Central New York Jobs

In July 2026, there were 293,200 private sector jobs and 362,400 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

Four industry sectors make up 69% of total nonfarm jobs:

Private Education & Health Services*	69,500
Government	69,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	67,700
Professional & Business Services	44,200

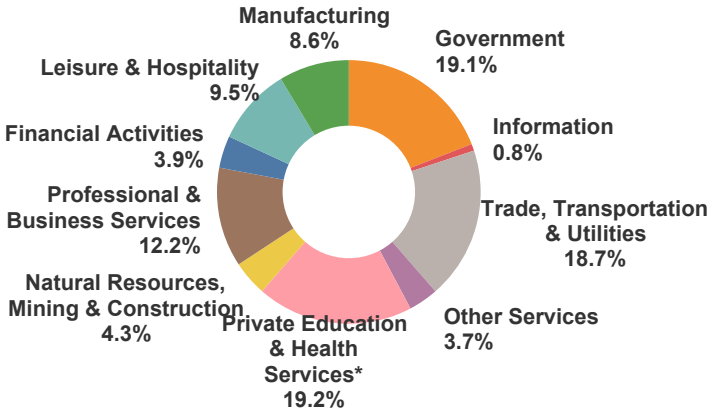
Job Losses

The region lost 1,300 nonfarm jobs over the past year, with a loss of 1,700 private sector jobs partially offset by a gain of 400 government jobs.

2,600 of the recent job losses occurred in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities and Professional & Business Services.

The region's most significant industry is Private Education & Health Services*

Regional Industry Mix, July 2026



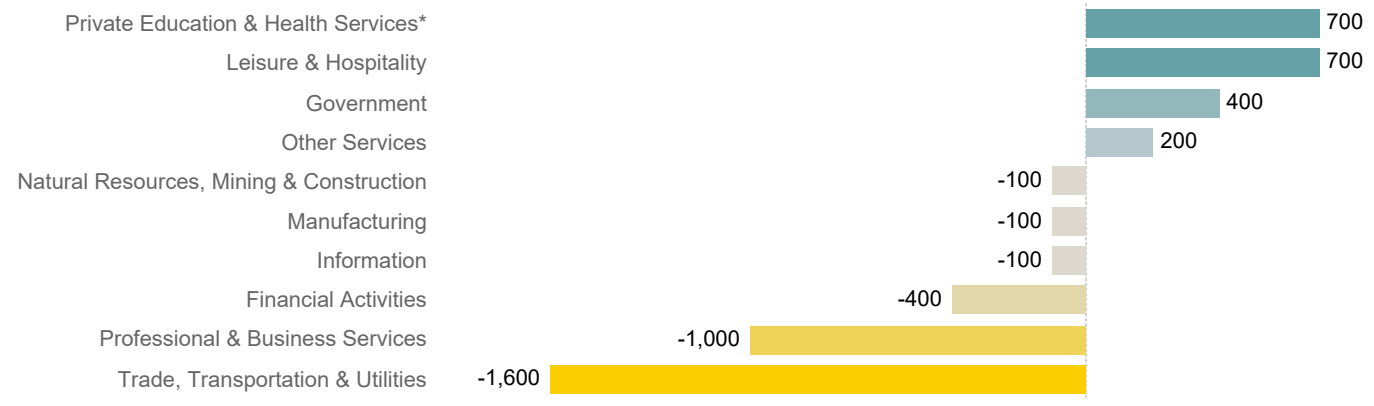
Private sector employment decreased by 0.6% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, July 2026

	July 2026	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	362,400	-1,300	-0.4%
Total Private	293,200	-1,700	-0.6%
Government	69,200	400	0.6%

Most job losses have occurred in Trade, Transportation & Utilities

Over-the-Year Change in Employment, July 2026



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

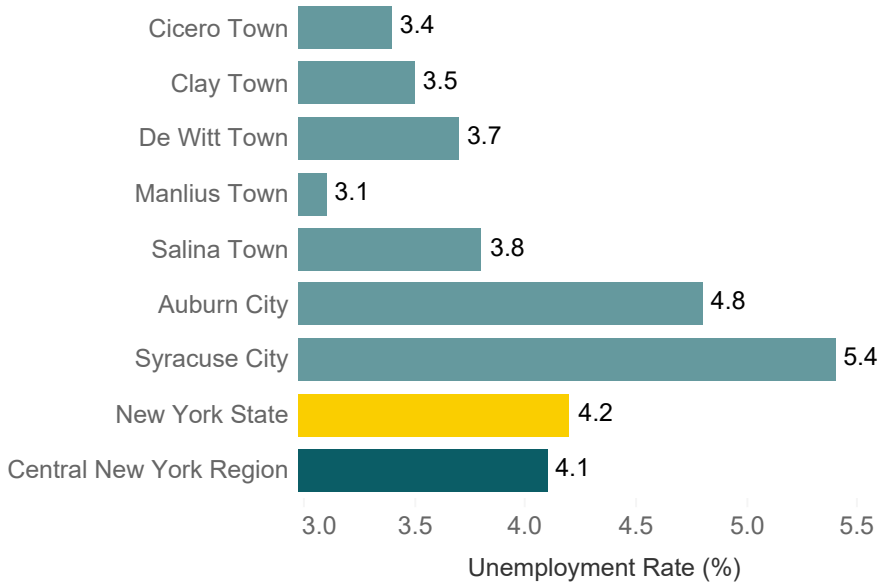
Unemployment Rate

All of the largest labor force areas in the Central New York Region, except the city of Syracuse and Auburn, had unemployment rates below the State's unemployment rate in July 2026.

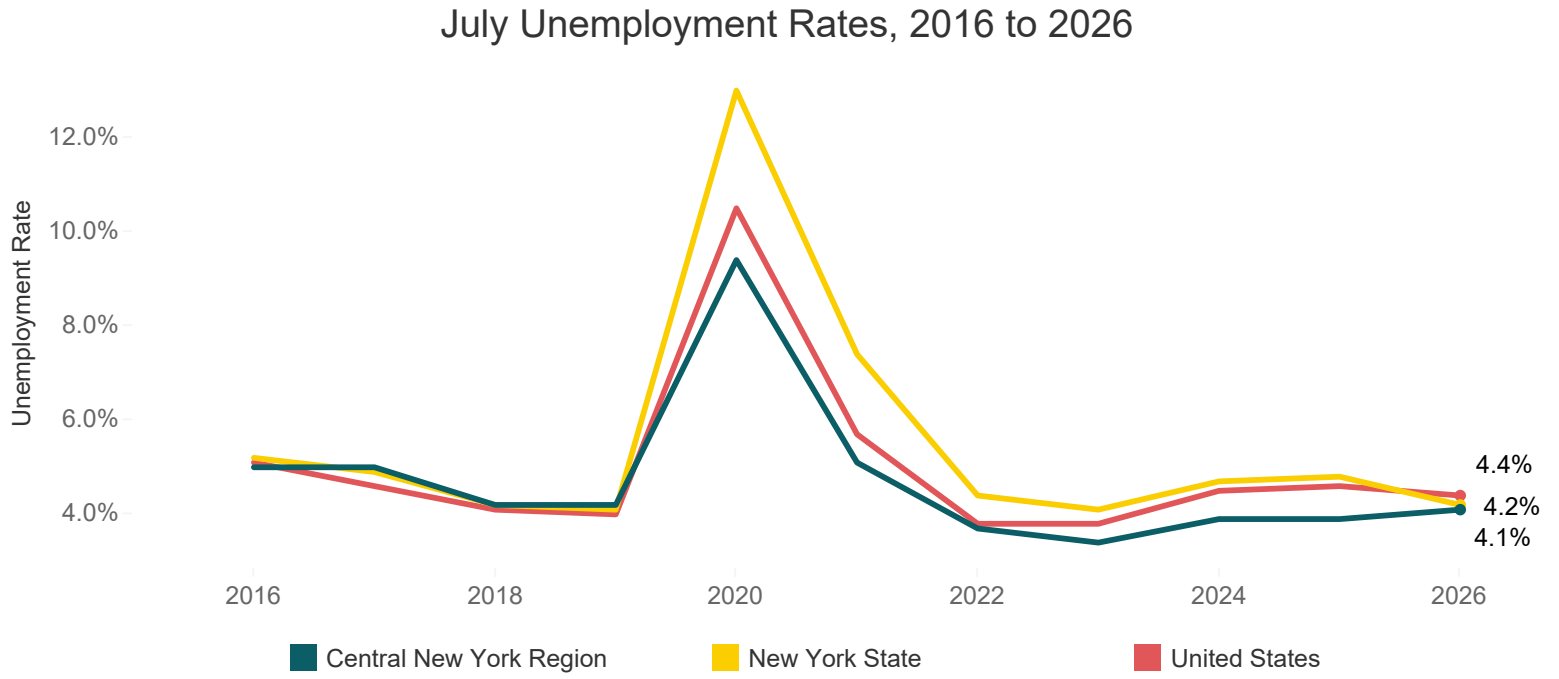
The State's unemployment rate (4.2%) exceeds the region's unemployment rate (4.1%) by 0.1 percentage points.

The unemployment rate in Central New York increased over the past year

Unemployment Rate by Place, July 2026



Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted), 2016-2026
Central New York, New York State, United States



Employment

Central New York employment decreased over the past year

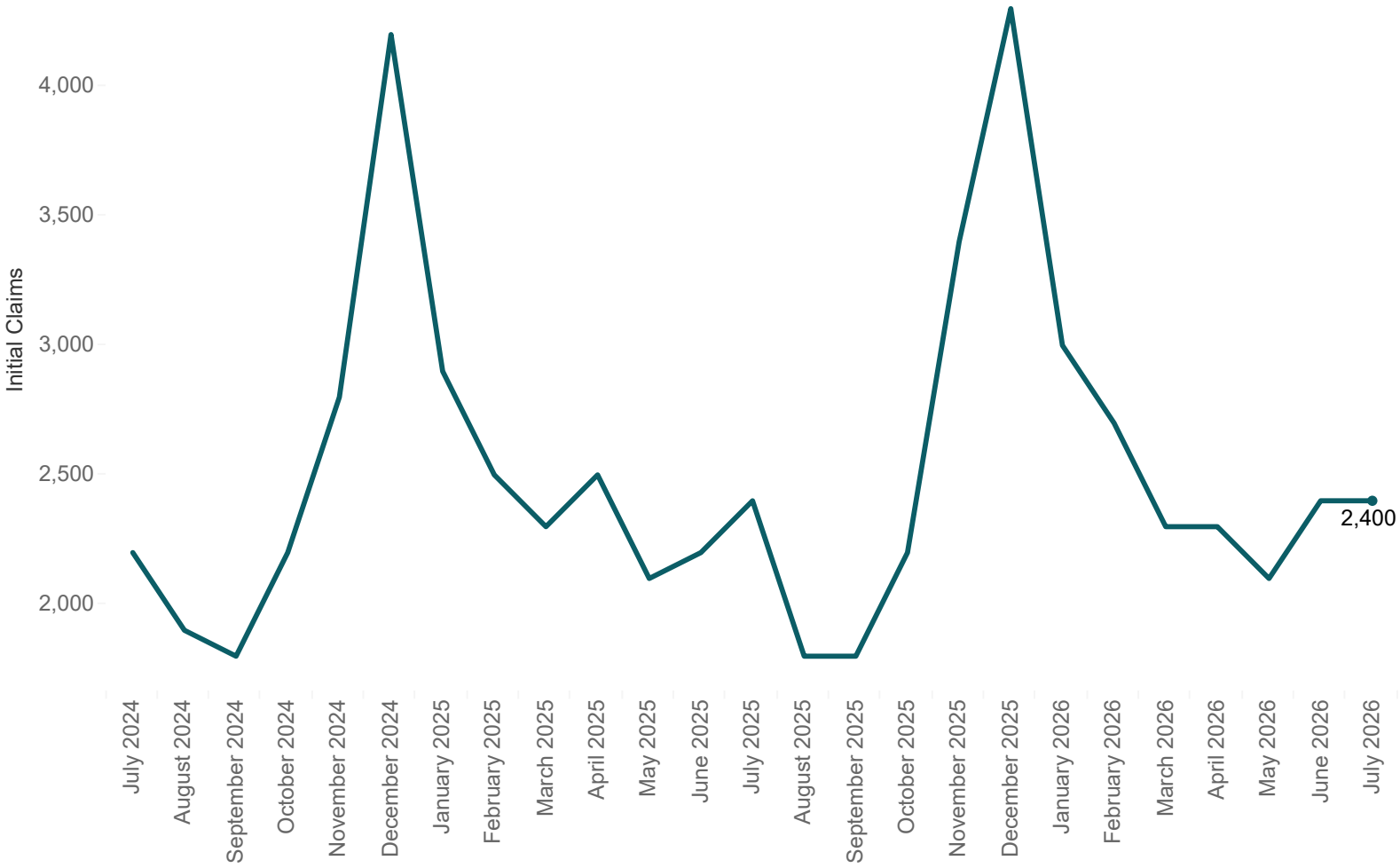
Regional and Metro Area Labor Force Data

	Employment		Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	July 2025	July 2026	July 2025	July 2026	July 2025	July 2026
Central New York Region	364,300	363,300	14,900	15,600	3.9%	4.1%
Cayuga County	33,800	33,900	1,400	1,400	3.9%	4.0%
Cortland County	20,600	20,400	900	1,000	4.3%	4.5%
Madison County	31,100	30,800	1,300	1,300	3.9%	4.0%
Onondaga County	225,100	224,700	8,900	9,400	3.8%	4.0%
Oswego County	53,800	53,500	2,400	2,500	4.3%	4.5%
Syracuse Metro Area	310,000	309,000	12,600	13,200	3.9%	4.1%
Syracuse City	61,900	61,800	3,300	3,500	5.1%	5.4%
New York State	9,598,600	9,651,500	480,700	421,500	4.8%	4.2%
United States	163,799,000	162,800,000	7,847,000	7,435,000	4.6%	4.4%

Unemployment Insurance

Initial claims were unchanged in July 2026

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Central New York Region



Unemployment Insurance

Initial claims remained the same in all counties over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Central New York Region

County	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Cayuga	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Cortland	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Madison	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Onondaga	1,600	1,500	1,600	0	0.0%
Oswego	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Central New York	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0.0%
New York State	72,200	58,400	71,500	700	1.0%

Initial claims decreased in information and leisure & hospitality over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Central New York Region

Industry	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Government	200	100	100	100	100.0%
Information	0	0	100	-100	-100.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	200	300	300	-100	-33.3%
Manufacturing	200	300	200	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	300	300	200	100	50.0%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	500	600	0	0.0%
Unclassified	100	100	100	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.

Unemployment Insurance

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

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

County	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	Net Change	% Change
Cayuga	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Cortland	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Madison	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Onondaga	3,500	3,100	3,100	400	12.9%
Oswego	1,000	1,000	900	100	11.1%
Central NY	5,700	5,300	5,200	500	9.6%
New York State	177,400	161,200	170,700	6,700	3.9%

**Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance Programs (UI, UCFE, UCS and workshare programs)*
Detail may not add to total due to rounding

The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased or remained the same in all industries over the year

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

Industry	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Government	300	200	200	100	50.0%
Information	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	700	700	600	100	16.7%
Manufacturing	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	600	800	500	100	20.0%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	900	700	800	100	12.5%
Professional & Business Services	900	900	800	100	12.5%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,200	900	1,200	0	0.0%
Unclassified	200	200	100	100	100.0%
Central NY	5,700	5,300	5,200	500	9.6%

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

Demographics

Central New York's population is decreasing and has become more diverse

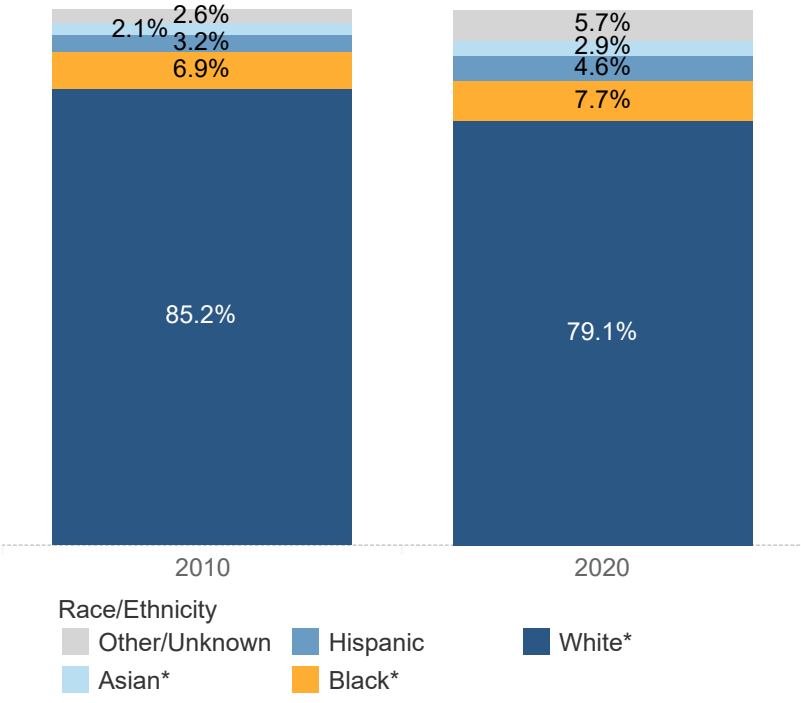
Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

	Population				2010 Population Breakdown				2020 Population Breakdown			
Geography	2010	2020	Net Change	% Change	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic
Cayuga	80,026	76,248	-3,778	-4.7%	91.3%	3.8%	0.5%	2.4%	87.0%	3.6%	0.5%	3.5%
Cortland	49,336	46,809	-2,527	-5.1%	93.7%	1.4%	0.8%	2.2%	87.2%	1.8%	2.2%	3.5%
Madison	73,442	68,016	-5,426	-7.4%	93.8%	1.7%	0.8%	1.8%	89.6%	1.6%	1.0%	2.5%
Onondaga	467,026	476,516	9,490	2.0%	79.2%	10.4%	3.1%	4.0%	72.9%	11.4%	4.2%	5.6%
Oswego	122,109	117,525	-4,584	-3.8%	95.1%	0.7%	0.6%	2.1%	89.9%	1.2%	0.7%	3.1%
Central New York	791,939	785,114	-6,825	-0.9%	85.2%	6.9%	2.1%	3.2%	79.1%	7.7%	2.9%	4.6%

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

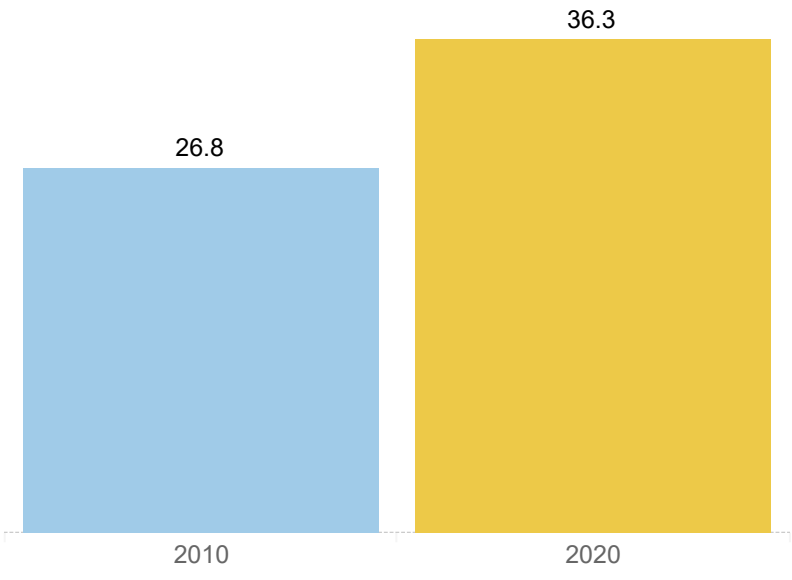
Central New York has become more diverse

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



Central New York's Diversity Index increased by 35% from 2010 to 2020

US Census Bureau Diversity Index Scores, 2010 and 2020

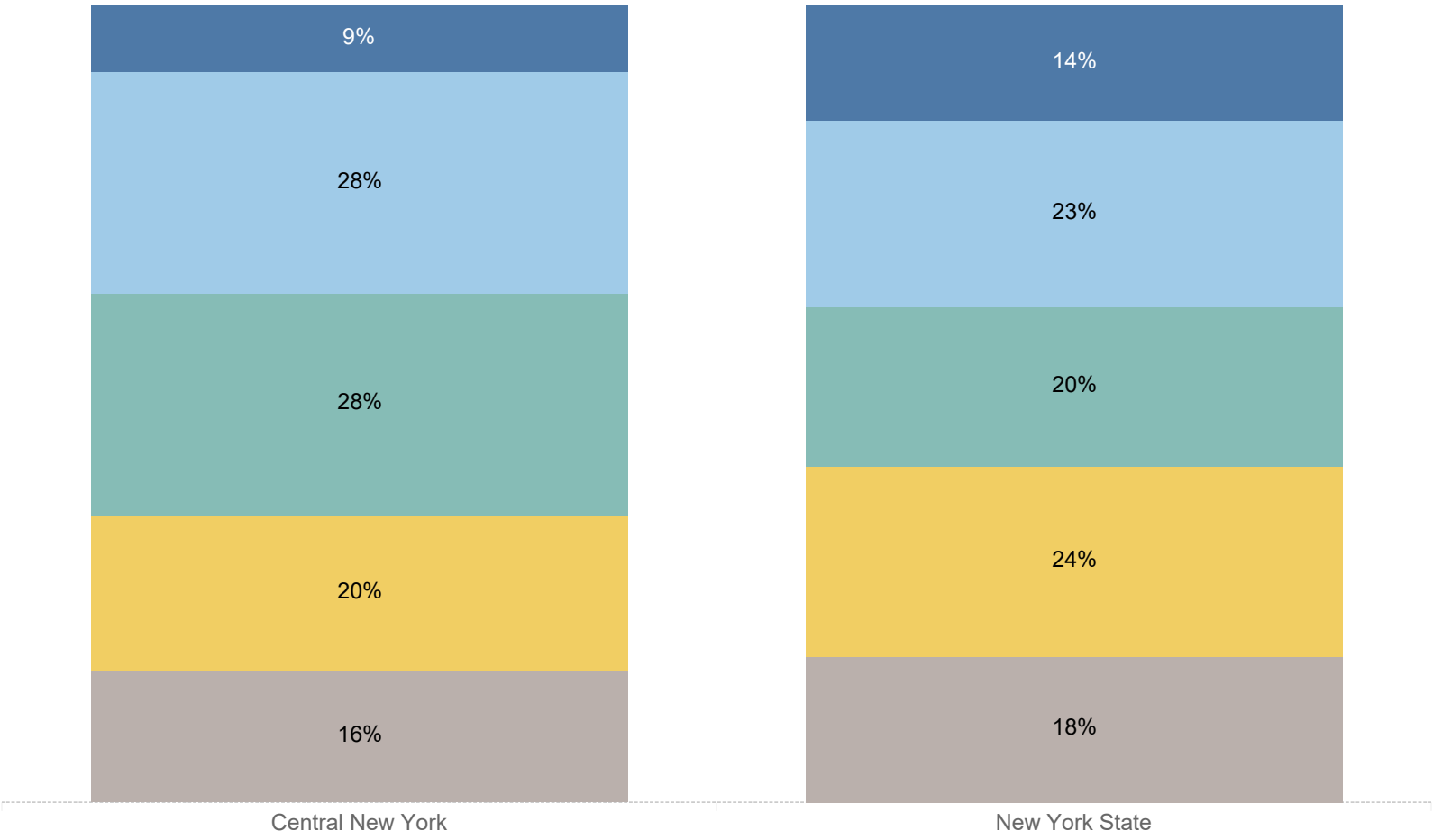


The Diversity Index represents the probability that two people chosen at random would be from different racial or ethnic groups.

*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

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

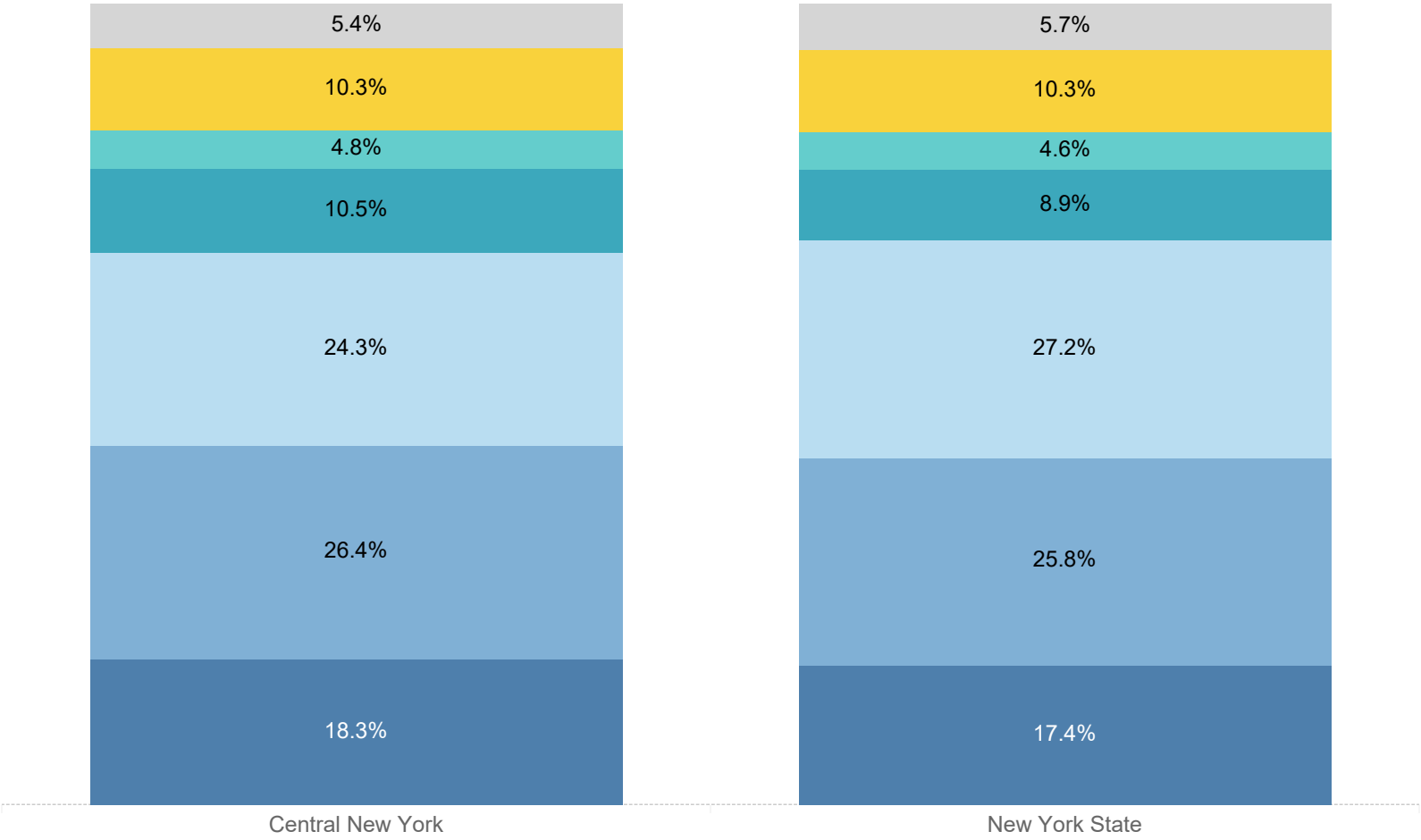
Distribution of Population 25 years and over by Educational Attainment, 2024



Source: American Community Survey 2024 One-Year Estimates, Table B15002

Central New York is in line with 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

Approximately half of businesses in Central 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	
	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
1-4	7,160	6,870	53.2%	51.9%	14,090	13,110	5.4%	4.6%
5-9	2,550	2,480	18.9%	18.7%	16,740	16,380	6.4%	5.8%
10-19	1,730	1,670	12.8%	12.6%	23,490	22,320	9.0%	7.9%
20-49	1,200	1,320	8.9%	10.0%	36,560	40,090	14.1%	14.2%
50-99	410	460	3.0%	3.5%	28,860	32,220	11.1%	11.4%
100-249	270	290	2.0%	2.2%	40,490	42,760	15.6%	15.2%
250-499	90	80	0.7%	0.6%	29,740	26,280	11.4%	9.3%
500-999	40	40	0.3%	0.3%	28,230	26,980	10.9%	9.6%
1000+	20	30	0.1%	0.2%	41,760	62,050	16.1%	22.0%
Grand Total	13,470	13,240	100.0%	100.0%	259,960	282,190	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2020 Q4 and 2025 Q4
*Size class 1-4 includes firms that have average employment that is >0 but <1

Top Occupations and Employers

Top Occupations Advertised in NYS Job Bank, Central New York	
Occupation	Number of Job Openings*
Registered Nurses	473
Social and Human Service Assistants	175
Retail Salespersons	187
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	156
Stockers and Order Fillers	141
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	336
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	168
Nursing Assistants	134
Home Health Aides	136
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	423

* As of 8/28/2026

Top Employers Advertised in NYS Job Bank, Central New York	
Employer	Number of Job Openings*
Suny Upstate Medical University	758
Taco Bell	306
Syracuse University	259
Trinity Health	248
Molina Healthcare	168
Guthrie	111
Crouse Hospital	109
KPH Healthcare Services, Inc.	97
H&R Block	95
New York State Civil Service	88

* As of 8/28/2026

Regional Labor Market Developments

Good news

Amazon is proposing to build another warehouse in Onondaga County at 7526 and 7546 Morgan Road in Clay. It would be about 234,000 square feet. The company would use the new building to ship household goods using independently contracted delivery vans instead of Amazon trucks. The town of Clay planning board is currently reviewing the application.

7 Brew drive-thru coffee shop will open in fall 2026 at 240 Route 104 East in Oswego (Oswego County). The coffee shop will employ 50 workers. In addition to coffee, the shop will also offer energy drinks, flavored sparking waters, smoothies, lemonades and teas.

Bad news

FedEx filed a WARN notice due to the closing of its shipping center in North Syracuse (Onondaga County) between August 3, 2026, and August 28, 2026. Twenty-two workers are impacted at the site. The business is offering impacted employees severance packages or chances to relocate in the company. The company is in the process of consolidating and restructuring its business.

Piedmont Airlines filed a WARN notice regarding its closure on September 10, 2026, due to a contract loss. The company operates at 1000 Col. Eileen Collins Blvd. in Syracuse (Onondaga County). Eighty-eight workers will be impacted. The workers are represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) union.

Manufacturer Novanta Corporation filed a WARN notice due to the relocation of its business. Forty-nine workers will be impacted between March 31, 2027, and April 14, 2027. Novanta is located at 7279 William Barry Boulevard in North Syracuse (Onondaga County).

Republic National Distributing Company New York, LLC filed a WARN notice due to the sale of its business. The company operates at 6600 New Venture Gear Drive, Suite 450, in East Syracuse (Onondaga County). Forty-six workers will be impacted at the site on July 31, 2026. The company employs 47 workers at the site. The workers are represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 2 union.

Central New York Region

Includes Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties

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