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Labor Market Trends in the Buffalo Niagara Region

Jaison R. Abel

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Labor Market Trends in the Buffalo Niagara Region

Abstract

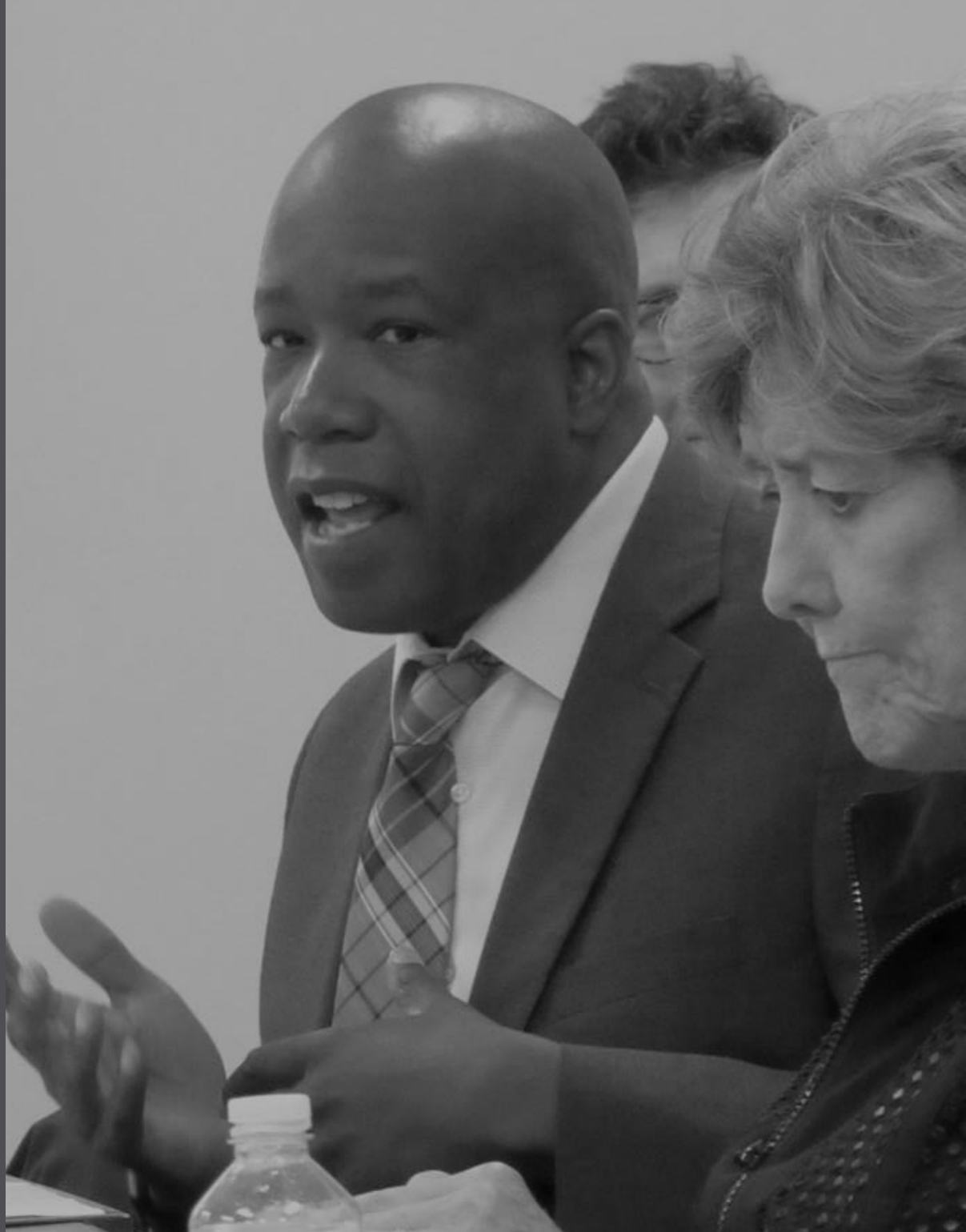
In August 2017, The Worker Institute convened high level leaders over the course of two days, around a discussion of Buffalo, NY Since the Great Recession. With presentations, panels, and a visit to the UAW Local 774, participants gained a deeper understanding of the economic restructuring that followed the Great Recession and where this large metropolitan area stands today. Here, you will find links to the resources that were presented during this two day convening.

Keywords

Buffalo, Economic Development, High Road Economic Development, Presentation, Other, PDF

THE WORKER INSTITUTE

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BUFFALO, NY SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION A WORKSHOP ON ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING IN THE RUST BELT SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION

BY: DINCER AND WHEATON

AUGUST 14-15 2017
CORNELL IN BUFFALO AND UAW LOCAL 774

PROGRAM

DAY 1, AUGUST 14, Cornell in Buffalo

Welcome, Arthur Wheaton, The Worker Institute, Cornell University
09AM-09.10AM

Introduction: The Contours of Economic Development in the Rust Belt since the Great Recession
Evren Dincer, Uludağ University
09.10AM-09.30AM

Session I

Main Trends and Issues of Economic Development in Buffalo 09.30AM-12PM

The Performance of the Buffalo Economy Since the Great Recession
Jaison Abel, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Healing Buffalo's Economy: The Buffalo Billion and Priorities for Economic Development
John Slenker, New York State Department of Labor

General Trends in the Labor Market
Cesar Cabrera, New York State Department of Labor

Labor Market and Challenges for Workforce Development
Heather Gresham, Executive Director, Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Investment Board

Labor's Role in Economic Development and Organizing
Richard Lipsitz Jr., Western New York Area Labor Federation

Economic Development from a Social Justice Perspective
Franchelle C. Hart, Open Buffalo

Lunch Break: 12PM-1PM

Session II

Placing Buffalo in its Geographical and Economic Context: Buffalo as part of New York State and the Rust Belt 1PM-2.45PM

The Role of New York City in the Economy of New York State
James Parrott, Center for New York City Affairs at The New School

Buffalo's Economic Relations with Albany
Bruce Fisher, SUNY Buffalo State

The Role of Community Organizations in Buffalo's Economic Revitalization in a Comparative
Perspective
Ronald Applegate, Cornell University

Buffalo's Economic Development Compared: Buffalo as Part of the Rust Belt
Evren Dincer, Uludağ University

Coffee Break, 2.45PM-3.00PM

Session III
Sectors in Perspective I
3PM-5PM

Buffalo's Housing Market since the Great Recession
Sam Magavern, Partnership for the Public Good

Buffalo's Agricultural Economy since the Great Recession
Diane Held, Cornell University Cooperative Extension

The Finance Sector in Buffalo since the Great Recession
Gary Keith, M&T Bank

Buffalo-Niagara Medical Corridor Experiment: Perspectives on a Project for Economic Revitalization
David Scott, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (TBC)

The Energy Sector, Community Development and Sustainability in Buffalo since the Great Recession
Rahwa Ghirmatzion, PUSH Buffalo

Concluding Remarks and Reflections on Day One
Rosemary Batt, Cornell University

DAY 2, AUGUST 15, UAW Local 774

Session IV, 09AM-12PM
Sectors in Perspective II
Manufacturing and the Auto Industry

A Historical Review of the Auto Industry in the U.S. and Western New York
Art Wheaton, The Worker Institute at Cornell University

Recent Trends in Auto Manufacturing in Western New York
Ian Greer, Cornell University

Canadian Auto Industry since the Great Recession: A Look at Buffalo from the other side of the
Border
Mathieu Dupuis, School of Industrial Relations, University of Montreal

The Reindustrialization of the U.S.: Tonawanda Powertrain since the Great Recession
Evren Dincer, Uludağ University

Auto Manufacturing in Buffalo since the Great Recession: A Managerial Perspective
Steve Finch, Plant Manager, GM Tonawanda Powertrain

Labor Management Relations and Restructuring in Manufacturing since the Great Recession:
A Union Perspective
Wenceslao Valentin III, President, UAW Local 774

For more information please contact:

Evren Dincer, email: emd224@cornell.edu, call or text (267) 438-9450

Art Wheaton, email: acw18@cornell.edu, call or text (716) 777-0303



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* NEW YORK

Labor Market Trends in the Region

Jaison R. Abel, Research Officer

Investing in America's Workforce: Perspectives from Western New York
Buffalo, NY; March 27, 2017

The views expressed here are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent those of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or the Federal Reserve System.

Overview

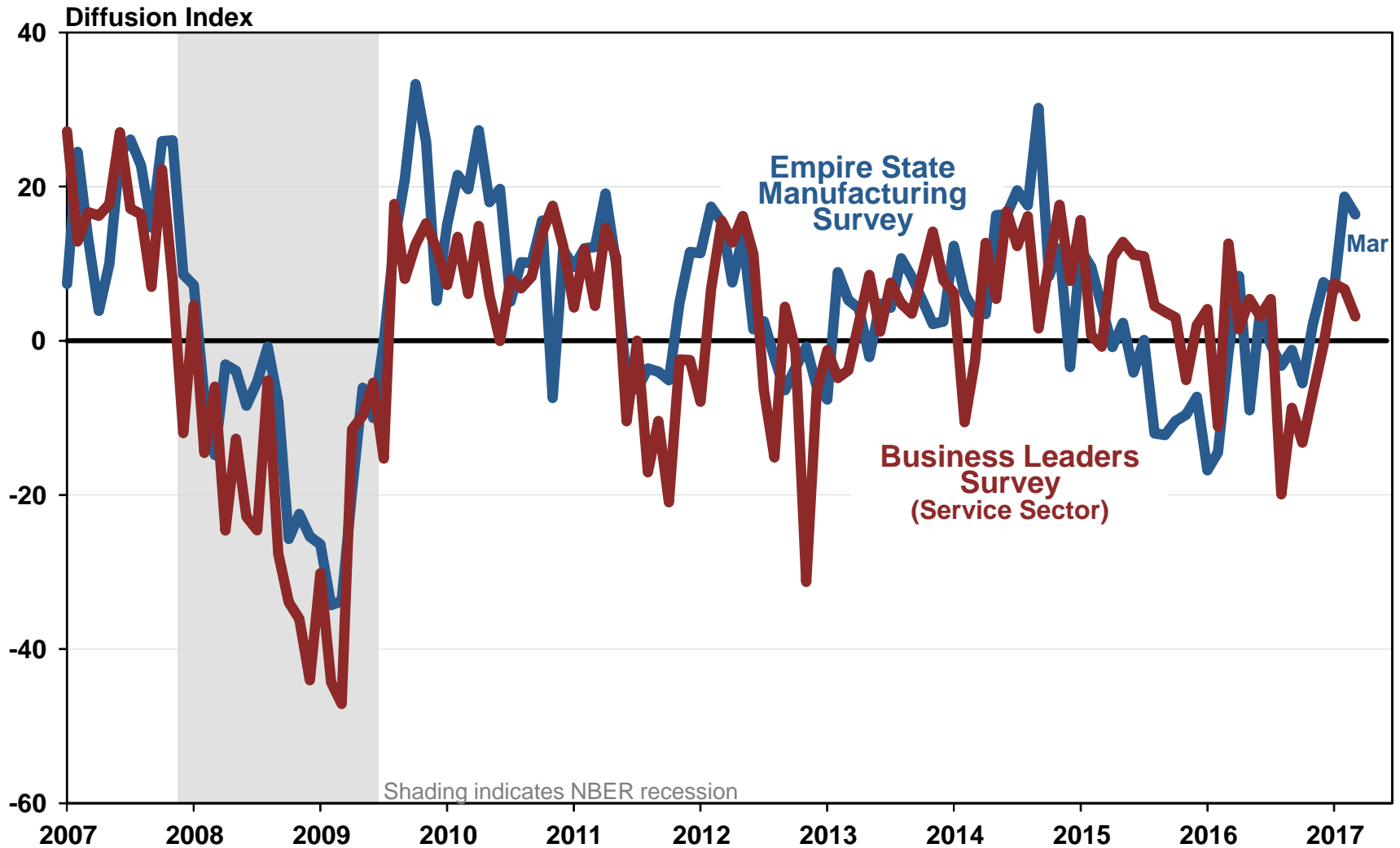
- Regional economic conditions have improved noticeably in recent months, particularly in the manufacturing sector.
- Job growth in upstate NY has been slow and steady through the expansion, with Buffalo faring better than many of its upstate peers.
- As job growth has picked up, especially in the middle of the wage distribution, businesses in the region report widespread difficulty finding workers with all types of skills.



Recent Economic Performance

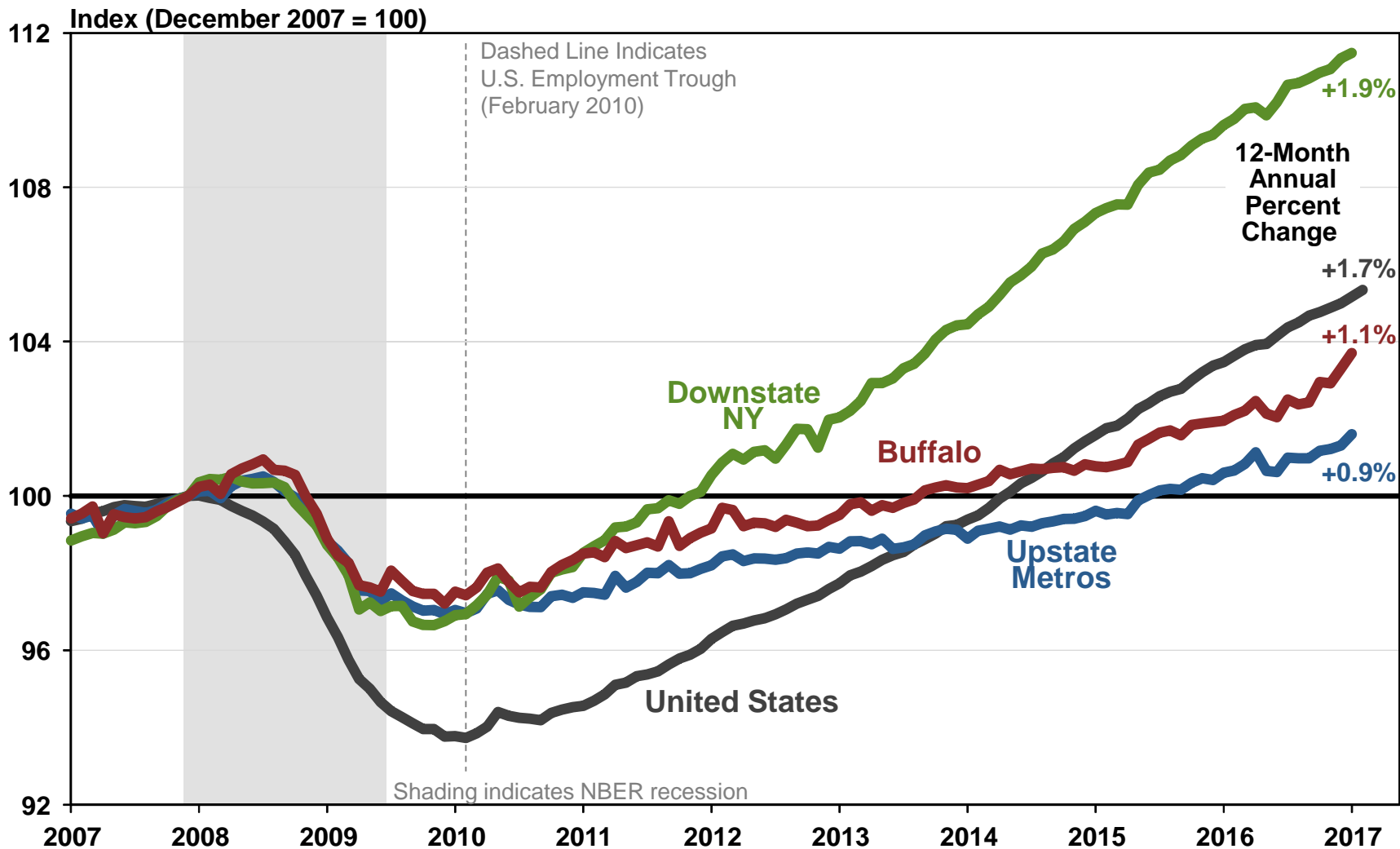
Current Economic Conditions

FRBNY Regional Business Surveys



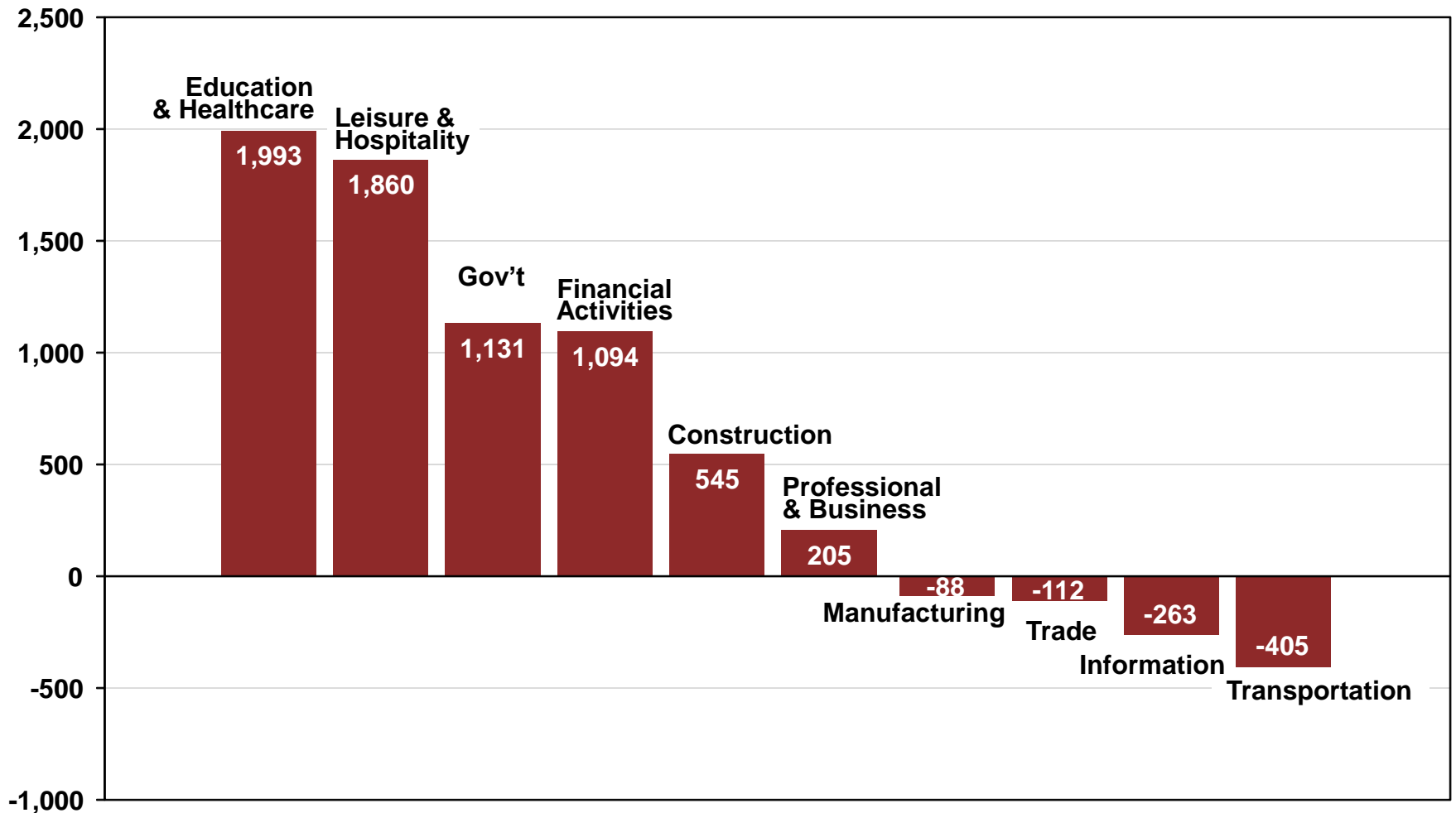
Regional Employment Trends

Total Employment Through Jan 2017, Seasonally Adjusted



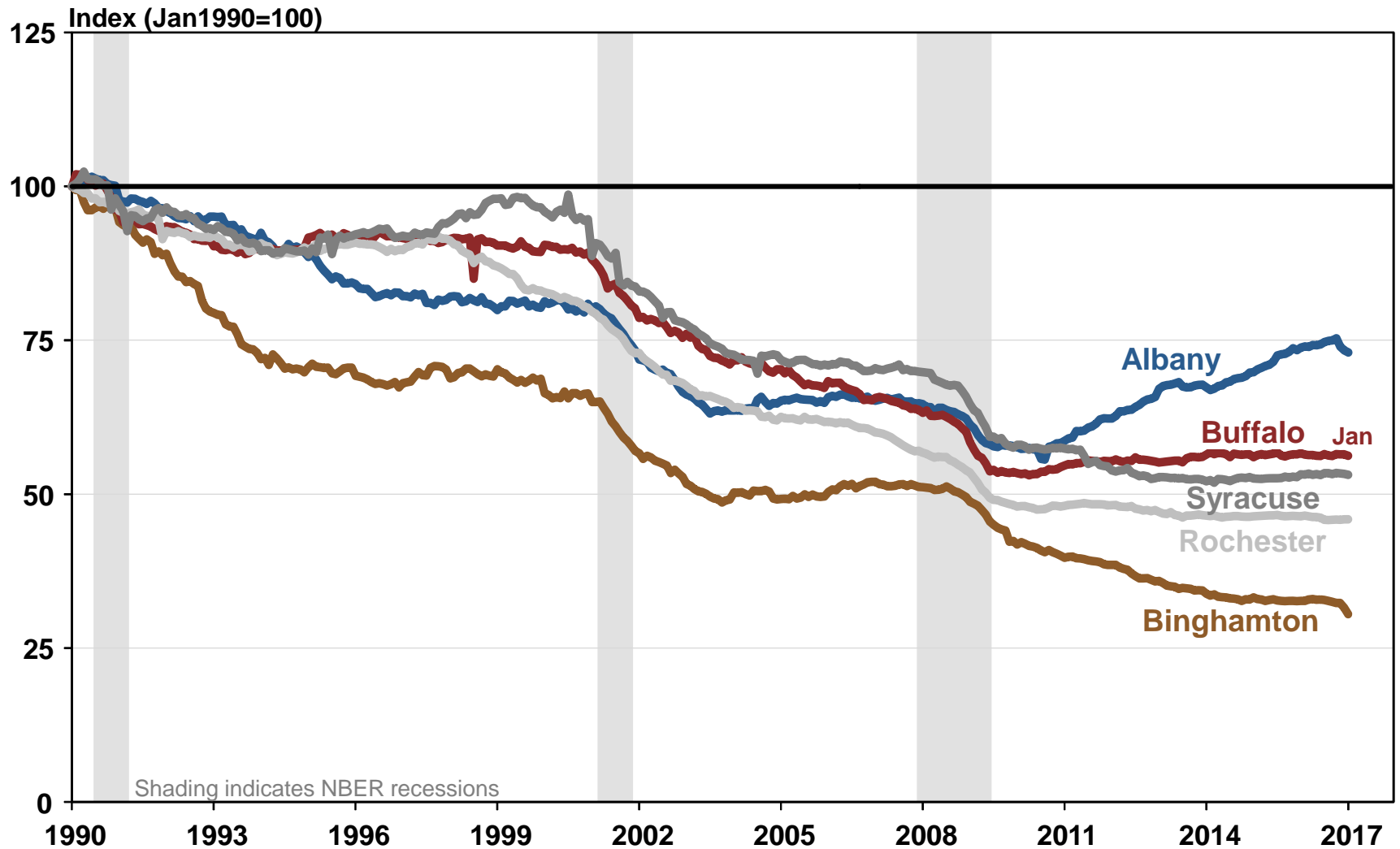
Buffalo Job Growth by Sector

12-Month Change Through January 2017



Upstate Manufacturing Trends

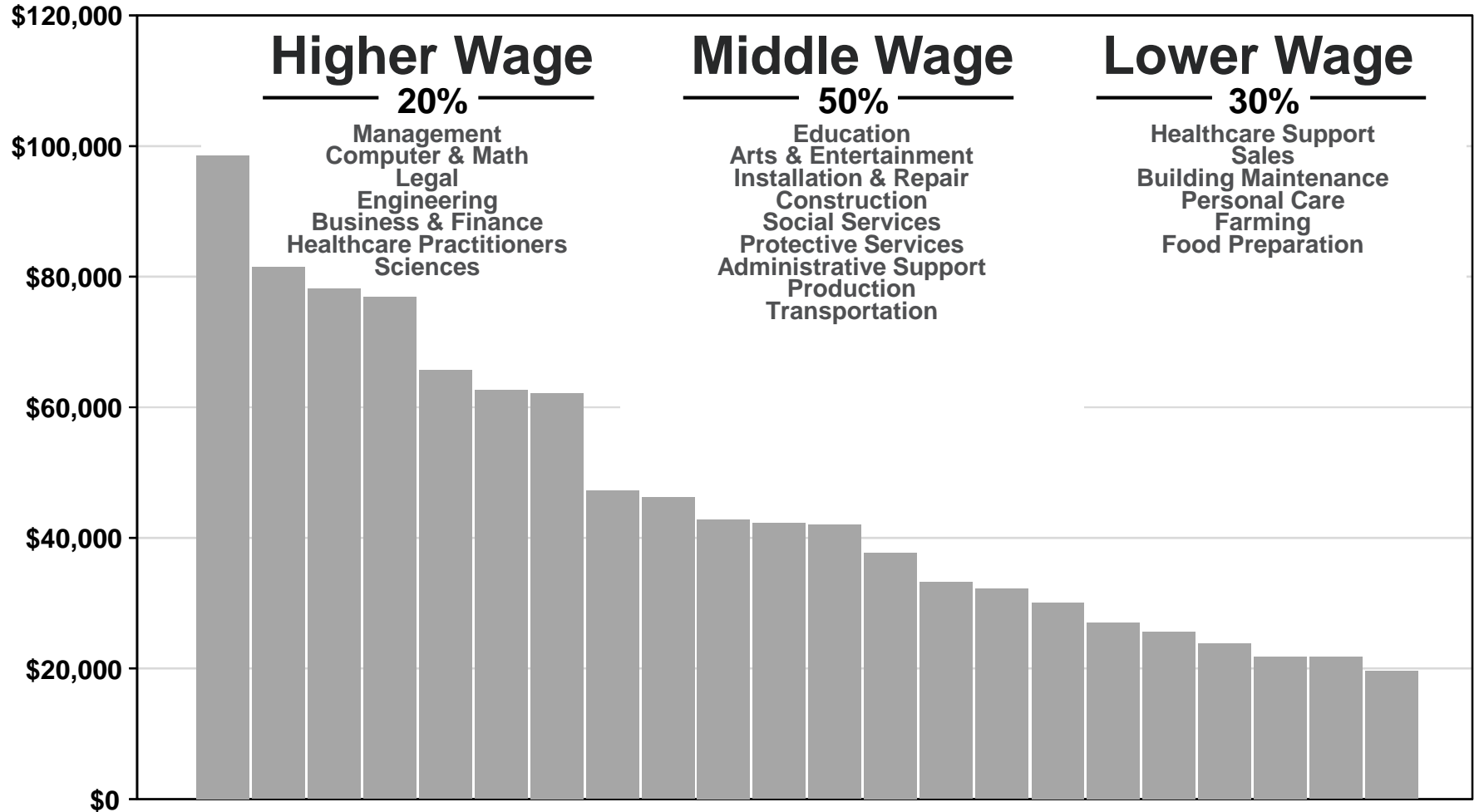
Indexes of Manufacturing Employment, Seasonally Adjusted



The Return of Middle-Wage Jobs

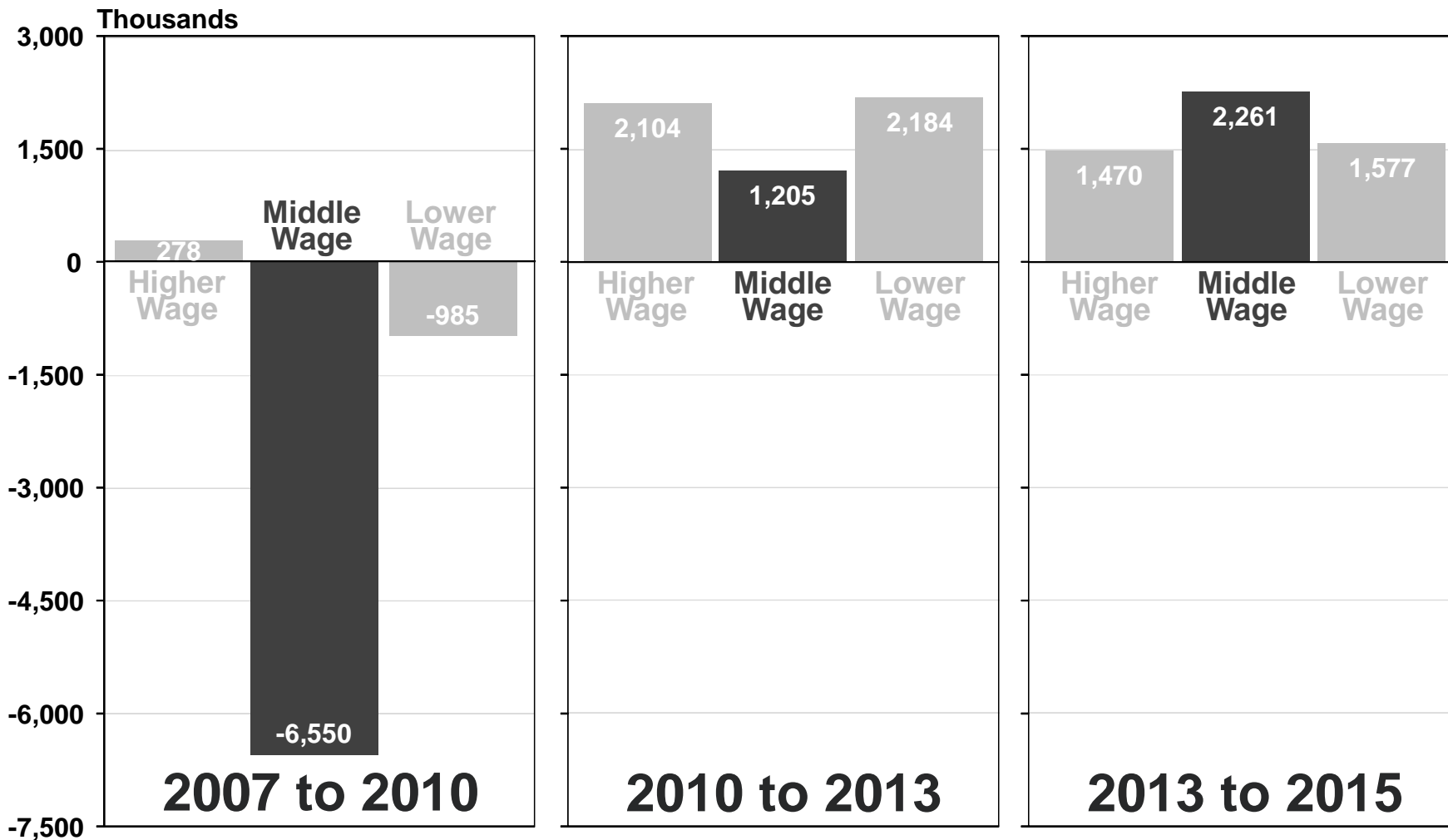
Job Categories

Based on 2015 Median Wages, United States



Job Gains and Losses in the United States

Net Change in Total Employment, Thousands



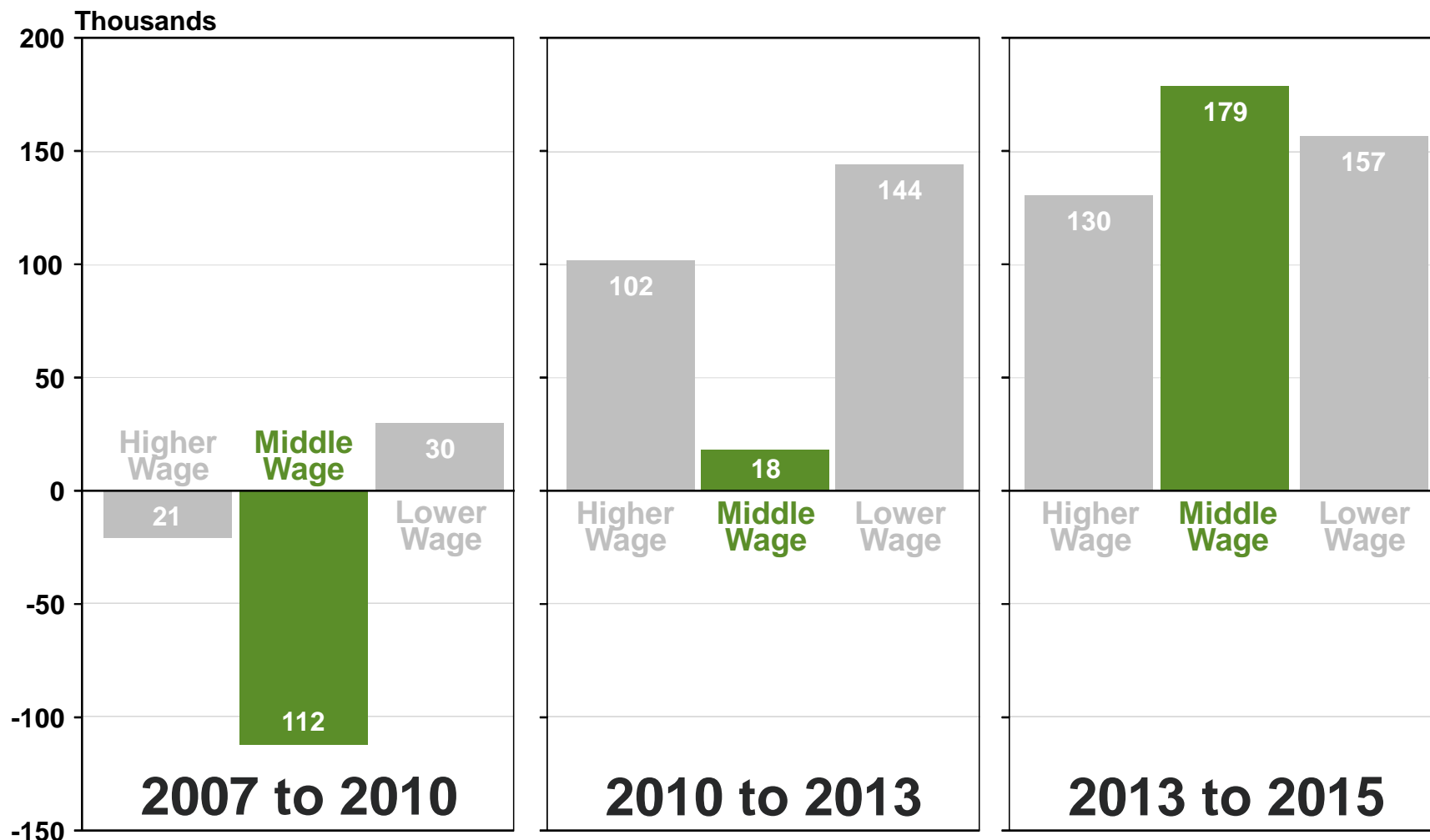
Middle-Wage Jobs Returning

- Growth in traditional blue collar jobs:
 - **Construction**
 - **Production**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Installation & Repair**
- **Education** jobs growing again as local government fiscal pressures have subsided.
- Rebound in **Administrative Support** jobs.



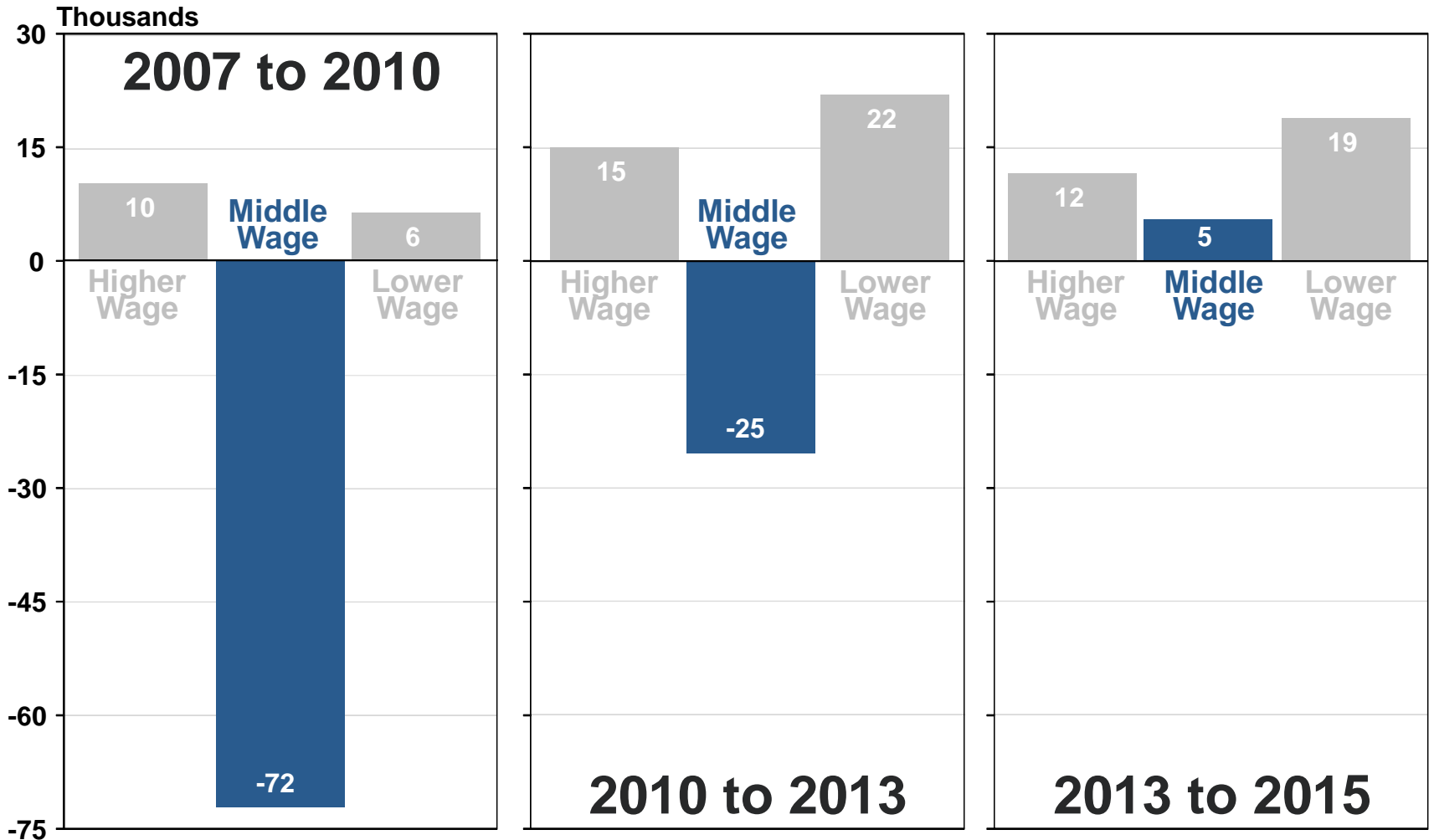
Job Gains and Losses in Downstate NY

Net Change in Total Employment, Thousands



Job Gains and Losses in Upstate NY

Net Change in Total Employment, Thousands



Job Gains and Losses in Buffalo NY

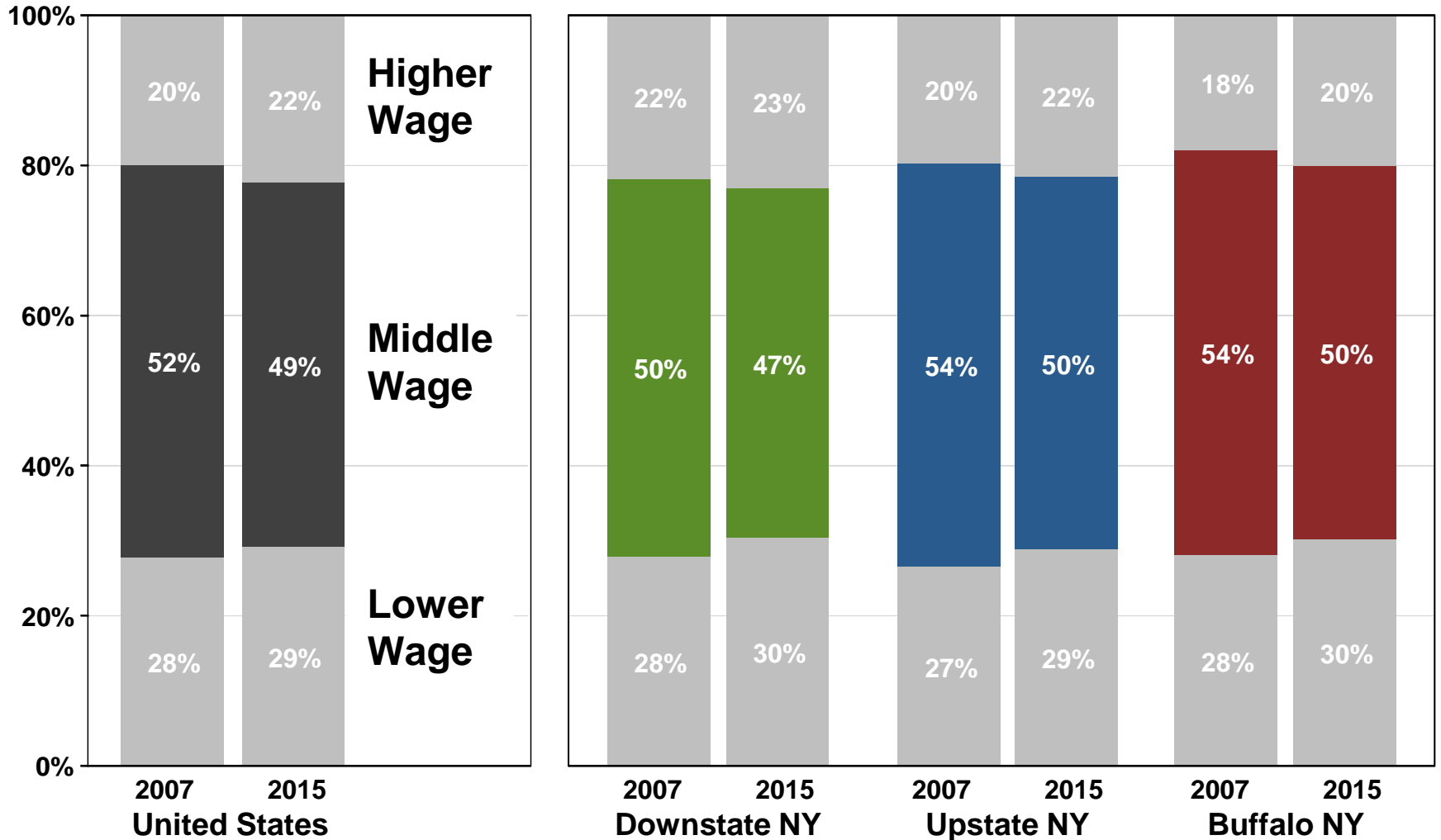
Net Change in Total Employment, Thousands



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Occupational Employment Statistics).

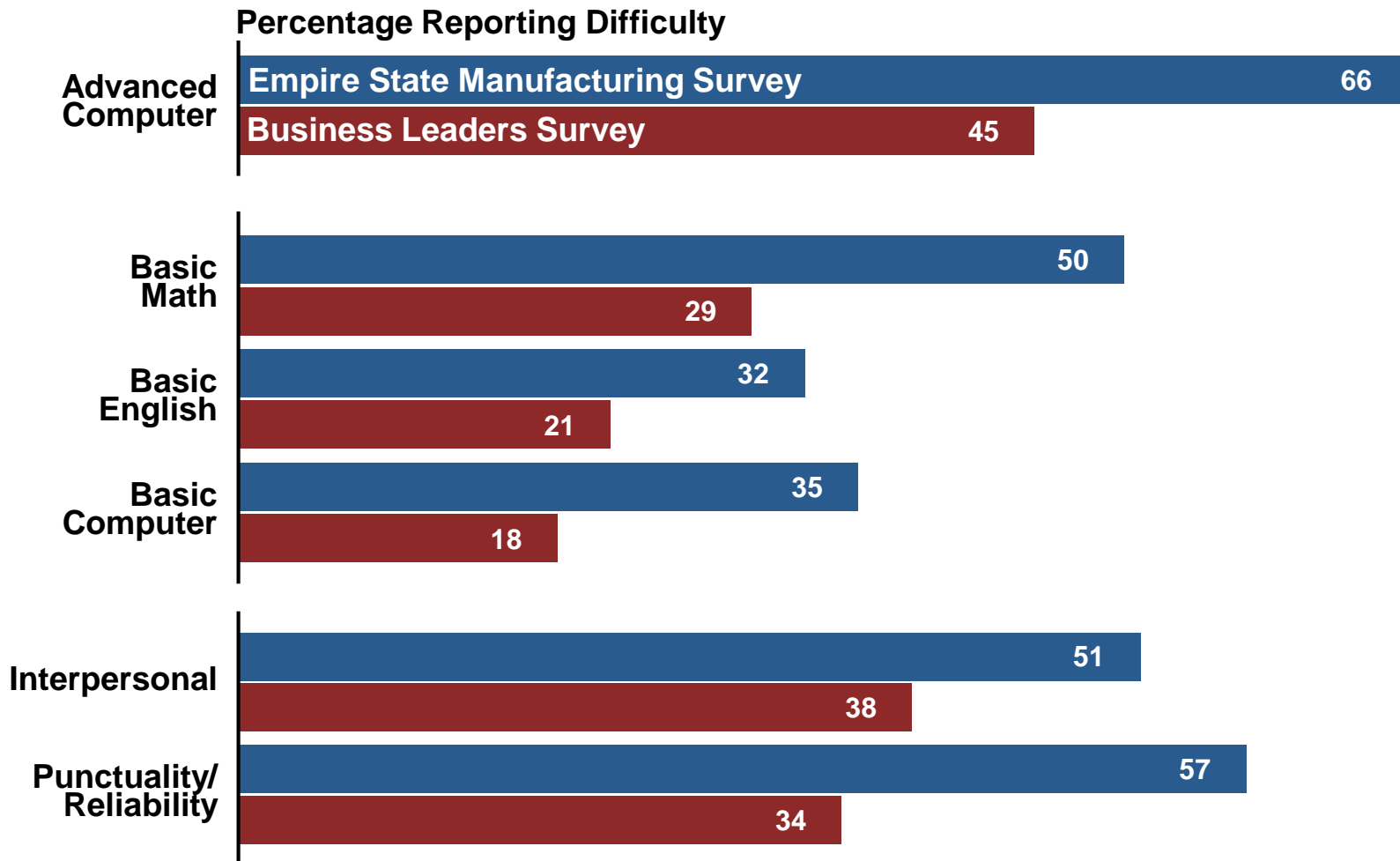
A Shrinking Middle

Share of Jobs by Wage Group, 2007 and 2015



Difficulty Finding Skilled Workers

FRBNY Supplemental Survey Report, April 2015





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