

# Employment

IN NEW YORK STATE

David A. Paterson, Governor  
Colleen C. Gardner, Commissioner

## At a Glance

In September 2010, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.3 percent, unchanged from August. (The nation's unemployment rate was 9.6 percent in September.) In September 2010, the state had 8,487,500 nonfarm jobs, including 7,014,500 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in the state decreased by 0.2 percent from August, while the U.S. private sector job count increased by 0.1 percent. From September 2009 to September 2010, the number of private sector jobs increased by 0.5 percent in both the state and the U.S. (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators decreased at an annual rate of 0.2 percent in September 2010.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs

September 2009 - September 2010

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	-0.1	0.0
Private Sector	32.9	0.5
Goods-producing	-6.5	-0.8
Nat. res. & mining	0.2	3.4
Construction	-4.1	-1.2
Manufacturing	-2.6	-0.6
Durable gds.	-1.1	-0.4
Nondurable gds.	-1.5	-0.8
Service-providing	6.4	0.1
Trade, trans. & util.	-7.4	-0.5
Wholesale trade	-5.2	-1.6
Retail trade	-6.0	-0.7
Trans., wrhs. & util.	3.8	1.4
Information	-4.6	-1.8
Financial activities	-4.0	-0.6
Prof. & bus. svcs.	8.9	0.8
Educ. & health svcs.	20.0	1.2
Leisure & hospitality	6.0	0.8
Other services	20.5	5.7
Government	-33.0	-2.2

A Look Back at the Past 10 years (Part 2)...

## Lost Decade for Jobs

Last month, we reviewed key employment trends that occurred between 2000 and 2010 in industries across New York State. Some analysts call this period a "lost decade" for U.S. workers as many areas lost jobs. This month we look at how local areas in New York State fared over the last 10 years.

From the first half of 2000 to the first half of 2010:

- The rate of decline in private sector jobs was much steeper in the 52-county Upstate (-4.3%) region than in the 10-county Downstate (-0.5%) region;
- If they were separate states, Downstate would have ranked #19 and Upstate #34 in the U.S. for private sector job growth;
- On a net basis, Upstate (-107,200) lost almost five times more private sector jobs than Downstate (-23,200).

Nine of the state's 13 metro areas (MSAs) had a decline in private sector jobs over the past decade. See the table on page 3 for details. Binghamton (-11.7%) and Utica-Rome (-10.2%) had double-digit drops. On a net basis, Rochester (-34,000) and Buffalo-Niagara Falls (-27,200) had the largest job losses.

Some metro areas actually added private sector jobs over 2000-2010. They were: Ithaca (+10.6%), Glens Falls (+5.1%), Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown (+2.0%), and Albany-Schenectady-Troy (+1.3%).

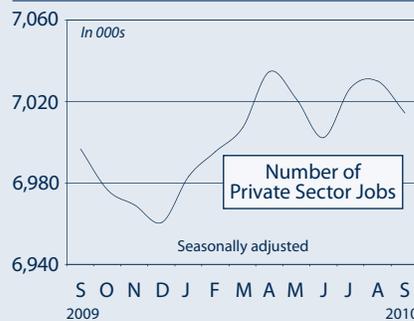
### Manufacturing's Decline

The loss of manufacturing jobs over the past decade hit New York State very hard. This sector declined in every metro area. It was the largest source of job losses in every MSA

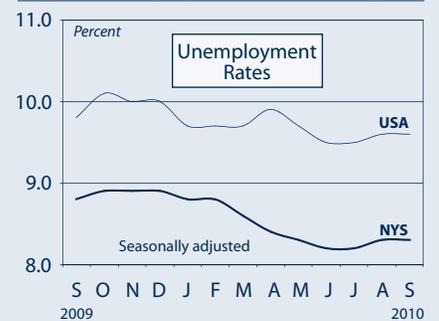
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### IN SEPTEMBER...

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



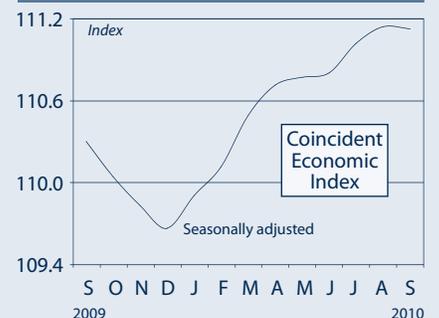
#### ...NYS unemployment rate unchanged



#### ...NYS unemployment decreased



#### ...NYS economic index decreased



# Focus on the North Country

Waiting for Recovery

by Alan Beideck, Labor Market Analyst, North Country

Among the state's 10 labor market regions, the North Country has been the hardest hit by the "Great Recession." The national economic downturn, which started in December 2007, officially ended in June 2009, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research -- but not in the North Country.

The U.S. and the region started to lose private sector jobs over the year within one month of each other in the spring of 2008. While the nation began to add back jobs in July 2010, the North Country region continues to lose them.

## Recession in Review

Over the last two years (September 2008–September 2010), the region's private job count fell by 6,200, or 5.2%. This rate of job loss was steeper than in New York State (-3.3%), the 52-county Upstate New York region (-3.4%), and the nation (-5.1%) over the same period. The labor market regions with the next largest percentage job losses over the past two years include the Hudson Valley (-4.9%), Western New York (-3.8%), and Finger Lakes (-3.7%).

These job losses translate into a much higher regional unemployment rate. It rose from 6.0% in September 2008 to 8.4% in September 2010. Further, the number of unemployed North Country residents jumped by 39% to 16,500 over the past two years. The region's September 2010 unemployment rate and totals hit their highest levels for the month since at least 1990.

Despite these poor labor market statistics, the North Country economy has been improving in

*"The North Country region continues to lose private sector employment."*

recent months. For example, the rate of over-the-year private sector job loss has narrowed considerably this year. It fell from -3.8% in the first quarter of 2010 to -1.7% in the third quarter of this year.

## The Past Year

For the year ending September 2010, private sector employment in the North Country fell by 1,700, or 1.5%, to 113,000. Leisure and hospitality has been the brightest spot of the North Country economy, adding 400 jobs over the past 12 months. At the end of September, the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority said the number of visitors to Boldt Castle (Jefferson County) had risen by 10,400 (+6.8%) compared with the same period in 2009. Tourism in the Essex County/Lake Placid area also is growing. Essex County

hotel tax revenues through July 2010 were running 13% ahead of 2009 levels. Tax collections in 2010 matched those in 2008, considered the area's best tourism season ever.

Educational and health services (+300) also added jobs. Many colleges in the North Country report record enrollments. This fall, Jefferson Community College saw its enrollment climb 10% above 2009's record-setting level. SUNY Potsdam had its largest incoming freshman class in 28 years.

However, some sectors have suffered this past year. The region's biggest jobs loser was manufacturing (-1,000). It is expected to continue to show weakness. Drug company Pfizer laid off about half of its 650 employees at its Clinton County plants. It expects to lay off the remain-



"The State Department of Labor and its workforce partners are working together to help improve conditions in the North Country's labor market."

**Colleen C. Gardner,**  
Commissioner

ing employees in the near future. Ottawa-based BreconRidge Manufacturing, which makes and repairs telecom equipment, will close its plant in Ogdensburg (St. Lawrence County) by the end of January 2011. The company, which was recently purchased by Sanmina-SCI, currently employs 82 workers.

## A Look Ahead

The North Country's near-term employment forecast is mixed. Employment losses have slowed recently, but manufacturing and government layoffs loom on the horizon. Still, there are some bright signs. Bombardier Transportation in Plattsburgh (Clinton County) received a \$267 million contract to assemble 100 commuter railcars. About 75-85 workers expect to be called back in fall 2011. In addition, Ontario-based Florelle Tissue will reopen the vacant former Brownville Specialty Paper plant in Jefferson County. The company plans to hire 75 employees within three years. Lastly, the region's vibrant tourism industry will receive a boost from the proposed openings of a Hilton hotel in Watertown and a Fairfield Inn and Suites in Plattsburgh. ■

## A Look Back at the Past 10 Years (Part 2)... from page 1

in the state. On a percentage basis, Downstate (-44.4%) had slightly larger manufacturing losses than Upstate (-38.1%) over the decade. Downstate's losses were driven by a significant drop in New York City's apparel industry (-73.1%).

Turning to Upstate, 7 of the 10 MSAs in the region lost at least 35% of their factory jobs between 2000 and 2010. The biggest percent drops were in Kingston (-45.3%), Buffalo-Niagara Falls (-42.9%) and Rochester (-42.4%).

## The Ascent of Education and Health

In stark contrast, the job count in educational and health (E&H) services (private sector) increased in all 13 metro areas over the decade.

E&H growth was large enough to more than offset manufacturing losses in New York City, Nassau-Suffolk, Putnam-Rockland-Westchester, Albany-Schenectady-Troy and Ithaca. Manufacturing accounted for a relatively small share of total jobs in these five areas in 2000.

Eight MSAs saw their E&H employment grow by more than 20%. The fastest over-the-decade growth was in Utica-Rome (+28.0%), Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown (+24.8%), and Rochester (+24.5%). Notably, Utica-Rome and Rochester were also among the MSAs with the most rapid factory job losses over the 2000-2010 period.

## Government Grows in Most Areas

From 2000 to 2010, the government job count grew in most MSAs around the state. The fastest public sector job growth occurred in Utica-Rome (+18.0%), Binghamton (+9.7%), and Ithaca (+9.4%). (Note: In 2003, the federal government reclassified jobs at the Oneida Indian Nation in the Utica-Rome area from the private to public sector. This means the area's 2000-2010 government job growth and private sector losses are overstated.)

New York City (-3.2%) was one of two areas that saw government jobs fall. This held back

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## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	SEP '09	SEP '10		SEP '09	SEP '10		SEP '09	SEP '10
<b>New York State</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Capital District</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	Dutchess	8.1	7.3	Genesee	7.1	6.4
Albany	6.9	6.6	Orange	8.0	7.7	Livingston	7.5	6.7
Columbia	7.5	6.7	Putnam	7.0	6.5	Monroe	8.2	7.5
Greene	8.1	7.6	Rockland	7.4	6.8	Ontario	6.7	6.3
Rensselaer	7.5	6.9	Sullivan	8.4	8.1	Orleans	8.2	8.4
Saratoga	6.2	5.9	Ulster	8.0	7.4	Seneca	7.1	7.1
Schenectady	7.5	7.1	Westchester	7.4	6.9	Wayne	7.7	8.1
Warren	6.9	6.9	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.4</b>	Wyoming	8.0	7.4
Washington	7.1	6.8	Fulton	9.3	9.1	Yates	6.0	5.8
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	Herkimer	7.4	6.7	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Cayuga	7.8	7.1	Montgomery	8.7	8.5	Allegany	7.8	7.9
Cortland	8.4	7.5	Oneida	7.1	7.1	Cattaraugus	8.3	8.0
Madison	7.4	7.0	Otsego	6.7	6.6	Chautauqua	8.0	7.5
Onondaga	7.8	7.3	Schoharie	7.5	7.5	Erie	8.1	7.5
Oswego	9.2	8.8	<b>North Country</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>	Niagara	8.5	7.7
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	Clinton	8.9	9.0	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Broome	8.3	7.7	Essex	7.5	7.4	Nassau	7.2	6.8
Chemung	8.7	7.6	Franklin	7.7	7.7	Suffolk	7.5	7.0
Chenango	8.6	7.8	Hamilton	4.9	5.8	<b>New York City</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>9.3</b>
Delaware	8.2	7.7	Jefferson	7.6	8.1	Bronx	13.2	12.5
Schuyler	7.4	6.7	Lewis	7.1	7.6	Kings	11.0	10.0
Steuben	9.2	8.6	St. Lawrence	8.9	9.4	New York	9.1	7.8
Tioga	7.6	7.0				Queens	9.1	8.3
Tompkins	5.8	5.4				Richmond	8.9	8.6

### A Look Back at the Past 10 Years (Part 2)... from page 2

### Percentage Change in Employment\* By Region and Metro Area, 2000-2010

	Private Sector	Manufacturing	Educational & Health Services	Government
<i>New York State</i>	-1.9%	-39.1%	+22.4%	+2.5%
<i>United States</i>	-2.9%	-33.1%	+29.5%	+8.7%
<b>Downstate Region (10 county)</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>-44.4%</b>	<b>+21.5%</b>	<b>+0.4%</b>
Nassau-Suffolk	-0.2%	-31.6%	+23.8%	+8.1%
New York City	-0.4%	-55.3%	+21.9%	-3.2%
Putnam-Rockland-Westchester	-1.7%	-27.9%	+14.7%	+6.5%
<b>Upstate Region (52 county)</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>	<b>-38.1%</b>	<b>+17.7%</b>	<b>+4.9%</b>
Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA	+1.3%	-29.7%	+22.0%	-0.3%
Binghamton MSA	-11.7%	-37.4%	+5.9%	+9.7%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls MSA	-5.9%	-42.9%	+7.6%	+5.9%
Glens Falls MSA	+5.1%	-19.7%	+13.9%	+7.3%
Ithaca MSA	+10.6%	-30.2%	+20.3%	+9.4%
Kingston MSA	-8.3%	-45.3%	+7.0%	+4.7%
Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown MSA	+2.0%	-41.3%	+24.8%	+6.9%
Rochester MSA	-7.6%	-42.4%	+24.5%	+4.5%
Syracuse MSA	-4.8%	-37.8%	+20.3%	+3.3%
Utica-Rome MSA**	-10.2%	-41.3%	+28.0%	+18.0%
Counties Outside Metro Areas (Minor)	-5.0%	-31.8%	+13.2%	+4.6%

\* Average of January to June employment levels.

\*\*Employees of the Oneida Indian Nation were counted in the private sector in 2000 and in government in 2010.

Downstate's overall public sector growth rate to +0.4%. The other MSA with fewer government jobs was Albany-Schenectady-Troy (-0.3%), where the public sector still accounts for 1 in 4 jobs in 2010.

#### Summary

A review of the past decade shows us the effects on our state of two recessions and ongoing structural changes in the economy.

The department's new report "The Decade in Review", provides a detailed analysis of what occurred in each region, metro area and county in New York over the 2000-2010 period. For a full copy of our report, visit [www.labor.ny.gov/stats](http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats).

by Daniel Crosley and Angela VanDerwerken

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### CAPITAL DISTRICT

**James Ross — 518-462-7600**

From September 2009 to September 2010, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area rose 1,600, or 0.5 percent, to 335,000. Job gains were greatest in professional and business services (+1,900), other services (+1,100), leisure and hospitality (+600), and natural resources, mining and construction (+500). Losses were concentrated in trade, transportation and utilities (-2,900).

### CENTRAL NY

**Roger Evans — 315-479-3388**

For the 12-month period ending September 2010, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area rose 2,500, or 1.0 percent, to 261,000. Job growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+1,300), professional and business services (+900), leisure and hospitality (+500), natural resources, mining and construction (+400), and other services (+400). The largest job losses occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (-400) and manufacturing (-400).

### 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 422,300 in September 2010. Employment gains were concentrated in educational and health services (+1,700), other services (+800), and professional and business services (+600). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-1,600), construction (-1,100), and financial activities (-400).

### HUDSON VALLEY

**John Nelson — 914-997-8798**

Private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley decreased 5,900, or 0.8 percent, to 716,300 for the 12-month period ending September 2010. Gains were focused in leisure and hospitality (+1,100), other services (+1,000), and educational and health services (+600). Losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-3,400), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,200), financial activities (-900), and manufacturing (-900).

### LONG ISLAND

**Gary Huth — 516-934-8533**

The private sector job count on Long Island rose over the year by 5,600, or 0.5 percent, to 1,028,300 in September 2010. Job gains were largest in educational and health services (+5,700), trade, transportation and utilities (+3,800), and natural resources, mining and construction (+900). Losses were centered in professional and business services (-1,700), leisure and hospitality (-1,400), financial activities (-1,200), and manufacturing (-1,100).

### MOHAWK VALLEY

**Mark Barbano — 315-793-2282**

For the 12-month period ending September 2010, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metro area decreased by 300, or 0.3 percent, to 97,500. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+400). Losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-400) and trade, transportation and utilities (-300).

### NEW YORK CITY

**James Brown — 212-775-3330**

Private sector employment in New York City rose by 33,700, or 1.1 percent, to 3,137,500 for the 12-month period ending September 2010. Job growth was centered in other services (+11,100), educational and health services (+11,000), leisure and hospitality (+7,700), trade, transportation and utilities (+5,400), and financial activities (+3,900). Job losses were largest in information (-3,600) and manufacturing (-2,000).

### SOUTHERN TIER

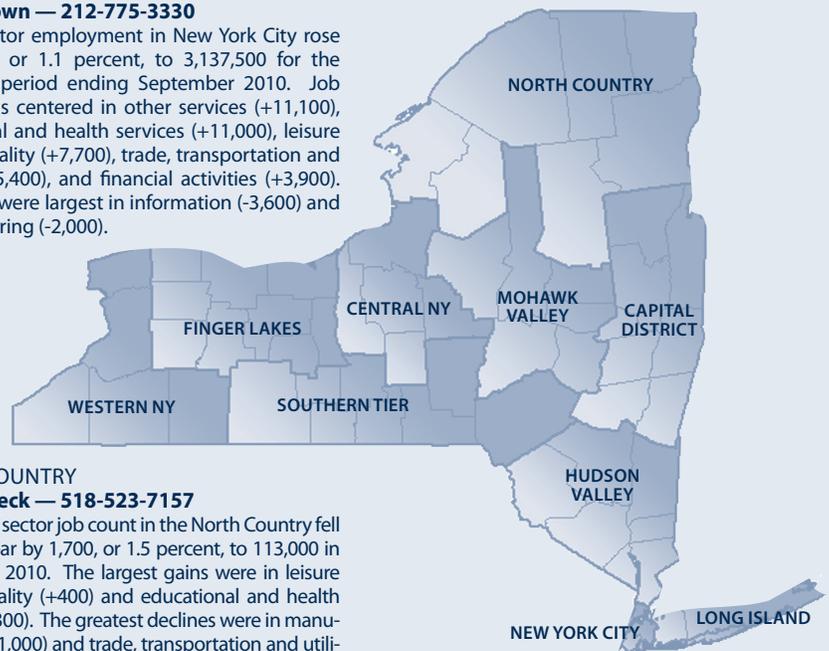
**Christian Harris — 607-741-4485**

Private sector employment in the Southern Tier increased over the year by 2,000, or 0.9 percent, to 233,000 in September 2010. Job gains were largest in professional and business services (+1,000), educational and health services (+900), and trade, transportation and utilities (+300). Job losses were greatest in manufacturing (-600).

### WESTERN NY

**John Slenker — 716-851-2742**

Private sector employment in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area increased by 800, or 0.2 percent, to 445,500 over the 12 months ending September 2010. Job gains were centered in professional and business services (+1,300), leisure and hospitality (+900), and other services (+900). Losses occurred in manufacturing (-1,500), financial activities (-400), and information (-300).



### NORTH COUNTRY

**Alan Beideck — 518-523-7157**

The private sector job count in the North Country fell over the year by 1,700, or 1.5 percent, to 113,000 in September 2010. The largest gains were in leisure and hospitality (+400) and educational and health services (+300). The greatest declines were in manufacturing (-1,000) and trade, transportation and utilities (-500).