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## Employment Data for Buffalo

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## Employment Data for Buffalo

### Abstract

The types of jobs available in Buffalo have changed post-recession, with midlevel skilled jobs disappearing and high and low skill jobs growing. The loss of jobs in fields such as teaching, office administration, factory work and construction work during the recession is exacerbated by the fact that many midlevel jobs, such as manufacturing, are being automated or sent to cheaper markets. Growth has occurred on the high and low skill ends of the spectrum, however, with increases in fields that require high-level business skill, healthcare expertise, computer training, engineering, etc. At the low end, there has been growth in food preparation, personal care, and jobs such as store clerks and child care providers. These changes are reflected in the fact that 31.2% of employed persons in Buffalo work in management, professional, and related occupations, and 20.8% work in service occupations, as of 2012. The data suggests the need for workers in Buffalo to acquire more education, training, and skills to ameliorate growing inequality and polarization in the job market, and for expansion of policies like living wages to ensure that the high number of low-skill jobs does not result in higher poverty.

### Keywords

Buffalo, Poverty/Low Wage Work/Income Inequality, Data/Demographics/History, Demographics and Data, Economic Development, Policies and Programs, Low Wage Work, Fact Sheet, PPG, PDF



## Employment Data for Buffalo

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### Unemployment Rate

	City of Buffalo	Buffalo-Niagra Falls Metropolitan Area	New York State	National
April 2014	6.3	5.8	6.7	5.9
2013	9.7	7.5	7.7	7.4
2012	10.8	8.3	8.5	8.1
2011	10.5	8.0	8.2	8.9
2010	10.8	8.5	8.6	9.6
2009	10.1	8.4	8.3	9.3
2008	7.0	5.9	5.4	5.8
2007	6.0	4.9	4.6	4.6
2006	6.3	5.1	4.6	4.6
2005	6.5	5.3	5.0	5.1
2004	7.3	5.8	5.8	5.5

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Employment, Unemployment, and Labor Force Participation  
April 2014 Data**

	City of Buffalo	Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	New York State
People over 16	258,959	1,134,000	19,651,127
In the Labor Force	110,100	556,600	9,518,800
Employed	102,200	524,300	8,934,100
Unemployed	7,900	32,300	584,700

**Source: New York State Dept. of Labor, LAUS**

**2013 Employment, Unemployment, and Labor Force Participation  
2013 Annual Data**

	City of Buffalo	Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	New York State
People over 16	258,959	1,134,000	19,651,127
In the Labor Force	114,200	571,900	9,636,000
Employed	103,100	528,900	8,898,800
Unemployed	11,100	43,000	737,300

**Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**2000 Census: Unemployment Rates for Buffalo-Niagara Metro Area**

	Unemployment Rate Male	Unemployment Rate Female
Black	19.0	14.0
American-Indian	16.0	13.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	14.0	13.0
Hispanic	14.0	14.0
Non-Hispanic White	6.0	5.0

**Source: [diversitydata.org](http://diversitydata.org), 2000 census  
American Community Survey 2012 projections**

### Unemployment Rates by Race for Buffalo-Niagara Metro Area, 2000 vs 2012

	Unemployment Rate 2000	Unemployment Rate 2012
Black	18	19.2
American-Indian	Unavailable	Unavailable
Asian/Pacific Islander	Unavailable	15.9
Hispanic	36.3	19.5
Non-Hispanic White	6	9.5

Source: "The Grass May Not Be Greener," Wende Mix Ph.D Buffalo State College  
[diversitydata.org](http://diversitydata.org)  
 American Community Survey 2012 projections

### 2012 Employment Data for Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area

		Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment-Population Ratio	Unemployment Rate
Both Sexes	Total	64.6	59.0	8.7
Male	Total	72.2	64.0	11.4
	African-American	54.0* (2010 data)	40.8* (2010 data)	24.4* (2010 data)
	White	72.7	64.8	10.9
Female	Total	57.5	54.4	5.5
	African-American	45.3	40.2	11.4
	White	60.3	57.4	4.9
	Single Parent	57.8	52.9	8.5
Both Sexes	16-19 years	41.0	30.2	26.3

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Skilled job distribution pre and post recession

	Pre-recession (2007)	2013/2014	
High-skill level jobs	18%	20%	
Midlevel jobs	54%	50%	
Low-skill jobs	28.1%	29.5%	

## Future Employment Implications

The types of jobs available in Buffalo have changed post-recession, with midlevel skilled jobs disappearing and high and low skill jobs growing.

The loss of jobs in fields such as teaching, office administration, factory work and construction work during the recession is exacerbated by the fact that many midlevel jobs, such as manufacturing, are being automated or sent to cheaper markets. Growth has occurred on the high and low skill ends of the spectrum, however, with increases in fields that require high-level business skill, healthcare expertise, computer training, engineering, etc. At the low end, there has been growth in food preparation, personal care, and jobs such as store clerks and child care providers.

These changes are reflected in the fact that 31.2% of employed persons in Buffalo work in management, professional, and related occupations, and 20.8% work in service occupations, as of 2012.

The data suggests the need for workers in Buffalo to acquire more education, training, and skills to ameliorate growing inequality and polarization in the job market, and for expansion of policies like living wages to ensure that the high number of low-skill jobs does not result in higher poverty.

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