

# Employment in New York State

JANUARY 2020

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Department  
of Labor

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

## At a Glance

New York State had 9,826,200 total nonfarm jobs in November 2019, including 8,327,800 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. In October-November 2019, the seasonally adjusted private sector job count increased in both the state (+0.2%) and nation (+0.2%). From November 2018 to November 2019, the number of private sector jobs increased by 1.3% in the state and by 1.6% in the nation (not seasonally adjusted).

In November 2019, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.0%. The comparable rate for the nation in November 2019 was 3.5%.

New York State's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate increased from 60.8% to 60.9% in November 2019.

## Change in Nonfarm Jobs

November 2018 - November 2019

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	116.7	1.2%
Private Sector	109.9	1.3%
Goods-producing	-5.9	-0.7%
Nat. res. & mining	0.1	1.8%
Construction	-1.7	-0.4%
Manufacturing	-4.3	-1.0%
Durable gds.	-4.8	-1.9%
Nondurable gds.	0.5	0.3%
Service-providing	122.6	1.4%
Trade, trans. & util.	2.2	0.1%
Wholesale trade	-1.2	-0.4%
Retail trade	-0.5	-0.1%
Trans., wrhs. & util.	3.9	1.3%
Information	6.7	2.4%
Financial activities	-1.2	-0.2%
Prof. & bus. svcs.	25.4	1.9%
Educ. & health svcs.	65.3	3.1%
Leisure & hospitality	20.3	2.2%
Other services	-2.9	-0.7%
Government	6.8	0.4%

NYC dominates a variety of statewide export industries...

## A Closer Look at the Big Apple

New York City (NYC) has long been known as a global financial center. It's no surprise that more than 90% of the jobs in certain financial industries in the state – like investment banking – are situated in NYC. While the city's role as one of the world's top financial centers is widely recognized, its dominance in a variety of other smaller statewide industries is less well known. This article examines some of these 'under the radar' industries.

### Cut and Sew Apparel Manufacturing

Midtown Manhattan's Garment District is the heart of the city's so-called needle trades industry, where close to 90% of statewide jobs in the needle trades are found. This industry has shrunk in size dramatically since its heyday in the late 1940s when apparel manufacturing supplied one-tenth of all city jobs. However, sample making and apparel manufacturing for NYC-focused fashion brands, such as

Lafayette 148 and Alice & Olivia, continue to sustain a vibrant fashion scene.

About 65% of citywide jobs in the needle trades are found in Manhattan, but Brooklyn is starting to make its mark on the future of the industry. In 2019, NYC's Economic Development Corporation unveiled a design for a new Garment Manufacturing Hub Campus at Bush Terminal in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Set to open in 2021, the Garment Hub will co-locate garment manufacturers and emerging designers, while providing IT and administrative services for these partnerships to grow.

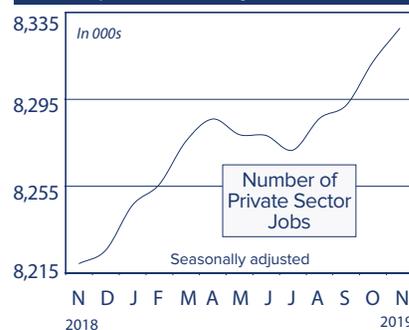
### Jewelry Merchant Wholesalers

Jewelry wholesalers act as industry middlemen, selling large quantities of jewelry-related goods to retail merchants rather than to consumers. NYC is home to 90% of the state's jobs in this industry. Most of these jobs are found in Manhattan's

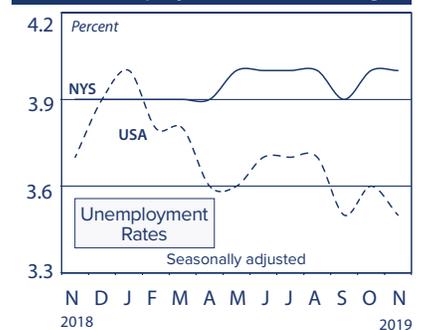
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## In November...

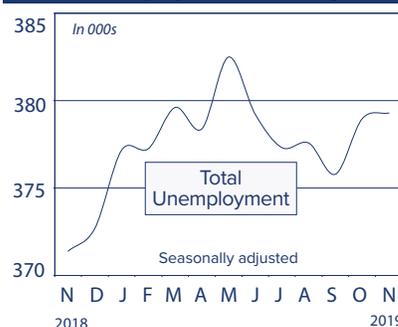
### ...NYS private sector jobs increased



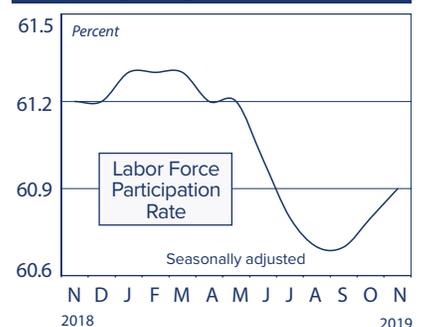
### ...NYS unemployment rate unchanged



### ...NYS unemployment unchanged



### ...NYS LF participation rate increased



## Focus on the North Country

### Growing Lodging Industry Boosts Region's Tourism Sector

by Anthony Hayden, Labor Market Analyst, North Country Region

In the late 1800s, New York City's well-to-do started to visit the North Country in increasing numbers, due to its natural beauty, healthy climate and many outdoor offerings. Travel was enabled by improved transportation infrastructure, such as steamboats and trains. With increased numbers of well-heeled visitors coming to the region, sprawling resort hotels, like Stevens House in Lake Placid and the Hotel Ampersand in Lower Saranac Lake, soon began dotting the map. By one count, there were almost 200 resort hotels in the region by 1900. However, changing consumer tastes and a series of building fires meant these properties were mostly gone by 1950.

By the 1960s, automobile travel to the region was the norm, which was greatly facilitated by the new Interstate Highway System and Adirondack Northway. High-end resort hotels, private tourist homes and many independent motels were largely replaced by national lodging brands like Holiday Inn. Today, the progression continues as technology-enabled, home-sharing platforms such as Airbnb, FlipKey and VRBO are expanding rapidly in the region.

#### Tourism = Economic Development

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council has recognized the importance of the tourism sector by designating it as a priority industry cluster. In 2018, the region hosted over 13 million visitors who spent more than \$1.26 billion, according to the latest data from the I Love New York program. Both visitation and direct spending by tourists have grown by more than 20% since 2011.

A key contributor to the region's successful tourism sector has been its growing lodging industry. Proportionately, the lodging industry is almost twice as large in the North Country as it is nationally, employing over 3,200 locally. Moreover, in 2009-18 the job count in the North Country's lodging sector grew 27.6%, significantly faster than in the U.S. (+15.7%) over the same time frame.

There are approximately 250 hotels and motels in the North Country, a number that has remained relatively constant over the past decade. What has changed, however, is the mix of guest properties – smaller motels have been replaced with larger, upscale, nationally branded hotels, which tend to offer more services and amenities and thus require more workers. Hotels opening over the past few years include: Hampton Inn, Lake Placid; 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, Clayton; Fairfield Inn and Suites, Plattsburgh and Canton; Candlewood Suites, Fort Drum; and Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake.

#### Property Pipeline

In addition, there are several North Country hotels in the pipeline. One hotel property currently under construction is the Saranac Waterfront Lodge in Saranac Lake. It is a 93-room, full-service hotel billed as the Adirondack Park's first and only LEED-Certified lodging, which means it is being constructed following internationally recognized "green building" rules. It is expected to open in 2020. A dual-branded Tru by Hilton-Homewood Suites hotel is planned for Lake Placid on the current site of a Quality Inn, which will be demolished. The new hotel will more than double the number of rooms at the location to 196.



In Jefferson County, negotiations are underway to develop a Fairfield Inn and Suites in Alexandria Bay. In Clinton County, the Plattsburgh Town Planning Board approved a preliminary site plan for a 97-room Home2Suites by Hilton near the area's main commercial corridor and expanding manufacturing businesses. In Franklin County, a 75-room Hilton or InterContinental Hotels Group property has been proposed for Tupper Lake. Development plans for the Tupper Lake Crossroads Hotel, a 40-room boutique property, continue. In Essex County, a 40-room luxury Ski Bowl Inn has been proposed for North Creek.

#### Looking Ahead

Over the past decade, the North Country's lodging industry has experienced strong job growth that shows no sign of slowing. Looking ahead, the increasing use of home-sharing platforms represents a headwind to the traditional lodging industry. Moreover, the rapid increase in the number of homeowners who rent out properties for side income continues to divide residents and pose new challenges (e.g., unpaid occupancy taxes, congestion) to local governments in affected communities. These challenges will take some time to resolve.

#### The Big Apple... from page 1

Diamond District, which is located on 47th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.

In 2018, New York exported \$13.3 billion in diamonds, making it the state's top export, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Over 90% of the diamonds that enter this country go through NYC and most of them go through the Diamond District. More than 2,600 independent businesses are found in the Diamond District, and nearly all of them are focused on diamonds or fine jewelry.

The concentration of sellers of raw materials and jewelry manufacturers makes the Diamond District an ideal destination for all types of

wholesalers – from fast-fashion costume collections to expensive diamond masterpieces. More than 20% of the jobs in this industry are sales related. Other top occupations include laborers, customer service representatives, and a relatively high number of supervisory and managerial positions – all offering opportunities for people to advance to the middle class without acquiring a four-year college degree.

#### Art Dealers

The city's status as a cultural capital, combined with its financial prominence, create a vibrant art culture that supports new talent as well as a network of established art resellers. New York art dealers facilitate the sale of artists'

work to museums, galleries, corporations and collectors by representing artists, displaying their work and negotiating sales – either in person or through an auction house.

Nearly 9 in 10 of the state's jobs in this industry are found in NYC, with a heavy concentration in Manhattan. The industry hosts several high-profile seasonal events – including the widely publicized annual Armory Show – that bolster employment and the city's bottom line. As expected, the top occupations at art dealerships are weighted heavily toward sales, with retail salespersons accounting for almost 40% of employment.

## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	NOV '18	NOV '19		NOV '18	NOV '19		NOV '18	NOV '19
<b>New York State</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	Dutchess	3.0	3.2	Genesee	3.5	3.6
Albany	3.1	3.2	Orange	3.3	3.5	Livingston	3.4	3.6
Columbia	2.6	2.7	Putnam	3.1	3.4	Monroe	3.6	3.8
Greene	3.8	3.9	Rockland	3.1	3.2	Ontario	3.2	3.3
Rensselaer	3.2	3.3	Sullivan	3.5	3.6	Orleans	3.8	4.2
Saratoga	3.0	3.0	Ulster	3.2	3.2	Seneca	3.0	3.4
Schenectady	3.4	3.4	Westchester	3.3	3.5	Wayne	3.3	3.5
Warren	4.2	4.4	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	Wyoming	3.5	3.8
Washington	3.4	3.6	Fulton	4.4	4.4	Yates	3.0	3.4
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>	Herkimer	4.1	4.3	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Cayuga	3.6	3.7	Montgomery	4.1	4.4	Allegany	4.3	5.0
Cortland	3.9	4.2	Oneida	3.7	3.8	Cattaraugus	4.3	4.6
Madison	3.7	3.7	Otsego	3.4	3.7	Chautauqua	4.3	4.2
Onondaga	3.4	3.5	Schoharie	3.5	3.6	Erie	3.7	3.8
Oswego	4.5	4.8	<b>North Country</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	Niagara	4.2	4.4
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>	Clinton	3.5	3.7	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Broome	3.9	4.1	Essex	4.3	4.3	Nassau	3.0	3.2
Chemung	3.6	3.7	Franklin	4.1	4.4	Suffolk	3.2	3.3
Chenango	3.6	3.9	Hamilton	6.9	6.7	<b>New York City</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Delaware	3.7	4.1	Jefferson	4.9	5.5	Bronx	5.1	5.2
Schuyler	4.2	4.1	Lewis	4.2	4.6	Kings	3.8	3.8
Steuben	3.8	4.1	St. Lawrence	4.4	4.7	New York	3.3	3.3
Tioga	3.4	3.6				Queens	3.3	3.2
Tompkins	3.0	3.0				Richmond	3.7	3.6

### The Big Apple... from page 2

New York's art dealers are also an important economic engine. They generated more than \$9.8 billion in exports in 2018, making art the state's #2 export. In 2019, the nine most expensive art works offered at auction were sold in NYC by Sotheby's or Christie's, the two largest auction houses. The average sale price of these nine works was \$67.9 million, according to *Artnet News*, with an 1890 work by Claude Monet earning the top spot with a selling price of \$110.7 million.

### Translation and Interpretation Services

Not only is NYC the #1 city destination for overseas visitors to the U.S. and host to the United Nations, it is also home to more than three million immigrants, who comprise nearly 38% of the city's population. Not surprisingly, the translation and interpretation services industry is mostly concentrated in the city, with 76% of statewide employment. Furthermore, the vast majority (86%) of NYC interpreting jobs are found in Manhattan.

The sector comprises businesses primarily involved in translating written materials and interpreting speech from one language to another, including sign language. Over the past five years, jobs in translation and interpretation services have grown by over 28% in New York City.

There are currently about 130 establishments that provide a wide range of translation

services in the city, from document translations to business and medical speech interpreters to cultural training. Interpreters and translators make up 68% of the industry's jobs. As cultural and linguistic diversity in NYC continues to grow, the need for professional interpreters and translators to provide communication will rise.

### Theater Companies and Dinner Theaters

New York City, a long-term global leader in the entertainment field and the center of American popular culture with Broadway hits such as *Hamilton*, is home to 83% of theater employment in the state. This category includes businesses such as Broadway theaters, comedy clubs, opera companies, dinner theaters (especially those that host murder mysteries), improvisational and mime theaters, to name a few.

Altogether, New York City's theater industry, which employs almost 13,000 people spread across 600 establishments, accounts for 18% of all theater jobs in the U.S. Also striking is the high average wage level (\$65,800) for theater employees in New York City, who earned 78% more than their national counterparts (\$37,000) in 2018.

The economic impact of theater companies is also impressive. For example, the 2018-19 Broadway season, which ran from May 2018 to May 2019, with \$1.83 billion in sales was the highest-grossing on record. It was also

the best-attended season of all time, with 14.8 million tickets sold. A recent report from the Broadway League found that Broadway theaters supported more than 12,600 direct jobs and 74,500 indirect jobs in New York City. In 2018, the city's overall theater sector generated over \$840 million in total wages, up 34% over the 2013 level.

### Summary

While New York City's role as a global financial center is well known, it is also home to many other industries that have high employment concentrations. As a result, these 'under the radar' export-oriented industries play a significant, and perhaps underappreciated, role in the city's economy.

by Elena Volovelsky and Elena Grovenger

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Regional Analysts' Corner

CAPITAL

Kevin Alexander — 518-242-8245

Over the past year, the private sector job count in the Capital Region rose by 2,500, or 0.6 percent, to 452,500 in November 2019. Job gains were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (+1,100), professional and business services (+900), leisure and hospitality (+700) and financial activities (+500). Employment losses were centered in trade, transportation and utilities (-800).

CENTRAL NY

Karen Knapik-Scalzo — 315-479-3391

Private sector jobs in the Syracuse metro area rose over the year by 4,300, or 1.6 percent, to 270,800 in November 2019. Growth was centered in professional and business services (+2,700), leisure and hospitality (+2,200) and manufacturing (+400). Job losses occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (-700), educational and health services (-300) and financial activities (-300).

FINGER LAKES

Tammy Marino — 585-258-8870

Private sector jobs in the Rochester metro area rose over the year by 7,000, or 1.5 percent, to 469,300 in November 2019. Job gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+3,700), natural resources, mining and construction (+2,300), professional and business services (+1,100) and educational and health services (+900). Losses were centered in manufacturing (-1,100).

HUDSON VALLEY

John Nelson — 914-997-8798

For the year ending November 2019, private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased by 8,200, or 1.0 percent, to 824,100. Job gains were largest in educational and health services (+5,400), leisure and hospitality (+4,300) and natural resources, mining and construction (+2,700). Employment losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-3,600) and other services (-1,500).

LONG ISLAND

Shital Patel — 516-934-8533

The private sector job count on Long Island increased over the year by 11,100, or 1.0 percent, to 1,166,800 in November 2019. Gains were greatest in educational and health services (+8,000), natural resources, mining and construction (+6,400) and leisure and hospitality (+3,900). Losses were largest in professional and business services (-2,900) and other services (-1,900).

MOHAWK VALLEY

Brion Acton — 315-793-2282

For the 12-month period ending November 2019, the private sector job count in the Mohawk Valley region rose by 300, or 0.2 percent, to 149,100. Job gains were greatest in educational and health services (+500) and leisure and hospitality (+200). Employment losses were centered in manufacturing (-300).

NEW YORK CITY

Elena Volovelsky — 718-613-3971

Private sector jobs in New York City rose over the year by 73,000, or 1.8 percent, to 4,117,000 in November 2019. Gains were greatest in educational and health services (+49,600), professional and business services (+18,100), trade, transportation and utilities (+6,900) and leisure and hospitality (+6,200). Losses were centered in natural resources, mining and construction (-6,900) and financial activities (-3,700).

SOUTHERN TIER

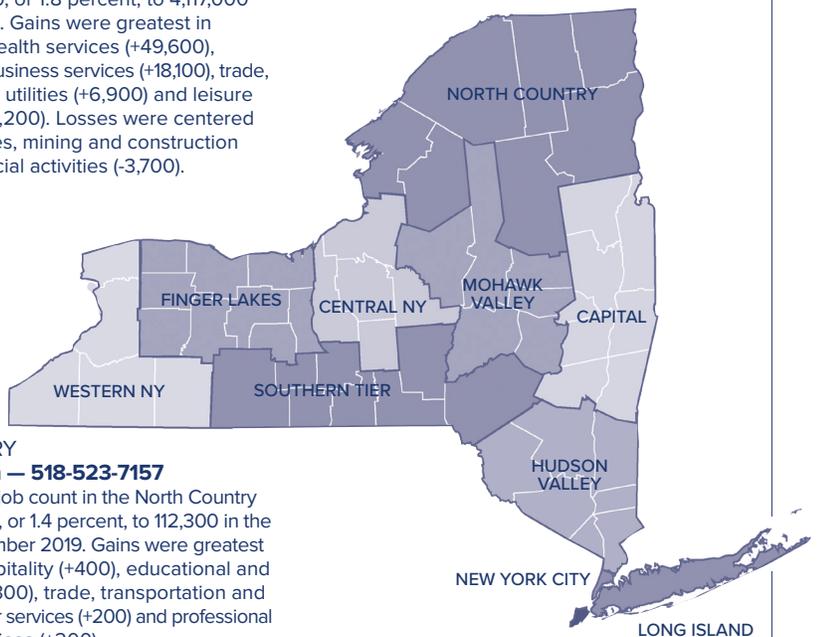
Christian Harris — 607-741-4480

The Southern Tier's private sector job count grew by 700, or 0.3 percent, to 231,300 in the year ending November 2019. Job gains were greatest in educational and health services (+2,100). Losses were centered in trade, transportation and utilities (-600), professional and business services (-500) and manufacturing (-200).

WESTERN NY

Timothy Glass — 716-851-2742

Private sector jobs in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area rose over the year by 3,900, or 0.8 percent, to 484,300 in November 2019. Job gains were greatest in educational and health services (+3,000), leisure and hospitality (+1,200), financial activities (+700) and professional and business services (+700). Losses were largest in manufacturing (-1,500) and natural resources, mining and construction (-400).



NORTH COUNTRY

Anthony Hayden — 518-523-7157

The private sector job count in the North Country increased by 1,500, or 1.4 percent, to 112,300 in the year ending November 2019. Gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+400), educational and health services (+300), trade, transportation and utilities (+300), other services (+200) and professional and business services (+200).