

# Long Island

The Long Island region comprises Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The region's population of 2.8 million is the second-largest among the state's regions.



## Demographics

- Long Island's population increased to 2.8 million between 1990 and 2002, a 7.4% increase compared to 6.5% population growth statewide. This rate of population growth was third-highest (behind New York City and the Hudson Valley) among the state's regions. The region comprises 14.6% percent of the state's total population.
- From 1990 to 2000, Long Island experienced a net loss of 128,248 persons in the 20-34 age cohort, a 20.5% decline. This was nearly four times as great as the 5.4% decline in that age cohort statewide. Population in the region's 16-64 age cohort increased 10,308 (1990 to 2000), a 0.6% increase—well below the 4.4% gain in that cohort statewide.

LONG ISLAND DATA BANK			
	LIS	NYS	US
<b>Population</b>			
2002 Estimate	2,803,547	-	-
% Change 1990-2002	7.4	6.5	15.9
<b>Employment</b>			
2002 Level	1,172,996	8,116,000	130,376,000
% Change 2000-2002	-0.3	-2.3	-1.1
2000 Level	1,176,939	8,308,000	131,785,000
% Change 1992-2000	14.4	11.2	20.9
<b>Unemployment</b>			
2003 1st Half (#)	60,194	584,900	8,771,571
2003 1st Half (rate)	4.1	6.3	6.0
%Pt Change 2001-2003 1st Half	1.2	1.8	1.7
2000 (rate)	3.0	4.8	4.0
%Pt Change 1990-2000	-1.1	-0.8	-1.6
<b>Labor Force Participation</b>			
2000 (rate)	64.2	61.0	63.7
%Pt Change 1990-2000	-2.8	-2.5	-1.2
<b>Per Capita Income (2002\$)</b>			
2001	42,430	36,449	30,897
% Change 1990-2001	14.3	17.3	18.3
<b>Poverty Rate</b>			
2000	5.6	14.6	12.4
%Pt Change 1990-2000	1.4	1.6	-0.7
Percent of Population Earning less than 200% of Poverty level, 2000	14.9	30.5	29.6
%Pt Change 1990-2000	2.9	2.7	-1.3
<b>Median Family Income</b>			
	<b>2000 (2002\$)</b>	<b>% Change 1990-2000</b>	
USA	54,011	9.5	
New York State	55,786	0.2	
Nassau	87,682	3.3	
Suffolk	77,825	4.4	

**Employment and Labor Force**

NAICS	Industry	Employment		2000-2002 Change		Avg. Wage 2002
		2000	2002	#	%	
	<b>Total Employment</b>	1,176,827	1,172,996	-3,831	-0.3%	\$40,388
92	Government	178,788	183,303	4,515	2.5%	\$47,294
722	Food Services and Drinking Places	60,147	63,810	3,663	6.1%	\$15,845
624	Social Assistance	19,844	22,754	2,910	14.7%	\$20,441
621	Ambulatory Health Care Services	61,246	64,106	2,859	4.7%	\$42,762
622	Hospitals	37,312	39,728	2,416	6.5%	\$42,977
611	Educational Services	24,363	26,326	1,963	8.1%	\$27,696
813	Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional Organization	13,281	14,719	1,439	10.8%	\$23,125
238	Specialty Trade Contractors	42,721	43,906	1,185	2.8%	\$45,953
515	Broadcasting (except Internet)	4,839	5,959	1,120	23.1%	\$75,768
623	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	25,310	26,269	960	3.8%	\$28,830
	Total of above industries	467,850	490,879	23,029	4.9%	\$38,482

Source: NYS DOL.

- Long Island's economy lost 3,831 jobs between 2000 and 2002. This job loss represented a 0.3% decline, making the region's performance (as measured by job growth) over the two-year period fourth-best among the state's regions. Between 1992 and 2000 employment in the region increased 14.4% (147,837)—the largest percentage gain among the state's regions.
- Job gains in Long Island over the past two years were concentrated in "soft" services industries, including: government (4,515), social assistance (2,910), ambulatory health care (2,859) and hospitals (2,416). Restaurants added 3,663 jobs. Among the ten industries with the largest job gains between 2000 and 2002, the average wage was \$38,482—below the statewide average of \$40,388.
- The region's job losses between 2000 and 2002 were concentrated in the merchant durable goods wholesale industry, which lost 4,771 jobs—an 11.2% decline.
- Reflecting the recession's impact on the manufacturing sector, four of the ten industries that experienced the greatest job losses in the region between 2000 and 2002 were in manufacturing. These included computer and electronic products, fabricated metal products, machinery, and plastics and rubber products. Combined, these four manufacturing sectors lost 7,410 jobs—or, 34.6% of all jobs lost in the region.
- Long Island's unemployment rate climbed to 4.1% during the first part of 2003—a 1.2 percentage point increase on its first-half 2001 average of 2.9%. Still, the region's unemployment rate remained low relative to many other regions, and significantly lower than the statewide first-half 2003 average of 6.3%.

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	<b>Total Employment</b>	1,176,827	1,172,996	-3,831	-0.3%	\$40,388
423	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	42,759	37,988	-4,771	-11.2%	\$55,263
334	Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	22,706	18,871	-3,835	-16.9%	\$58,071
541	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	71,241	68,302	-2,939	-4.1%	\$50,488
561	Administrative and Support Services	61,213	58,346	-2,866	-4.7%	\$28,351
454	Nonstore Retailers	9,486	8,044	-1,442	-15.2%	\$47,196
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	10,933	9,552	-1,381	-12.6%	\$42,242
333	Machinery Manufacturing	7,887	6,758	-1,130	-14.3%	\$49,007
523	Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities	6,849	5,784	-1,065	-15.5%	\$156,935
326	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	5,296	4,232	-1,064	-20.1%	\$35,595
511	Publishing Industries (except Internet)	9,369	8,417	-952	-10.2%	\$53,780
	Total of above industries	247,740	226,294	-21,446	-8.7%	\$48,270

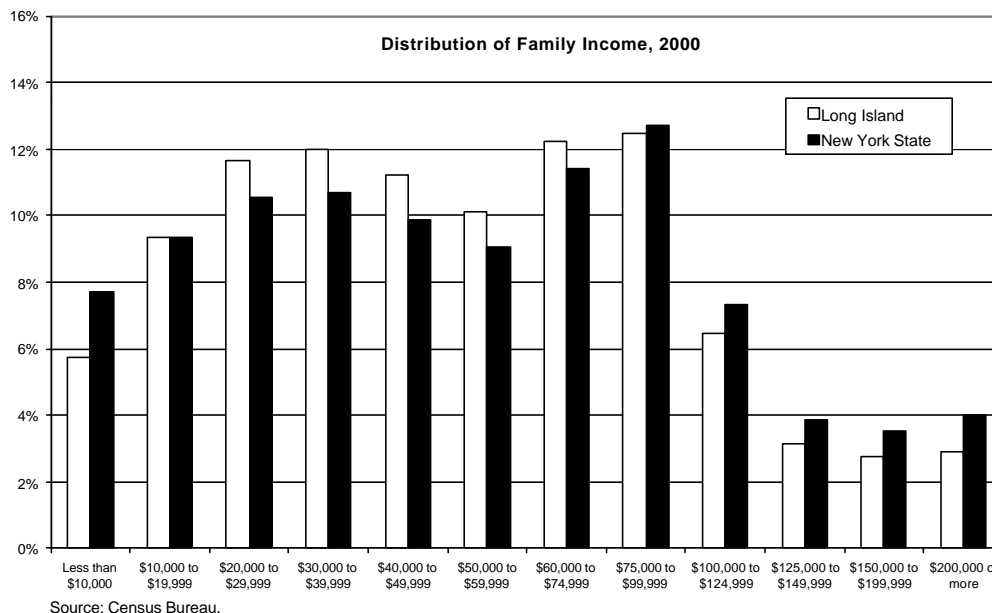
Source: NYS DOL.

**Income and Poverty**

Long Island - Change in Personal Income and Components, Selected Years (in billions of 2002 dollars)						
	Personal Income	Wages & Salaries	Proprietors Income	Dividends, Interest, Rent	Transfer Payments	Residency Adjustment
1980	69.7	28.1	4.9	13.0	6.5	14.9
1990	96.7	42.4	6.0	22.0	9.0	15.5
2000	118.2	50.9	7.2	26.0	12.8	20.0
2001	117.5	50.3	7.3	25.9	13.3	19.3
<b>1980-1990</b>						
Change	27.0	14.3	1.1	9.0	2.5	0.5
Ann Avg % Change	3.3%	4.2%	2.1%	5.4%	3.4%	0.3%
<b>1990-2000</b>						
Change	21.4	8.5	1.2	4.0	3.8	4.5
Ann Avg % Change	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	3.6%	2.6%
<b>2000-2001</b>						
Change	-0.7	-0.6	0.1	-0.1	0.5	-0.7
Ann Avg % Change	-0.6%	-1.2%	1.3%	-0.3%	3.9%	-3.4%

Source: BEA. Deflator applied by Fiscal Policy Institute.

- Per capita income in Long Island rose 14.3% to \$42,430 between 1990 and 2001. This increase was below a statewide increase of 17.3% over the same period. The region's per capita income is the highest among the state's regions.
- The poverty rate in Long Island rose to 5.6% in 2000, remaining far below the state's 14.6% rate and lowest among the state's regions.
- Both Nassau and Suffolk counties enjoy median family incomes considerably above the median family income for the state (\$55,789). Nassau's median family income of \$87,682 represents 157% of the state average and ranks as the second-highest among the state's counties. Suffolk's median family income of \$77,825 represents 139% of the state average and ranks as fifth-highest in the state.
- Fifty-one percent of all families earn more than \$75,000, compared to a statewide average of 31.4%. Only 12.2% of Long Island families earn less than \$30,000, compared to 27.6% statewide.
- From 1990 to 2000, real personal income in Long Island increased \$21.4 billion, or 2% per annum. This rate of growth was the third-fastest among the state's regions. Between 1994 and 2000 (the period roughly corresponding to the state's 1990s economic expansion), the region's 3.1% average annual growth in personal income was third-best among the regions.



**Prospects**

Long Island boasts one of the most diversified economies of any region in the state. At the same time, the region has several industrial clusters that are especially important to its economic makeup. These include: R&D, defense, and high-tech/information systems.

With over 68,000 employees, the professional/scientific/technical services sector—which includes the region’s scientific, biotechnology and pharmaceutical R&D industries—accounts for 5.8% of total employment in the region. Brookhaven National Laboratory, managed by Brookhaven Science Associates, a collaborative partnership between Battelle Memorial Institute and SUNY Stony Brook, serves as the industry’s anchor.

Long Island also has a significant collection of major defense contractors and hi-tech/information systems firms, including: Northrop Grumman, EDO Corporation, BAE Systems, and Telephonics. While Northrop plans to hire some 900 employees over the next few years, EDO recently sold its Deer Park site to a developer and has said it will move its operations out of the 726,000-square-foot plant, its largest, within two years, to a location that has yet to be determined. Early last year, BAE said it planned to add 148 jobs by 2005 at its Greenlawn Campus in the town of Huntington, while investing \$19 million in an expansion project.

Among Long Island’s most pressing problems is its lack of affordable housing, a fact increasingly evident in the out-migration of the region’s young working-age population. Long Island’s population aged 20-34 declined by 20%—four times the national rate of decline in this age cohort—in the last decade. Fully one-third of Long Island’s households—292,000 homeowners and renters—spend 30% or more of their monthly income to cover their housing costs. (The Census Bureau defines paying 30% or more of monthly income for housing as an unaffordable housing burden.) This figure rose twelve percentage points over the last decade.

If not addressed, the region’s affordable housing problem will continue to pose a major impediment to local companies’ ability to attract and retain the workforce they need to grow.

<b>Top Employers in Long Island, 2002</b>
BAE Systems
Brookhaven Science
Chase Manhattan Bank
Computer Associates Inc
County of Nassau
CSC Holdings Inc - Cablevision
Eastern Suffolk Boces
EDO Corporation
Good Samaritan Hospital
Government Employees Insurance Co
Keyspan Energy Corporation
King Kullen Grocery Co Inc
Long Island University
Macys East
Nassau Boces
Nassau Health Care Corp
Newsday Inc
North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System
Northrop Grumman
Pathmark Stores Inc
Sears Roebuck & Co
Stop & Shop
Suffolk County Dept Of Civil Service
SUNY at Stony Brook
SUNY Research Foundation
Telephonics
The Home Depot
Town of Hempstead
United Parcel Service Inc NY
US Postal for Hicksville New York
US Treasury Department
Verizon Communications
Waldbaum Inc
Winthrop University Hospital

*Source: NYS DOL ES-202 data, compiled by the New York State Data Center. Unranked.*