Employment Data for Buffalo-Niagara

Partnership for the Public Good
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Abstract

Keywords
economic development, data, economic conditions, poverty, buffalo
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AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CITY, REGION, STATE, AND NATION, 2008-2018


PPG’s Buffalo Briefs offer quick data snapshots of the region and include the following:

- Assets of Buffalo-Niagara
- Employment in Buffalo-Niagara
- Environmental Data for Buffalo-Niagara
- Health Data for Erie County
- Housing Data for Buffalo and Erie County
- Immigrants, Refugees, and Languages Spoken in Buffalo-Niagara
- Population Trends in Buffalo-Niagara
- Poverty in Buffalo-Niagara
- Public Education in Buffalo and the Region
- Racial Disparities in Buffalo-Niagara: Housing, Income, and Employment

Buffalo Briefs are available in the Buffalo Commons library at www.ppgbuffalo.org.
Western New York’s minority residents continue to suffer from severe racial employment disparities. The black unemployment rate was more than three times the white unemployment rate in 2016, while the unemployment rate for those of Hispanic or Latino origin was more than double the white unemployment rate.
UNEMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN THE BUFFALO-NIAGARA FALLS METROPOLITAN AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Attainment</th>
<th>2016 Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>2015 Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School (or equivalent)</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree or some college</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016, those without a high school degree faced an unemployment rate **seven times higher** than the rate for those with a bachelor’s degree.

Residents with greater educational attainment are more likely to be employed; those without a high school degree faced a 2016 unemployment rate more than 7 times higher than the rate for those with a bachelor’s degree. The difference between the unemployment rate for those with an associate degree or some college and those with a bachelor’s degree was negligible in 2015. In 2016, however, the unemployment rate for those with a bachelor’s degree fell sharply, while the rate for those with an associate degree or some college unemployment rate fell only slightly.

EMPLOYMENT DATA BY GENDER AND PARENTAL STATUS FOR THE BUFFALO-NIAGARA FALLS METROPOLITAN AREA, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender and Parental Status</th>
<th>Labor Force Participation Rate</th>
<th>Employment-Population Ratio</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both sexes 20-64 years</td>
<td>77.4%</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female with one or more own children under 18 years</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men in the Buffalo area are slightly more likely to be unemployed than women, though men’s higher labor force participation rate likely contributes to this disparity. Women with minor children have a slightly higher labor force participation rate than the working-age female population as a whole, though these mothers’ unemployment rate is roughly the same as that of the overall female unemployment rate.
### EMPLOYMENT DATA BY GENDER AND JOB CATEGORY FOR THE BUFFALO-NIAGARA FALLS METROPOLITAN AREA, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent Male</th>
<th>Median earnings (dollars) for male</th>
<th>Percent Female</th>
<th>Median earnings (dollars) for female</th>
<th>Women’s earnings as a percentage of men’s earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian employed population 16 years and over</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>41,919</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>30,420</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee of private, for-profit company workers</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>39,671</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>26,855</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>38,269</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>32,500</td>
<td>84.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government workers</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>55,212</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>40,426</td>
<td>73.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State government workers</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>59,600</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>47,835</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal government workers</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td>64,221</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>55,469</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Across the board, Buffalo’s women workers are paid less than the men who occupy the same job categories. In the private sector, the earnings differential in favor of men is a striking 32%.

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**Key Terms**

*Courtesy of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**Labor force**: “This measure is the sum of the employed and the unemployed. In other words, the labor force level is the number of people who are either working or actively seeking work.”

**Unemployment rate**: “Perhaps the most widely known labor market indicator, this statistic reflects the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force.”

**Labor force participation rate**: “This measure is the number of people in the labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years old and over. In other words, it is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively seeking work.”

**Employment-population ratio**: “This measure is the number of employed as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years old and over. In other words, it is the percentage of the population that is currently working.”
Sources


9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.


15 Ibid.
