LABOR MARKET BRIEFING
SOUTHERN TIER

March 2024

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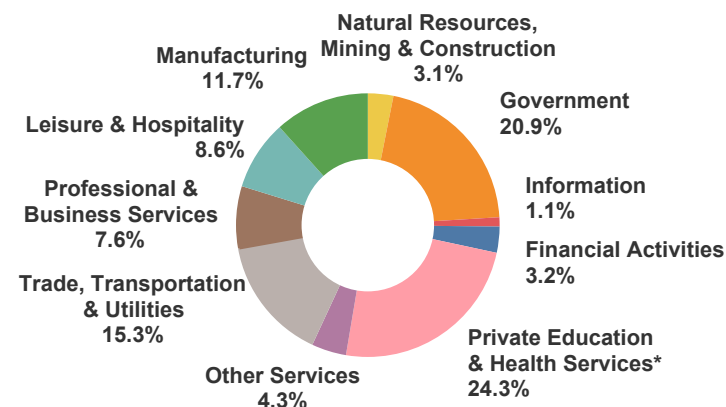NEW YORK STATE | Department of Labor

Southern Tier Jobs

➤➤ In March 2024, there were 213,500 private sector jobs and 270,000 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

➤➤ Four industry sectors make up 72% of total nonfarm jobs:

Private Education & Health Services*	65,600
Government	56,500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	41,200
Manufacturing	31,500

Job Gains

➤➤ The region gained 2,900 nonfarm jobs over the past year, including 1,000 private sector jobs and 1,900 government jobs.

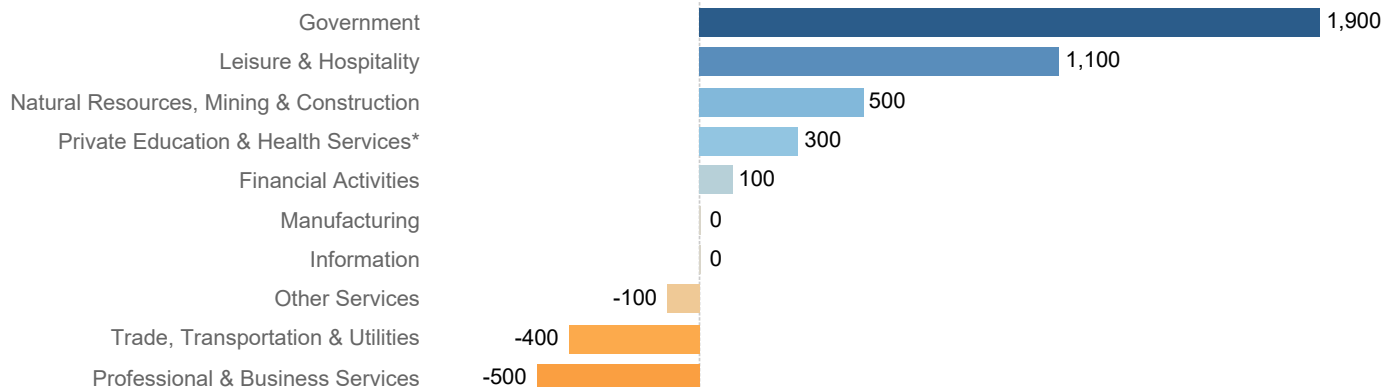➤➤ 3,000 of the recent job gains occurred in Government & Leisure and Hospitality.

The region's most significant industry is Private Education & Health Services*

Regional Industry Mix, March 2024

Natural Resources, Mining & Construction 3.1%
Manufacturing 11.7%
Leisure & Hospitality 8.6%
Professional & Business Services 7.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities 15.3%
Other Services 4.3%
Government 20.9%
Information 1.1%
Financial Activities 3.2%
Private Education & Health Services* 24.3%

Private sector employment increased by 0.5% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, March 2024

	March 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	270,000	2,900	1.1%
Total Private	213,500	1,000	0.5%
Government	56,500	1,900	3.5%

Most job gains have occurred in Government

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, March 2024

Government	1,900
Leisure & Hospitality	1,100
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	500
Private Education & Health Services*	300
Financial Activities	100
Manufacturing	0
Information	0
Other Services	-100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-400
Professional & Business Services	-500

*Private education & health services is in the private sector. Government includes public education and public health services.
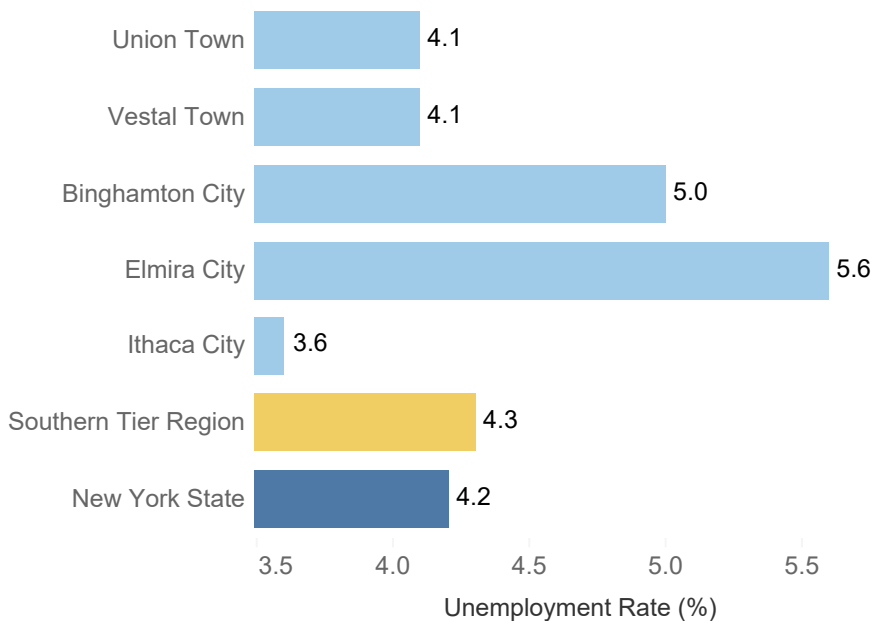
Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate in the Southern Tier increased over the past year

Unemployment Rate by Place, March 2024

» All of the largest labor force areas in the Southern Tier Region, except the cities of Elmira and Binghamton, had unemployment rates below the State's unemployment rate in March 2024.

» The State's unemployment rate (4.2%) is less than the region's unemployment rate (4.3%) by -0.1 percentage points.

Place	Unemployment Rate (%)
Union Town	4.1
Vestal Town	4.1
Binghamton City	5.0
Elmira City	5.6
Ithaca City	3.6
Southern Tier Region	4.3
New York State	4.2

Unemployment Rates(Not Seasonally Adjusted), 2014-2024

Southern Tier, New York State, United States

March Unemployment Rates, 2014 to 2024
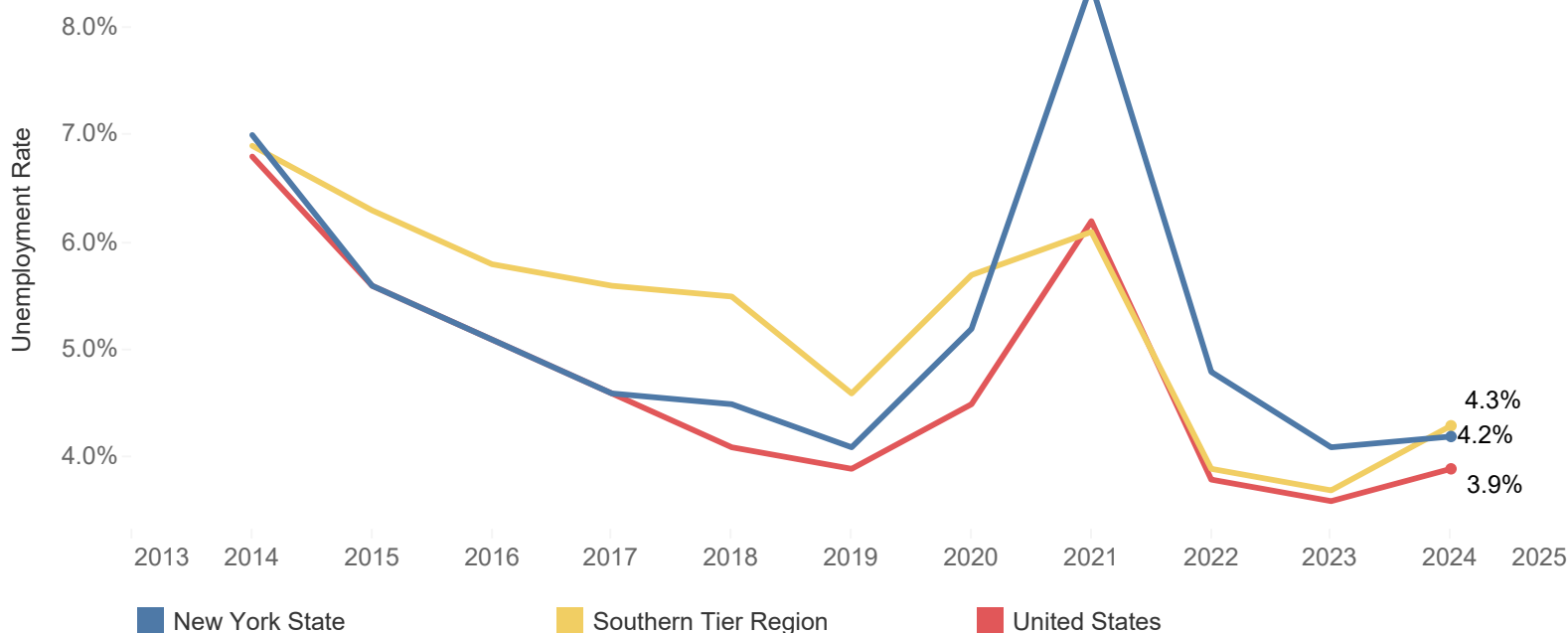
Legend: New York State, Southern Tier Region, United States

Endpoints (2024): 4.3%, 4.2%, 3.9%

Employment

Southern Tier employment decreased over the past year
Regional and Metro Area Labor Force Data

	Employment		Unemployment		Unemployment Rate	
	March 2023	March 2024	March 2023	March 2024	March 2023	March 2024
Southern Tier Region	268,600	265,300	10,400	11,800	3.7%	4.3%
Broome County	79,200	79,200	3,300	3,700	4.0%	4.5%
Chemung County	32,800	32,800	1,300	1,500	3.9%	4.3%
Chenango County	21,200	20,900	800	900	3.7%	4.1%
Delaware County	17,900	17,600	800	900	4.1%	4.7%
Schuyler County	7,600	7,400	400	400	4.7%	5.6%
Steuben County	39,400	38,600	1,800	1,900	4.3%	4.6%
Tioga County	21,500	21,500	800	900	3.5%	4.1%
Tompkins County	49,100	47,400	1,300	1,600	2.6%	3.2%
Binghamton Metro Area	100,700	100,700	4,000	4,700	3.9%	4.4%
Elmira Metro Area	32,800	32,800	1,300	1,500	3.9%	4.3%
Ithaca Metro Area	49,100	47,400	1,300	1,600	2.6%	3.2%
New York State	9,291,800	9,308,900	401,900	408,800	4.1%	4.2%
United States	160,741,000	161,356,000	6,043,000	6,604,000	3.6%	3.9%

Initial claims decreased in March 2024
Initial Claims for Regular UI, Southern Tier Region

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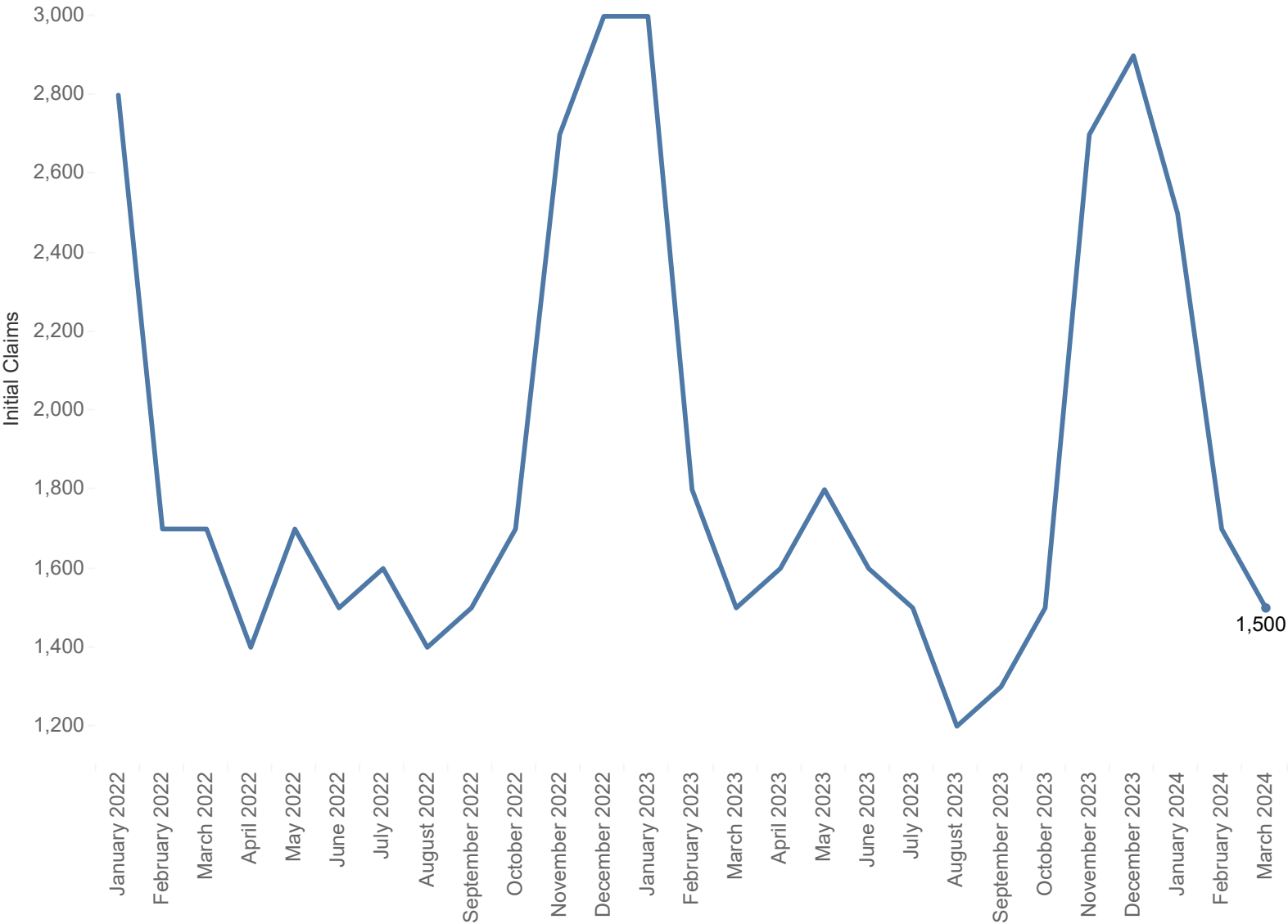
Unemployment Insurance

Initial claims increased in Broome County over the year
Initial Claims for Regular UI, Southern Tier Region

County	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Broome	600	600	500	100	20.0%
Chemung	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Chenango	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Delaware	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Schuyler	0	100	0	0	
Steuben	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Tioga	100	200	100	0	0.0%
Tompkins	100	200	100	0	0.0%
Southern Tier	1,500	1,700	1,500	0	0.0%
New York State	56,700	74,100	57,600	-900.0	-1.6%

Initial claims increased in leisure & hospitality over the year
Initial Claims for Regular UI, Southern Tier Region

Industry	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	
Government	0	100	0	0	
Information	0	0	0	0	
Leisure & Hospitality	300	100	200	100	50.0%
Manufacturing	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Other Services	0	100	0	0	
Private Education & Health Services	100	200	100	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Unclassified	100	100	100	0	0.0%

Note: Initial claims data include Regular Unemployment Insurance Programs (UI, UCFE, UCS and workshare programs). Details may not add to total due to rounding. A "-" indicates data are not releasable due to confidentiality requirements.

Unemployment Insurance

The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased most rapidly in Tioga County over the year
UI Beneficiaries by County, Southern Tier Region, All Programs*

County	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	Net Change	% Change
Broome	1,800	1,800	1,700	100	5.9%
Chemung	600	600	700	-100	-14.3%
Chenango	500	500	600	-100	-16.7%
Delaware	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Schuyler	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Steuben	1,000	1,000	1,100	-100	-9.1%
Tioga	500	400	400	100	25.0%
Tompkins	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Southern Tier	5,500	5,600	5,600	-100	-1.8%
New York State	187,300	199,900	173,700	13,600	7.8%

*Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance Programs (UI, UCFE, UCS and workshare programs)
Details may not add to total due to rounding

The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries decreased most rapidly in professional & business services over the year
UI Beneficiaries by Industry, Southern Tier Region, All Programs*

Industry	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Government	200	200	100	100	100.0%
Information	100	100			
Leisure & Hospitality	800	700	700	100	14.3%
Manufacturing	700	800	700	0	0.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,700	1,800	1,900	-200	-10.5%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	800	800	1,000	-200	-20.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	600	600	600	0	0.0%
Unclassified	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Southern Tier	5,500	5,600	5,600	-100	-1.8%

*Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance
Details may not add to total due to rounding
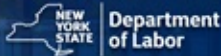
Unemployment Insurance

The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries decreased slightly
UI Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity, Southern Tier Region, All Programs

	March 2024	March 2023	March 2024					March 2023				
			White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown
Southern Tier	5,500	5,600	81%	6%	2%	5%	7%	84%	5%	1%	3%	7%
Broome	1,800	1,700	74%	9%	3%	7%	8%	76%	8%	3%	5%	8%
Chemung	600	700	78%	9%	2%	6%	5%	81%	7%	1%	3%	7%
Chenango	500	600	88%	2%		2%	8%	91%	2%		2%	5%
Delaware	400	400	86%	3%		3%	8%	88%	3%		5%	5%
Schuyler	300	300	93%			4%	4%	96%				4%
Steuben	1,000	1,100	89%	2%	1%	3%	5%	88%	3%	1%	3%	6%
Tioga	500	400	87%	2%		4%	7%	93%			2%	5%
Tompkins	400	400	75%	7%	2%	7%	9%	79%	7%	2%	2%	10%

Note: Data only include Regular Unemployment Insurance Programs (UI, UCFE, UCS and workshare programs). Race/ethnicity is self-reported.
Unknown includes American Indian, Hawaiian Native and Unknown
*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population
Details may not add to total due to rounding

Demographics

The Southern Tier's population is decreasing and has become more diverse
Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

Geography	Population				2010 Population Breakdown				2020 Population Breakdown			
	2010	2020	Net Change	% Change	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic
Broome	200,600	198,683	-1,917	-1.0%	86.3%	4.4%	3.5%	3.4%	78.6%	5.8%	4.7%	5.2%
Chemung	88,830	84,148	-4,682	-5.3%	87.4%	6.2%	1.2%	2.5%	82.7%	6.0%	1.7%	3.5%
Chenango	50,477	47,220	-3,257	-6.5%	95.6%	0.6%	0.4%	1.8%	91.4%	0.7%	0.5%	2.4%
Delaware	47,980	44,308	-3,672	-7.7%	93.2%	1.4%	0.8%	3.3%	87.6%	2.3%	1.1%	4.5%
Schuyler	18,343	17,898	-445	-2.4%	96.2%	0.8%	0.3%	1.3%	92.8%	0.5%	0.6%	1.8%
Steuben	98,990	93,584	-5,406	-5.5%	94.4%	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%	90.1%	1.5%	1.7%	1.8%
Tioga	51,125	48,455	-2,670	-5.2%	96.0%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%	91.2%	0.9%	0.8%	2.3%
Tompkins	101,564	105,740	4,176	4.1%	80.2%	3.7%	8.5%	4.2%	72.6%	4.0%	9.9%	6.7%
Southern Tier	657,909	640,036	-17,873	-2.7%	89.0%	3.2%	2.9%	2.7%	82.7%	3.8%	3.8%	4.2%

*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population
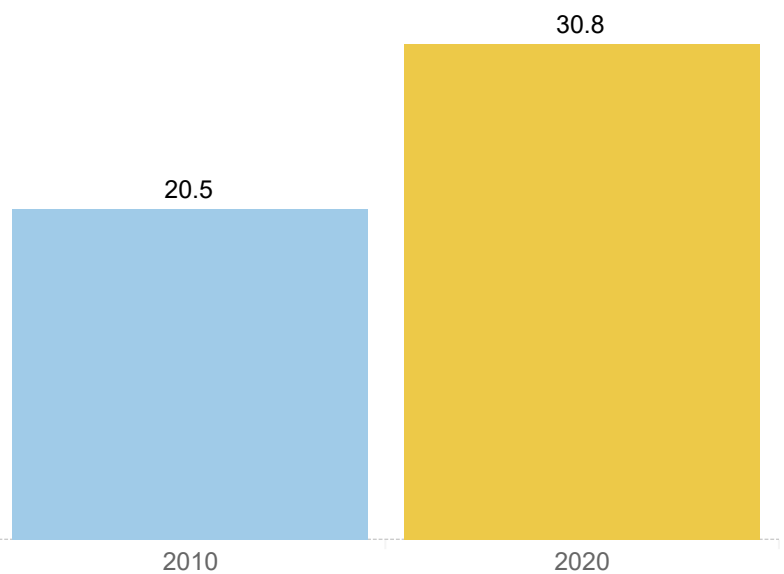Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

The Southern Tier has become more diverse
Distribution of Southern Tier Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020
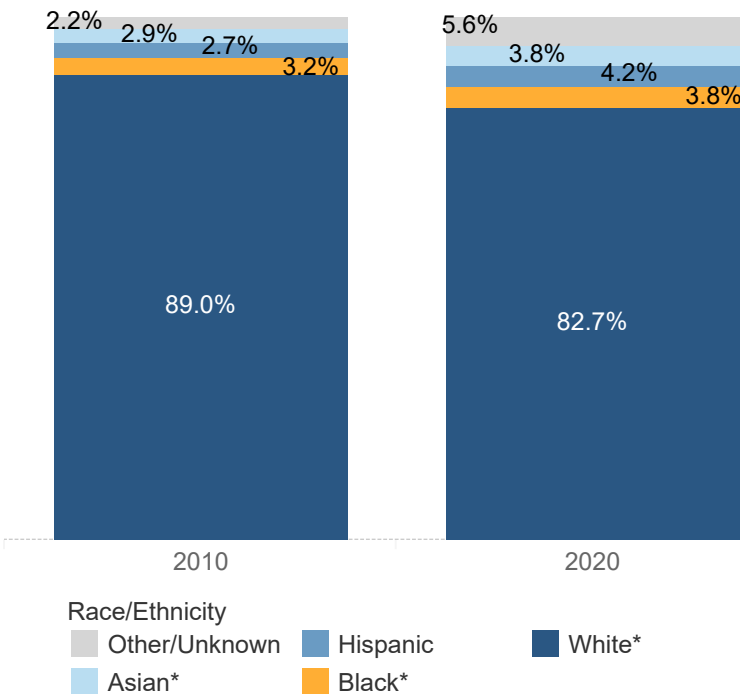
Southern Tier's Diversity Index increased by 50% from 2010 to 2020
US Census Bureau Diversity Index Scores, 2010 and 2020

Race/Ethnicity
- Other/Unknown
- Hispanic
- White*
- Asian*
- Black*

*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories
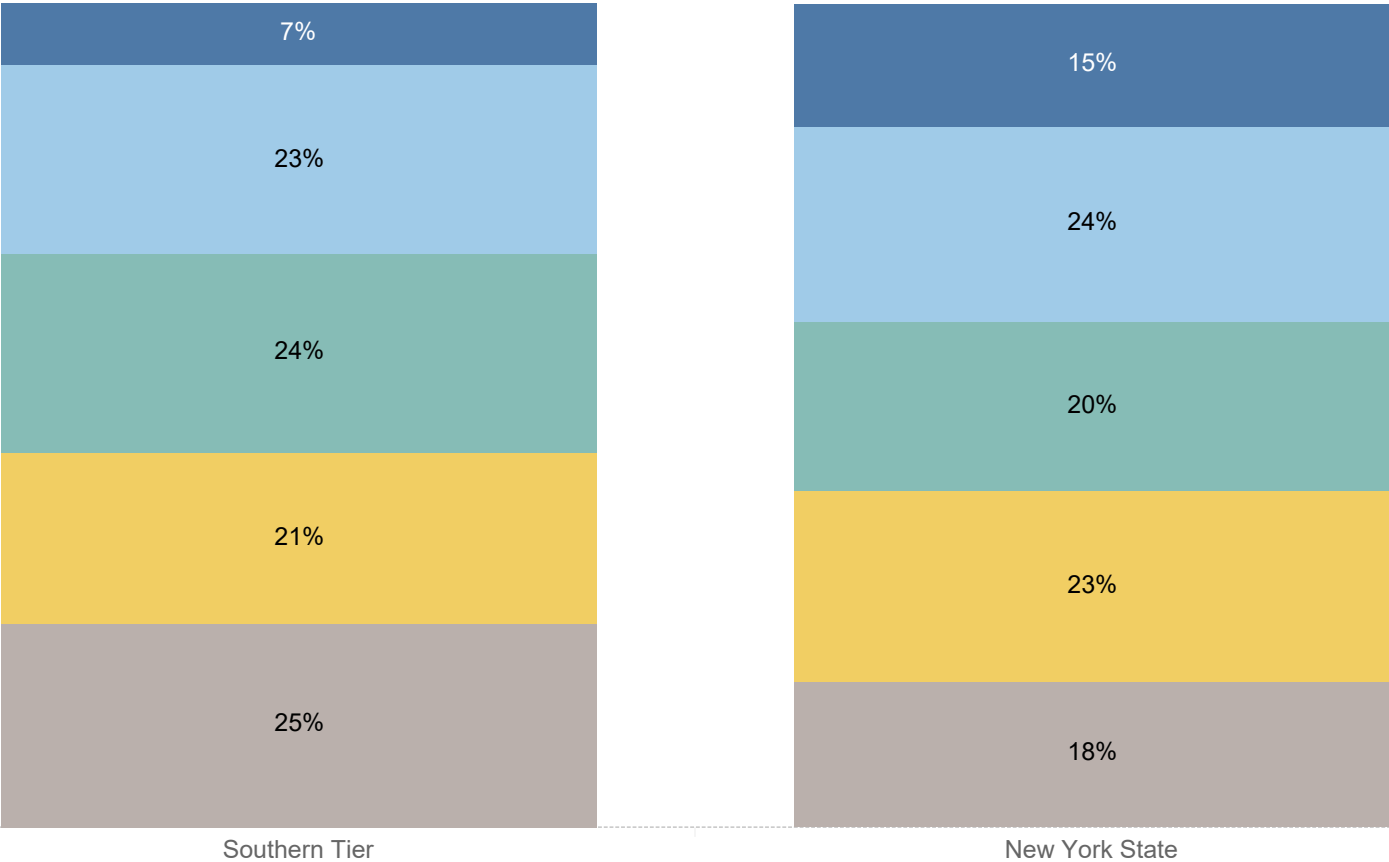Source: Population Estimates Program-Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin; July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2020

On average, educational attainment in the Southern Tier is slightly lower than New York State

Distribution of Population 25 years and over by Educational Attainment, 2022

Southern Tier

- 7%
- 23%
- 24%
- 21%
- 25%

New York State

- 15%
- 24%
- 20%
- 23%
- 18%

Source: American Community Survey 2022 One-Year Estimates, Table B15002

Legend:
- Less Than High School
- High School Diploma
- Some College/Associate's
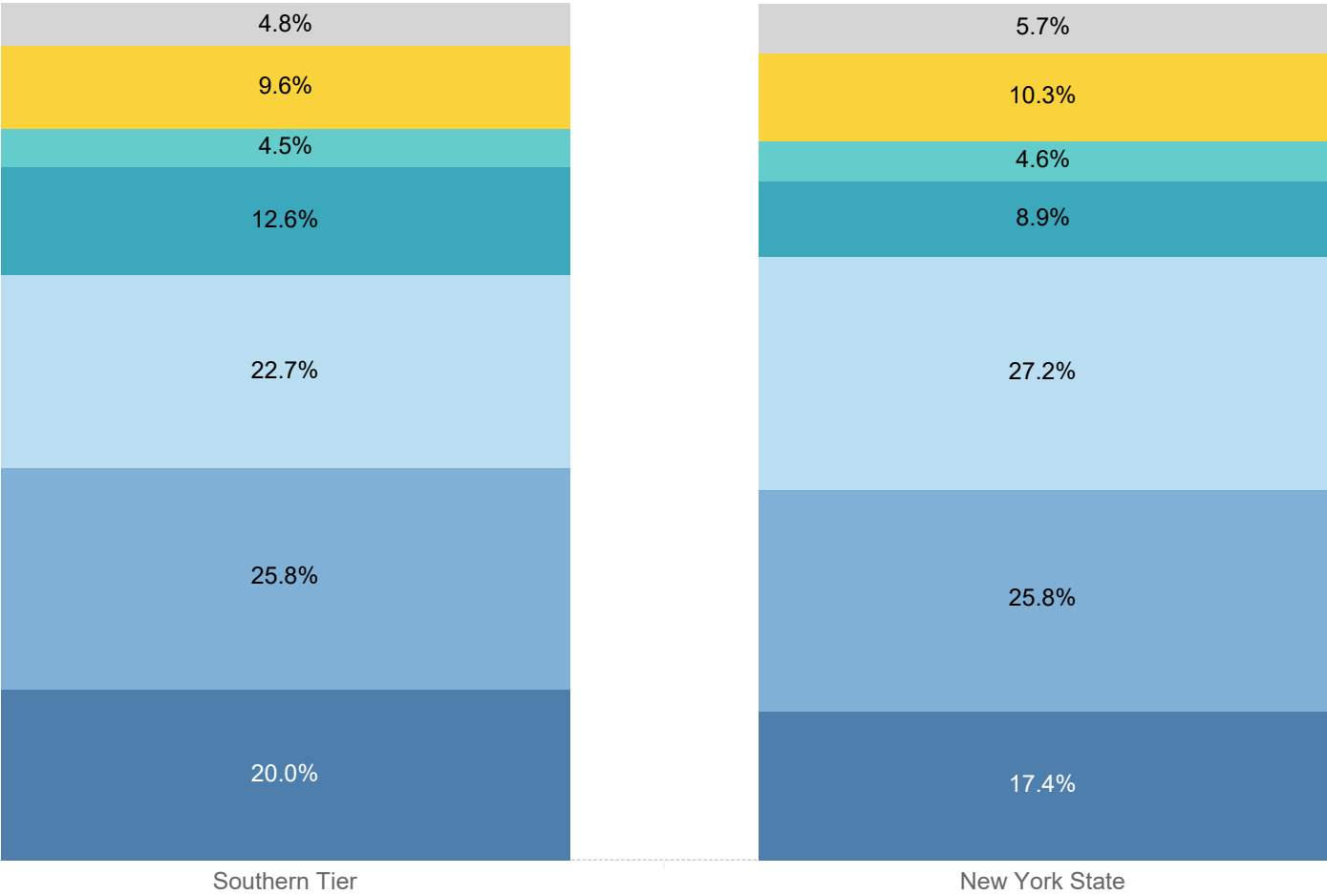- Bachelor's Degree
- Higher Than Bachelor's

The Southern Tier is older than New York State as a whole
Distribution of Population by Age Group, 2020

Southern Tier
- 4.8%
- 9.6%
- 4.5%
- 12.6%
- 22.7%
- 25.8%
- 20.0%

New York State
- 5.7%
- 10.3%
- 4.6%
- 8.9%
- 27.2%
- 25.8%
- 17.4%

Source: Population Estimates Program-Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin; July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2020

Legend:
- Under 5 Years
- 5 to 13 Years
- 14 to 17 Years
- 18 to 24 Years
- 25 to 44 Years
- 45 to 64 Years
- 65 Years and Over

Half of businesses in the Southern Tier have fewer than 5 employees

Number of Firms and Average Monthly Employment, Private Employment

Number of Employees	Firms				Employment			
	Number		% of Total		Number		% of Total	
	2018	2023	2018	2023	2018	2023	2018	2023
1-4*	5,130	5,130	49.9%	50.6%	10,560	10,380	5.0%	5.2%
5-9	2,210	2,160	21.5%	21.3%	14,550	14,330	6.8%	7.1%
10-19	1,320	1,280	12.8%	12.6%	17,950	17,380	8.4%	8.6%
20-49	970	950	9.4%	9.4%	29,710	28,730	13.9%	14.3%
50-99	340	330	3.3%	3.3%	23,260	22,180	10.9%	11.0%
100-249	200	180	1.9%	1.8%	30,220	27,190	14.2%	13.5%
250-499	70	60	0.7%	0.6%	24,270	20,930	11.4%	10.4%
500-999	20	20	0.2%	0.2%	15,550	13,380	7.3%	6.6%
1000+	20	20	0.2%	0.2%	47,010	46,920	22.1%	23.3%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2018 Q3 and 2023 Q3
*Size class 1-4 includes firms that have average employment that is >0 but <1

Regional Labor Market Developments

Good news

Significant wastewater treatment system upgrades are planned in Chemung County thanks to over $200 million in government funding. The county is expected to shutter one obsolescent treatment center and upgrade/modernize its other wastewater facility to handle all the county's clean water needs. The majority of the supportive funding is coming from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law with New York State bridging the project cost gap. According to Chemung County, its sewer districts serve more than 60,000 people.

Two affordable housing projects in Broome County have come closer to fruition thanks to $24.6 million in New York State funding earmarked to ease low-cost housing shortages. Hooper Road Apartments in Endwell is in line to receive $14.9 million, and Homesteads on Grand in Johnson City is expected to receive $9.7 million. The two residential complexes are expected to add 152 new apartments to the Broome County housing stock.

Numerous construction projects are either in motion or are set to start at Binghamton University in Vestal (Broome County). A news report by WBNG TV states that plans include a new lecture hall, classroom and Teaching Chem Lab Building; renovations of the Science III Building for biology and the Fine Arts Building; and campus-wide maintenance. New York State has budgeted $123 million to support the upgrades.

Southern Tier Region

Includes Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties

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