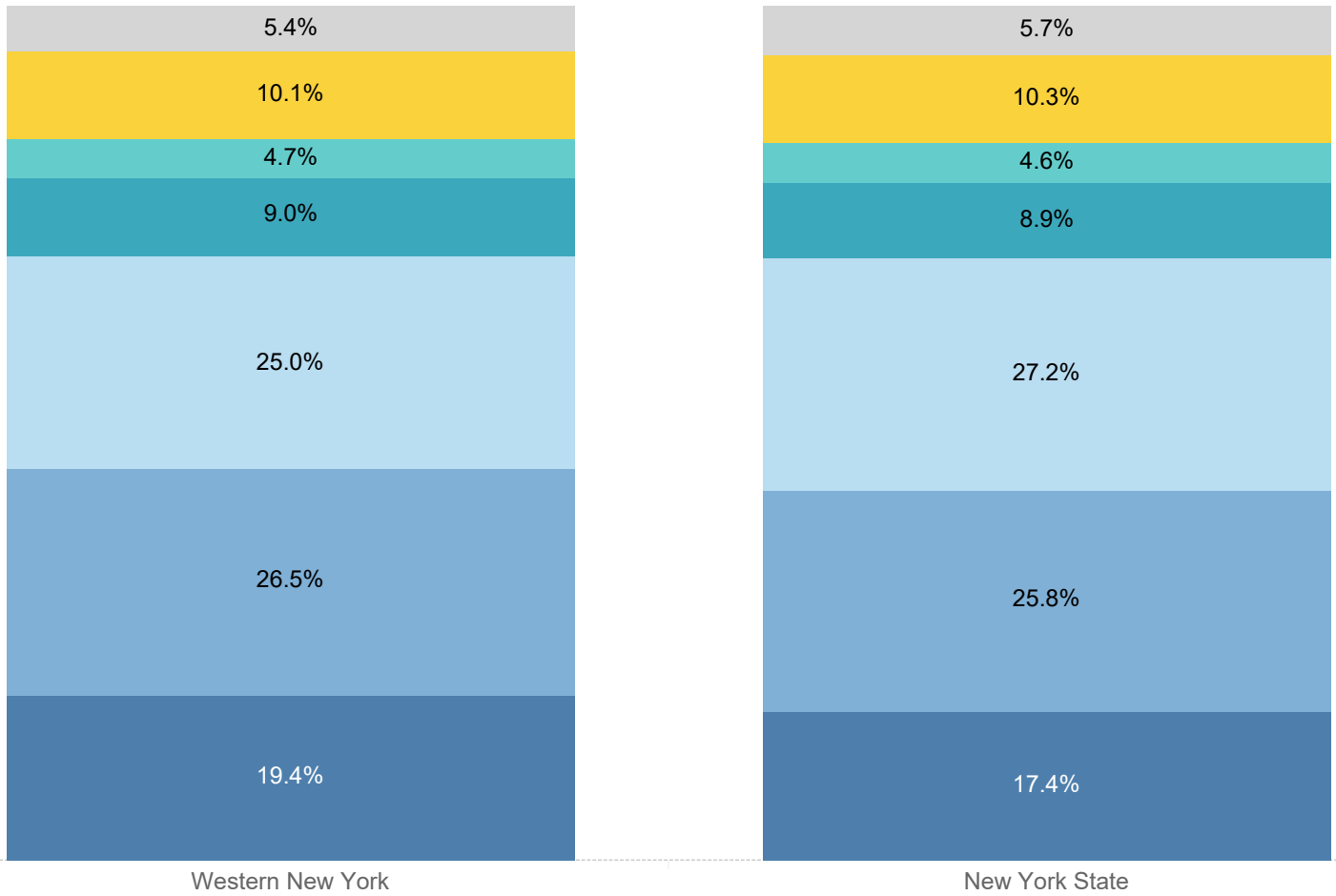
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Western New York is older than New York State as a whole

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

Belgium-based business management software company Odoo, which first opened in Buffalo (Erie County) in 2020, has about 310 regional workers and is well on its way to reaching a state-required 525 local employees. According to Business First, that job requirement is tied to the company's acquiring seven floors of 40 Fountain Plaza from the state's Fort Schuyler Management Corp., in two \$1 transactions, last year. The company believes it will be at least two years ahead of schedule on the job goal. The company added 100 new hires last year and 100 this year and anticipates adding another 80-110 more in 2025. At the current hiring pace, the company could reach 925-1,000 local workers by 2030.

Niagara Falls Redevelopment, which owns more than 140 acres in downtown Niagara Falls (Niagara County), plans to construct nine buildings, totaling more than 1 million square feet over five phases, on 53 acres of underdeveloped land between Falls Street and Rainbow Boulevard. The massive data center campus, called the Niagara Digital Campus, would create an estimated 550 permanent jobs once completed. The campus was first proposed in early 2021 but has been held up in a prolonged dispute with the city in a lengthy eminent domain fight to try to take over about 11 acres from Niagara Falls Redevelopment to create a park and arena. Niagara Falls Redevelopment has proposed donating a different 10.2 acres to the city for that project, according to Business First.

The Terrace House Detox facility in downtown Buffalo (Erie County), owned by Horizon Corp., is getting an \$8 million investment as demand continues to grow. The capital improvement project will convert the 28-bed ground floor detox unit from an open dormitory layout with curtained-off beds to individual rooms. The 18-month project also includes renovations to offices and the second floor 40-bed counseling and crisis stabilization unit as well as a new roof and HVAC systems and will be funded entirely by the State Office of Addiction Services and Supports, according to Business First.

Iowa-based ice cream and frozen dessert manufacturer Wells Enterprises is currently undertaking a \$175 million expansion in Dunkirk (Chautauqua County) and is asking for \$11.6 million in tax breaks from the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). Wells Enterprises is planning a 133,000-square-foot addition to its existing 217,500-square-foot manufacturing facility. It is the third and final phase of what will ultimately be a \$500 million investment that previously included \$87 million for electrical upgrades and new production lines and associated infrastructure, followed by a \$250 million teardown and rebuild of its existing plant. The state is providing \$12 million in Excelsior Jobs tax credits and a \$6 million grant from Empire State Development for retention of 380 jobs and creation of 270 new jobs by 2029. In all, the state says that there will be more than 650 jobs when completed, according to the Buffalo News.

Habitat for Humanity Buffalo will launch its own production site of modular homes in Buffalo, selecting a site on the east side of Buffalo for its manufacturing facility, giving it the ability to pre-manufacture and assemble homes in a factory and then bring them to the properties where workers are building new homes. The company has repaired or rehabbed nearly 400 affordable homes for disadvantaged families in Western New York since 1985. Plans call for a 60,000-square-foot facility that will also serve as a satellite campus for SUNY Alfred State College's plumbing and carpentry programs and include vocational training in on-site classrooms. The facility would employ 50 people while creating an accredited trade training program, according to the Buffalo News. Habitat plans to fund the \$16 million project with brownfield tax credits, local foundation grants, funds from the New York Power Authority and Local Initiatives Support Corp. and private investments.

Electrovaya Inc., a Canadian company that has been planning for two years to open a lithium-ion battery production facility in Jamestown (Chautauqua County), is finally moving forward on the project. A \$50.8 million loan through a "Make More in America" initiative with the Export-Import Bank of the United States will allow the company to move forward on its renovations on the facility. The owners say the plant will open in two phases. By the summer of 2025, the plant is expected to be producing high-voltage battery systems at the plant with light pack assembly. The second phase will consist of battery cell module and assembly manufacturing, and that is expected to begin in early 2026. According to Business First, company leaders anticipate needing about 250 employees once the plant reaches annual production capacity of one to two gigawatt hours, or 30,000 to 60,000 batteries, depending on size.

OnCore Golf Technologies is partnering with the Krog Group to help advance the building of ShotClub Social Buffalo (Erie County), a 45,000-square-foot indoor and outdoor golf driving range, featuring amusement and arcade games, simulators and duckpin bowling, with multiple bars and fine dining. The addition of the Krog Group brings vital funding to the project which has been in the making for nearly five years. Originally, the project included a six-story hotel and parking ramp, but it has been scaled down. The newest proposal comes with a projected cost of \$30 million, according to the Buffalo News.

Texas Roadhouse will open its third Western New York location near the Walmart on Southwestern Boulevard in Hamburg (Erie County). Plans filed with the Town of Hamburg Planning Board call for building a 7,926-square-foot restaurant. The Hamburg location will be a bit larger than the average location and will join a number of new tenants at the Brierwood Plaza, including a Jersey Mike's sandwich shop and Chipotle, according to Business First.

Workspart, a company that produces truck bed covers in West Seneca (Erie County), has grown its workforce to 50 full-time hourly workers and 10 part-time salaried workers. The company said it is continuing to expand its production capacity and expects to meet its next production target of making more than 200 tonneau covers per day in 2025, according to the Buffalo News.

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Regional Labor Market Developments

Bad news

Sumitomo Rubber USA announced it would be closing its tire production facility in Western New York. Those workers include 1,200 union employees represented by the United Steel Workers Union Local 135. The company said in a statement that the Japanese parent company made the decision to close the local plant due to “mounting material and logistics costs, dated infrastructure, intermittent financial performance and changing market conditions.” The company plans to begin discussion on the effects of bargaining with the union to determine severance and will then also figure out severance for its 350 salaried workers. Within the last 10 years, Sumitomo made two agreements with the Erie County IDA which provided tax incentives on two expansion projects. In 2017, the company received \$1.05 million in tax savings for a \$9.7 million project; and in 2021, it was awarded \$1.76 million in savings for a \$126 million projects. While no new jobs were promised in those agreements, the company promised to retain the existing jobs (1,241 in 2017 and 1,399 in 2021), according to Business First. The company was in compliance with both agreements, but now the ceasing of operations has placed Sumitomo in default on those agreements with the IDA, and they will be notifying the company of that default and of its intent to terminate any ongoing benefits.

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Department
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Western New York Region

Includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties

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