

# Employment

IN NEW YORK STATE

David A. Paterson, Governor  
M. Patricia Smith, Commissioner

## At a Glance

In September 2009, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.9 percent, unchanged from August's rate. (The nation's unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in September.) In September 2009, the state had 8,562,700 nonfarm jobs, including 7,063,300 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in the state decreased by 0.3 percent from August, while the U.S. private sector job count decreased by 0.2 percent. From September 2008 to September 2009, the number of private sector jobs decreased by 3.0 percent in the state and decreased by 4.9 percent in the U.S. (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators decreased at an annual rate of 0.5 percent in September 2009.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs

September 2008 - September 2009

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	-236.0	-2.7
Private Sector	-219.7	-3.0
Goods-producing	-76.0	-8.3
Nat. res. & mining	-0.2	-2.9
Construction	-32.9	-8.7
Manufacturing	-42.9	-8.0
Durable gds.	-32.5	-10.2
Nondurable gds.	-10.4	-4.8
Service-providing	-160.0	-2.0
Trade, trans. & util.	-61.8	-4.0
Wholesale trade	-18.7	-5.3
Retail trade	-29.7	-3.3
Trans., wrhs. & util.	-13.4	-4.8
Information	-13.3	-5.0
Financial activities	-33.9	-4.7
Prof. & bus. svcs.	-51.6	-4.4
Educ. & health svcs.	26.0	1.6
Leisure & hospitality	-7.5	-1.0
Other services	-1.6	-0.4
Government	-16.3	-1.1

Honoring Those Who Served...

## NYS Department of Labor Offers Many Services to State's Veterans

In observance of Veterans Day 2009, we share information about the many services that the New York State Department of Labor (NYS-DOL) offers to veterans. The Empire State is home to more than one million veterans. It is our privilege to serve the courageous men and women who have sacrificed on behalf of our nation. We help them transition from the military service, train for new careers and seek new employment opportunities.

During the year ending September 30, 2009, NYSDOL provided services to over 53,900 veterans, who often face steep challenges to get re-established after their tour. It is difficult to find a good-paying job during these tough economic times, thus veterans often have

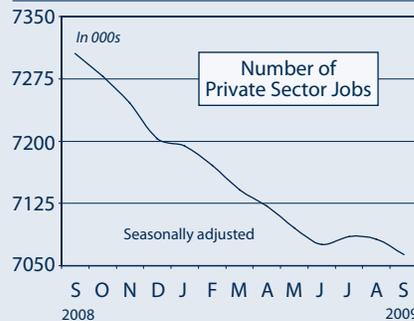
higher unemployment rates. This is especially true for our younger veterans. Current Population Survey data for the two-year period (required due to the small sample size) ending September 2009 show that veterans in the 18-29 age group have an unemployment rate of 14.6 percent versus the non-veteran unemployment rate of 10.3 percent for the same age group. These rates are likely to climb higher over the next few quarters before they drop as the economy improves.

While jobs may be scarce, there are many educational and training benefits open to veterans that will help them prepare for careers with growth opportunities. The Workforce

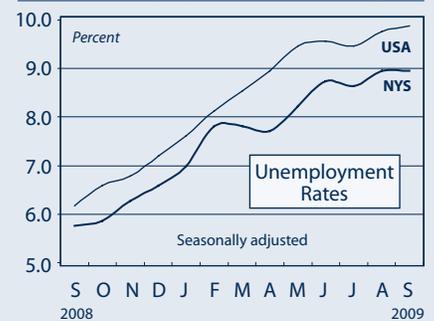
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### IN SEPTEMBER..

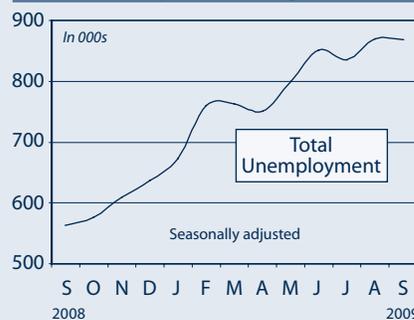
...NYS private sector jobs decreased



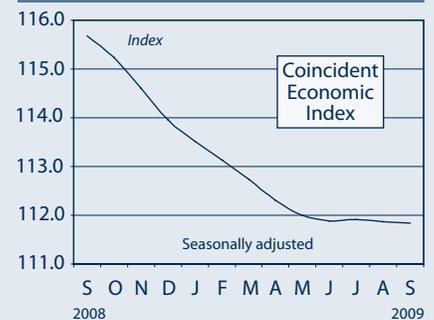
...NYS unemployment rate unchanged



...NYS unemployment edged down



...NYS economic index decreased



# Focus on the Finger Lakes

Rochester Area Outperforms the Nation

by Tammy Marino, Labor Market Analyst, Finger Lakes Region

The national recession that started in December 2007 -- one of the longest and deepest recessions since the 1930s -- continues to take a toll on the job market in the Rochester metro area (Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans and Wayne counties). Year-over-year declines in the Rochester area's private sector job count have grown during 2009, while the number of local unemployed ballooned to record highs.

Against this grim backdrop, local employers continue struggling to hold on to their skilled workforce. Some firms have imposed reduced workweeks and temporary furloughs in order to stay afloat, while many more have been forced to lay off workers. Many local companies have taken advantage of New York State's Shared Work Program, which helps keep workers employed during slow times. The program has added benefits for participating employers. They remain fully staffed, with their experienced workforce intact -- ready to gear up quickly when the economy starts humming again.

On the bright side, the Rochester area's economy -- like that of much of Upstate New York -- entered the recession later than the nation, and has fared much better than the U.S. economy. For example, private sector employment in the Rochester area declined by 8,100, or 1.8 percent, over the 12-month period ending September 2009. While this is a significant drop, the local area significantly outperformed the nation (-4.9 percent) over the same timeframe. Similarly, the Rochester area's unemployment rate reached 8.0 percent in September 2009, its highest level for the month in at least two decades. However, the local rate remained well below the national unemployment rate of 9.5 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Recent good news suggests there is reason for optimism about the local economy's near-term

prospects. A recent report by the Brookings Institution found that the Rochester metro area held up relatively well during the recession -- due in large part to its limited exposure to the sub-prime mortgage crisis. In addition, the rate of new layoffs has moderated in recent months. Furthermore, a recent survey by Manpower Inc. found the Rochester area's employment outlook among the most favorable in the nation. According to the report, 19 percent of local companies plan to hire more employees in the fourth quarter of 2009 (U.S. figure is 12 percent), while 9 percent of area employers expect to reduce payrolls (U.S. figure is 14 percent) over the same period.

*"The local economy has outperformed."*

## Manufacturing Continues its Transformation

The long-term domination of the area economy by the likes of Eastman Kodak, Bausch & Lomb and Xerox led many to consider Rochester as a big company town. In the early 1980s, Kodak alone employed one out of every seven private sector workers in the metro area, according to published reports. But times have changed; the Rochester area is now home to a much more diverse and balanced economy. In recent years, the companies listed above have downsized dramatically, and with that their dominance has diminished. Today, Kodak employs less than one out of every 50 local workers.

While the local manufacturing base has dwindled in recent years, it is still home to nearly 1,400 companies. Many local manufacturers are involved in high-tech sectors such as computer and electronic products, machinery manufacturing and chemicals. By adopting the latest technological advances and state-of-the-art equipment, area manufacturers have dramatically increased productivity. Moreover, research breakthroughs by institutions such as the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology con-



"During this recession, the NYS Department of Labor continues to offer a number of services to businesses including: the Shared Work Program, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit for hiring eligible workers, and the Building Skills in NY program, which provides up to \$50,000 in training funds to upgrade the skills of current workers."

**Bruce Herman**

Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development

tributed to local business spin-offs and helped prepare the Rochester area to better compete in the growing global economy.

## A Shot in the Arm

The local area has largely escaped the fallout related to the dramatic drop in housing prices that afflicted many other regions of the country. However, the national economic crisis led to frozen credit markets, which have only recently begun to thaw. As a result, several high-profile building projects scheduled for the Rochester area in 2009 were either delayed or cancelled outright. However, the construction sector will receive a substantial boost as a number of area colleges and hospitals move forward with projects worth more than \$934 million.

## Summing Up

Despite lingering weakness in the Rochester area's labor market, the local economy has managed to outperform the nation by a wide margin during this recession. While there are signs that the national recession may be over, businesses usually remain cautious about hiring until an economic recovery is clearly underway. To that end, it may be well into 2010 before the recovery translates into job growth in the area's economy. ■

## NYS Department of Labor Offers... from page 1

Investment Act provides funding for educational and training opportunities, including funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). One-Stop Career Centers located throughout the state offer access to these opportunities and give priority of service to veterans and eligible spouses. This means we serve them first and give them first access to employment and training services for which they are otherwise eligible and qualified. Other services

at our One-Stop Career Centers include: comprehensive assessments; individual employment plans; career guidance; workforce information; resume preparation assistance; and job referrals.

We have introduced an exciting new service called SMART 2010. This is Skills Matching and Referral Technology (SMART), which reads customer's resumes to extract skills, work history and education. SMART then matches this information with current local job openings and looks

for new matches whenever new jobs arrive. A Department of Labor representative processes customer resumes through SMART. Customers then receive information about job openings sent via e-mail.

State and federal agencies offer veterans many other educational benefits. Some of these benefits include the Post-9/11 GI Bill and New York State Veterans Tuition Award. For information about

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## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP '08	SEP '09		SEP '08	SEP '09		SEP '08	SEP '09
<b>New York State</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Capital District</b>	5.1	7.2	Dutchess	5.5	8.2	Genesee	5.1	7.2
Albany	5.1	7.1	Orange	5.7	8.2	Livingston	5.4	7.5
Columbia	5.0	7.7	Putnam	4.8	7.0	Monroe	5.9	8.3
Greene	5.9	8.4	Rockland	5.2	7.4	Ontario	4.9	6.7
Rensselaer	5.2	7.7	Sullivan	6.4	8.6	Orleans	6.1	8.2
Saratoga	4.6	6.4	Ulster	5.8	8.1	Seneca	5.0	7.3
Schenectady	5.3	7.8	Westchester	5.2	7.4	Wayne	5.5	7.8
Warren	5.1	7.2	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>	Wyoming	5.2	7.8
Washington	5.4	7.4	Fulton	7.1	9.1	Yates	4.4	6.0
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>8.1</b>	Herkimer	5.5	7.6	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Cayuga	5.5	8.0	Montgomery	6.8	8.8	Allegany	5.8	7.9
Cortland	5.7	8.5	Oneida	5.5	7.3	Cattaraugus	5.9	8.5
Madison	5.3	7.4	Otsego	5.4	6.8	Chautauqua	5.5	7.8
Onondaga	5.7	7.9	Schoharie	6.0	7.6	Erie	5.8	8.3
Oswego	6.3	9.3	<b>North Country</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	Niagara	6.3	8.8
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	Clinton	6.2	9.0	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Broome	5.6	8.5	Essex	5.7	7.8	Nassau	5.1	7.2
Chemung	5.7	8.9	Franklin	6.4	7.8	Suffolk	5.2	7.5
Chenango	6.3	8.7	Hamilton	3.9	5.6	<b>New York City</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>10.2</b>
Delaware	5.9	8.4	Jefferson	6.2	7.8	Bronx	8.0	13.3
Schuyler	5.0	7.4	Lewis	6.1	7.6	Kings	6.4	11.0
Steuben	5.7	9.5	St. Lawrence	6.7	8.9	New York	5.3	9.2
Tioga	5.1	7.9				Queens	5.2	9.1
Tompkins	4.4	5.6				Richmond	5.3	8.9

### NY Department of Labor Offers... from page 2

these and other veterans benefits, visit the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs web site at [www.veterans.ny.gov](http://www.veterans.ny.gov) or call their toll free phone number at 1-888-838-7697 (1-888-VETSNY).

Some of the specialized services that NYSDOL provides to veterans include:

- **Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) Staff**

We have 73 Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) staff members to serve veterans at 61 One-Stop Career Centers, military installations, Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program grantee sites and other locations throughout the state. These positions are funded through the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) administered by the USDOL Veterans Employment and Training Service. These staff members are veterans themselves and specially trained to serve veterans most in need, including the disabled, the wounded, the recently separated and the homeless.

- **Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Workshops**

We offer these two and one-half day intensive job search workshops at five military installations in the state including: Fort Drum; West Point; Fort Hamilton; Stewart Air National Guard Base; and the Naval Support Unit at Saratoga.

- **Warriors in Transition Units**

Our DVOP Specialists provide individual assistance to soldiers assigned to the Warriors in Transition Units at Fort Drum and West Point. We refer soldiers through the USDOL's Recovery and Employment Assistance Lifelines (REALifelines) Program to ensure that all wounded warriors are linked with a DVOP Specialist or LVER for ongoing services upon separation. NYSDOL also provides job-search workshops and assists with career fairs.

- **New York State National Guard Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Events**

At these events, our staff provide job-search information, conduct job-search workshops and organize career fairs. Our DVOP Specialists and LVERs provide individual follow-up services.

- **Veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program**

Our DVOP Specialists and LVERs give disabled veterans workforce information to help them set career goals. We help them obtain employment before they complete their educational programs.

- **Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) Grantees**

DVOP Specialists and LVERs give personal attention to homeless veterans served at the grantee locations.

- **Governor's Program to Hire Disabled Wartime Veterans (55c Program)**

The NYSDOL partners with other state agencies including the Department of Civil Service and the Division of Veterans Affairs to promote the 55c Program. We actively match veterans who are approved for the 55c Program to entry-level, competitive-class positions in New York State government agencies.

For more information about the many employment and training services available to veterans, visit the NYSDOL web site at [www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov), and select the "Vets Come First!" link at the bottom of the page. ■

*by Cindy Picunas, Veterans Program Coordinator*

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### CAPITAL DISTRICT

**James Ross -- 518-462-7600**

From September 2008 to September 2009, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area fell 10,500, or 3.0 percent, to 334,600. Job gains were limited to educational and health services (+400). Losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-2,600), leisure and hospitality (-2,200), professional and business services (-1,900), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,700), and manufacturing (-1,300).

### CENTRAL NY

**Roger Evans -- 315-479-3388**

For the 12-month period ending September 2009, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area fell 6,500, or 2.4 percent, to 262,500. Job growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+500). Job losses were largest in manufacturing (-2,200), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,900), professional and business services (-1,000), financial activities (-600), information (-400), and natural resources, mining and construction (-400).

### FINGER LAKES

**Tammy Marino -- 585-258-8870**

Private sector employment in the Rochester metropolitan area declined over the year by 8,100, or 1.8 percent, to 431,800 in September 2009. Local employment gains were concentrated in educational and health services (+2,200). Job losses were greatest in manufacturing (-4,200), professional and business services (-2,700), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,600), and construction (-1,300).

### HUDSON VALLEY

**John Nelson -- 914-997-8798**

Private sector employment in the Hudson Valley decreased by 15,500, or 2.1 percent, to 740,400 for the 12-month period ending September 2009. Job gains were limited to educational and health services (+4,500). The greatest losses were in trade, transportation and utilities (-5,300), manufacturing (-3,800), professional and business services (-3,700), leisure and hospitality (-2,800), and natural resources, mining and construction (-2,000).

### LONG ISLAND

**Gary Huth -- 516-934-8533**

The private sector job count on Long Island declined over the year by 32,800, or 3.1 percent, to 1,036,600 in September 2009. Employment grew in educational and health services (+2,900) and leisure and hospitality (+400). Losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-13,200), natural resources, mining and construction (-6,900), and professional and business services (-6,000).

### MOHAWK VALLEY

**Mark Barbano -- 315-793-2282**

For the 12-month period ending September 2009, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metropolitan area decreased by 2,500, or 2.5 percent, to 96,600. Job gains occurred in educational and health services (+300). The largest job losses were in manufacturing (-600), leisure and hospitality (-500), and professional and business services (-500).

### NEW YORK CITY

**James Brown -- 212-775-3330**

Private sector jobs in New York City fell by 111,700, or 3.5 percent, to 3,123,600 for the 12-month period ending September 2009. Growth occurred in educational and health services (+10,600) and other services (+2,300). The greatest losses were in financial activities (-32,000), trade, transportation and utilities (-31,700), professional and business services (-25,500), manufacturing (-12,500), and natural resources, mining and construction (-11,500).

### NORTH COUNTRY

**Alan Beideck -- 518-523-7157**

Private sector employment in the North Country fell over the year by 3,300, or 2.8 percent, to 115,900 in September 2009. Growth was focused in educational and health services (+400). The greatest job declines were in manufacturing (-1,200), professional and business services (-700), trade, transportation and utilities (-700), and natural resources, mining and construction (-600).

### SOUTHERN TIER

**Christian Harris -- 607-741-4485**

For the 12-month period ending September 2009, the private sector job count in the Southern Tier declined by 7,700, or 3.2 percent, to 234,200. Gains were focused in educational and health services (+900). Losses were largest in manufacturing (-4,400), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,500), professional and business services (-1,200), natural resources, mining and construction (-700), and leisure and hospitality (-500).

### WESTERN NY

**John Slenker -- 716-851-2742**

Over the 12 months ending September 2009, private sector employment in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area decreased by 14,000, or 3.0 percent, to 449,100. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+500). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-4,700), trade, transportation and utilities (-4,600), natural resources, mining and construction (-2,400), professional and business services (-1,100), and leisure and hospitality (-800).

