

# EMPLOYMENT

## in New York State

Eliot Spitzer, Governor

June 2007

M. Patricia Smith, Commissioner

### College Grad Expected Hiring Up 20 Percent Since 2006...

## Class of 2007 Enjoys Strong Job Market

**C**ollege graduates in the Class of 2007 are enjoying the strongest job market in more than five years. Across the nation, employers are expected to hire 20 percent more college graduates (bachelor's degree level) this year than last, according to a recently released survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). The NACE report also indicates that almost every academic field (26 out of 29) is expected to have higher starting salaries in 2007 than in 2006. This is welcome news to graduates and their parents, since the average cost for tuition and fees at four-year U.S. private universities in the 2006-07 academic year was \$30,367

(public average was \$12,796), according to the College Board.

As a complement to the NACE survey, this article presents the specific occupations most commonly linked to each particular educational program (using a crosswalk from the U.S. Department of Education), their employment levels in New York, and information on degrees conferred in these majors by colleges and universities in New York State. The table on page 2 summarizes this information.

Accounting is the college major most in demand by U.S. employers in 2007, according to the NACE. Not unexpectedly, accountant (88,310) is, by far, the most

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### At a Glance

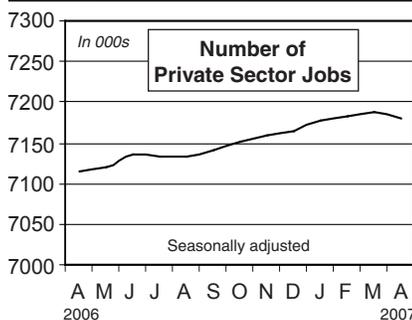
In April 2007, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent, up from 4.0 percent in March 2007. (The nation's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in April.) In April 2007, the state had 8,668,300 nonfarm jobs, including 7,180,800 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of private sector jobs in the state decreased by 0.1 percent from March. (The nation's private sector job count increased by 0.1 percent over the month.) From April 2006 to April 2007, the number of private sector jobs increased by 1.0 percent in the state and increased by 1.4 percent in the nation (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's employment-population ratio, a measure of labor force participation, fell in April.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs April 2006 - April 2007 (Data not seasonally adjusted, numbers in thousands)

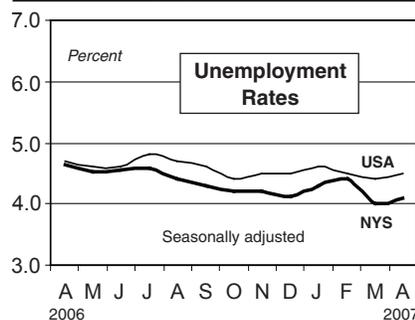
	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	76.3	0.9
Private Sector	72.7	1.0
Goods-producing	-8.9	-1.0
Nat. res. & mining	0.0	0.0
Construction	8.1	2.5
Manufacturing	-17.0	-3.0
Durable gds.	-2.6	-0.8
Nondurable gds.	-14.4	-6.0
Service-providing	85.2	1.1
Trade, trans., & util.	6.3	0.4
Wholesale trade	-1.1	-0.3
Retail trade	6.6	0.8
Trans., wrhs., & util.	0.8	0.3
Information	-0.8	-0.3
Financial activities	11.9	1.7
Prof. & bus. svcs.	20.5	1.9
Educ. & health svcs.	30.4	1.9
Leisure & hospitality	10.0	1.5
Other services	3.3	0.9
Government	3.6	0.2

## IN APRIL...

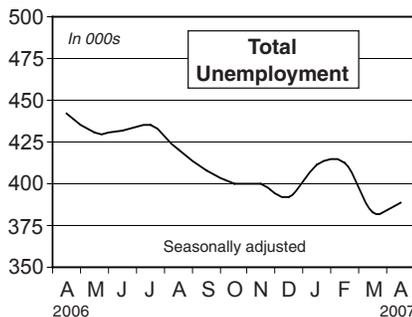
### ...NYS private sector jobs decreased



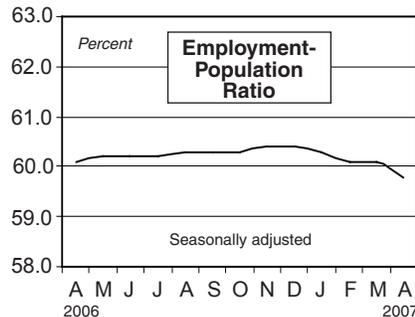
### ...NYS unemployment rate increased



### ...NYS unemployment increased



### ...NYS labor force participation down



# Focus on Central New York

## Building Jobs: Construction Boom in Syracuse

by Karen Knapik-Scalzo, Associate Economist, Central New York Region

**A** construction boom, the largest in 30 years, means cranes will be dotting the Syracuse skyline this year. Also propelling the Syracuse economy are expanding service-providing firms and high-tech employers. A potential labor shortage might be the only cloud on the horizon that could hamper job expansion this year.

The job count in the Syracuse metro area (Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison counties) is nearing record levels last seen in 2001. Private sector jobs rose over the year by 1,800, a gain of 0.7 percent, to 263,700 in April 2007. This job count is only 4,000 below the April record set in 2001.

Job growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+1,200), professional and business services (+1,000), and leisure and hospitality (+600). Job losses occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-500), manufacturing (-400), and other services (-300).

### Construction Takes Off

This year, construction will transform downtown Syracuse as over \$1 billion in projects get under way. For the next several years, demand for carpenters, iron workers, electricians, and plumbers will be strong. Work includes renovations at the Hotel Syracuse; a new convention center hotel; numerous apartments and condominiums; additions to Syracuse University and SUNY Upstate Medical University;



**“The New York State Department of Labor and our Workforce System partners stand ready to meet the challenges of Central New York’s economic future.”**

*Kelli Owens,  
Regional Administrator,  
Central/Mohawk Valley Region*

renovations at city schools; and the expansion of Carousel Center Mall. In the suburbs, a multi-million dollar renovation of ShoppingTown Mall in DeWitt will start this fall. The enclosed mall will become a hybrid mall/open air shopping center with some new retailers and restaurants.

The expansion in construction could bode well for laid-off manufacturing workers who have appropriate transferable skills. In addition, labor unions are gearing up to expand training and apprentice programs to give young people the skills they need to secure construction positions. Construction jobs may also attract workers from outside the area.

### Services Expand

Service-providing firms continue to be the backbone of the Syracuse area’s

economy. Educational and health services, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services all set record high April employment levels this year. These three industries combined account for 45 percent of the area’s private sector jobs. Conversely, employment in manufacturing, information, and trade, transportation, and utilities (principally retail trade) are at some of the lowest levels on record. Retail trade employment is weak as the consolidation of big-box retailers and a move from traditional malls to strip centers displaced some retailers. Downsizing continued at utilities and manufacturers, albeit at a slower pace.

### High-Tech Grows

Local high-tech firms, which continue to invest in their Central New York facilities, are seeking engineers and technical workers. For example, Lockheed Martin in Salina will hire 150 engineers this year, mainly due to increased business and the anticipated retirement of a third of its engineers in the next five years. Carrier Corp. plans to hire 25 engineers and invest \$2 million to upgrade laboratories on its DeWitt campus. The laboratories conduct research and development for a broad range of air-conditioning and refrigeration products. In addition, GE Inspection Technologies in Skaneateles is building a new manufacturing facility

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### College Majors Most in Demand by U.S. Employers in 2007 (NACE Survey)

Rank	Field of Study	Starting Salary		Bachelor’s Degrees Conferred in NYS, 2004-2005
		U.S. Average, 2007	% Change, 2006-2007	
1	Accounting	\$47,421	2.7%	4,041
2	Business Admin. & Mgmt.	\$44,048	7.5%	10,376
3	Computer Science	\$52,177	2.5%	4,049
4	Electrical Engineering	\$54,915	1.6%	1,030
5	Mechanical Engineering	\$54,695	5.7%	1,055
6	Info. Sciences and Systems	\$46,966	4.9%	879
7	Marketing & Marketing Mgmt.	\$41,285	10.3%	1,187
8	Computer Engineering	\$55,946	3.2%	319
9	Civil Engineering	\$47,750	4.8%	398
10	Economics and Finance	NA	NA	2,469
	Economics (business/managerial)	\$53,449	NA	222
	Finance	\$47,877	NA	2,247

Sources: NACE, National Center for Education Statistics

## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR '06	APR '07		APR '06	APR '07		APR '06	APR '07
<b>New York State</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	Dutchess	3.8	3.3	Broome	4.9	4.2
Albany	3.8	3.4	Orange	4.3	3.7	Chemung	4.9	4.4
Columbia	3.7	3.6	Putnam	3.7	2.8	Chenango	5.1	4.8
Greene	5.0	4.6	Rockland	3.8	3.1	Delaware	4.5	4.7
Rensselaer	4.0	3.8	Sullivan	5.1	4.8	Otsego	4.5	4.1
Saratoga	3.6	3.4	Ulster	4.2	3.4	Schuyler	5.4	5.5
Schenectady	4.1	3.6	Westchester	3.9	3.1	Steuben	5.3	4.6
Warren	5.2	4.7	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.5</b>	Tioga	4.3	4.3
Washington	4.1	4.0	Fulton	5.5	5.7	Tompkins	3.1	2.8
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	Herkimer	5.5	5.2	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Cayuga	5.1	4.3	Madison	4.9	4.5	Allegany	5.4	5.2
Cortland	5.3	4.7	Montgomery	5.7	5.4	Cattaraugus	5.6	5.0
Onondaga	4.4	3.7	Oneida	4.4	3.8	Chautauqua	4.7	4.2
Oswego	6.0	5.1	Schoharie	4.9	4.8	Erie	5.1	4.3
<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>North Country</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	Niagara	6.0	5.3
Genesee	4.8	4.2	Clinton	5.8	5.8	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Livingston	5.0	4.6	Essex	6.9	6.2	Nassau	3.7	3.1
Monroe	4.3	3.9	Franklin	6.2	5.5	Suffolk	4.2	3.3
Ontario	4.7	3.9	Hamilton	8.3	7.3	<b>New York City</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Orleans	6.0	5.6	Jefferson	6.1	5.4	Bronx	6.6	5.6
Seneca	4.8	4.1	Lewis	6.0	5.6	Kings	5.4	4.6
Wayne	4.8	4.3	St. Lawrence	6.3	5.4	New York	4.4	3.6
Wyoming	5.1	4.4				Queens	4.5	3.7
Yates	4.4	3.8				Richmond	4.4	3.8

### Central New York...

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to replace its existing one. Current employees could move into the new building within the next year. The company expects to create 50 high-tech jobs over the next five years. The firm designs, services and manufactures inspection and monitoring equipment.

Demand for labor in the Syracuse area remains strong, especially for entry-level workers and highly skilled technical workers. This is reflected in the area's lowest April unemployment rate (4.1 percent) since 2001. Another factor contributing to tightness in the local labor market is a shrinking labor force, which fell by 4,300, or 1.3 percent, between April 2006 and April 2007. This development may restrain area job growth in the near future if businesses are unable to obtain the workers they require. In addition, a declining working-age population and an aging population (older people tend to participate less in the labor force) could also hinder job growth.

### Conclusion

The Syracuse area economy remains attractive, as a flurry of construction activity enhances local job growth and leads to infrastructure improvements. Businesses are also making commitments to invest in their local facilities, leading to increased job growth at high-tech firms and in service-providing industries. Job growth will continue this year, as long as the supply of qualified local workers is sufficient to staff these expansions.

### Class of 2007...

from page 1

common occupation for graduates in this field. Tax examiners, collectors, and revenue agents (6,570) and credit analysts (4,260) rank a distant second and third, respectively. New York State colleges and universities awarded more than 4,000 bachelor's degrees in *Accounting* during the 2004-05 academic year (latest data available).

*Business Administration and Management* ranks second on the NACE list. With more than 10,000 bachelor's degrees conferred in New York in 2004-05, it is easily the single most popular university major in the state. Typical occupations for holders of this type of degree include general operations managers (84,790) and management analysts (26,970) though graduates with this degree can be found in a multitude of managerial and administrative titles.

The third most popular field of study is *Computer Science*. While no single occupation dominates the field, the three most prominent in terms of employment in New York are: computer programmer (36,670), computer systems analyst (27,630), and computer software applications engineer (26,580). There were more than 4,900 bachelor's degrees conferred by New York State colleges and universities in the Computer and Information Sciences field.

The most typical career paths for holders of a bachelor's degree in *Electrical Engineering*, which ranks fourth, are computer software systems engineer (17,520), electrical engineer (7,800), and engineering manager (7,330). In the

2004-05 academic year, just over 1,000 bachelor's degrees were awarded in *Electrical Engineering* (including Electronics and Communications) in New York State.

Ranking fifth in the NACE survey is *Mechanical Engineering*. The most common occupations for graduates in this field are cost estimator (10,090), mechanical engineer (9,130), and engineering manager (7,330). New York State colleges and universities conferred more than 1,050 bachelor's degrees in *Mechanical Engineering*.

In summary, the hiring outlook for college graduates is the strongest it's been in several years. The list of degree fields most in demand by employers is dominated by business, engineering, and computer-related majors.

by Kevin Jack  
and Michael Maffia (student intern)

### Employment in New York State

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### FINGER LAKES TAMMY MARINO 585-258-8870

Private sector employment in the Rochester metro area rose over the year by 600, or 0.1 percent, to 431,200 in April 2007. Gains were concentrated in educational and health services (+1,900) and professional and business services (+1,100). Over-the-year declines were centered in manufacturing (-2,800).

### CENTRAL NY ROGER EVANS 315-479-3388

For the 12-month period ending April 2007, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area rose 1,800, or 0.7 percent, to 263,700. Growth was largest in educational and health services (+1,200) and professional and business services (+1,000). Losses were focused in trade, transportation, and utilities (-500) and manufacturing (-400).

### MOHAWK VALLEY MARK BARBANO 315-793-2282

For the 12-month period ending April 2007, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metro area fell 200, or 0.2 percent, to 98,100. Job growth was centered in educational and health services (+500). Job losses were largest in manufacturing (-400) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-400).

### NORTH COUNTRY ALAN BEIDECK 518-891-6680

Private sector employment in the North Country region rose over the year by 1,100, or 1.0 percent, to 113,400 in April 2007. The largest gains were in trade, transportation, and utilities (+600) and educational and health services (+400).

### CAPITAL DISTRICT JAMES ROSS 518-462-7600

From April 2006 to April 2007, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area fell by 300, or 0.1 percent, to 338,400. Gains were centered in educational and health services (+2,100) and leisure and hospitality (+400). Losses were greatest in professional and business services (-1,200) and financial activities (-1,000).

### HUDSON VALLEY JOHN NELSON 914-997-8798

Private sector employment in the Hudson Valley increased over the year by 8,200, or 1.1 percent, to 748,400 in April 2007. Job gains were largest in educational and health services (+3,900), professional and business services (+1,900), and trade, transportation and utilities (+1,500). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-1,100).

### WESTERN NY JOHN SLENKER 716-851-2742

Private sector employment in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area increased by 200 to 450,100 over the 12 months ending April 2007. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+1,400), financial activities (+1,300), and professional and business services (+1,000). Losses were concentrated in manufacturing (-2,100) and natural resources, mining and construction (-1,100).

### SOUTHERN TIER CHRISTIAN HARRIS 607-741-4485

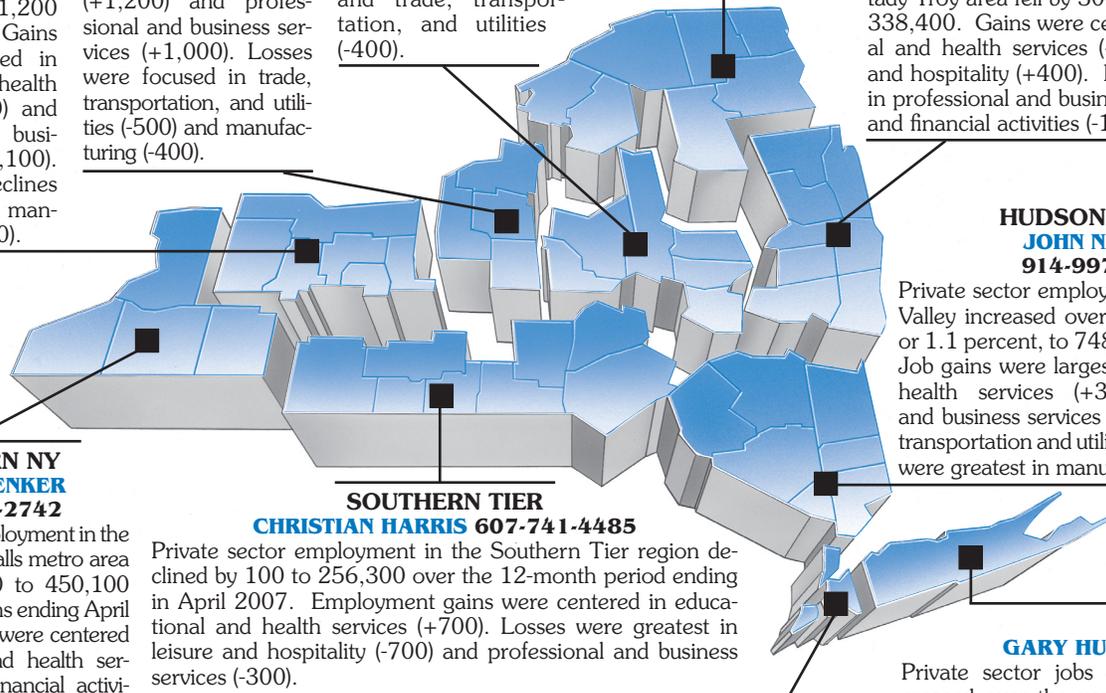
Private sector employment in the Southern Tier region declined by 100 to 256,300 over the 12-month period ending in April 2007. Employment gains were centered in educational and health services (+700). Losses were greatest in leisure and hospitality (-700) and professional and business services (-300).

### NEW YORK CITY JAMES BROWN 212-621-9353

Private sector employment in New York City rose 51,200, or 1.7 percent, to 3,141,800 for the 12-month period ending April 2007. Job growth occurred in professional and business services (+16,100), educational and health services (+12,200), financial activities (+11,100), leisure and hospitality (+7,500), and natural resources, mining and construction (+6,100). Manufacturing (-8,300) lost jobs over the year.

### LONG ISLAND GARY HUTH 516-934-8533

Private sector jobs on Long Island increased over the year by 9,000, or 0.9 percent, to 1,046,500 in April 2007, a new record for the month. Gains occurred in educational and health services (+5,500), natural resources, mining and construction (+1,500), and leisure and hospitality (+1,400). Declines were concentrated in manufacturing (-1,500).



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