

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW YORK STATE

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS



At a Glance

New York State had 9,398,100 total nonfarm jobs in April 2022, including 7,937,300 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The state's seasonally adjusted private sector job count increased by 0.3% in March-April 2022, while the nation's private sector job count also increased by 0.3% over this period. From April 2021 to April 2022, the number of private sector jobs increased by 5.5% in the state and by 5.2% in the nation (not seasonally adjusted).

In April 2022, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.6% to 4.5%. The comparable rate for the nation in April 2022 was 3.6%.

New York State's seasonally adjusted labor force participation rate increased from 59.1% to 59.4% in April 2022.

CHANGE IN NONFARM JOBS | NEW YORK STATE

April 2021 - April 2022

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	NET	%
TOTAL NONFARM JOBS	449.3	5.0
PRIVATE SECTOR	411.4	5.5
Goods-producing	15.8	2.0
Nat. res. & mining	0.1	1.9
Construction	3.5	0.9
Manufacturing	12.2	3.0
Durable gds.	6.0	2.6
Nondurable gds.	6.2	3.6
Service-providing	433.5	5.3
Trade, trans. & util.	62.9	4.5
Wholesale trade	8.8	3.0
Retail trade	32.7	4.0
Trans., wrhs. & util.	21.4	7.5
Information	20.9	7.6
Financial activities	10.7	1.5
Prof. & bus. svcs.	74.1	5.9
Educ. & health svcs.	38.4	1.8
Leisure & hospitality	161.0	24.6
Other services	27.6	7.7
Government	37.9	2.6

DEPUTY DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Kevin Jack

GRAPHIC DESIGN

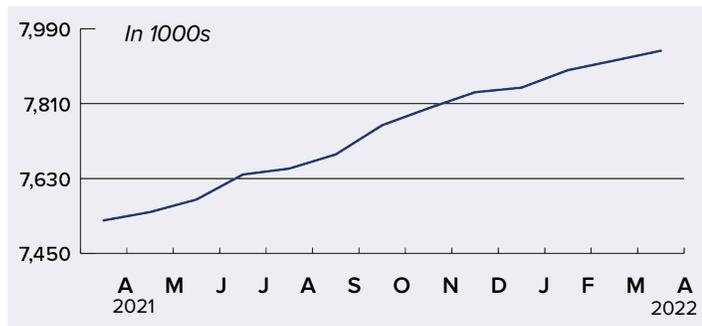
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EDITORIAL ADVISOR

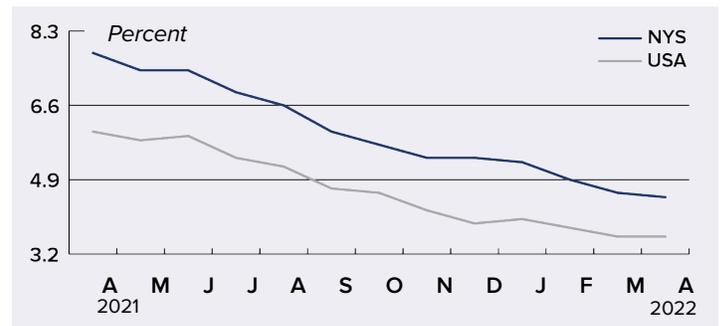
Daniel Gorman

IN APRIL 2022...

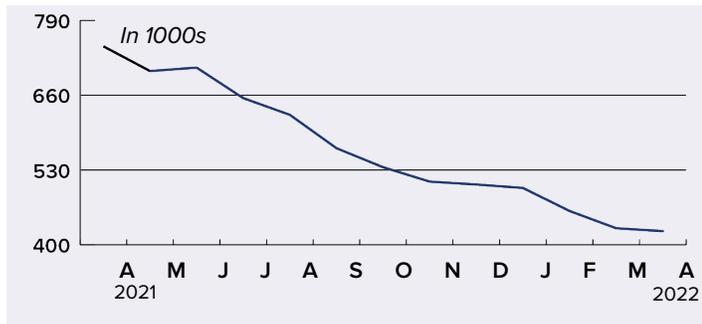
NYS PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS* | INCREASED



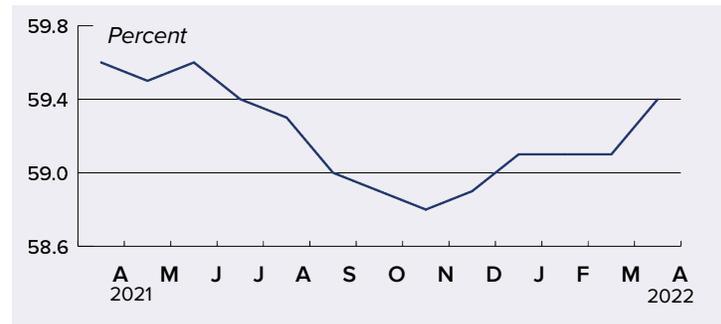
NYS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE* | DECREASED



NYS UNEMPLOYMENT* | DECREASED



NYS LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE* | INCREASED



*Seasonally adjusted

A Look at Gen X: America's Neglected 'Middle Child'

With 2.9 million members, Gen X is the 2nd largest group in NYS's workforce today...

by Kevin Jack, Deputy Director

“Gen X is known for its quiet, disinterested and don't-call-attention-to-itself nature — or, to quote the title of Nirvana's breakthrough 1991 album, “Nevermind.” And hence, it often doesn't get that attention.”

MarketWatch, May 2022

“Gen X” refers to people born between 1965 and 1980. This group is sandwiched between two much larger generations—the older Baby Boomers (born 1946-64) and the younger Millennials (1981-96)—that are noticeably different from one another.

The Pew Research Center has referred to Gen X as “America's neglected 'middle child,’” which refers to the habit of overlooking that group. Gen X was forgotten once again in May 2022, when CNN analyst David Gergen noted that Millennials and Gen Zers stand ready to pick up the baton from aging Boomers. Like a distracted parent, Gergen made no mention of Gen X, the group that directly follows Boomers. Here, we remedy this lack of attention. This article combines generational definitions developed by Pew with CPS data to paint a statistical portrait of New York State's ‘middle child’ generation.

What Defines a Generation?

Canadian author Douglas Coupland popularized the phrase “Generation X” in the late 1980s. He applied the term to younger Boomers, born between 1961 and 1964, who said they did not feel like boomers and did not like the label. Their dislike for the “boomer” designation largely stemmed from the fact they were shaped in part by much different events as well as by technological and economic shifts, such as the rise of the personal computer.

Older Boomers were defined by the JFK, RFK and MLK assassinations, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights movement. Younger Boomers and Gen Xers were shaped by the Watergate scandal, the Three Mile Island meltdown, the AIDS epidemic, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the first Persian Gulf War.

Moreover, the two Boomer cohorts and Gen Xers came of age in much different economic environments. Older Boomers enjoyed relatively prosperous times with a booming stock market in the 1950s and 1960s. In contrast, younger Boomers and Gen Xers grew up with the economic stagflation of the late 1970s and early 1980s, brought on by the OPEC oil embargoes as well as the 1987 stock market crash and the resulting global financial crisis.

NYS's Gen X by the Numbers

Generation X is much smaller in absolute size than either the Baby Boomers or the Millennials. This is due to a sharp drop in birth rates occurring in the late 1960s and 1970s. There were more than 3.6 million Gen Xers living in New York in 2021, ranging in age from 41 to 56. About four in five Gen Xers (78.2%) living in New York, or just

under 2.9 million people, were either working or actively looking for work last year. Together, Gen Xers account for 31.1% of the state's labor force in 2021.

Gen X's rate of labor force participation was slightly below the comparable figure for the younger Millennial generation (82.2%), but much higher than the rate for Baby Boomers (43.0%). Many Baby Boomers have already retired with the oldest Boomers turning 75 in 2021. This result is not a surprise as labor force participation rates tend to peak among people aged 25-54 (aka “prime-age” workers), and then trend downward after age 55.

The figure on page 3 shows the relative share of three generations—Baby Boom, Gen X and Millennial—in New York's labor force over the past 20 years. In 2001, when Gen Xers ranged in age from 21 to 36, they accounted for just over one-third (35.5%) of the state's workforce. At that time, Boomers had the largest share at 46.0%, while Millennials were only 6.2% of the state's labor force. The Greatest (born before 1928) and Silent (born 1928-45) generations together still represented about one in eight workers (12.3%) in the state.

Gen X still had the second largest share of the state's workforce at 36.4% in 2006. Boomers were still the largest group at 40.9% and Millennials were ranked #3 at 14.9%. Five years later, the relative share of Gen Xers and Boomers in the state's labor force fell to 33.3% and 35.8%, respectively. This occurred as the number of Millennials working or looking for work in New York rocketed from 1.4 million to 2.5 million between 2006 and 2011.

By 2016, Gen Xers were the #1 group with 34.0% of New York's labor force. Right behind them were Millennials with a 33.7% share. With the oldest Boomers hitting age 70 in 2016, it was no surprise to see their share of the state's workforce slip to 27.2%. This is also the first year in which members of Gen Z, born between 1997 and 2010, appear in this analysis. In 2016, when they ranged in age from 6 to 19, they comprised 2.9% of New York's labor force. This last result is not a surprise as only people age 16 and older are counted as part of the state's labor force.

Characteristics of Gen Xers

Gen Xers have been described as: self-reliant, pragmatic, cynical, impatient, skeptical and likely to question authority. Unlike many Baby Boomers, who prioritized their work over their personal lives, Gen Xers are far more likely to place value on finding a balanced life. In fact, analysts credit Gen X with creating the concept of work-life balance, which has emerged as a priority for many American workers during the post-pandemic “Great Resignation.”

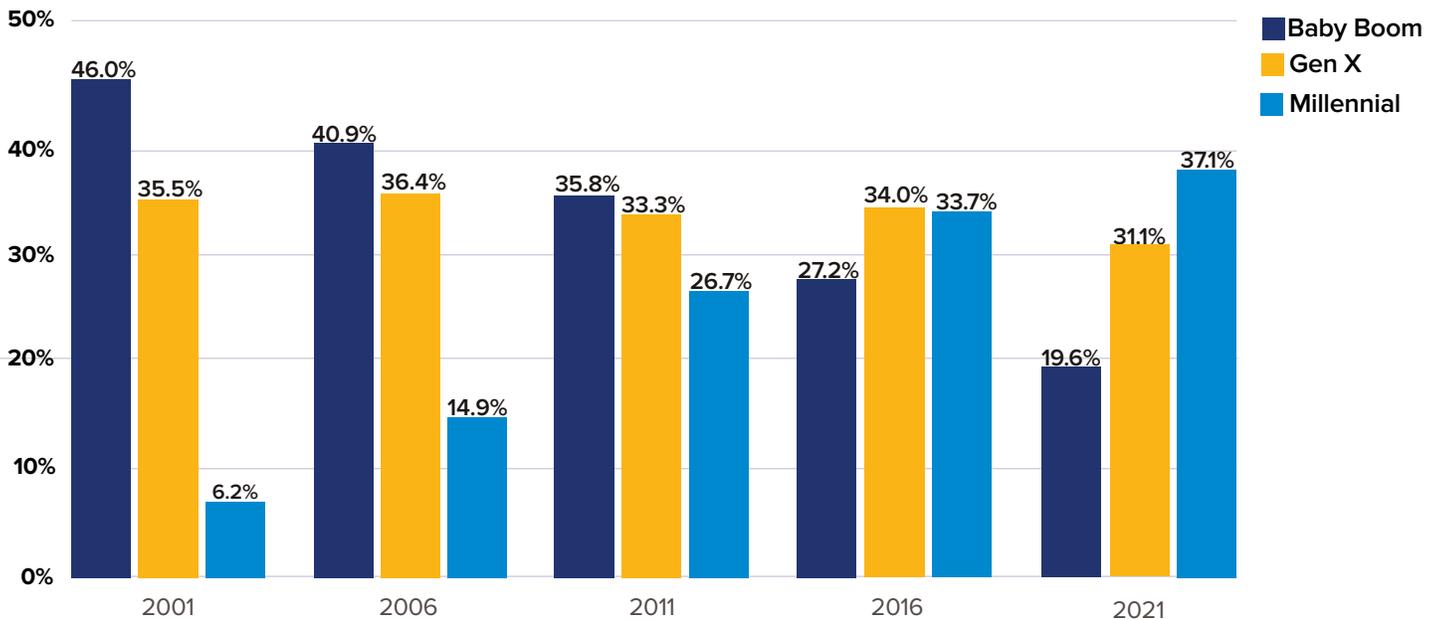
Summing Up

Born between 1965 and 1980, members of Gen X were once called the “slacker” or “baby bust” generation. Much smaller in absolute size than the Baby Boom and Millennial generations that bookend it, many Gen Xers have helped shape the world amid years of great change and technological advancement.

SHARE OF NEW YORK STATE LABOR FORCE

SHARE OF CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | SELECTED GENERATIONS

New York State, 2001 - 2021



Source: NYS Data Center analysis of Current Population Survey data

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW YORK STATE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW YORK STATE

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR '21	APR '22		APR '21	APR '22		APR '21	APR '22
New York State	7.7	4.2	Hudson Valley	5.1	2.9	Finger Lakes	5.4	3.1
Capital	4.8	2.7	Dutchess	4.8	2.8	Genesee	4.6	2.8
Albany	4.8	2.7	Orange	5.1	3.0	Livingston	4.7	2.9
Columbia	4.1	2.4	Putnam	4.5	2.7	Monroe	5.7	3.3
Greene	5.5	3.3	Rockland	4.7	2.6	Ontario	4.7	2.8
Rensselaer	4.8	2.7	Sullivan	5.4	3.1	Orleans	5.6	3.4
Saratoga	4.2	2.3	Ulster	5.0	2.9	Seneca	5.3	2.9
Schenectady	5.4	3.2	Westchester	5.3	3.0	Wayne	5.0	2.9
Warren	5.6	3.3	Mohawk Valley	5.6	3.4	Wyoming	4.8	3.1
Washington	5.2	3.0	Fulton	6.3	3.7	Yates	4.1	2.5
Central New York	5.4	3.3	Herkimer	6.3	3.9	Western New York	5.9	3.6
Cayuga	5.0	3.2	Montgomery	6.3	3.9	Allegany	5.1	3.4
Cortland	5.4	3.5	Oneida	5.4	3.3	Cattaraugus	5.6	3.7
Madison	4.8	3.0	Otsego	4.7	2.9	Chautauqua	5.8	3.7
Onondaga	5.4	3.2	Schoharie	4.9	3.0	Erie	6.0	3.5
Oswego	5.9	3.9	North Country	5.3	3.5	Niagara	6.1	3.8
Southern Tier	5.0	3.1	Clinton	4.9	3.0	Long Island	5.0	2.7
Broome	5.5	3.5	Essex	5.5	3.7	Nassau	5.0	2.6
Chemung	5.7	3.4	Franklin	5.1	3.3	Suffolk	5.0	2.8
Chenango	4.8	2.9	Hamilton	5.8	5.1	New York City	10.9	5.8
Delaware	5.0	3.2	Jefferson	5.5	3.8	Bronx	15.1	8.3
Schuyler	5.4	3.6	Lewis	5.6	4.0	Kings	11.1	6.0
Steuben	5.3	3.4	St. Lawrence	5.4	3.6	New York	8.4	4.4
Tioga	4.6	2.8				Queens	10.8	5.5
Tompkins	3.7	2.3				Richmond	9.5	5.2

FOCUS ON the Capital Region

Summer Recreation Industries Grow in the Capital Region

by Kevin Alexander, Labor Market Analyst, Capital Region

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, most leisure and hospitality firms in the region experienced sharp declines, both in terms of business activity and employment levels. Restrictions placed on travel and events deemed non-essential resulted in tourism and recreation industries taking a major hit as New Yorkers remained at home to help contain the spread of the virus. Here, we review the pandemic-related job losses that occurred in the Capital Region's summer recreation industries and the subsequent job gains that came with businesses reopening and the overall improvement in economic conditions.

Summer Employment

Employment in recreation industries typically peaks during the summer months. In July 2019, the arts, entertainment, and recreation (NAICS 71) sector employed 10,480 workers in the Capital Region. Just one year later, in July 2020, less than one-half of the sector's workforce remained. Recently, sector employment has bounced back, increasing nearly 70% from July 2020 to 8,140 in July 2021.

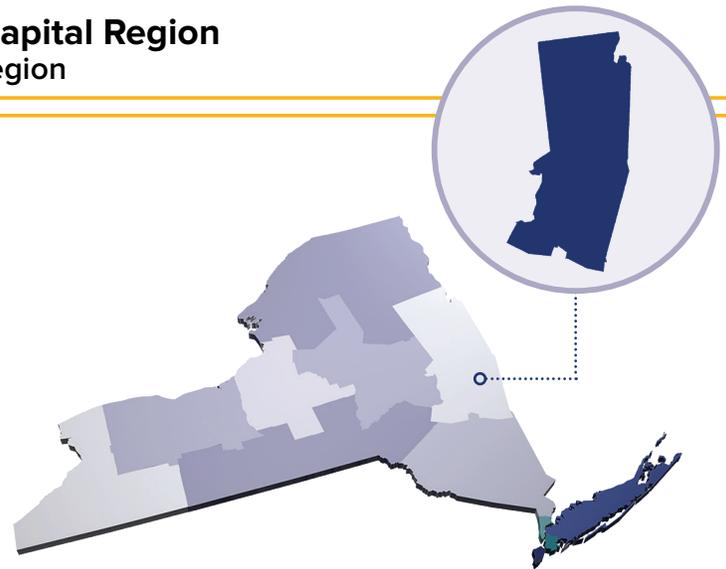
The accommodation (NAICS 721) subsector, which relies heavily on travel, tourism and recreation activity to help drive business, also experienced an employment drop in excess of 50% from July 2019 to July 2020. However, as business picked up, accommodation jobs grew by more than 70% to 8,920 in July 2021.

Industries Recover

Another recreation industry that experienced rapid job growth in July 2020-July 2021 was amusement parks and arcades (NAICS 7131), which saw its job count increase from 250 to 900. As a result, industry employment was only 130, or 13%, below its July 2019 level. This occurred after the industry's workforce dropped by 75% in 2019-20. This rebound was a direct result of increased visitation at area attractions following their reopening with less stringent capacity restrictions.

Other amusement and recreation industries (NAICS 7139) is a catch-all group that includes ski facilities, golf courses, country clubs, fitness centers and bowling alleys, among others. As of July 2021, employment in this industry was 2,010 higher than it was one year earlier, though its employment count remains well below where it stood in July 2019. However, with the pent-up demand for recreational and amusement activities, this industry is poised to continue its recovery in 2022.

Summer employment levels in the museums, parks, and historical sites (NAICS 7121) industry remained relatively stable during the pandemic, especially when compared to other recreational industries. As of July 2021, the industry's job count was only down 14%, or about 70 jobs, from its pre-pandemic level. The Capital Region is home to notable outdoor sites such as the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, Thacher State Park, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center and Olana State Historic Site.



Employment in the **Capital Region's** summer recreation industries bounced back in 2021.

The region was one of only two in New York State to experience population growth between 2020 and 2021. With an influx of new residents into the area, visitation at the region's museums, parks and historical sites is expected to grow as they familiarize themselves with local attractions.

The RV parks and recreational camps (NAICS 7212) industry added 1,230 jobs, a growth rate of 160%, from July 2020 to July 2021. It is one of the few recreation industries that employed more workers in July 2021 than in July 2019. A recent study from the Albany-based Capital Region Center for Economic Growth (CEG) noted the industry's local success. CEG's analysis of county-level data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that Warren County's peak summer recreation employment (July and August) ranked #4 in the nation in 2021.

Looking Ahead

Employment in the Capital Region's summer recreation industries bounced back in 2021, with momentum likely to continue into the summer of 2022. However, this rebound shouldn't detract from the many challenges employers continue to face. Since the lifting of restrictions, many employers in recreation industries have had a difficult time filling open vacancies as businesses compete for fewer available workers. Other current concerns include the extent to which inflation, currently at a 40-year high, and record-high gas prices will impact the summer 2022 recreation season.

Regional Analysts' Corner

CAPITAL

Kevin Alexander — 518-242-8245

Over the past year, the private sector job count in the Capital Region rose by 13,000, or 3.2%, to 423,200 in April 2022. Job gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+6,900), trade, transportation and utilities (+2,700), financial activities (+1,000), other services (+900), professional and business services (+600), manufacturing (+500) and natural resources, mining and construction (+500).

CENTRAL NY

Karen Knapik-Scalzo — 315-479-3391

The number of private sector jobs in the Syracuse metro area increased over the past year by 6,200, or 2.6%, to 248,000 in April 2022. Employment gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+3,600), trade, transportation and utilities (+1,700), professional and business services (+1,500), other services (+500) and natural resources, mining and construction (+300). Job losses were greatest in educational and health services (-1,500).

FINGER LAKES

Tammy Marino — 585-258-8870

From April 2021 to April 2022, the private sector job count in the Rochester metro area rose by 15,200, or 3.6%, to 441,900. Gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+5,900), trade, transportation and utilities (+2,600), manufacturing (+1,400), natural resources, mining and construction (+1,400), professional and business services (+1,400), financial activities (+900), other services (+900) and educational and health services (+700).

HUDSON VALLEY

John Nelson — 914-997-8798

Over the past year, the number of private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley grew by 20,200, or 2.7%, to 772,500 in April 2022. The largest job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+9,100), other services (+4,000), professional and business services (+3,300), trade, transportation and utilities (+2,400), manufacturing (+1,400) and information (+700). Employment losses were focused in educational and health services (-600).

LONG ISLAND

Shital Patel — 516-934-8533

For the year ending April 2022, private sector jobs on Long Island increased by 40,600, or 3.8%, to 1,107,000. Gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+16,800), professional and business services (+8,700), trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000), other services (+4,700), natural resources, mining and construction (+2,900), manufacturing (+700) and financial activities (+400). Losses were limited to educational and health services (-800).

MOHAWK VALLEY

Brion Acton — 315-793-2282

For the 12-month period ending April 2022, the private sector job count in the Mohawk Valley region rose by 3,000, or 2.2%, to 138,000. Over-the-year employment gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+2,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+1,000), manufacturing (+700), financial activities (+500), other services (+300) and professional and business services (+300). Employment losses were focused in educational and health services (-2,000).

NEW YORK CITY

Elena Volovelsky — 718-613-3971

The private sector job count in New York City rose over the past year by 285,000, or 7.9%, to 3,885,800 in April 2022. Gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+109,600), professional and business services (+55,500), educational and health services (+41,400), trade, transportation and utilities (+36,500), information (+18,000), other services (+14,500) and financial activities (+7,700). Natural resources, mining and construction (-2,100) lost jobs.

NORTH COUNTRY

Konstantin Sikhaou — 518-523-7157

For the 12-month period ending April 2022, the private sector job count in the North Country rose by 1,700, or 1.7%, to 103,600. Gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+1,500), trade, transportation and utilities (+400), other services (+300) and information (+200). Losses occurred in educational and health services (-500) and natural resources, mining and construction (-300).

SOUTHERN TIER

Christian Harris — 607-741-4480

For the year ending April 2022, the number of private sector jobs in the Southern Tier region increased by 2,500, or 1.2%, to 212,000. Employment gains were greatest in leisure and hospitality (+1,900), trade, transportation and utilities (+700), professional and business services (+600), manufacturing (+500) and other services (+400). Losses were greatest in educational and health services (-1,600).

WESTERN NY

Timothy Glass — 716-851-2742

Over the past 12 months, the private sector job count in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area rose by 16,000, or 3.7%, to 449,300 in April 2022. Gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+8,300), trade, transportation and utilities (+2,800), manufacturing (+2,400), other services (+1,700) and natural resources, mining and construction (+500). Employment losses occurred in educational and health services (-200).