

# LABOR MARKET BRIEFING WESTERN NY

March 2024

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## Western New York Jobs

➤ In March 2024, there were 535,000 private sector jobs and 651,600 nonfarm (private + government) jobs in the region.

➤ Four industry sectors make up 65% of total nonfarm jobs:

Government	116,600
Private Education & Health Services*	113,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	112,200
Professional & Business Services	80,000

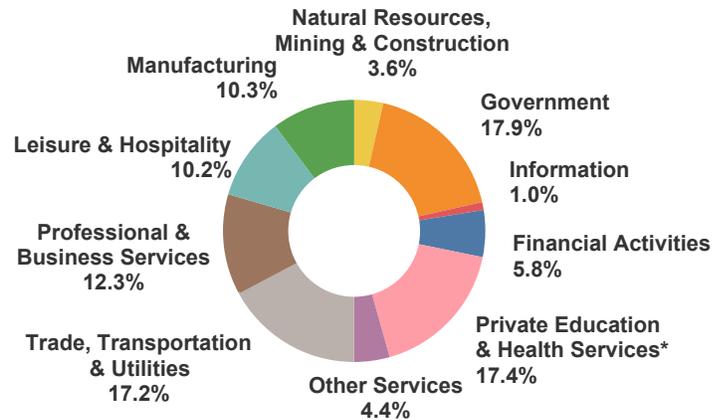
## Job Gains

➤ The region gained 16,300 nonfarm jobs over the past year, including 12,400 private sector jobs and 3,900 government jobs.

➤ 8,500 of the recent job gains occurred in Private Education and Health Services & Leisure and Hospitality.

## The region's most significant industry is Government

Regional Industry Mix, March 2024



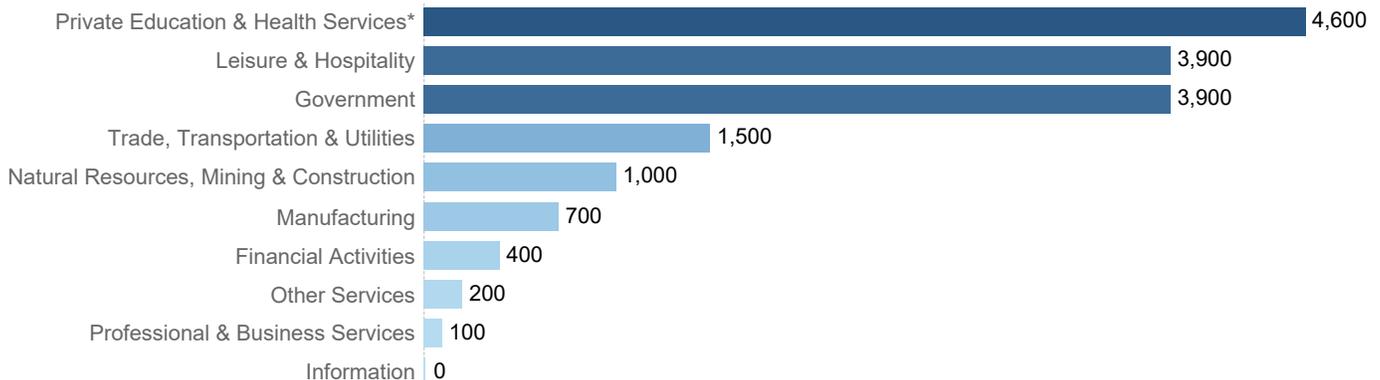
## Private sector employment increased by 2.4% over the past year

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, March 2024

	March 2024	Net Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	651,600	16,300	2.6%
Total Private	535,000	12,400	2.4%
Government	116,600	3,900	3.5%

## Most job gains have occurred in Private Education & Health Services\*

Over-the-Year Change in Jobs, March 2024



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

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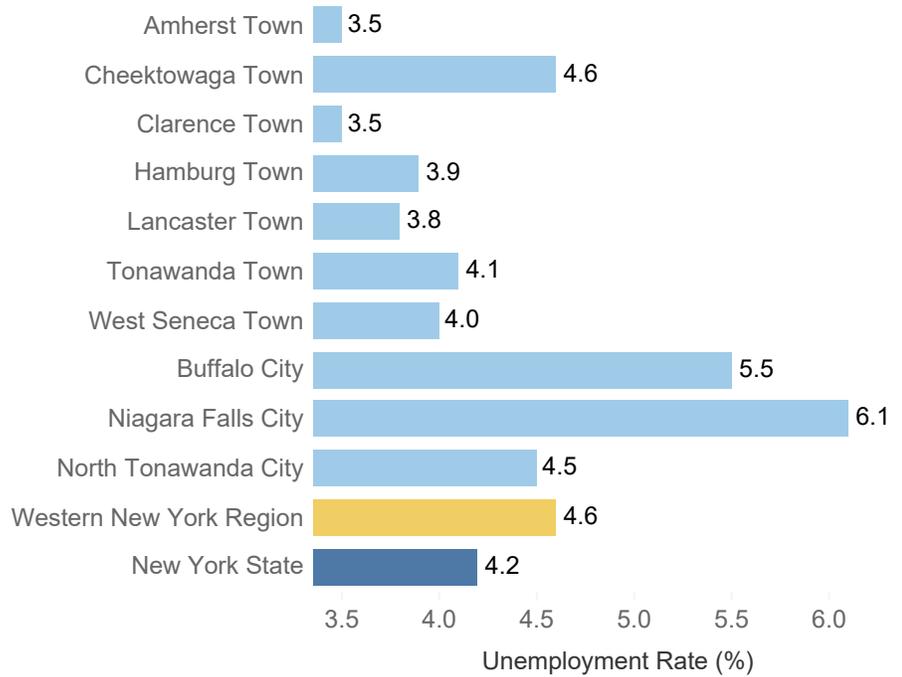
### Unemployment Rate

Cheektowaga, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and North Tonawanda had unemployment rates above the State's unemployment rate in March 2024.

The State's unemployment rate (4.2%) is less than the region's unemployment rate (4.6%) by -0.4 percentage points.

### The unemployment rate in the Western New York Region increased over the past year

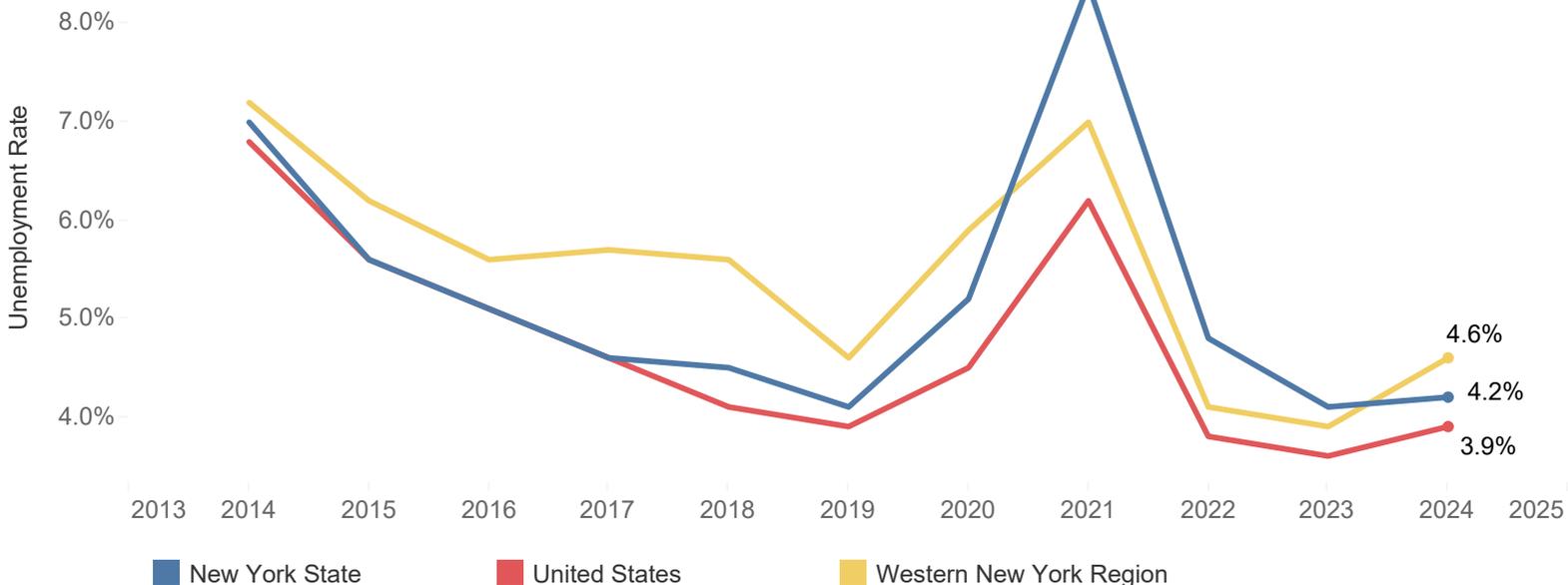
Unemployment Rate by Place, March 2024



### Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted), 2014-2024

Western New York, New York State, United States

March Unemployment Rates, 2014 to 2024



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### Employment

#### Western New York 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
Western New York Region	623,300	622,700	25,500	29,900	3.9%	4.6%
Allegany County	18,900	19,200	900	1,000	4.4%	4.8%
Cattaraugus County	31,800	31,900	1,500	1,600	4.5%	4.7%
Chautauqua County	50,300	50,400	2,400	2,600	4.5%	4.9%
Erie County	428,000	427,200	16,600	19,800	3.7%	4.4%
Niagara County	94,200	94,000	4,100	5,000	4.2%	5.1%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	522,200	521,200	20,800	24,800	3.8%	4.5%
Buffalo City	103,200	103,000	5,100	6,000	4.7%	5.5%
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%

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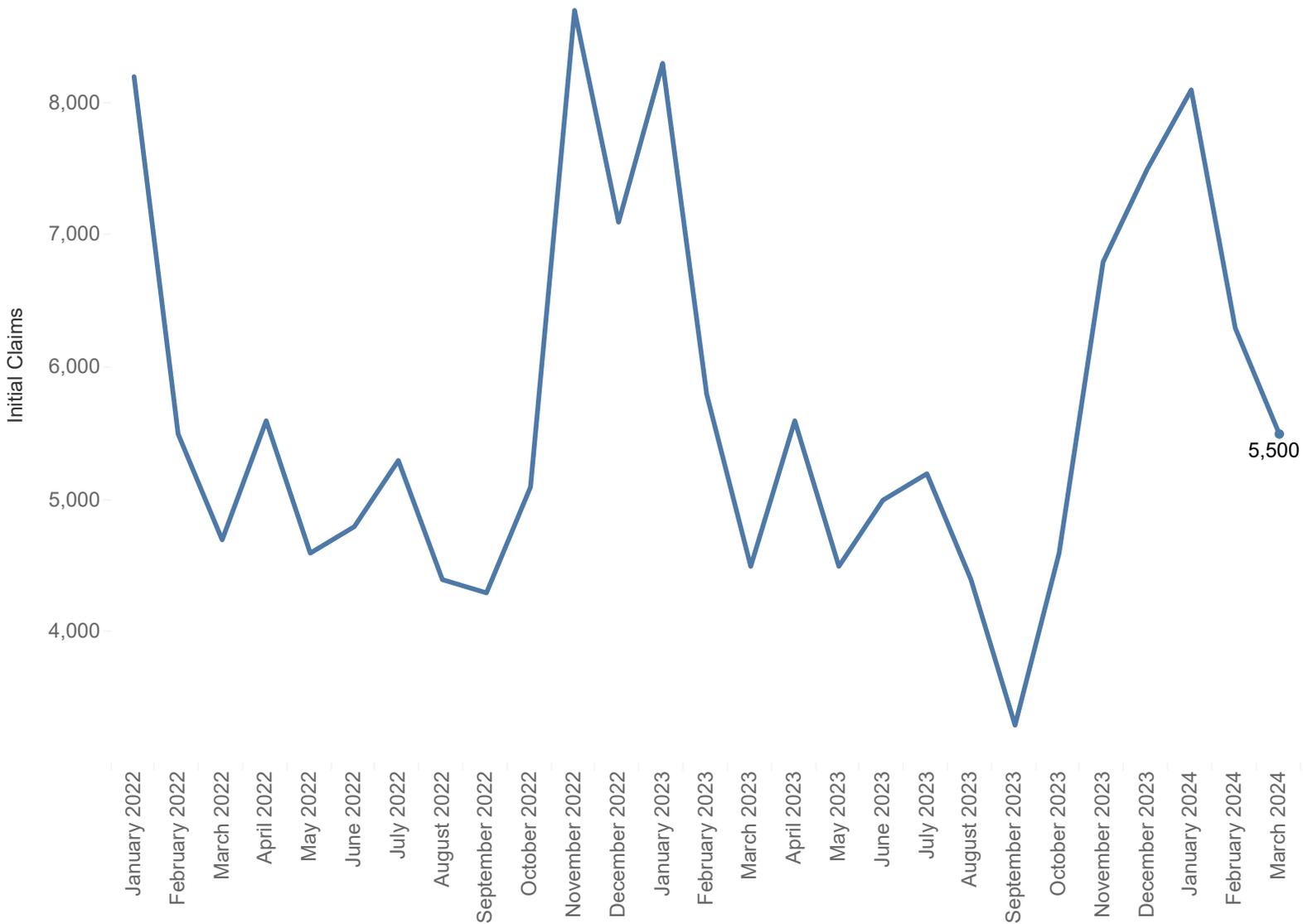
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### Initial claims decreased in March 2024

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region



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### Unemployment Insurance

#### Initial claims increased or remained constant in all counties over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

County	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Allegany	200	100	100	100	100.0%
Cattaraugus	300	300	300	0	0.0%
Chautauqua	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Erie	3,600	4,100	2,900	700	24.1%
Niagara	1,100	1,200	800	300	37.5%
Western New York	5,500	6,300	4,500	1,000	22.2%
New York State	56,700	74,100	57,600	-900.0	-1.6%

#### Initial claims increased the most in manufacturing over the year

Initial Claims for Regular UI, Western New York Region

Industry	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	OTY Net Change	OTY % Change
Financial Activities	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Government	100	300	100	0	0.0%
Information	0	0	0	0	
Leisure & Hospitality	700	700	600	100	16.7%
Manufacturing	1,200	600	500	700	140.0%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1,100	1,100	900	200	22.2%
Other Services	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Private Education & Health Services	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	700	900	700	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	800	1,600	700	100	14.3%
Unclassified	300	300	400	-100	-25.0%

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.

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### Unemployment Insurance

**The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased most rapidly in Niagara County over the year**

UI Beneficiaries by County, Western NY Region, All Programs\*

County	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	Net Change	% Change
Allegany	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Cattaraugus	900	1,000	1,000	-100	-10.0%
Chautauqua	1,300	1,400	1,400	-100	-7.1%
Erie	9,600	10,400	8,900	700	7.9%
Niagara	3,000	3,200	2,700	300	11.1%
Western NY	15,300	16,500	14,400	900	6.3%
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 in natural resources, mining, & construction over the year**

UI Beneficiaries by Industry, Western NY Region, All Programs\*

Industry	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	Net Change	% Change
Financial Activities	700	700	600	100	16.7%
Government	400	500	400	0	0.0%
Information	100	200	100	0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,900	2,000	1,900	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	1,900	1,600	1,500	400	26.7%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	3,800	4,000	4,000	-200	-5.0%
Other Services	300	300	200	100	50.0%
Private Education & Health Services	900	1,000	800	100	12.5%
Professional & Business Services	2,900	3,100	2,700	200	7.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	2,200	3,100	2,200	0	0.0%
Unclassified	100	100	100	0	0.0%
Western NY	15,300	16,500	14,400	900	6.3%

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

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Department of Labor

### Unemployment Insurance

#### The number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased

UI Beneficiaries by Race/Ethnicity, Western NY Region, All Programs

	March 2024	March 2023	March 2024					March 2023				
			White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown	White*	Black*	Asian*	Hispanic	Unknown
Western NY	15,300	14,400	71%	12%	2%	6%	9%	71%	11%	2%	7%	9%
Allegany	500	500	90%	2%		2%	6%	92%	2%		2%	4%
Cattaraugus	900	1,000	84%	1%	1%	2%	11%	83%	1%	1%	2%	13%
Chautauqua	1,300	1,400	81%	2%	1%	9%	7%	79%	2%	1%	10%	8%
Erie	9,600	8,900	66%	15%	2%	7%	9%	67%	15%	2%	7%	9%
Niagara	3,000	2,700	75%	11%	1%	5%	9%	74%	10%	1%	5%	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

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### Demographics

#### Western New York's population is increasing 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
Allegany	48,946	46,456	-2,490	-5.1%	95.4%	1.0%	0.9%	1.4%	91.1%	1.7%	0.8%	2.1%
Cattaraugus	80,317	77,042	-3,275	-4.1%	91.9%	1.2%	0.7%	1.7%	87.7%	1.3%	0.7%	2.1%
Chautauqua	134,905	127,657	-7,248	-5.4%	89.3%	2.0%	0.5%	6.1%	83.1%	2.3%	0.6%	9.2%
Erie	919,040	954,236	35,196	3.8%	77.7%	13.0%	2.6%	4.5%	71.1%	13.6%	4.8%	6.3%
Niagara	216,469	212,666	-3,803	-1.8%	87.3%	6.7%	0.8%	2.2%	81.7%	7.6%	1.1%	3.7%
Western New York	1,399,677	1,418,057	18,380	1.3%	81.7%	9.9%	1.9%	4.0%	75.3%	10.6%	3.5%	5.8%

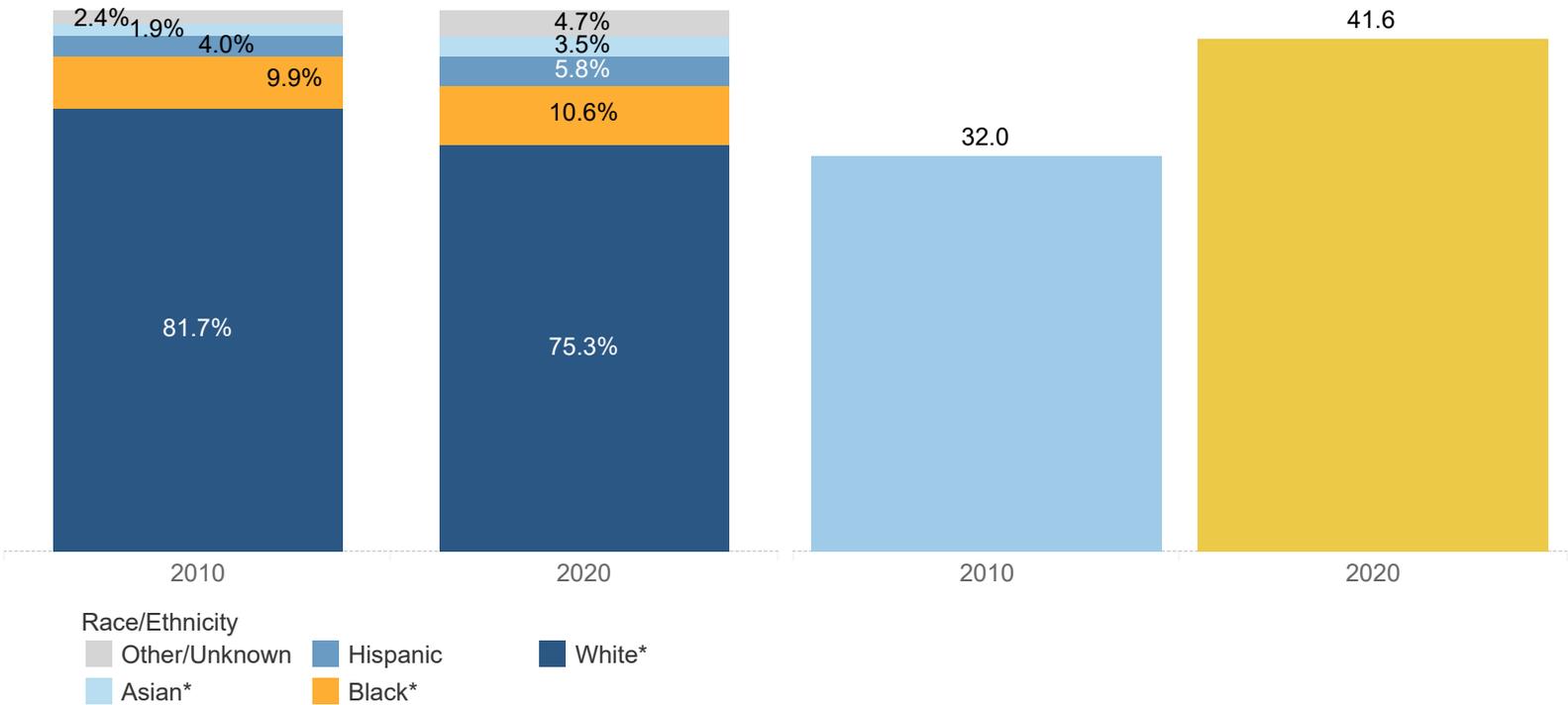
\*Refers to Non-Hispanic Population  
Does not include all racial/ethnic categories

#### Western New York has become more diverse

Distribution of Western New York Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2020

#### Western New York's Diversity Index increased by 30% from 2010 to 2020

US Census Bureau Diversity Index Scores, 2010 and 2020



\*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

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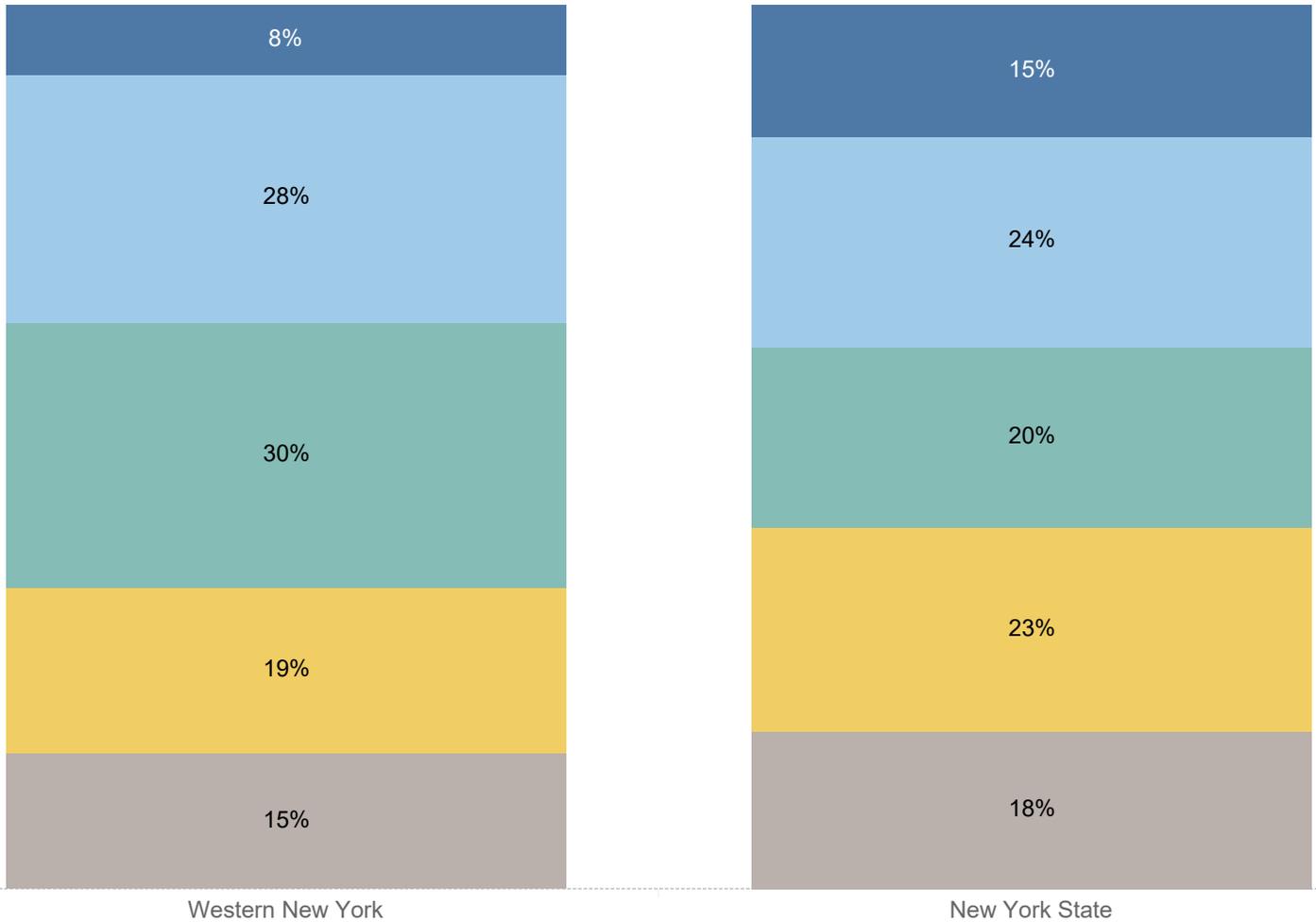
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### On average, educational attainment in Western New York is similar to New York State

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



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

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

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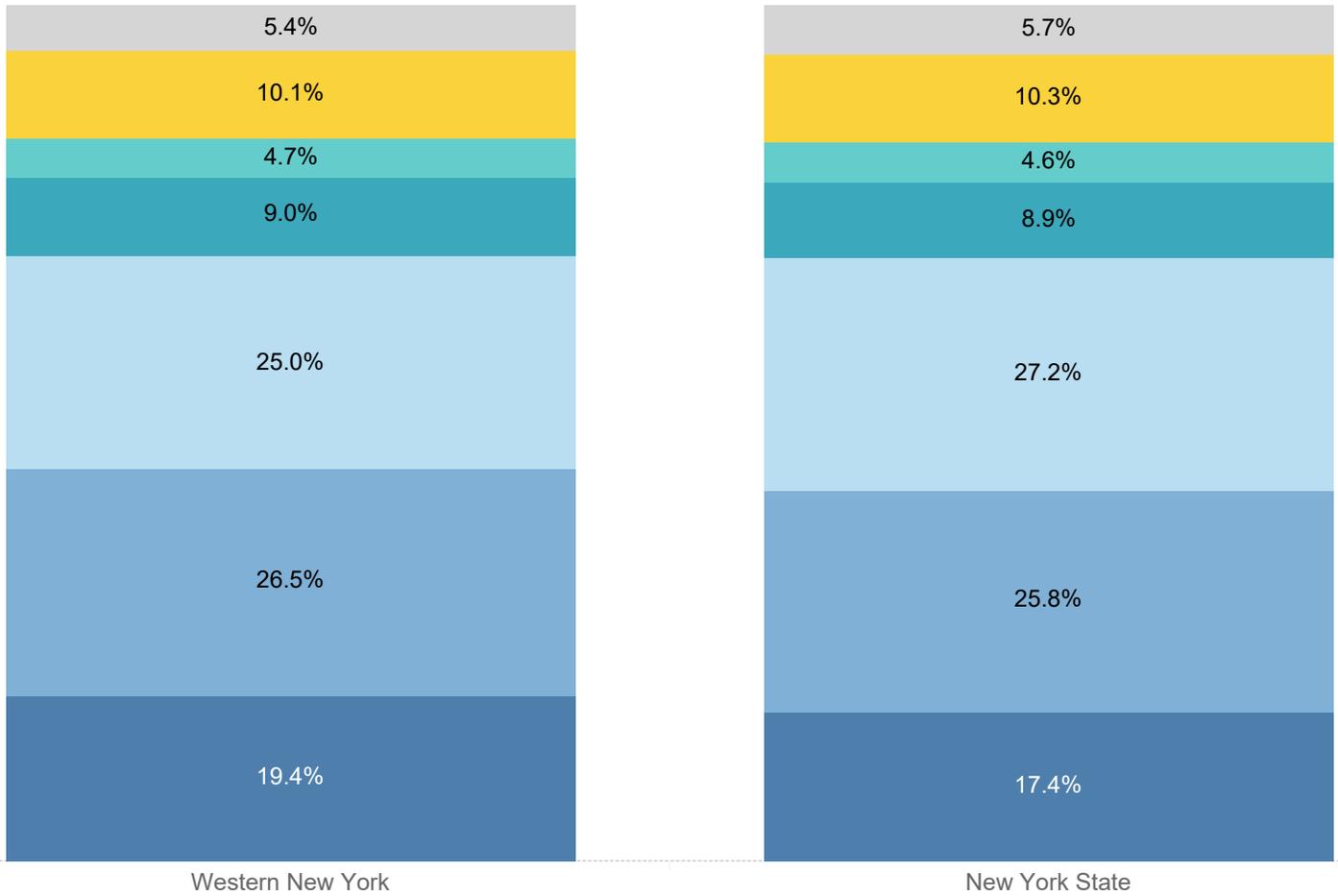
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### Western New York is older than New York State as a whole

Distribution of Population by Age Group, 2020



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

- 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

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### More than half of businesses in Western New York 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*	12,480	13,130	49.7%	51.8%	25,320	25,990	4.8%	5.0%
5-9	4,950	4,880	19.7%	19.3%	32,640	32,320	6.1%	6.3%
10-19	3,440	3,190	13.7%	12.6%	46,580	43,020	8.8%	8.3%
20-49	2,500	2,470	10.0%	9.7%	76,880	74,810	14.4%	14.5%
50-99	900	870	3.6%	3.4%	62,190	60,410	11.7%	11.7%
100-249	530	540	2.1%	2.1%	81,230	83,040	15.3%	16.1%
250-499	180	150	0.7%	0.6%	61,350	53,830	11.5%	10.4%
500-999	80	70	0.3%	0.3%	57,540	48,920	10.8%	9.5%
1000+	40	40	0.2%	0.2%	88,560	94,150	16.6%	18.2%

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

Buffalo Games, a designer and manufacturer of jigsaw puzzles and board games, plans to add 95 jobs as part of a \$6.5 million expansion after it was awarded low-cost hydropower to support the project, according to the Buffalo News. The company plans to combine its two manufacturing locations, one in Massachusetts and one in Buffalo (Erie County), into the Buffalo location. Currently the game maker employs 102 local employees.

Edelweiss Derry, a dairy farm located in Cattaraugus County, is planning \$32.5 million in upgrades and is seeking a \$15 million tax-exempt bond, according to papers filed with the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). The dairy farm plans to replace its existing 50-year-old facility with new structures, including a 120-stall rotary milking parlor, four cattle barns and a manure processing facility that is capable of capturing methane and converting it into renewable natural gas, according to Business First. The dairy, founded in 1962, sells milk, meat and grain products. It has 20 full-time employees and is expected to add 10 more over the next two years.

Deaf Access Services has completed its long-planned merger with Western New York nonprofit, People Inc. The merger expands the People Inc. program portfolio which already includes senior services, affordable housing, health care and services for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. People Inc. is an Amherst-based nonprofit (Erie County) which has more than 4,000 employees in the area and provides programs and support to more than 12,000 people across Western New York and the Rochester region.

A 33-acre solar farm is in the works for the Town of Evans (Erie County) by Amherst-based (also Erie County) company Solar Liberty. The company is seeking financial incentives of \$3.5 million from the Erie County IDA for the \$20.8 million project that would include the construction of two solar arrays on undeveloped land. According to Business First, the project would generate a combined 8.25 megawatts of electricity that would be enough to power more than 6,000 single family homes.

The Cambria by Choice hotel opened its hotel in Niagara Falls (Niagara County) at the end of March 2024, nearly five years after planning on the hotel began, according to Business First. The project was initially expected to open a year ago at a cost of \$17.8 million, but, after delays, the project will end up costing more than \$20 million. A general manager for the site has been hired and is now beginning the process of hiring 20-30 initial staff with more expected to be hired during the busy season.

North Carolina-based trucking company Old Dominion Freight Line plans to build a new truck terminal on River Road in Tonawanda (Erie County). The company currently operates a facility on Military Road in Tonawanda. The company has purchased 23.5 acres of vacant land for \$1.92 million. Montante Construction will build the 40,000-square-foot terminal at a cost of about \$18 million, according to Business First. There is no word on what plans are for the existing facility once the new one is built.

Developer Douglas Jemal's company has agreed to buy the former Buffalo News complex in Buffalo (Erie County) from Lee Enterprises after Uniland Development backed out of a reported \$9.05 million deal in February 2023. The purchase enhances Douglas Development's downtown real estate holdings near Canalside as Jemal already owns the former HSBC Atrium building which is located between The News' parking lot and KeyBank Center and Seneca One tower. It is not yet known what the development plans are for the former Buffalo News property.

One of the region's largest health care providers, Evergreen Health, is moving forward with its plans for a new three-story medical office building in the city of Buffalo's (Erie County) Kensington-Bailey neighborhood as it works to expand its existing services for the East Side community. Nearly a year after purchasing four mostly vacant properties, the new 36,000-square-foot building would house Evergreen's Community Access Services affiliate. The \$14 million project would replace an existing medical facility that it has occupied since 2018, according to the Buffalo News.

Indus hotels and its parent company, Indus Hospitality Group, are renovating a 50-room Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham in the Town of Allegany (Cattaraugus County). The \$1.75 million project was awarded \$924,400 in subsidies from the Cattaraugus County IDA. According to the Buffalo News, 13 jobs will be retained and four more will be added.

Buffalo native Pater Marlette Jr. announced the formation of Buffalo Pro Soccer and his plan to bring a United Soccer League Championship Club to the Buffalo area by 2026, according to Business First. Leaders are now looking for a place to build a stadium that would become the permanent home for Buffalo Pro Soccer. The league is in talks with landowners scouting sites that would allow the stadium to house about 10,000 people.

### Bad news

Fisher-Price in East Aurora (Erie County) has laid off between 75 to 100 workers at its headquarters, as the company moves three of its brands to the Mattel headquarters in El Segundo, California. Some workers in a variety of positions in the Barney, Thomas & Friends and Imaginext brands were laid off; their last day was March 29, 2024. Other workers will stay on into June 2024 to see the brands through the transition to the California site, according to Business First.

On March 8, 2024, thirteen teachers, two teacher aides, a computer aide and a maintenance mechanic at Hamburg Central School were told they would be laid off and their positions would be eliminated due to budget constraints at the end of this school year, according to the Buffalo News. Parents, students and teachers attended a school board meeting on March 12th to object to the teacher layoffs. The superintendent stated the district overestimated revenues and underestimated expenses in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 budgets.

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Department  
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## Western New York Region

*Includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties*

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