

# EMPLOYMENT in New York State

George E. Pataki, Governor

November 2006

Linda Angello, Commissioner

## Commute Times and Methods Vary Widely...

### Getting to Work in New York State

**N**ew York residents had the longest average one-way commute to work—31.2 minutes—of any state in 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). This commute time was just ahead of Maryland (30.8 minutes), and about six minutes longer than the U.S. average of 25.1 minutes.

The ACS is a monthly household survey similar to the 2000 Census long form. Since the ACS has a much smaller sample size than the decennial Census, journey-to-work data are not available for the state's 24 smallest counties.

Commute-to-work times vary widely across the Empire State (see table at bottom of page

2). Residents of four of the five counties that comprise New York City had the longest commute times in the state: Richmond (42.0 minutes), Queens (41.8), Bronx (41.7), and Kings (40.7).

About one in five (18.3 percent) New York City residents spent 60-89 minutes in their workday commute. An additional 6.5 percent faced a trip of at least 90 minutes. The Census Bureau calls this latter group "extreme commuters."

The next longest commutes were found in four suburban New York City counties that reported average one-way times between 31.4 and 35.8 minutes. These counties were Nassau, Orange, Putnam, and Westchester. For the entire 10-county Downstate region, the average commute

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### At a Glance

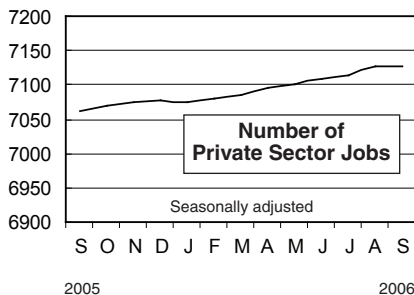
In September 2006, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, down from 4.7 percent in August 2006. (The nation's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in September.) In September 2006, the state had 8,624,300 nonfarm jobs, including 7,126,400 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of private sector jobs in the state decreased by less than 0.1 percent from August. (The nation's private sector job count increased by 0.1 percent over the month.) From September 2005 to September 2006, the number of private sector jobs increased by 0.9 percent in the state, and increased by 1.4 percent in the nation (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's employment-population ratio was unchanged in September.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs Sept. 2005 - Sept. 2006 (Data not seasonally adjusted, numbers in thousands)

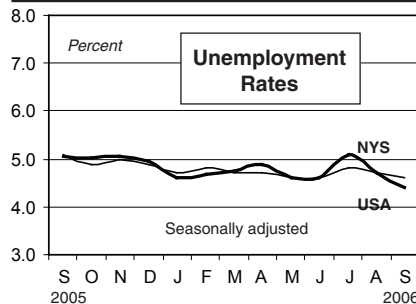
	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	67.5	0.8
Private Sector	65.3	0.9
Goods-producing	-9.2	-1.0
Nat. res. & mining	0.1	1.6
Construction	7.8	2.3
Manufacturing	-17.1	-2.9
Durable gds.	-8.5	-2.5
Nondurable gds.	-8.6	-3.5
Service-providing	76.7	1.0
Trade, trans., & util.	7.7	0.5
Wholesale trade	-3.0	-0.8
Retail trade	9.0	1.0
Trans., whrs., & util.	1.7	0.6
Information	-1.2	-0.4
Financial activities	11.8	1.6
Prof. & bus. svcs.	15.2	1.4
Educ. & health svcs.	25.0	1.6
Leisure & hospitality	12.3	1.8
Other services	3.7	1.0
Government	2.2	0.2

## IN SEPTEMBER...

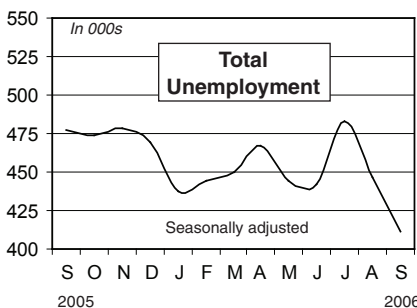
#### ...NYS private sector jobs decreased



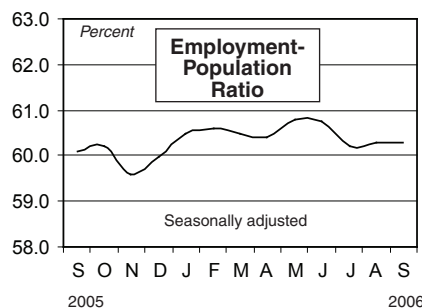
#### ...NYS unemployment rate fell



#### ...NYS unemployment decreased



#### ...NYS labor force participation even



# Focus on the Southern Tier

## Defense Spending and Demographics Shape Regional Economy

by Joe Kozlowski, Labor Market Analyst, Southern Tier

**T**wo important trends—increased defense spending and the aging of the local workforce—continue to shape the outlook for the Southern Tier regional economy. Between 2004 and 2005, total military contracts awarded to Southern Tier firms increased by \$464 million, or 67 percent, to \$1.16 billion, the highest level on record. The bulk of this increase was due to a contract awarded to Lockheed Martin in Tioga County to produce the US101 presidential helicopter replacement fleet. In 2005, Tioga County led the state in defense contracts (\$974.6 million), followed by Nassau (\$878.9 million) and Suffolk (\$612.0 million) counties.

The infusion of defense dollars helped to push up the region's manufacturing employment over the year by 700, or 1.6 percent, to 44,100 in September 2006; its highest level for the month in four years. The recent resurgence in defense-related employment was a welcome relief for local manufacturers. Over the past several years they had been buffeted by a combination of the U.S. manufacturing-centered recession in 2001, slow demand, global competition, and intense cost pressures.

Like the nation as a whole, businesses in the Southern Tier will be affected as the oldest members of the baby boom generation, who turn 60 this year, begin to retire from the workforce. When coupled with



**“Recent growth in the Southern Tier’s manufacturing sector has created immediate opportunities for highly skilled workers in a wide variety of industries.”**

John A. Flynn, Jr.,  
Regional Administrator,  
Southern Tier Region

the growth in defense-related jobs, this development means that area employers may find it harder to attract and retain talented workers in the future.

Of particular concern is that many local high-skill manufacturing workers are close to retirement. In the Southern Tier, the twin effects of a surge in factory orders and worker retirements have already resulted in strong demand for highly skilled engineers, CNC machinists, electronics technicians, programmers, welders, painters and entry-level production workers.

Business and community leaders across the region recognize the important role

played by skilled labor in the Southern Tier's economy. To mitigate skilled labor shortages they have developed a number of innovative workforce programs and initiatives. For example, efforts are underway in Chemung and Steuben counties to limit youth out-migration by informing high school students of high-paying manufacturing jobs available locally. However, the students must prepare themselves by taking the right mix of math, science, computer and technology courses.

In a unique initiative, Chemung County plans to open the Academic and Career Advancement Center, the first of its kind in New York State. The \$5 million training center, run by Corning Community College, will use input from businesses to develop curricula designed to meet real workplace needs. For workers, the center will provide facts on available job opportunities and the labor market skills and capabilities needed for success. For employers, the center will provide access to a growing job-ready talent pool.

Broome Community College and local businesses collaborated to develop the region's first entry-level manufacturing worker certification program. Classes consist of 52 hours of intense study in hand tool usage, shop floor math, reading measuring devices, assembly drawing

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### Counties with Longest and Shortest Commute Times, New York State, 2005

Area	Average Travel Time (in minutes)	% Working Outside County of Residence	% Extreme Commuters*	% Drove Alone
New York State	31.2	35.2	4.8	55.4
<b>Counties with Longest Commute Time</b>				
Richmond (Staten Island)	42.0	54.3	11.8	52.9
Queens	41.8	57.4	7.8	32.2
Bronx	41.7	56.7	7.2	24.9
Kings (Brooklyn)	40.7	49.1	6.3	22.0
Putnam	35.8	69.9	7.9	80.4
Orange	33.5	37.4	8.1	75.0
Nassau	33.0	42.7	6.6	68.6
<b>Counties with Shortest Commute Time</b>				
Chautauqua	16.7	10.9	0.7	81.5
Tompkins	17.4	10.1	0.5	62.7
Clinton	17.9	9.0	1.6	79.0
Onondaga	18.6	7.4	0.8	81.6
Chemung	19.0	19.0	1.3	78.5
Oneida	19.0	12.4	1.3	81.5

\*Census Bureau designation for workers with a one-way commute of at least 90 minutes.

Source: American Community Survey

## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP '05	SEP '06		SEP '05	SEP '06		SEP '05	SEP '06
<b>New York State</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	Dutchess	4.0	3.7	Broome	4.7	4.3
Albany	3.9	3.7	Orange	4.1	4.0	Chemung	5.1	4.9
Columbia	3.8	3.6	Putnam	3.6	3.3	Chenango	4.5	4.4
Greene	4.5	4.3	Rockland	4.1	3.7	Delaware	4.0	3.8
Rensselaer	4.0	3.7	Sullivan	4.5	4.5	Otsego	3.8	3.5
Saratoga	3.4	3.2	Ulster	4.2	3.9	Schuyler	4.5	4.2
Schenectady	4.1	3.9	Westchester	4.2	3.7	Steuben	5.2	5.0
Warren	4.0	3.7	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>	Tioga	4.2	3.8
Washington	4.1	3.8	Fulton	5.2	4.9	Tompkins	3.2	2.9
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	Herkimer	4.6	4.3	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Cayuga	4.4	4.3	Madison	4.3	3.9	Allegany	4.8	4.3
Cortland	4.6	4.3	Montgomery	4.9	5.2	Cattaraugus	5.0	4.6
Onondaga	4.5	4.1	Oneida	4.5	3.9	Chautauqua	4.6	4.1
Oswego	5.5	5.1	Schoharie	4.2	4.2	Erie	5.0	4.7
<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>North Country</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	Niagara	5.1	4.7
Genesee	4.2	4.0	Clinton	4.8	4.7	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Livingston	4.4	4.4	Essex	4.5	4.6	Nassau	4.2	3.8
Monroe	4.7	4.4	Franklin	5.2	4.8	Suffolk	4.1	3.7
Ontario	4.2	3.8	Hamilton	3.7	3.3	<b>New York City</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Orleans	4.6	4.7	Jefferson	5.2	4.6	Bronx	7.6	5.9
Seneca	4.2	4.0	Lewis	4.8	4.2	Kings	6.3	4.8
Wayne	4.5	4.1	St. Lawrence	5.3	4.8	New York	5.3	4.0
Wyoming	4.5	4.0				Queens	5.3	3.9
Yates	3.8	3.5				Richmond	5.2	3.8

Southern Tier...

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Getting to Work...

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interpretation, technical report writing, interpersonal communication skills, quality overview and basic computer skills. Students must score an average of at least 80 on several tests in order to be certified as work-ready; certified students will have their resumes forwarded to interested businesses.

Other efforts are underway in the region to increase the quality and quantity of the overall labor pool. The Bridge Program operated by Morrisville State College provides case management services to the unemployed and underemployed in finding and retaining jobs that pay above the minimum wage. Better Employment Skills and Training, supported by a consortium of businesses, agencies and organizations in Delaware County, helps people develop work and life skills that provide a pathway to productive and lasting employment. So far, over 500 participants have become employed.

The local business and academic communities have taken important first steps toward dealing with the impending retirement of the oldest baby boomers. To ensure the region's ongoing success, Southern Tier decision-makers will have to continue to design innovative programs and strategies to attract and retain skilled labor in the region.

time was 36.4 minutes, with extreme commuters representing 6.3 percent of all workers. In contrast, the counties reporting the shortest average commuting time in 2005 were all in the Upstate region: Chautauqua (16.7 minutes), Tompkins (17.4), and Clinton (17.9). Across the 28 Upstate counties for which ACS data are available, it took an average of 21.9 minutes to get to work. Extreme commuters were 2.0 percent of workers.

Counties with longer average commute times tend to have more residents working in another county. Across New York State, 35.2 percent of residents worked outside their home county in 2005 (the U.S. average was 27.7 percent). The counties with the highest percentage of residents working in another county included Putnam (69.9 percent), Queens (57.4 percent), and Bronx (56.7 percent); all three ranked among the five counties with the longest commute times. The counties with the smallest percentage of residents going outside their home county to work—Monroe (5.5 percent), Erie (6.3 percent), Jefferson (7.4 percent), and Onondaga (7.4 percent)—were all located in Upstate, and had average commute times of 22.5 minutes or less.

Among the 50 states, New York had both the highest percentage of residents traveling to work by public transportation (excluding taxicabs)—25.8 percent—and the lowest share driving alone to work by car, truck or

van (55.4 percent) in 2005. Public transport is mostly a New York City phenomenon; an average of 54.6 percent of Big Apple residents used public transport (excluding taxis) to get to work in 2005, while only 23.6 percent drove alone. Commuting methods of Upstate New Yorkers closely resemble those of the nation as a whole. Among Upstate residents, 81.2 percent drove alone to work (U.S. average was 77.0 percent), while only 2.4 percent utilized public transportation (U.S. average was 4.7 percent).

For other ACS jobs-related data, visit <http://factfinder.census.gov/>, click the "People" link on the left-hand menu bar, and then select "Employment."

by Kevin Jack

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

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

Private sector jobs in the Rochester area declined over the year by 3,100, or 0.7 percent, to 429,400 in September 2006. Gains in educational and health services (+3,900) were more than offset by losses in manufacturing (-3,900), construction (-1,000), professional and business services (-900), and leisure and hospitality (-600).

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

For the 12-month period ending September 2006, the private sector job count in the Syracuse area rose 3,600, or 1.3 percent, to 270,600. Growth was largest in educational and health services (+1,500), natural resources, mining and construction (+800), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+800). Losses occurred in financial activities (-200) and manufacturing (-200).

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

Private sector employment in the Utica-Rome metro area decreased 200, or 0.2 percent, to 100,800 in September 2006. Job gains in educational and health services (+500) and financial activities (+300) were more than offset by losses in manufacturing (-700), information (-200) and professional and business services (-200).

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

Private sector employment in the North Country region rose over the year by 900, or 0.8 percent, to 117,500 in September 2006. Gains were largest in trade, transportation, and utilities (+800), natural resources, mining, and construction (+700), and other services (+300). Job losses were centered in manufacturing (-700).

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

From September 2005 to September 2006, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area increased by 1,200, or 0.4 percent, to 343,000. Job gains were centered in professional and business services (+1,200) and leisure and hospitality (+800). Over-the-year losses were largest in manufacturing (-1,700).

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

Private sector employment in the Hudson Valley increased over the year by 8,300, or 1.1 percent, to 755,100 in September 2006. Job gains were largest in natural resources, mining and construction (+2,800), educational and health services (+2,300) and trade, transportation and utilities (+2,300). Manufacturing (-2,200) and leisure and hospitality (-1,400) declined over the year.

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

Private sector employment in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area decreased by 800, or 0.2 percent, to 457,400 over the 12 months ending September 2006. Job gains were centered in professional and business services (+1,100) and educational and health services (+900). Losses were largest in manufacturing (-2,200), natural resources, mining and construction (-500), information (-400), and leisure and hospitality (-400).

### SOUTHERN TIER JOSEPH KOZLOWSKI 607-741-4485

Private sector employment in the Southern Tier region increased over the year by 1,400, or 0.5 percent, to 257,600 in September 2006. Employment gains were largest in manufacturing (+700), leisure and hospitality (+400), and trade, transportation and utilities (+400). Losses were centered in financial activities (-200) and professional and business services (-200).

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

Private sector employment in New York City rose 50,400, or 1.6 percent, to 3,111,200 for the 12-month period ending September 2006. Sectors adding the most jobs included educational and health services (+13,500), leisure and hospitality (+9,800), professional and business services (+9,200), financial activities (+8,300) and trade, transportation and utilities (+7,300). Manufacturing (-2,700) was the only sector to lose jobs over the year.

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

Private sector jobs on Long Island increased over the year by 1,700, or 0.2 percent, to 1,052,900 in September 2006, a new record for the month. Gains were largest in professional and business services (+2,600) and educational and health services (+1,800). Manufacturing (-1,300), financial activities (-1,200), and trade, transportation and utilities (-1,200) declined over the year.

