

LABOR MARKET BRIEFING WESTERN NY

April 2024

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Western New York Jobs

➤ In April 2024, there were 537,500 private sector jobs and 653,900 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

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

Government	116,400
Private Education & Health Services*	114,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	112,100
Professional & Business Services	80,600

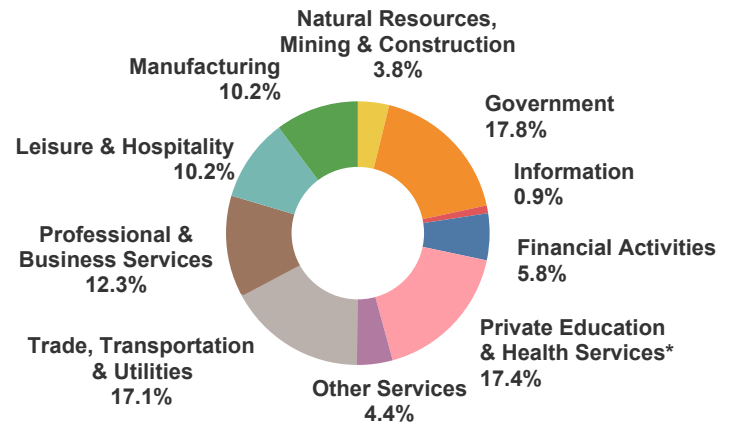
Job Gains

➤ The region gained 14,500 nonfarm jobs over the past year, including 11,000 private sector jobs and 3,500 government jobs.

➤ 9,300 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, April 2024



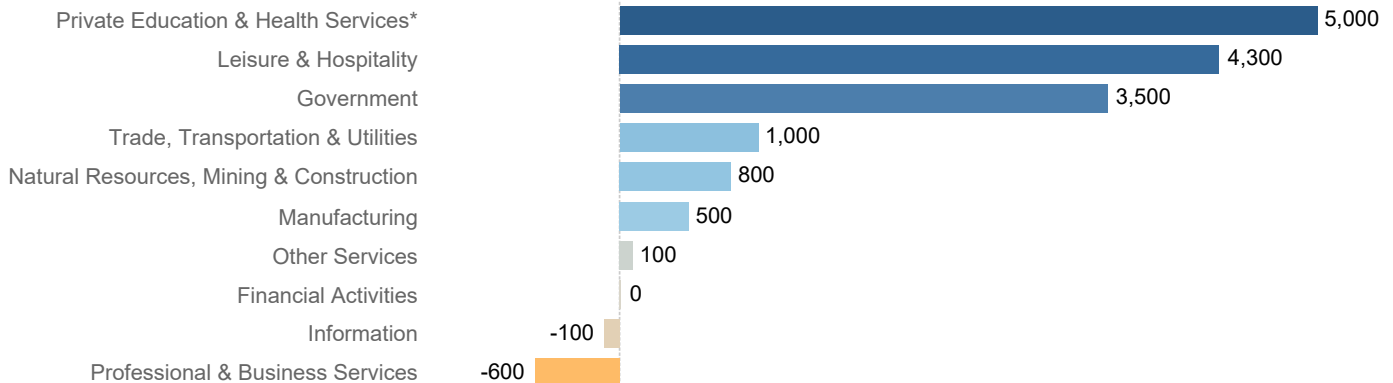
Private sector employment increased by 2.1% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, April 2024

	April 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	653,900	14,500	2.3%
Total Private	537,500	11,000	2.1%
Government	116,400	3,500	3.1%

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.

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WESTERN NY

April 2024



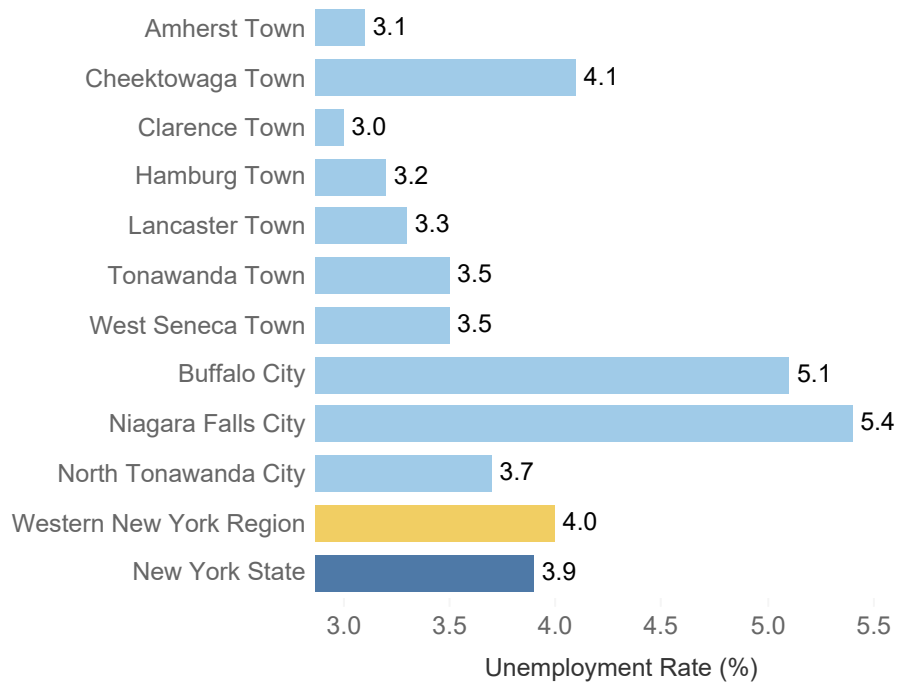
Unemployment Rate

➤ All of the largest labor force areas in the Western NY Region, except Niagara Falls, Buffalo, and Cheektowaga, had unemployment rates below the State's unemployment rate in April 2024.

➤ The State's unemployment rate (3.9%) is less than the region's unemployment rate (4.0%) by -0.1 percentage points.

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

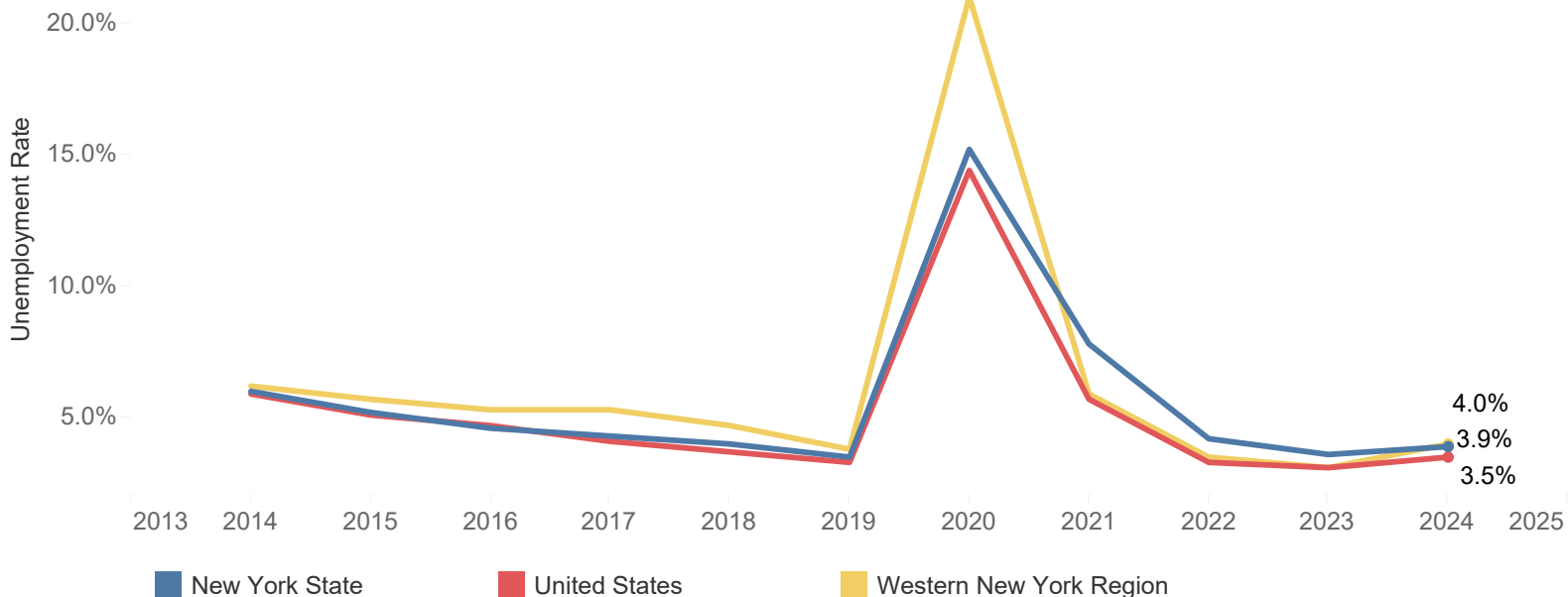
Unemployment Rate by Place, April 2024



Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted), 2014-2024

Western New York, New York State, United States

April Unemployment Rates, 2014 to 2024



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WESTERN NY

April 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	
	April 2023	April 2024	April 2023	April 2024	April 2023	April 2024
Western New York Region	627,900	622,400	20,100	25,800	3.1%	4.0%
Allegany County	18,900	19,000	700	800	3.4%	4.1%
Cattaraugus County	31,600	31,400	1,100	1,400	3.5%	4.2%
Chautauqua County	50,500	50,300	1,900	2,200	3.5%	4.2%
Erie County	431,800	427,600	13,200	17,200	3.0%	3.9%
Niagara County	95,100	94,100	3,300	4,200	3.3%	4.3%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	526,900	521,700	16,500	21,400	3.0%	3.9%
Buffalo City	104,100	103,100	4,400	5,500	4.1%	5.1%
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%

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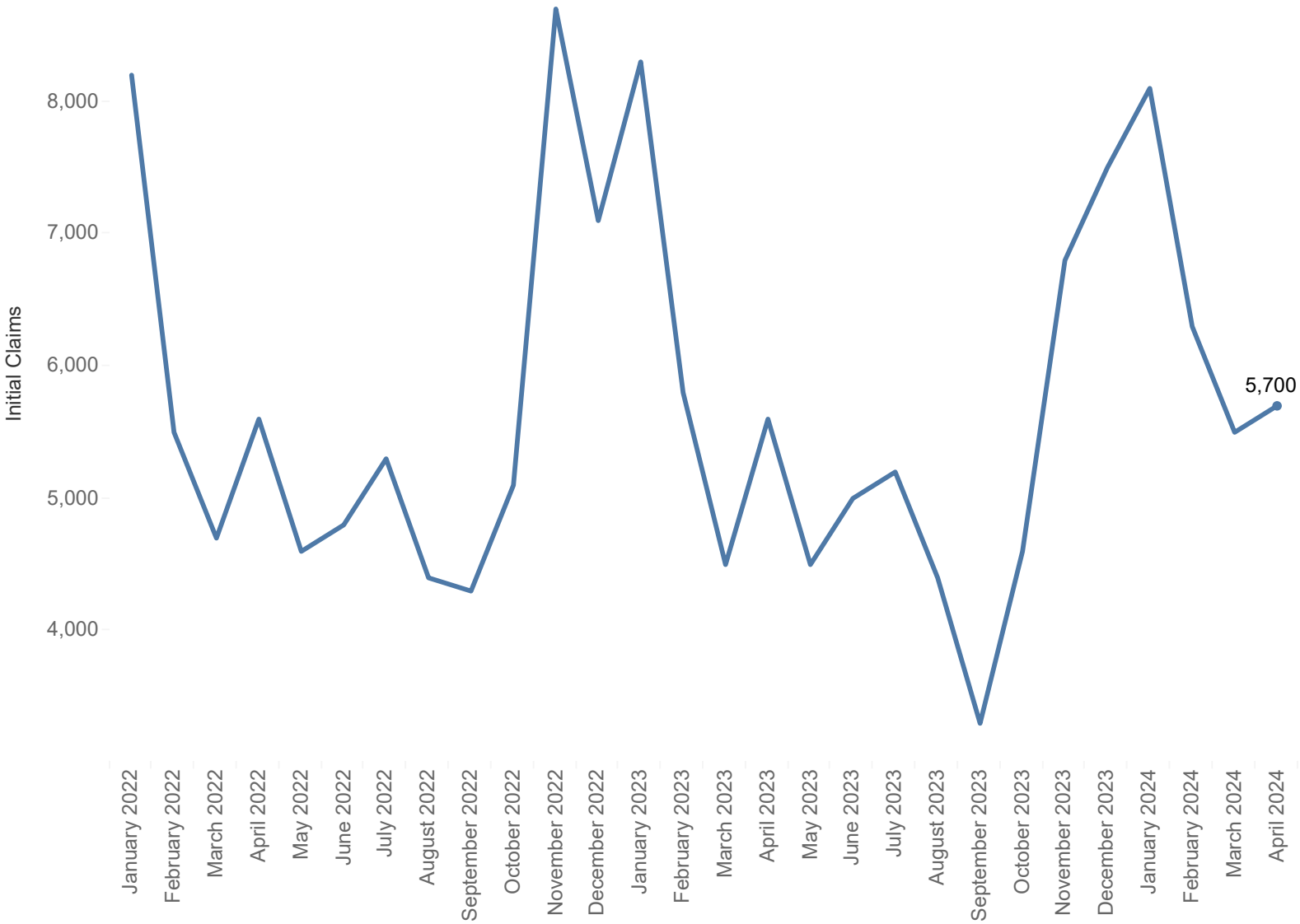
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Initial claims increased in April 2024

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region



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April 2024

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Unemployment Insurance

Initial claims decreased in Niagara County over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

County	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Allegany	100	200	100	0	0.0%
Cattaraugus	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Chautauqua	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Erie	3,900	3,600	3,700	200	5.4%
Niagara	1,000	1,100	1,100	-100	-9.1%
Western New York	5,700	5,500	5,600	100	1.8%
New York State	66,200	56,700	69,800	-3,600	-5.2%

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

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

Industry	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Government	200	100	200	0	0.0%
Information	0	0	0	0	
Leisure & Hospitality	700	700	800	-100	-12.5%
Manufacturing	600	1,200	500	100	20.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	900	1,100	700	200	28.6%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	600	400	500	100	20.0%
Professional & Business Services	700	700	700	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,500	800	1,600	-100	-6.3%
Unclassified	200	300	400	-200	-50.0%

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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WESTERN NY

April 2024



Unemployment Insurance

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

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

County	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	Net Change	% Change
Allegany	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Cattaraugus	900	900	800	100	12.5%
Chautauqua	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.0%
Erie	10,000	9,600	8,600	1,400	16.3%
Niagara	3,100	3,000	2,600	500	19.2%
Western NY	15,700	15,300	13,800	1,900	13.8%
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 manufacturing over the year

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

Industry	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	700	700	500	200	40.0%
Government	500	400	400	100	25.0%
Information	200	100	100	100	100.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,900	1,900	1,800	100	5.6%
Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	1,400	500	35.7%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	3,300	3,800	3,200	100	3.1%
Other Services	300	300	200	100	50.0%
Private Education & Health Services	1,000	900	900	100	11.1%
Professional & Business Services	2,700	2,900	2,400	300	12.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,000	2,200	2,800	200	7.1%
Unclassified	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Western NY	15,700	15,300	13,800	1,900	13.8%

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

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April 2024

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Unemployment Insurance

The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased

UI Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity, Western NY Region, All Programs

	April 2024	April 2023	April 2024					April 2023				
			White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown
Western NY	15,700	13,800	69%	13%	2%	7%	9%	69%	13%	2%	7%	9%
Allegany	400	400	91%	2%		2%	5%	92%	3%		3%	3%
Cattaraugus	900	800	86%	1%	1%	1%	10%	85%	1%	1%	2%	11%
Chautauqua	1,300	1,300	78%	3%	1%	10%	8%	78%	2%	1%	11%	8%
Erie	10,000	8,600	64%	17%	3%	7%	9%	64%	17%	2%	7%	9%
Niagara	3,100	2,600	74%	11%	1%	5%	9%	74%	11%	1%	5%	9%

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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April 2024

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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%

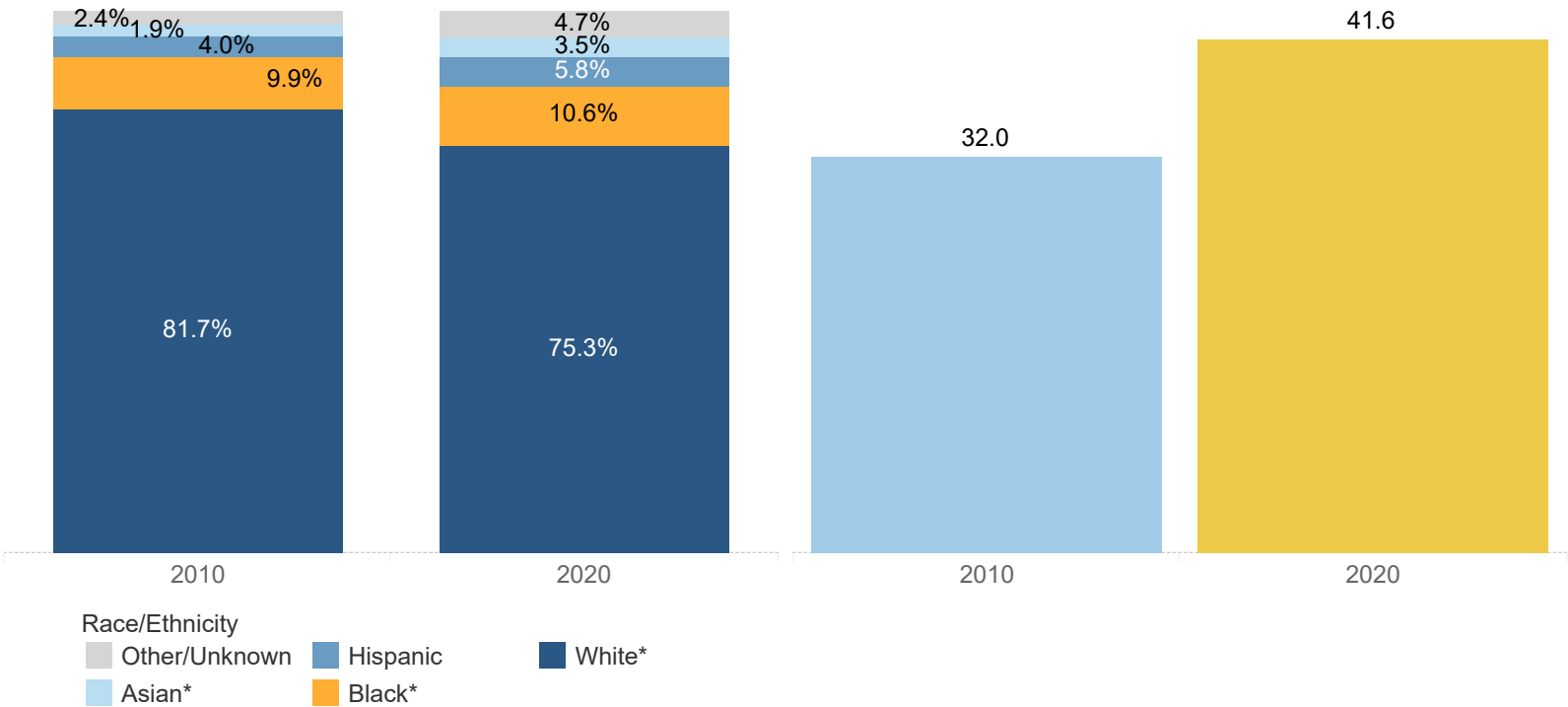
*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

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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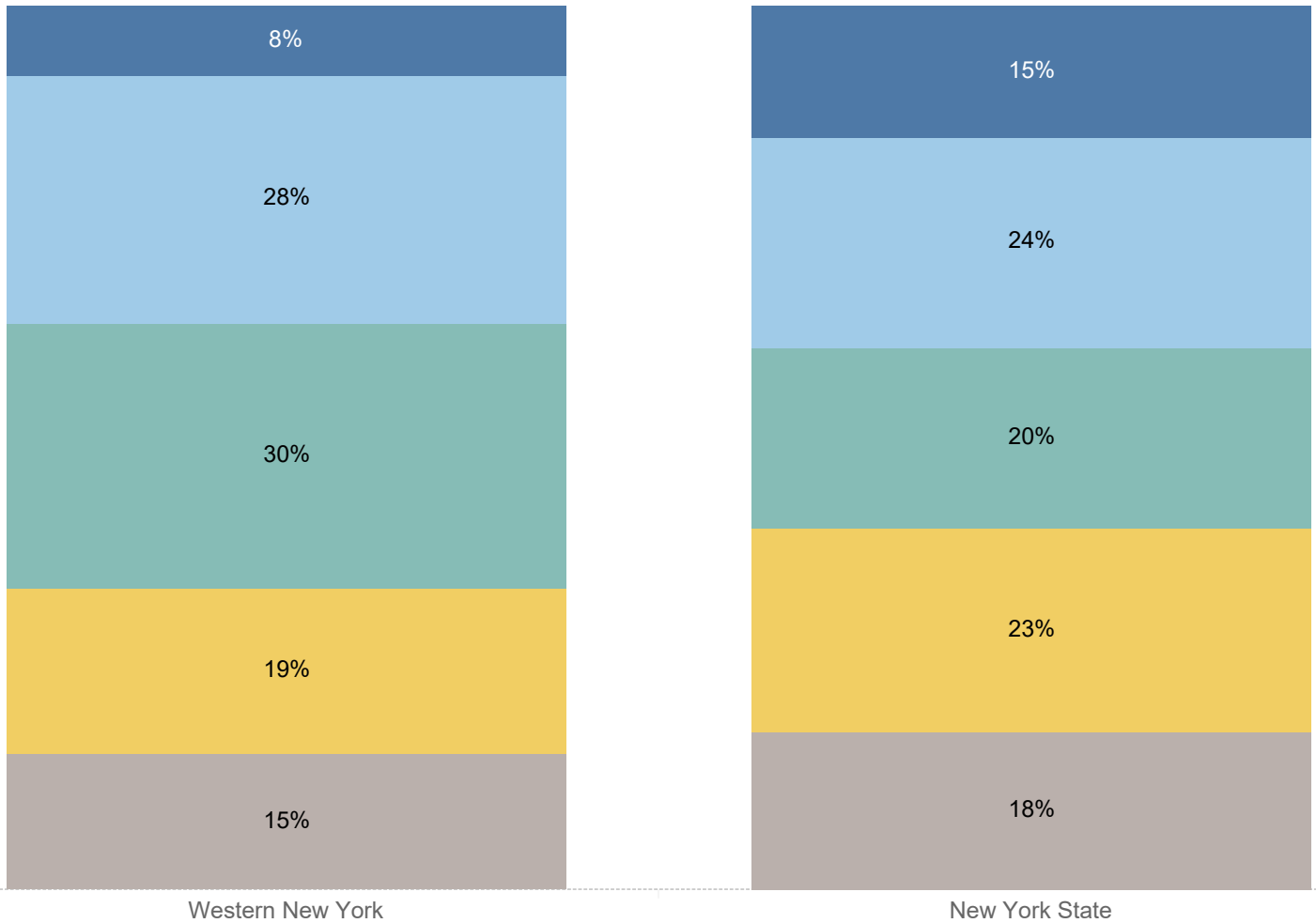
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April 2024



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

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



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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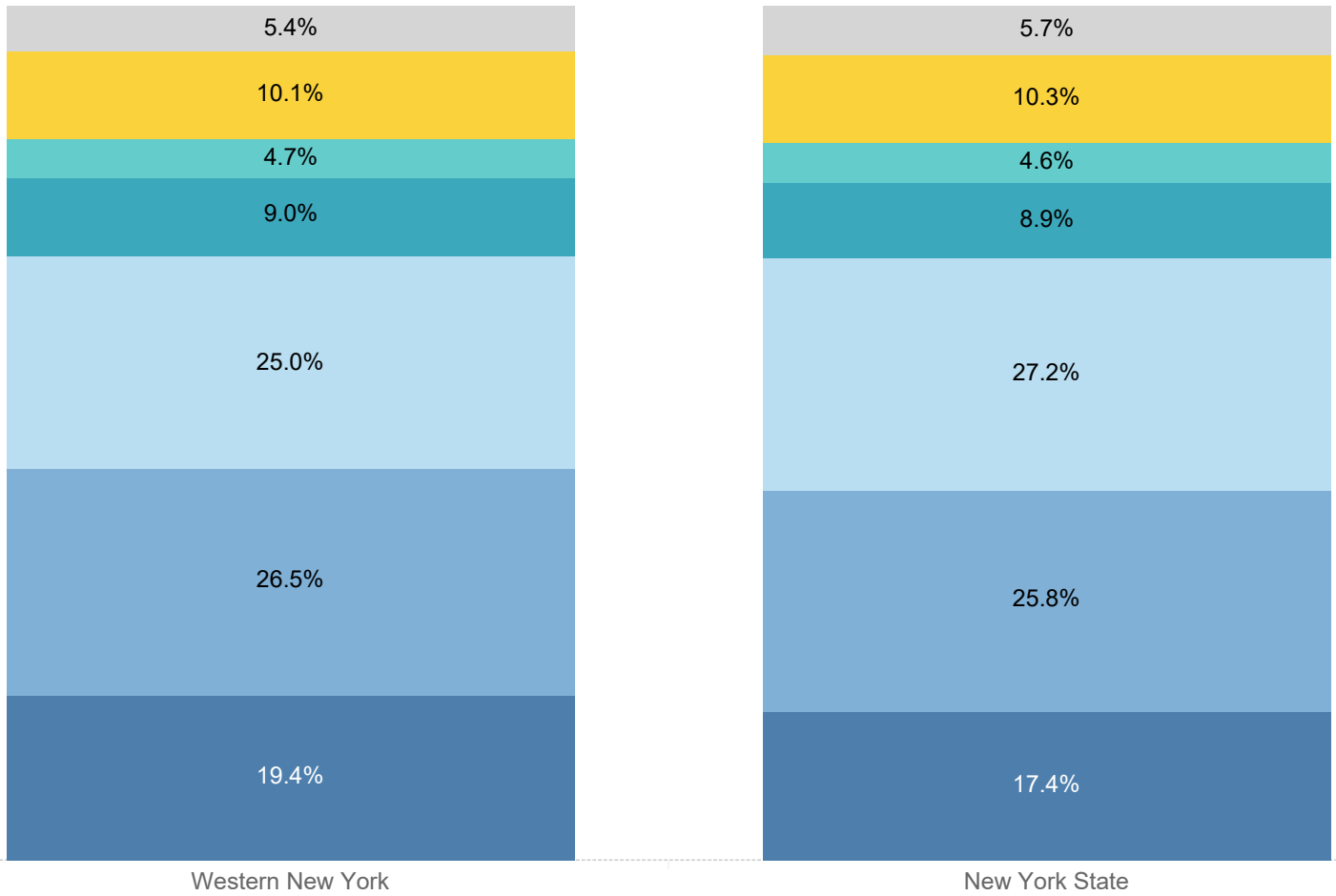
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April 2024



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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April 2024

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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	
	2018	2023	2018	2023	2018	2023	2018	2023
1-4*	12,480	13,130	49.7%	51.8%	25,320	25,990	4.8%	5.0%
5-9	4,950	4,880	19.7%	19.3%	32,640	32,320	6.1%	6.3%
10-19	3,440	3,190	13.7%	12.6%	46,580	43,020	8.8%	8.3%
20-49	2,500	2,470	10.0%	9.7%	76,880	74,810	14.4%	14.5%
50-99	900	870	3.6%	3.4%	62,190	60,410	11.7%	11.7%
100-249	530	540	2.1%	2.1%	81,230	83,040	15.3%	16.1%
250-499	180	150	0.7%	0.6%	61,350	53,830	11.5%	10.4%
500-999	80	70	0.3%	0.3%	57,540	48,920	10.8%	9.5%
1000+	40	40	0.2%	0.2%	88,560	94,150	16.6%	18.2%

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

Regional Labor Market Developments

Good news

On April 15th, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the ribbon cutting for The Cambria Hotel Niagara Falls. The project, part of a more than \$20 million mixed-use development project, is located on Rainbow Boulevard in downtown Niagara Falls (Niagara County). The seven-story, 120-room upscale hotel was developed by Plati Niagara Inc and features indoor and outdoor spaces for guests, a bar and restaurant, meeting and event spaces and a fitness center.

Marrano Homes is planning to construct a 37-unit condo development in Cheektowaga (Erie County). The new community, called Midtown Townhomes, will feature 14 two-unit buildings and three three-unit buildings. Each unit will have a first-floor master suite, two additional bedrooms, two-and-a-half bathrooms, family room, first-floor laundry, a full basement and a two-car garage.

Two new banking companies are planning to expand their presence in the Buffalo market. Pennsylvania-based bank NexTier Bank is preparing to open its first Buffalo-area branch in Williamsville (Erie County). The bank also has plans to open a branch in Rochester (Monroe County) in the near future. NexTier has 31 locations in Western Pennsylvania. Chemung Canal Trust has also announced plans to open a full-service branch in Williamsville. Chemung Canal already has a loan production office in the region, according to the Buffalo News.

The \$20.8 million solar energy project in the Town of Evans was approved for \$4.1 million in tax breaks from the Erie County Industrial Development Agency. Solar Liberty will construct a pair of solar arrays that will generate 8.25 megawatts of electricity on 33 acres of vacant land. The project will include 22,308 solar panels, mounted on steel racking anchored to the ground, and 66 inverters to convert the solar power into electricity, according to the Buffalo News. Construction is expected to take about seven months.

Hudson Valley plant-based dairy products startup Edenesque will be bringing its headquarters to the Buffalo area as it expands into more stores and restaurants in the Western New York area. The Black woman-owned company's products will hit the shelves at Whole Foods this summer. Currently, the company's products are being sold in stores throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan in such corporate offices as Calvin Klein and Estee Lauder and in restaurants and cafes in New York City. The owner plans to build a team of employees in Buffalo (Erie County), including hiring a chief of staff and sales personnel. The company will now be closer to its new contract manufacturing partner, Elma plant-based milk producer Elmhurst (Erie County), and its main distribution partner, Sonwil Logistics, in West Seneca (Erie County).

A total of \$3.5 million in New York State grants have been awarded from Empire State Development for a mixed-use development planned for Canalside in Buffalo (Erie County) and an expansion of the visitor center by the Graycliff Conservancy. MSquared, a New York City-based women-owned business, will receive \$2.5 million for a mixed-income housing project at Canalside. Plans call for four buildings with 367 apartments, about half of which will be considered affordable, plus ground-floor storefronts. The \$160 million project will also include 360 parking spaces and will connect the waterfront to downtown mass transit, pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths, according to The Buffalo News. In a separate project, the Erie Graycliff Conservancy will receive \$1 million to more than double the size of its visitor center in Derby (Erie County).

In an application for sales tax abatement to the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency, Holiday Valley Resort detailed its newest plans for expansion, upgrades and improvements throughout the resort. The ski resort is investing another \$2.5 million into its Ellicottville (Cattaraugus County) campus in a bid to increase its year-round business opportunities, according to Business First. The resort, which is owned by Win-Sum Ski Corp., has invested more than \$130 million over the past 25 years, including more than \$10 million in the past two summers. Investments for summer 2024 will include new snow-making equipment, updates to hotel rooms, new pickleball courts, renovation of the warming hut and wedding pavilion, updates to parking areas and the addition of EV charging stations. Holiday Valley employs from 500-1,500 workers seasonally.

Bad news

According to a WARN notice, beginning on July 15, Tesla will lay off 285 workers at its Buffalo (Erie County) location. 280 employees work in the plant, and the other five work across the street at Tesla's new gallery and service center. The company filed the WARN notice just two days after breaking the news that it would lay off 10% of its global workforce, amounting to around 14,000 workers. Since then, they filed a second WARN notice on April 29, 2024, that was posted May 1. According to the notice, an additional 26 workers will be affected in this round of layoffs, beginning July 30, 2024. Tesla currently employs 2,025 at its Buffalo location, according to Business First.

To balance its budget for the next school year, the West Seneca Central School District (Erie County) is looking to cut a total of 47.5 full-time equivalent positions that would save the district nearly \$5 million. The budget plan presented to the board shows a reduction of 30.5 teaching positions and 17 other staff members. It was not clear how many people would lose their jobs and how many jobs would be cut through attrition, according to the Buffalo News. Members of the teachers and CSEA unions attended the board meeting for the budget update.

Buffalo Public Schools (Erie County), facing a multi-million-dollar budget shortfall, cannot guarantee that there won't be any layoffs even though it has a plan to avoid them. Protests have broken out at some local school districts over teacher layoffs. The plan to avoid layoffs includes a hiring freeze, cutting vacancies and using savings. The district also expects around 300 retirements over the next two years and plans to leave at least 100 vacant positions unfilled.

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Department
of Labor

Western New York Region

Includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties

Timothy Glass

NYS Department of Labor

290 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: (716) 851-2740

Email: Timothy.Glass@labor.ny.gov