

# Employment

IN NEW YORK STATE

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

## At a Glance

In October 2009, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.0 percent, up slightly from September's rate of 8.9 percent. (The nation's unemployment rate was 10.2 percent in October.) In October 2009, the state had 8,549,000 nonfarm jobs, including 7,055,100 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in the state decreased by 0.2 percent in October, while the U.S. private sector job count also decreased by 0.2 percent. From October 2008 to October 2009, the number of private sector jobs decreased by 3.0 percent in the state and decreased by 4.7 percent in the U.S. (not seasonally adjusted). In addition, New York's Index of Coincident Economic Indicators decreased at an annual rate of 2.3 percent in October 2009.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs

October 2008 - October 2009

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	-241.9	-2.7
Private Sector	-222.5	-3.0
Goods-producing	-80.4	-8.8
Nat. res. & mining	-0.2	-2.9
Construction	-36.8	-9.8
Manufacturing	-43.4	-8.2
Durable gds.	-34.7	-11.0
Nondurable gds.	-8.7	-4.0
Service-providing	-161.5	-2.0
Trade, trans. & util.	-60.5	-4.0
Wholesale trade	-19.5	-5.6
Retail trade	-26.1	-2.9
Trans., wrhs. & util.	-14.9	-5.3
Information	-16.4	-6.2
Financial activities	-35.6	-5.0
Prof. & bus. svcs.	-54.0	-4.6
Educ. & health svcs.	44.3	2.7
Leisure & hospitality	-15.7	-2.2
Other services	-4.2	-1.1
Government	-19.4	-1.3

## National Recession Takes Its Toll...

# Numbers Surge as Mass Layoffs Hit Workers in New York State

There are well-known and widely-reported economic barometers – such as the unemployment rate and the private sector job count – that track the impact of the current recession in New York State. Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS), which are less well-known, also provide valuable insights into the effects of the economic downturn here.

### What Are Mass Layoff Statistics?

MLS is a Federal-State cooperative program that uses each state's unemployment insurance (UI) data to identify, describe, and track the effects of major job cutbacks. We have monthly and quarterly data for New York State back to the mid-1990s.

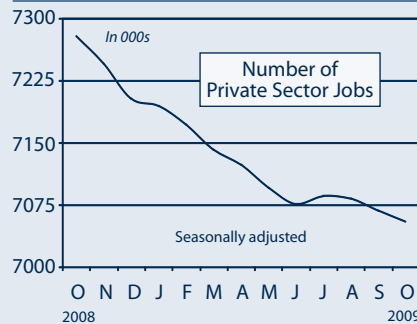
The MLS data we collect is used for several other important purposes. For example, it is used to allocate funds under the Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act, which provides retraining and re-adjustment assistance to dislocated workers unlikely to return to their previous industries or occupations. These data are also utilized to: analyze ailing industries or geographic areas; develop approaches for workforce planners and labor market analysts to assist employers and workers; and analyze the available labor market supply.

In New York State, when 50 or more workers from a single employer file an initial claim for

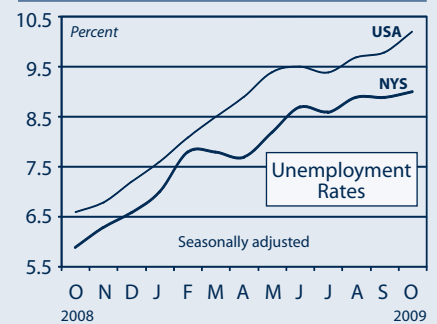
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### IN OCTOBER..

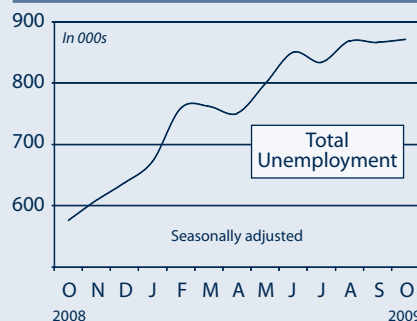
#### ...NYS private sector jobs decreased



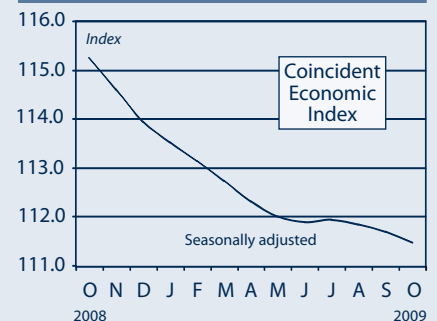
#### ...NYS unemployment rate increased



#### ...NYS unemployment increased



#### ...NYS economic index decreased



## Focus on Central New York

Poised for Recovery

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

In the face of the worst recession to hit the United States in more than 70 years, the economy in Central New York has fared better than many regions of the country. While the national economy went into recession in December 2007, it was not until the end of 2008 that the Syracuse metro area's economy began to falter.

This weakness firmly took hold in 2009 as over-the-year private sector job losses began to mount, reaching 6,600 by October 2009. Despite these employment declines, the Syracuse metro area (Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties) continues to lose jobs at a slower pace (-2.4 percent) than the state (-3.0 percent) and nation (-4.7 percent). Moreover, the Syracuse area's unemployment rate stood at 8.0 percent in October 2009, well below the state (8.7 percent) and nation (9.5 percent).

Despite the recent loss of many private sector jobs and the highest October unemployment rate in at least 20 years, the Syracuse area economy appears poised for a comeback. Spurring this recovery are some recent investments made in the region that should help the local area to take full advantage of the recovering U.S. economy.

### Jobs by the Numbers

For the 12-month period ending October 2009, educational and health services (+500) was the only major sector to add jobs in the Syracuse area. Many local hospitals are making major investments by expanding and upgrading their facilities. The Golisano Children's Hospital opened this past fall at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. Demand for health care workers, especially nurses and various therapists, remains particularly robust in the region.

Manufacturing (-2,200) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-2,100) lost the most jobs over

the past year. The local factory job count was at a record low in October, with even more layoffs expected. The New Process Gear auto parts plant will shut down by the end of 2011, displacing 950 union workers. The local retail sector could take another hit from Syracuse-based Penn Traffic (parent company of P&C Foods grocery stores), which filed for bankruptcy for the third time in 10 years and plans to sell its assets. The company wants to continue operating while it seeks a buyer. If it does not find a buyer, there could be store closings and layoffs by mid-February 2010.

### Going Green

There are glimmers of hope for the region's beleaguered manufacturing sector, especially in green technology. A prime example is Bannon Automotive, an electric car startup that plans to open a plant in Onondaga County in 2010. The plant would initially employ 100 people and expand to 250 within three years. Bannon secured a North American licensing deal with Reva Electric Car Co. of India to produce Reva's NXR electric car locally. Bannon was attracted to Central New York because of the area's strong labor force, history of manufacturing, ties to universities and commitment to green technology.

The region's commitment and partnerships working toward a green economy have led to many essential infrastructure developments. Among them, construction began on a \$20 million biotechnology research center in the City of Syracuse that will focus on new health therapies and new products made from biological materials. In addition, the headquarters of the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems was built this year in downtown Syracuse. Syracuse University leads this large coalition of corporate partners, uni-



"Central New York's Workforce System partners have made important investment decisions to prepare the region for an economic recovery. By investing in and implementing sector strategies, we are joining the interests of the region's businesses, institutions, educators, and job seekers. This helps continue progress in growing fields such as health care, advanced manufacturing and green technology."

**Bruce Herman**

Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development

versities and research groups that will focus on improving health, safety and security in buildings and urban environments.

Local high-tech firms continue to win sizable federal contracts in the defense and research and development areas, which keeps companies like Lockheed Martin, Sensis Corp. and SRC strong. Demand for engineers and program managers continues to rise. In addition, the local construction industry, housing market and financial sector are all healthier than their national counterparts. Commercial and institutional projects help sustain local construction jobs. People continue to build office space and living quarters in Syracuse, including condominiums and high-end apartments.

### Positioning for the Future

Although job losses continue to affect the local economy and more layoffs loom on the horizon, there are encouraging signs in the region. Syracuse area businesses and institutions of higher learning are making significant investments. These should pay off handsomely and brighten the region's job prospects, once the national economy strengthens and a recovery begins. ■

### Numbers Surge as Mass Layoffs... from page 1

UI within a five-week period, that is a potential "mass layoff event." An "extended mass layoff event" occurs when an employer verifies that 50 or more workers have been separated from their jobs for longer than 30 days. Extended layoffs cover persons subject to recall as well as those who have been terminated permanently.

We verify each potential MLS event by contacting employers to determine: the total number of separations (number of workers laid off, regard-

less of whether they file for UI or not); the reason for the layoff; and if and when a recall is expected. If the reason for the layoff is other than for vacation or seasonal factors, we ask further questions to learn whether the employer is moving the work to other states or countries.

Then we organize the MLS data according to the business's industry and location. To protect confidentiality, we aggregate most location-specific data to the statewide level. With this informa-

tion, we can determine the industry characteristics and patterns of layoffs during specific calendar quarters. For example, mass layoff events in New York State's construction sector tend to spike during the winter months.

We also compile the demographic characteristics of workers who lost their jobs due to mass layoffs -- including age, race, sex and veteran status. This information is collected when laid-

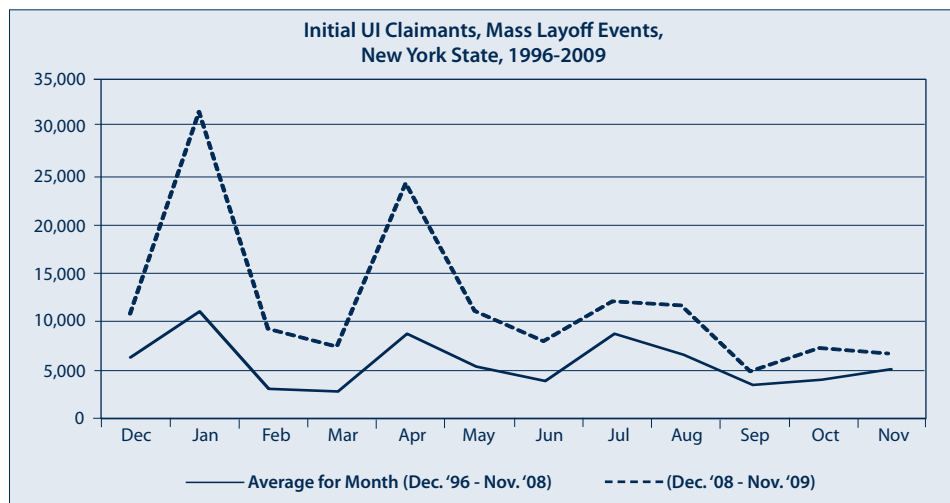
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## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	OCT '08	OCT '09		OCT '08	OCT '09		OCT '08	OCT '09
<b>New York State</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Capital District</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>	Dutchess	5.3	7.9	Genesee	5.2	7.3
Albany	5.0	6.8	Orange	5.6	7.9	Livingston	5.3	7.4
Columbia	4.8	7.4	Putnam	4.5	6.8	Monroe	5.6	8.0
Greene	5.8	8.3	Rockland	5.0	7.1	Ontario	4.9	7.0
Rensselaer	5.0	7.4	Sullivan	6.4	8.6	Orleans	6.1	7.9
Saratoga	4.6	6.4	Ulster	5.5	7.7	Seneca	5.0	7.4
Schenectady	5.2	7.5	Westchester	5.0	7.2	Wayne	5.6	7.6
Warren	5.5	7.7	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>	Wyoming	5.3	8.0
Washington	4.9	7.4	Fulton	6.8	9.0	Yates	4.4	6.3
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	Herkimer	5.3	7.6	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Cayuga	5.6	7.9	Montgomery	6.5	8.8	Allegany	5.6	8.1
Cortland	6.0	8.4	Oneida	5.4	7.3	Cattaraugus	5.8	8.7
Madison	5.2	7.3	Otsego	5.3	6.9	Chautauqua	5.3	7.7
Onondaga	5.5	7.9	Schoharie	5.7	7.5	Erie	5.6	8.2
Oswego	6.6	9.2	<b>North Country</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.7</b>	Niagara	6.3	8.6
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	Clinton	6.4	9.0	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Broome	5.5	8.4	Essex	6.2	8.5	Nassau	4.9	7.0
Chemung	5.7	8.7	Franklin	6.5	8.2	Suffolk	5.1	7.3
Chenango	6.1	8.8	Hamilton	4.9	6.6	<b>New York City</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Delaware	5.7	8.4	Jefferson	6.8	8.4	Bronx	8.4	13.4
Schuyler	5.3	7.6	Lewis	6.0	8.0	Kings	6.7	11.1
Steuben	5.8	9.6	St. Lawrence	7.0	9.2	New York	5.5	9.2
Tioga	4.9	8.0				Queens	5.5	9.2
Tompkins	4.2	5.5				Richmond	5.5	8.9

### Numbers Surge as Mass Layoffs... from page 2



The graph shows the monthly number of initial UI claimants related to mass layoff events in New York State over the December 2008-November 2009 period. It also compares these figures with the corresponding monthly average during December 1996 to November 2008. From December 2008 to May 2009, the number of monthly claimants was significantly higher than the average from the preceding 12 years. However, this sharp increase has leveled off over the past six months.

The New York State Department of Labor's Division of Research and Statistics recently added MLS statistics to its web site. For additional information regarding New York State's Mass Layoff Statistics program, visit [www.labor.state.ny.us/stats/mls.shtml](http://www.labor.state.ny.us/stats/mls.shtml). ■

by Jocelyn McCoy

off workers file a new claim for unemployment insurance.

#### During This Recession

New York State's economy has been hit hard by fallout from the current national economic downturn that started in December 2007 -- the longest since the 1930s. For the 12-month period ending in November 2009, more than 142,000 initial claims for unemployment insurance were filed by New Yorkers due to mass layoff events. This represents an increase of more than 50,000, or 55 percent, over the same period one year earlier.

As expected, the number of mass layoff events also increased substantially during this recession. Between December 2007-November 2008 and December 2008-November 2009, the number of mass layoff events increased by 494, or 57 percent, to 1,352. The recent spike in the number of mass layoffs in New York State is even more pronounced when compared with longer-term averages. The 1,352 mass layoff events experienced in the state during the latest 12 months was more than twice as high as the annual average (642) occurring over the December 1996-November 2008 period.

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### CAPITAL DISTRICT

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

From October 2008 to October 2009, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy metro area fell by 9,200, or 2.7 percent, to 336,500. Job gains were limited to educational and health services (+700). Losses were greatest in natural resources, mining and construction (-2,900), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,400), manufacturing (-1,300), and leisure and hospitality (-1,100).

### CENTRAL NY

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

For the 12-month period ending October 2009, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area fell by 6,600, or 2.4 percent, to 263,500. Job growth was focused in educational and health services (+500). The largest losses were in manufacturing (-2,200), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,100), professional and business services (-700), financial activities (-600), and natural resources, mining and construction (-600).

### FINGER LAKES

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

Private sector jobs in the Rochester metro area declined by 10,400, or 2.4 percent, to 431,900 for the 12-month period ending October 2009. Employment gains were concentrated in educational and health services (+1,700). Job losses were greatest in manufacturing (-4,400), professional and business services (-2,400), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,200), construction (-1,400), and leisure and hospitality (-700).

### HUDSON VALLEY

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

Private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley decreased by 16,900, or 2.2 percent, to 745,500 for the 12-month period ending October 2009. Gains were limited to educational and health services (+5,400). Job losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-6,100), manufacturing (-4,100), professional and business services (-3,700), leisure and hospitality (-2,900), and natural resources, mining and construction (-2,600).

### LONG ISLAND

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

The private sector job count on Long Island declined over the year by 35,000, or 3.3 percent, to 1,034,800 in October 2009. Employment grew in educational and health services (+4,400). The largest losses were in trade, transportation and utilities (-12,300), natural resources, mining and construction (-10,200), professional and business services (-6,200), manufacturing (-5,200), and leisure and hospitality (-2,100).

### MOHAWK VALLEY

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

For the 12-month period ending October 2009, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metro area decreased by 2,300, or 2.3 percent, to 97,200. Job gains occurred in educational and health services (+800). Over-the-year job losses were centered in leisure and hospitality (-600), manufacturing (-600), trade, transportation and utilities (-600), and professional and business services (-500).

### NEW YORK CITY

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

Private sector employment in New York City fell by 108,900, or 3.3 percent, to 3,142,400 for the 12-month period ending October 2009. Job growth occurred in educational and health services (+15,700). Losses were largest in financial activities (-32,500), professional and business services (-29,400), trade, transportation and utilities (-26,100), and natural resources, mining and construction (-13,700).

### SOUTHERN TIER

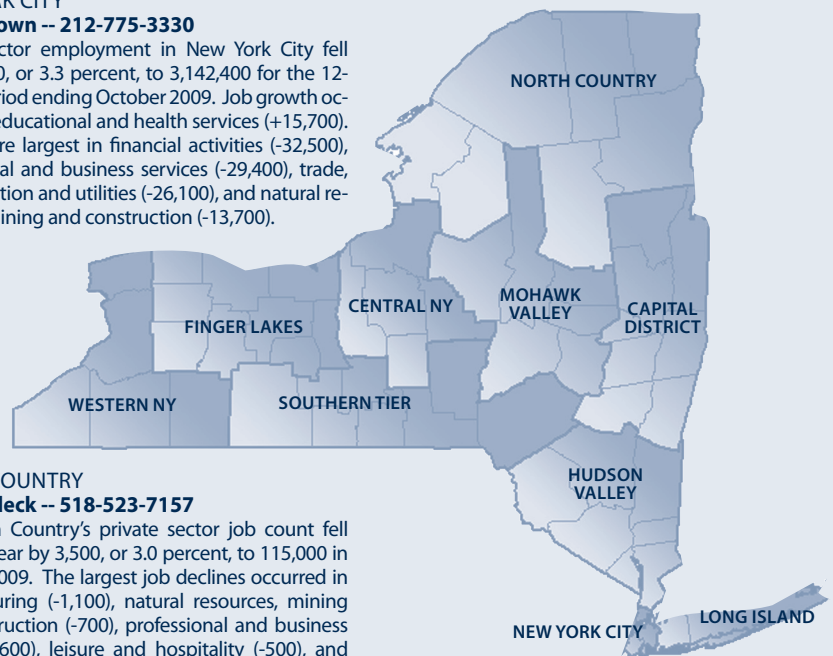
**Christian Harris -- 607-741-4485**

Private sector employment in the Southern Tier declined over the year by 8,200, or 3.4 percent, to 234,000 in October 2009. Employment gains were largest in educational and health services (+800). Job losses were largest in manufacturing (-4,800), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,500), professional and business services (-1,400), leisure and hospitality (-500), and natural resources, mining and construction (-500).

### WESTERN NY

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

Private sector employment in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area decreased by 13,700, or 3.0 percent, to 448,800 over the 12 months ending October 2009. Job gains were centered in educational and health services (+1,100). Losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-5,000), manufacturing (-4,700), leisure and hospitality (-2,100), and natural resources, mining and construction (-1,900).



### NORTH COUNTRY

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

The North Country's private sector job count fell over the year by 3,500, or 3.0 percent, to 115,000 in October 2009. The largest job declines occurred in manufacturing (-1,100), natural resources, mining and construction (-700), professional and business services (-600), leisure and hospitality (-500), and trade, transportation and utilities (-400).