

# Employment

IN NEW YORK STATE

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

## At a Glance

In April 2009, New York's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.7 percent, down from 7.8 percent in March 2009. (The nation's unemployment rate was 8.9 percent in April.) In April 2009, the state had 8,630,400 nonfarm jobs, including 7,125,200 private sector jobs, after seasonal adjustment. The number of seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in the state decreased by 0.2 percent from March, while the U.S. private sector job count decreased by 0.6 percent. From April 2008 to April 2009, the number of private sector jobs decreased by 2.5 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 3.7 percent in April 2009.

### Change in Nonfarm Jobs

April 2008 - April 2009

(Data not seasonally adjusted, net change in thousands)

	Net	%
Total Nonfarm Jobs	-184.5	-2.1%
Private Sector	-180.8	-2.5%
Goods-producing	-62.2	-7.0%
Nat. res. & mining	-0.1	-1.7%
Construction	-25.4	-7.2%
Manufacturing	-36.7	-6.9%
Durable gds.	-26.1	-8.2%
Nondurable gds.	-10.6	-4.9%
Service-providing	-122.3	-1.6%
Trade, trans. & util.	-55.4	-3.7%
Wholesale trade	-19.0	-5.4%
Retail trade	-24.4	-2.8%
Trans., wrhs. & util.	-12.0	-4.3%
Information	-6.3	-2.4%
Financial activities	-31.7	-4.4%
Prof. & bus. svcs.	-44.9	-3.9%
Educ. & health svcs.	34.5	2.1%
Leisure & hospitality	-14.7	-2.1%
Other services	-0.1	0.0%
Government	-3.7	-0.2%

## Where the Money Is...

# New York State's Top-Paying Occupations

It's good to be a physician. Members of this group have the highest median annual earnings of any occupation in New York State. Comprised of a variety of specialty occupations from anesthesiologists to neurosurgeons to pediatricians, these jobs have consistently ranked among the best-paying for many years.

In 2008, physicians and surgeons once again ranked first -- the median earnings of New York State's nearly 53,000 physicians and surgeons was \$150,000. That places them above dentists (\$138,000) and lawyers (\$132,200) at the top of the list of best-paying occupations in the state. Rounding out the top five are judges and magistrates (\$126,700) and po-

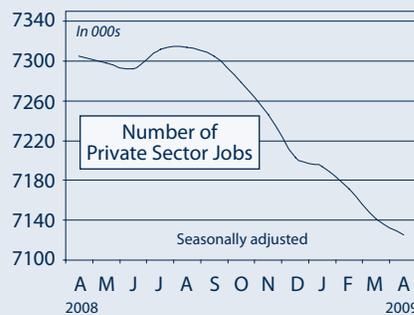
diatrists (\$123,800). See the table on page 3 for additional details on the 15 top-paying occupations in the state.

Four of the five highest-paying occupations require a professional degree, and even judges and magistrates require more than a bachelor's degree. However, the next four highest paid occupations require only a bachelor's degree to begin work in the occupation: personal financial advisors (\$117,700); airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers (\$115,800); securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents (\$111,400); and computer hardware engineers (\$109,700). Physicists, who ranked 10th with an average

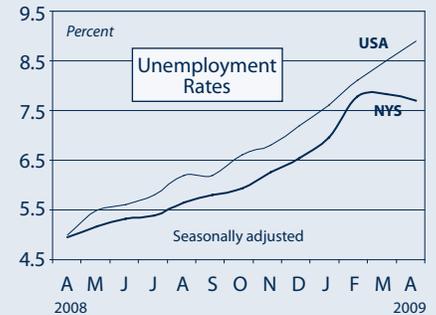
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### IN APRIL...

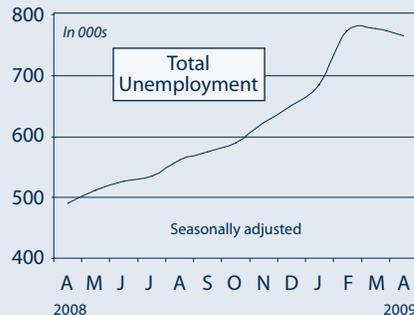
#### ...NYS private sector jobs decreased



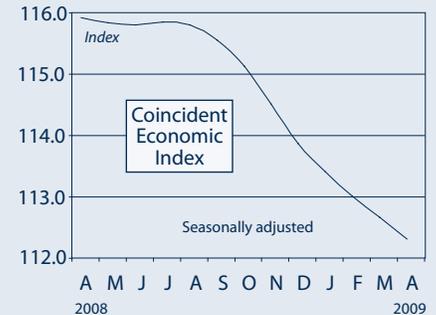
#### ...NYS unemployment rate decreased



#### ...NYS unemployment decreased



#### ...NYS economic index decreased



## Focus on the Hudson Valley

### National Recession Finally Reaches the Hudson Valley

by John Nelson, Labor Market Analyst, Hudson Valley

The current national economic downturn finally reached the Hudson Valley in 2008. The year-over-year decline in the region's private sector job count has been steadily growing in recent months. On the bright side, the Hudson Valley, like most areas in New York State, continues to outperform the nation on two key labor market metrics. It shows a smaller 12-month decline in private sector jobs (-2.1 percent locally vs. -4.7 percent nationally) and a significantly lower unemployment rate in April 2009 (6.8 percent locally vs. 8.6 percent nationally).

The educational and health services sector has been the star of the local economy. It is the largest segment of the region's private sector employment base and has continued to perform well despite the ongoing economic crisis. Growth in this sector is driven more by demographic trends, such as more school-age children and aging Baby Boomers, than by changes in overall economic conditions. For the 12-month period ending April 2009, it added 4,700 jobs.

The regional outlook for the sector remains positive, as population growth is projected to occur at both ends of the age spectrum. Industry employment projections prepared by the Division of Research and Statistics indicate that the number of workers in educational and health care services will increase from 251,710 in 2006 to 283,500 in 2016, a gain of 31,790 or 12.6 percent. More than 75 percent of this projected net gain will be in health care and social assistance, particularly ambulatory health care services and social assistance. Reinforcing this positive industry outlook, a significant number of annual open-

ings are expected for child care workers, home health aides, registered nurses, and elementary and secondary teachers in the Hudson Valley over the decade from 2006-2016.

The creation of more "green" jobs is also a focal point in the Hudson Valley. The nonprofit Solar Energy Consortium, which aims to promote fully-integrated solar-powered systems, has succeeded in attracting several businesses to the area. Perhaps the most notable to date are Prism Solar Technologies and SpectraWatt. Prism Solar expects to create 200 jobs in two to three years. SpectraWatt, an Intel spin-off that produces photovoltaic cells, plans to hire 100 employees and begin production in early 2010.

Although the local construction sector has registered sizeable job losses (-2,500) over the past year, projects now in the pipeline should help the sector weather the economic storm. Some of the most promising include: the \$3 billion City of Yonkers redevelopment; the \$1 billion relocation of the Monticello Gaming and Raceway to the site of the former Concord Hotel in Sullivan County; and the \$700 million Competitive Power Ventures natural-gas power plant in Orange County. Hudson Valley communities are also slated to receive more than \$300 million in highway and bridge funding in the 2009-2010 State fiscal year from a combination of the federal stimulus, the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program and State Department of Transportation contracts.

The trade, transportation and utilities (-7,100) and manufacturing (-3,300) sectors were among

*"The educational and health services sector has been the star of the local economy."*



"In April 2009, the Hudson Valley's economy continued to reel from the effects of the national recession, as the region's private sector job count reached its lowest April level in five years. However, while the overall job market continues to falter, employment levels in the region's educational and health services sector continue to resist the downturn."

**Bruce Herman,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development*

the region's largest sources of job losses between April 2008 and April 2009. More than one-half of the trade, transportation and utilities decline occurred in retail trade (-3,700), which has suffered as consumers continue to cut back their purchase of big-ticket items because of the recession. Several large Hudson Valley manufacturers including IBM, NXP Semiconductor, and Watson Pharmaceuticals have recently announced layoffs, which will push the number of local factory jobs lower.

### Looking Ahead

Like the state and nation, the Hudson Valley faces a number of daunting economic challenges in the months and years ahead. This picture is complicated by many recently-announced layoffs affecting the region. Nonetheless, many analysts expect the U.S. economy to begin its recovery later this year or early in 2010. Once this occurs and federal stimulus funds begin to take effect, the Hudson Valley's regional economy should begin to improve. ■

### New York State's... from page 1

salary of \$109,300, usually require a Ph.D. to enter the field.

Managers of all stripes also tend to earn high wages in this state. As a group, managers' annual salaries averaged \$106,800 in 2008. Wages vary widely, depending on the type of manager, from chief executives (with median wages above \$166,400) to food service managers (\$50,000). What is consistent, however, is that managers are paid much higher wages than those being managed. Moreover, the number of managers (and the concurrent opportunity to become a manager) is, by far, the largest on the list of New York's highest-paying

occupations, and the opportunity to become a manager is available to individuals in all sorts of career paths.

Two medically-related occupations -- pharmacists (\$103,700) and optometrists (\$103,000) -- rank 12th and 13th on the state's list of highest-paying jobs. These two titles, when combined with the three listed above, leave healthcare occupations comprising one-third of the 15 highest-paying titles. If the various medical specialties (e.g., orthodontists, gynecologists) were split out and reported separately, they would dominate the list, but with relatively low employment levels and high average wages.

The final occupations on the list reflect New York City's vibrant entertainment industry, where the majority of individuals in these titles are found. Art directors (\$101,800) work everywhere, from Madison Avenue advertising, to New York's fashion and design industry, to the city's many prominent media companies. Producers and directors (\$96,200) toil for the benefit of audiences everywhere, but are especially well rewarded in New York City's renowned movie, television, and theatre industries.

A common theme among all of these occupations is the need for advanced education.

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## Unemployment Rates in New York State

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	APR '08	APR '09		APR '08	APR '09		APR '08	APR '09
<b>New York State</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Capital District</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>	Dutchess	4.2	6.8	Genesee	5.4	7.5
Albany	4.2	6.3	Orange	4.6	7.6	Livingston	5.6	7.8
Columbia	4.1	7.0	Putnam	3.7	6.1	Monroe	4.8	7.2
Greene	5.3	8.7	Rockland	3.9	6.6	Ontario	4.7	7.0
Rensselaer	4.5	7.4	Sullivan	6.0	8.4	Orleans	6.5	9.5
Saratoga	4.1	6.1	Ulster	4.5	7.0	Seneca	5.1	7.3
Schenectady	4.5	7.0	Westchester	3.9	6.5	Wayne	5.5	8.5
Warren	5.5	8.3	<b>Mohawk Valley</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.9</b>	Wyoming	5.9	8.8
Washington	5.1	7.6	Fulton	6.4	9.5	Yates	4.4	6.8
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	Herkimer	6.1	8.4	<b>Western New York</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>8.5</b>
Cayuga	4.7	8.4	Montgomery	6.7	9.6	Allegany	5.8	8.5
Cortland	5.8	8.9	Oneida	4.8	7.1	Cattaraugus	5.7	8.8
Madison	5.1	7.7	Otsego	5.0	7.5	Chautauqua	5.0	8.3
Onondaga	4.4	7.2	Schoharie	6.6	8.8	Erie	5.1	8.1
Oswego	6.4	9.5	<b>North Country</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>	Niagara	6.6	9.9
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	Clinton	6.3	9.5	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Broome	4.9	7.6	Essex	7.2	10.3	Nassau	3.8	6.6
Chemung	4.7	8.8	Franklin	7.1	8.9	Suffolk	4.1	6.8
Chenango	6.2	8.6	Hamilton	8.7	11.2	<b>New York City</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Delaware	5.7	8.5	Jefferson	6.6	8.9	Bronx	6.0	9.8
Schuyler	5.6	8.8	Lewis	6.9	9.7	Kings	4.7	8.4
Steuben	5.3	10.0	St. Lawrence	6.6	9.8	New York	3.8	7.0
Tioga	4.6	7.8				Queens	3.9	7.1
Tompkins	3.2	4.9				Richmond	3.9	7.1

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### Top-Paying Occupations, New York State, 2008

Occupation	Employment	Median Wage	Annual Openings	Training/ Experience*
Physicians and Surgeons	52,760	\$150,000	1,410	FPD
Dentists	8,090	\$138,000	270	FPD
Lawyers	67,680	\$132,200	2,160	FPD
Judges, magistrate judges, and magistrates	3,410	\$126,700	70	(>=BD)+WE
Podiatrists	1,090	\$123,800	40	FPD
Personal financial advisors	23,410	\$117,700	650	BD
Airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers	4,950	\$115,800	200	BD
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	35,760	\$111,400	1,590	BD
Computer hardware engineers	4,320	\$109,700	140	BD
Physicists	920	\$109,300	20	DD
Management Occupations	412,770	\$106,800	12,020	(>=BD)+WE
Pharmacists	16,020	\$103,700	430	FPD
Optometrists	1,680	\$103,000	40	FPD
Art directors	5,160	\$101,800	300	(>=BD)+WE
Producers and directors	13,740	\$96,200	590	(>=BD)+WE

\*Key: BD=Bachelor's degree; (>=BD)+WE=Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience; DD=Doctoral degree; FPD=First professional degree

Source: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research & Statistics

Entrance to these high-wage jobs requires at least a bachelor's degree and, in many cases, additional education or work experience. The Census Bureau estimates that people with a bachelor's degree will earn \$1 million more over a lifetime than those with only a high school diploma. Moreover, not only do people with more education make more money, they also participate more in the labor force and are unemployed less. Yet these jobs are not hidden or out of reach; occupations on this list account for more than 650,000 jobs and almost 20,000 annual job openings in New York State. And while the requirements may seem high, the potential financial payoffs over a lifetime of work are huge. ■

by Daniel Crosley and Kevin Hannel

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## REGIONAL ANALYSTS' CORNER

### CAPITAL DISTRICT

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

From April 2008 to April 2009, the number of private sector jobs in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy area fell 7,600, or 2.2 percent, to 333,900. Job gains were limited to educational and health services (+700). Job losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-2,000), professional and business services (-1,800), leisure and hospitality (-1,500), natural resources, mining and construction (-1,100), and manufacturing (-900).

### CENTRAL NY

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

For the 12-month period ending April 2009, the private sector job count in the Syracuse metro area fell 4,200, or 1.6 percent, to 260,100. Job growth was concentrated in educational and health services (+400). Declines were largest in manufacturing (-1,900), trade, transportation and utilities (-1,500), leisure and hospitality (-500), professional and business services (-500), and information (-300).

### FINGER LAKES

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

Private sector employment in the Rochester metro area declined over the year by 4,800, or 1.1 percent, to 428,300 in April 2009. Employment gains occurred in educational and health services (+2,600). Job losses were greatest in manufacturing (-3,300), trade, transportation and utilities (-2,200), professional and business services (-1,100), information (-300), and leisure and hospitality (-300).

### HUDSON VALLEY

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

Private sector employment in the Hudson Valley decreased by 15,700, or 2.1 percent, to 736,700 for the 12-month period ending April 2009. Gains were limited to educational and health services (+4,700). The largest declines were in trade, transportation and utilities (-7,100), professional and business services (-3,800), manufacturing (-3,300), natural resources, mining and construction (-2,500), and leisure and hospitality (-1,500).

### 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 1,027,100 in April 2009. Educational and health services (+4,100) added jobs. Job losses were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities (-12,600), natural resources, mining and construction (-9,100), professional and business services (-5,500), manufacturing (-4,100), financial activities (-2,500), and information (-1,400).

### MOHAWK VALLEY

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

For the 12-month period ending April 2009, the private sector job count in the Utica-Rome metropolitan area decreased by 1,100, or 1.1 percent, to 97,100. Educational and health services had a small job gain. Employment losses were greatest in manufacturing (-600) and professional and business services (-200).

### NEW YORK CITY

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

The private sector job count in New York City fell by 93,600, or 2.9 percent, to 3,136,700 for the 12-month period ending April 2009. Growth occurred in educational and health services (+16,200) and other services (+2,300). Losses were greatest in financial activities (-26,200), professional and business services (-25,600), trade, transportation and utilities (-21,000), manufacturing (-14,400), and natural resources, mining and construction (-12,000).

### SOUTHERN TIER

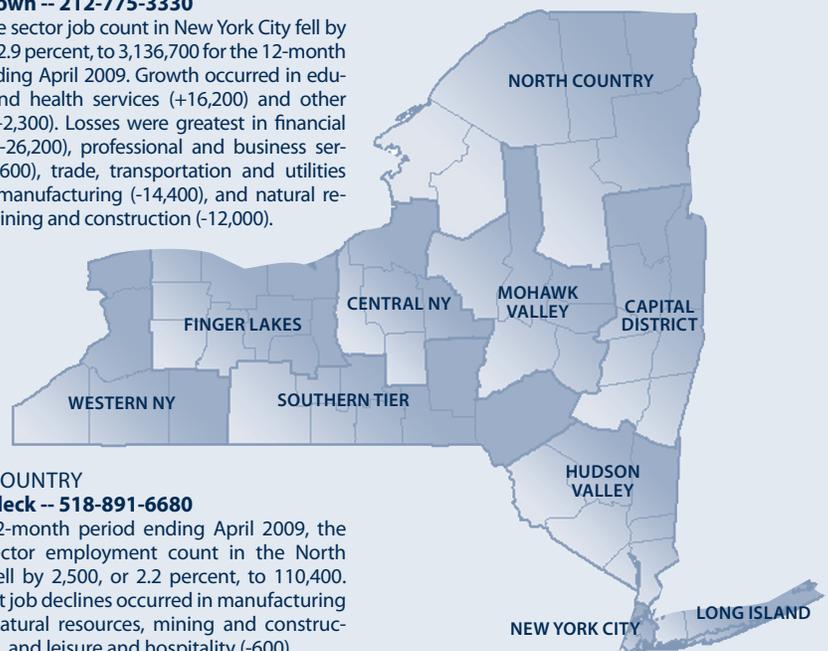
**Christian Harris -- 607-741-4485**

Private sector employment in the Southern Tier declined over the year by 6,000, or 2.5 percent, to 233,500 in April 2009. Growth was limited to educational and health services (+1,000). Losses were greatest in manufacturing (-2,800), professional and business services (-1,200), leisure and hospitality (-800), natural resources, mining and construction (-800), and trade, transportation and utilities (-800).

### WESTERN NY

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

The private sector job count in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls metro area decreased over the year by 14,500, or 3.2 percent, to 437,800 in April 2009. Employment declines were largest in trade, transportation and utilities (-3,900), professional and business services (-2,800), manufacturing (-2,600), leisure and hospitality (-1,700), and educational and health services (-1,600).



### NORTH COUNTRY

**Alan Beideck -- 518-891-6680**

For the 12-month period ending April 2009, the private sector employment count in the North Country fell by 2,500, or 2.2 percent, to 110,400. The largest job declines occurred in manufacturing (-1,100), natural resources, mining and construction (-700), and leisure and hospitality (-600).