

# Employment

IN NEW YORK STATE

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor  
Peter M. Rivera, Commissioner

## At a Glance

In August 2013, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.6%, up from July 2013's level of 7.5%. The nation's unemployment rate was 7.3% in August 2013. New York State had 8,911,900 nonfarm jobs in August 2013, including 7,459,600 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in the state increased by 0.3% in July-August 2013, while those in the nation increased by 0.1%. From August 2012 to August 2013, the number of private sector jobs increased by 1.7% in the state and 2.0% in the nation (not seasonally adjusted). New York's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators increased at an annual rate of 2.6% in August 2013.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs

August 2012 - August 2013

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	120.4	1.4
Private Sector	126.8	1.7
Goods-producing	0.2	0.0
Nat. res. & mining	-0.3	-5.3
Construction	11.6	3.5
Manufacturing	-11.1	-2.4
Durable gds.	-6.8	-2.5
Nondurable gds.	-4.3	-2.2
Service-providing	120.2	1.5
Trade, trans. & util.	25.8	1.7
Wholesale trade	-2.6	-0.8
Retail trade	20.6	2.2
Trans., wrhs. & util.	7.8	3.1
Information	-2.8	-1.1
Financial activities	-3.1	-0.4
Prof. & bus. svcs.	28.7	2.4
Educ. & health svcs.	40.5	2.4
Leisure & hospitality	30.0	3.5
Other services	7.5	2.0
Government	-6.4	-0.5

### Major Changes Underway...

## Goodbye GED, Hello TASC

Some major changes are afoot for New York State residents seeking their high school equivalency. The General Educational Development (GED) test, which has been the usual path by which New Yorkers obtained their high school equivalency diploma for the past 70 years, is being replaced with the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), a new exam from CTB/McGraw-Hill. The test switchover will become effective in January 2014.

For many people, the GED has been synonymous with the diploma itself – sometimes even to the point where they erroneously said they “got their GED.” However, what many people do not realize is that the GED itself is not a credential, merely an exam that qualifies you for one. When the GED was the only pathway to a high school equivalency diploma, this misconception was irrelevant. However,

due to upcoming changes, the landscape of high school equivalency credentials is about to change dramatically in New York State.

### GED to be Unavailable in NYS

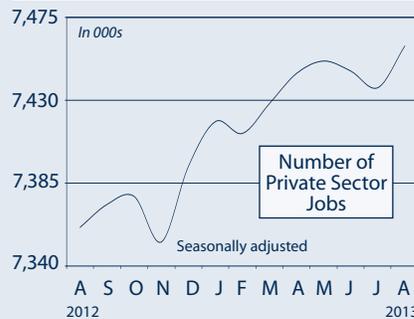
In 2014, the GED will be undergoing several major changes. The most important are a significant shift in curriculum, a completely computer-based format and a steep increase in price. Since all of these changes represent significant barriers for many test takers, New York State will not offer the GED exam after December 31, 2013. *Individuals who want to take or finish the current GED should register to do so as soon as possible.*

There are a number of reasons for this test shift. By state law, New York must subsidize the entire cost of high school equivalency

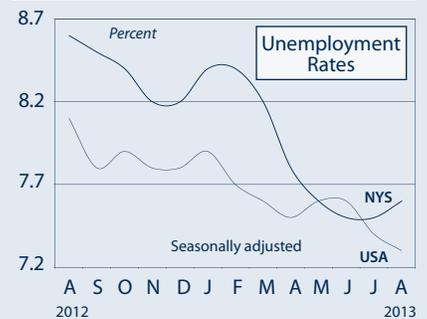
*Continued on page 2*

### IN AUGUST...

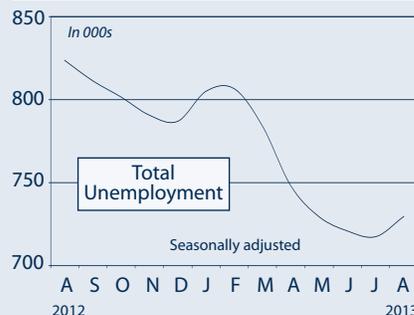
#### ...NYS private sector jobs increased



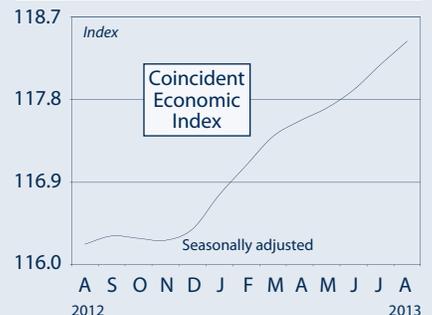
#### ...NYS unemployment rate increased



#### ...NYS unemployment increased



#### ...NYS economic index increased



## Focus on Long Island

Strong Recovery in Region, but Results Uneven

by James Brown, Principal Economist, Downstate NY Region

Long Island's regional economy has been among the strongest performers in New York State this year. For the 12-month period ending August 2013, the private sector job count on Long Island climbed by 28,500, or 2.7 percent, to 1,102,900. This rate of job growth ranked the Nassau-Suffolk area as the second fastest growing in the state, trailing only the Kingston metro area (+2.8%). Five industry sectors on Long Island added at least 5,000 jobs over the past year, including professional and business services (+7,500), trade, transportation and utilities (+6,700), private educational and health services (+5,700) and leisure and hospitality (+5,700).

These monthly data from the Current Employment Statistics series provide a good overview of the Island's economy. However, detailed county-level data are only available from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), which are based on employers' Unemployment Insurance records. Annual average QCEW data are available through 2012.

### Recession Losses

Between 2007 and 2009, Long Island shed 46,500 private sector jobs. Losses were almost evenly split between Nassau (-23,500) and Suffolk (-23,100) counties. The job markets in the two counties were also very similar in size, with Nassau averaging 521,500 private sector jobs in 2007 and Suffolk 516,900.

Despite the similarity in overall job losses between the two counties, the picture is markedly

different at the sector level. In Nassau County, job losses in 2007-09 were greatest in retail trade (-5,700) and finance and insurance (-4,400). In Suffolk County, two blue-collar sectors -- manufacturing (-5,200) and construction (-4,600) -- saw the largest job losses.

These job losses reflect the different economic mix of the two counties. At the start of the downturn in 2007, Suffolk County had more than twice as many manufacturing jobs as Nassau. Moreover, Suffolk's construction industry was about 30% larger than Nassau's. On the other hand, Nassau had half again as many finance and insurance jobs as Suffolk. Nassau also had a larger retail trade sector, despite having a smaller population. Nassau County had nearly 25,000 more jobs in healthcare and social assistance in 2007 than Suffolk County. Healthcare and social assistance was the only sector to show significant job growth during the downturn. The sector added 7,900 jobs on Long Island between 2007 and 2009.

### Recovery Gains

Between 2009 and 2012, Long Island added 36,100 private sector jobs. Of the two counties, Suffolk added 22,700 jobs in 2009-12, while Nassau added 13,400. The biggest difference in job creation between the two counties during the recovery has been in professional and technical services, which is part of the broader professional and business services sector. From 2009 to 2012, professional and technical services added 6,300 jobs in Suffolk, but only 400 in Nassau.



Nassau County's greatest strength in 2009-12 was in healthcare and social assistance, which added more than 9,000 jobs. In contrast, Suffolk added less than 5,000 healthcare and social assistance jobs over this timeframe. Both counties saw strong growth in the accommodation and food services sector, which trails only the much larger healthcare and social assistance sector in job creation since 2007. Nassau and Suffolk both also added jobs in retail trade. Construction employment fell sharply in both counties through 2010 and only resumed growing in recent years.

### Summary

The Long Island region has been recovering from the Great Recession for the past three years. However, while the Island has been enjoying strong private sector job growth, the region's employment levels have not recovered to pre-recession levels. The recovery has been uneven, with Suffolk County outperforming Nassau. Moreover, there has been wide variation between sectors, with healthcare and social assistance and accommodation and food services generating most of the job gains, while construction and manufacturing lag. ■

### Goodbye GED... from page 1

exams. With the cost of the new GED slated to double in 2014, the state would be able to fund far fewer test takers. The shift to a completely computer-based format also poses problems for test centers that do not have computers. The immediate shift to a new curriculum is also an issue as most students and instructors are not fully prepared for this change. For these reasons, New York opted to replace the GED with an exam that better meets the needs of test takers and providers.

### New Equivalency Exam in NYS

The new TASC examination will be similar in structure to the current GED, and will test the following subject areas: Reading/Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

The TASC will offer:

- Newly created content that will be gradually aligned to Common Core State Standards
- A passing score and College and Career Readiness cut score
- Availability in English, Spanish and special formats (large print, Braille, and audio)
- Availability of paper and computer formats

The new test will be available to New York candidates in either paper or computer format. In 2014, most exams will be administered by paper. However, there will be a gradual transition to computer testing over the next several years. Paper testing will remain an option for test sites that cannot accommodate computers, such as correctional facilities.

The gradual shift to computer-based testing offers a number of advantages. For example, it allows test takers to demonstrate their technological competency as well as prepare themselves for other computer assessments. In addition, computer-based testing will give TASC administrators the ability to eventually incorporate artificial intelligence scoring. This will result in shorter tests and more accurate results. Another advantage is that users will be able to view their test results immediately. This means they can focus on specific areas or topics for further study. As a result, test takers will be able to target their studying and practice the topics that require the most work.

Continued on page 3

## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	AUG '12	AUG '13		AUG '12	AUG '13		AUG '12	AUG '13
<b>New York State</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	Dutchess	7.9	6.6	Genesee	6.9	5.8
Albany	7.7	6.3	Orange	8.5	7.3	Livingston	7.4	6.7
Columbia	7.2	6.0	Putnam	6.8	5.8	Monroe	8.2	7.1
Greene	8.8	7.3	Rockland	7.0	6.0	Ontario	6.6	5.7
Rensselaer	7.8	6.9	Sullivan	8.7	7.6	Orleans	11.0	8.4
Saratoga	6.6	5.4	Ulster	9.0	7.6	Seneca	7.5	6.1
Schenectady	8.0	6.9	Westchester	7.5	6.3	Wayne	7.9	6.5
Warren	7.0	5.8	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.4</b>	Wyoming	7.3	6.6
Washington	7.3	6.2	Fulton	10.1	8.3	Yates	6.6	5.4
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>	Herkimer	7.8	6.9	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Cayuga	7.6	6.7	Montgomery	9.9	8.5	Allegany	8.4	7.5
Cortland	8.5	7.6	Oneida	8.3	7.4	Cattaraugus	8.5	7.7
Madison	8.1	7.0	Otsego	7.4	6.4	Chautauqua	8.0	7.4
Onondaga	8.0	6.9	Schoharie	8.0	7.2	Erie	8.2	7.2
Oswego	9.8	8.8	<b>North Country</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	Niagara	8.8	7.6
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>	Clinton	9.6	8.1	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Broome	8.7	7.6	Essex	8.3	7.0	Nassau	7.1	5.9
Chemung	8.7	7.7	Franklin	9.0	8.2	Suffolk	7.8	6.4
Chenango	7.7	6.4	Hamilton	5.0	4.2	<b>New York City</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Delaware	8.3	7.4	Jefferson	8.8	8.3	Bronx	12.8	12.0
Schuyler	7.6	6.4	Lewis	8.6	8.2	Kings	10.2	9.6
Steuben	9.3	8.2	St. Lawrence	10.3	9.1	New York	7.7	7.1
Tioga	8.4	7.1				Queens	8.3	7.7
Tompkins	6.4	5.6				Richmond	9.0	8.1

Goodbye GED.....from page 2

### The TASC: What You Need to Know

The TASC will lead to a high school equivalency diploma in the same way the GED does now. The initial TASC will appear similar to the current GED. However, there may be significant changes in the mathematics section, with only slight differences for science and social studies. This is because the Common Core Standards for mathematics are more in-depth than previous standards. For the first three years of the TASC, there will be a new test each year with increased academic Common Core rigor and more complex test items.

**If you're a jobseeker:** You will need to be able to explain the new exam to employers and businesses that may not be aware of the change. Explain that the credential is the same, only the exam to obtain it has changed. If you have passed the TASC, you have your high school equivalency diploma, just as you would have if you had previously passed a GED exam.

**If you're an employer:** You will need to adjust your interviewing and job application language. If your business is based exclusively in New York, you can replace the term "GED" with "TASC." Alternatively, simply add the TASC to applications and interview questions in case applicants have already passed their GED prior to 2014.

It is advisable to use the term "high school equivalency diploma" as that is the actual cre-

dential. You should be prepared to explain this to potential applicants who may have been told they "got their GED." Applicants from states other than New York may continue to say they "have their GED" as the test is not being phased out in all states.

### Critical Need

Over the past 40 years, there has been a noticeable increase in the skills requirements demanded by employers. According to estimates from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, about one-third (32%) of U.S. jobs in 1973 did not require a high school diploma. Today, far fewer U.S. jobs (11%) do not require a high school diploma. This increase in skills requirements is particularly important as there are currently about 2.3 million adult New Yorkers (age 18+) who don't have a high school diploma or equivalency.

The lack of a credential also has some significant fiscal implications. For example, full-time, year-round workers in New York State with a high school diploma/equivalency earned \$10,500 more than workers who dropped out of high school (\$35,000 vs. \$24,500), according to the Current Population Survey. Applying the \$10,500 difference in earnings to the 2.3 million New Yorkers without a diploma adds up to more than \$24 billion in lost wages per year.

### For More Information

The EngageNY web site ([www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)) can help educators and students understand the shift to the Common Core Standards. Also, reference and preparation materials related to the TASC will be posted there as they become available. The CTB/McGraw Hill TASC web site ([www.CTB.com/TASC](http://www.CTB.com/TASC)) also has a wealth of information about the exam, including practice questions.

New York residents who want to take the GED before the December 31, 2013 deadline should contact their local testing center to check availability. See [www.acces.nysed.gov/ged/nys\\_map/counties.html](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/ged/nys_map/counties.html). ■

by Liz Morrisey

**Employment in New York State** is published 12 times a year. To request a change of address, write to the address below and provide your old and new addresses.

New York State Department of Labor  
Division of Research & Statistics, Pubs. Unit  
Building 12, State Office Campus  
Albany, NY 12240

Deputy Director  
Editor  
Ass't. Dir. of Communications  
Graphic Design  
Editorial Advisor

Bohdan M. Wynnyk  
Kevin Jack  
Chris White  
Jeff Mosher  
Lesley Paporone



## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### CAPITAL

**James Ross — 518-462-7600**

Over the past year, private sector jobs in the Capital Region grew by 6,000, or 1.4 percent, to 428,200 in August 2013. Employment gains were largest in educational and health services (+2,300), leisure and hospitality (+2,200), natural resources, mining and construction (+1,400) and manufacturing (+500). Losses were centered in Information (-500) and trade, transportation and utilities (-500).

### CENTRAL NY

**Karen Knapik-Scalzo — 315-479-3391**

For the 12-month period ending August 2013, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area rose 2,500, or 1.0 percent, to 260,100. Job growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+1,600), natural resources, mining and construction (+800), trade, transportation and utilities (+500) and other services (+300). The largest employment loss was in manufacturing (-700).

### FINGER LAKES

**Tammy Marino — 585-258-8870**

Private sector jobs in the Rochester metro area declined over the year by 800, or 0.2 percent, to 435,500 in August 2013. Gains were concentrated in construction (+1,900), professional and business services (+1,100) and financial activities (+500). Employment losses were centered in manufacturing (-4,000) and educational and health services (-300).

### HUDSON VALLEY

**John Nelson — 914-997-8798**

For the 12-month period ending August 2013, private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley increased by 10,900, or 1.5 percent, to 757,100. Gains were strongest in trade, transportation and utilities (+4,000), leisure and hospitality (+2,300), educational and health services (+2,000), natural resources, mining and construction (+1,500) and professional and business services (+1,100). Job losses were centered in information (-700) and manufacturing (-600).

### LONG ISLAND

**Shital Patel — 516-934-8533**

Private sector jobs on Long Island climbed over the year by 28,500, or 2.7 percent, to 1,102,900 in August 2013. Growth was centered in professional and business services (+7,500), trade, transportation and utilities (+6,700), educational and health services (+5,700) and leisure and hospitality (+5,700). The largest employment decline was in manufacturing (-2,300).

### MOHAWK VALLEY

**Mark Barbano — 315-793-2282**

For the 12-month period ending August 2013, the private sector job count in the Mohawk Valley increased by 1,000, or 0.7 percent, to 150,300. Sectors with job growth included trade, transportation and utilities (+1,500) and leisure and hospitality (+700). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-400) and professional and business services (-400).

### NEW YORK CITY

**James Brown — 212-775-3330**

Private sector jobs in New York City rose by 84,700, or 2.5 percent, to 3,407,200 for the 12-month period ending August 2013. Employment growth was greatest in educational and health services (+32,100), trade, transportation and utilities (+17,000), professional and business services (+15,100), leisure and hospitality (+15,000) and other services (+6,600). Losses were centered in information (-2,800) and financial activities (-2,100).

### SOUTHERN TIER

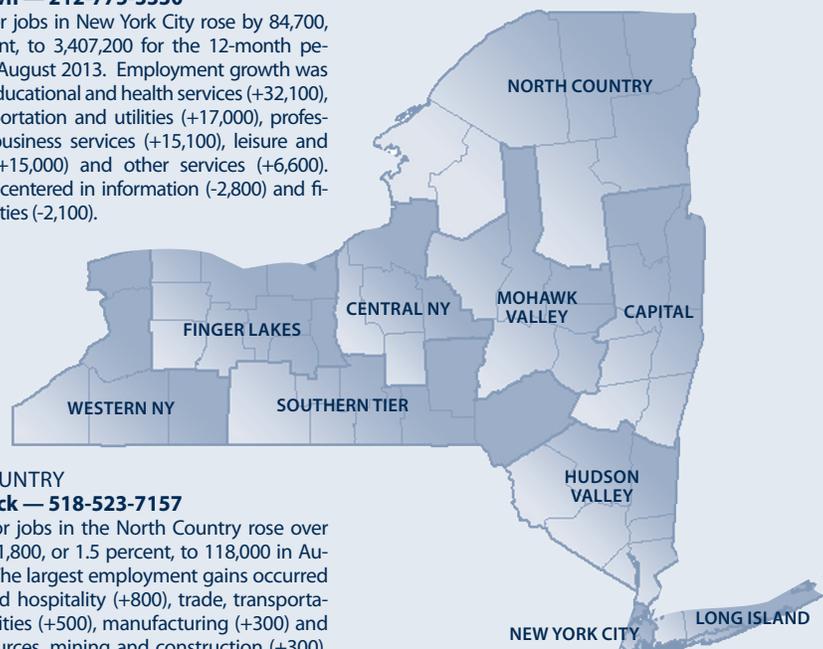
**Christian Harris — 607-741-4485**

Private sector jobs in the Southern Tier rose over the past year by 1,700, or 0.7 percent, to 234,600 in August 2013. Job gains were largest in leisure and hospitality (+1,200), educational and health services (+800) and natural resources, mining and construction (+800). Employment losses were centered in manufacturing (-600), financial activities (-200) and trade, transportation and utilities (-200).

### WESTERN NY

**John Slenker — 716-851-2742**

The private sector job count in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area increased by 6,400, or 1.4 percent, to 466,300 over the 12 months ending August 2013. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+4,000), leisure and hospitality (+2,100) and professional and business services (+1,200). Employment losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-500), manufacturing (-400) and information (-300).



### NORTH COUNTRY

**Alan Beideck — 518-523-7157**

Private sector jobs in the North Country rose over the year by 1,800, or 1.5 percent, to 118,000 in August 2013. The largest employment gains occurred in leisure and hospitality (+800), trade, transportation and utilities (+500), manufacturing (+300) and natural resources, mining and construction (+300). Losses were centered in educational and health services (-200).