



How big is our public sector?

What communities rely most heavily on public jobs?

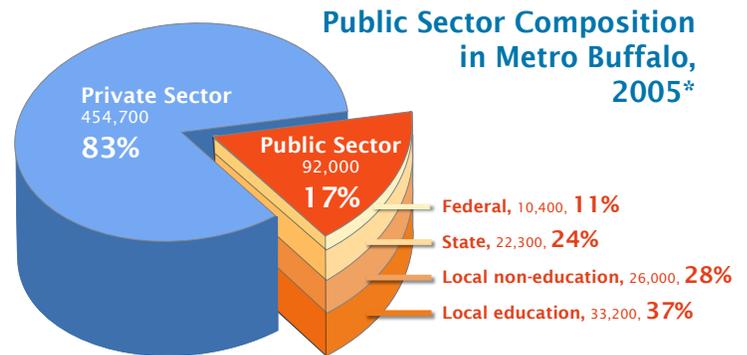
How do we compare?

The Public Sector in WNY

Data from the Current Employment Survey show that public sector employment in metro Buffalo is concentrated in school districts and local governments and represents a higher share of employment locally than nationally. Another source reveals that rural areas of WNY are more reliant on public employment than are urban areas.

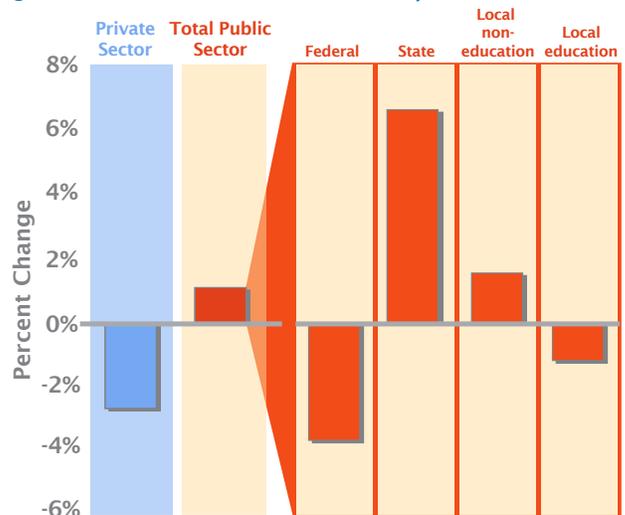
How big is our public sector?

Public employment is a topic of frequent debate, often centering on issues of need and affordability. In 2005, public sector jobs in metro Buffalo—prison guards, teachers, firefighters, village clerks—accounted for 16.8% of non-farm employment, or roughly 92,000 jobs. Over one-third, or 36.1%, of all public employees worked for local schools, followed by 28% who worked for local governments—town, village, city, county and tribal. Together, state and federal employees comprised 35% of the public workforce.



While jobs in the private sector fell by 2.7% between 2000 and 2005, public sector employment in metro Buffalo rose by 1.1%. This was led by a 6.7% rise in state employment—primarily in prisons and state colleges. Local non-education employment also increased over the period, but has fallen since 2003 following a series of local and county budget crunches. Federal job loss—down 3.7%—reflected the end of temporary Census Bureau jobs after completion of the 2000 census, while losses in local education—down 1.2%—stemmed from significant layoffs at Buffalo City Schools.

Job Growth in Metro Buffalo, 2000-2005*



Public Sector Share of Total Employment, 2005*

Albany	24.1%
Binghamton	21.7%
Syracuse	17.9%
Buffalo	16.8%
Rochester	15.8%
New York City	15.7%
Cleveland	13.1%
Pittsburgh	11.1%
New York State	17.3%
United States	16.2%

How do we compare?

Compared to peers outside the state like Cleveland and Pittsburgh, public employment forms a larger share of the metro Buffalo economy. In 2005, the public sector's 16.8% share of non-farm employment in Buffalo fell between statewide (17.3%) and national (16.2%) averages.

Compared to other metropolitan areas in New York, Buffalo had a higher proportion of public sector jobs than Rochester and New York City, but fewer than Albany, Binghamton and Syracuse.

* Source: Current Employment Survey, adjusted by moving tribal casino jobs from public to private sector.

Public Employment: Urban vs. Rural, 2005

	Urban WNY ¹	Rural WNY ²	
All Governments			
Employment	89,620	38,396	
Average Annual Wage	\$41,081	\$35,767	
Employees per 1,000 residents	78.1	92.6	
Key Areas			
Federal			
Employment	10,401	1,640	Postal Service, Veterans' Administration, Defense, Customs
Average Annual Wage	\$52,726	\$41,046	
Employees per 1,000 residents	9.1	4.0	
State			
Employment	20,490	7,420	State colleges and universities, prisons
Average Annual Wage	\$43,514	\$46,983	
Employees per 1,000 residents	17.9	17.9	
Local			
Employment	58,729	29,336	School districts, public hospitals, police/fire, local administration
Average Annual Wage	\$38,170	\$32,060	
Employees per 1,000 residents	51.2	70.7	

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Note: Local includes school district and tribal employment

¹Erie and Niagara counties

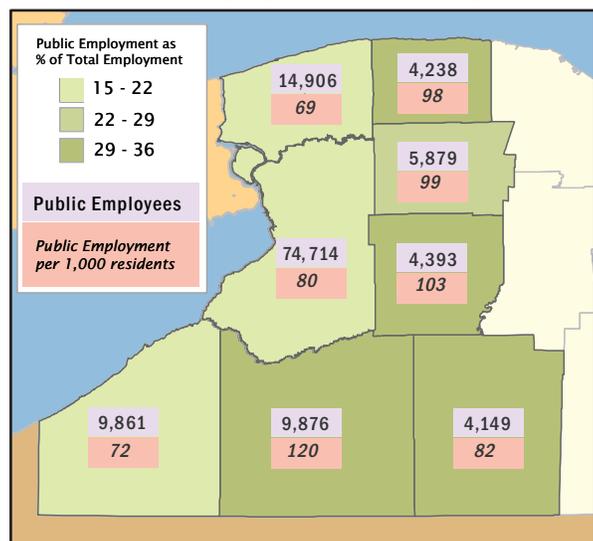
²Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming counties

What communities rely most heavily on public jobs?

Data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which uses a different method to count public sector jobs than the Current Employment Survey, show that rural parts of WNY tend to rely on public sector jobs to a greater extent than do urban areas. In 2005, the six predominately rural counties in WNY averaged 92.6 public employees per thousand residents, compared to 78.1 in the two urban counties (Erie and Niagara). Federal employment was more significant in urban counties and state jobs were equally distributed in both areas, but local government jobs—the public sector's largest component—showed a much higher prevalence in the rural counties due largely to fixed service needs over smaller population bases.

In some rural communities, public sector jobs are vital economic contributors. In Allegany, Cattaraugus, Orleans and Wyoming counties, the public sector provides 30% or more of all jobs. In Orleans and Wyoming, state prisons are key sources of local income. Small city school districts, state colleges, centralized rural school districts and BOCES also stand out as major employers in rural areas, where very large private sector employers are few. With productivity gains and foreign competition leading the trend away from very large and centralized workforces at companies—both locally and nationally—large public employers are likely to remain prominent economic foundations in rural and urban areas.

Public Sector Employment by County, 2005



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, includes tribal employment

For more information:

Current Employment Survey and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, New York State Department of Labor, online at www.labor.state.ny.us/index.htm.

Largest Public Sector Employers by County, 2005

Allegany

Alfred State College, 500
Allegany County, 400
Wellsville Central Schools, 200
Cuba-Rushford Central Schools, 100
Bolivar-Richburg Central Schools, 100

Cattaraugus

Cattaraugus County, 1,400
Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES, 800
Yorkshire-Pioneer Central Schools, 340
Olean City School District, 300
Salamanca Central School District, 300

Chautauqua

Chautauqua County, 1,200
SUNY Fredonia, 1,000
Jamestown Public Schools, 900
Jamestown Community College, 500
Lakeview Shock Incarceration Facility, 500

Erie

University at Buffalo, 8600
Erie County (includes ECMC), 7,200
Buffalo City Schools, 5,200
City of Buffalo, 2,500
VA Hospital, 1,500

Genesee

Genesee County, 800
Genesee Community College, 600
Genesee Valley BOCES, 500
Batavia City Schools, 400
VA Hospital, 400

Niagara

NF Air Reserve Station, 2,900
Niagara County, 1,800
Niagara Falls City Schools, 1,300
North Tonawanda City Schools, 800
Lockport City Schools, 700

Orleans

Orleans County, 600
Albion Correctional Facility, 600
Orleans-Niagara BOCES, 600
Orleans Correctional Facility, 400
Albion Central Schools, 300

Wyoming

Attica Correctional Facility, 900
Wyoming Cnty. Correctional Facility, 600
Wyoming County, 400
Perry Central Schools, 200
Attica Central Schools, 200

Source: Data estimated from various sources and rounded to the nearest hundred.