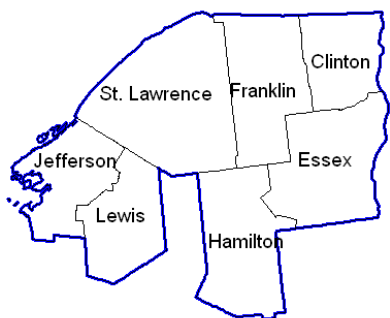


North Country

The North Country comprises seven counties in the northern portion of the state. The Adirondack Park has a distinct impact on the development of all counties in the region. None of the North Country counties belong to a metropolitan statistical area.



Demographics

- The North Country's population lost an estimated 2,384 from 1990 to 2002, or 0.6% compared to 6.5% growth statewide. The region comprises 2.2% percent of the total state population and is the smallest region in the state.
- From 1990 to 2000, the North Country experienced a net loss of 22,609 persons aged 20-34, or 19.8% of the 20-34 young adult cohort, a much higher rate of decrease than the state's already high rate of 12%. The region also experienced population growth of 1.7% in the 16-64 working-age cohort compared to 4.4% growth statewide.

NORTH COUNTRY DATA BANK			
	NOR	NYS	US
Population			
2002 Estimate	422,269	-	-
% Change 1990-2002	-0.6	6.5	15.9
Employment			
2002 Level	151,713	8,116,000	130,376,000
% Change 2000-2002	0.4	-2.3	-1.1
2000 Level	151,085	8,308,000	131,785,000
% Change 1992-2000	5.6	11.2	20.9
Unemployment			
2003 1st Half (#)	14,040	584,900	8,771,571
2003 1st Half (rate)	7.2	6.3	6.0
%Pt Change 2001-2003 1st Half	-0.3	1.8	1.7
2000 (rate)	5.7	4.8	4.0
%Pt Change 1990-2000	-0.6	-0.8	-1.6
Labor Force Participation			
2000 (rate)	57.6	61.0	63.7
%Pt Change 1990-2000	-1.2	-2.5	-1.2
Per Capita Income (2002\$)			
2001	22,233	36,449	30,897
% Change 1990-2001	13.2	17.3	18.3
Poverty Rate			
2000	14.3	14.6	12.4
%Pt Change 1990-2000	0.1	1.6	-0.7
Percent of Population Earning less than 200% of Poverty level, 2000			
	36.3	30.5	29.6
%Pt Change 1990-2000	-1.1	2.7	-1.3
Median Family Income			
	2000 (2002\$)	% Change 1990-2000	
USA	54,011	9.5	
New York State	55,786	0.2	
Clinton	49,355	10.7	
Essex	45,248	8.4	
Franklin	41,520	12.6	
Hamilton	42,819	12.1	
Jefferson	42,409	2.5	
Lewis	42,399	3.7	
St. Lawrence	41,561	2.3	

Employment and Labor Force Characteristics

NAICS	Industry	Employment		2000-2002 Change		Avg. Wage 2002
		2000	2002	#	%	
	Total Employment	151,084	151,713	629	0.4%	\$28,666
622	Hospitals	5,740	6,646	906	15.8%	\$31,832
92	Government	43,549	44,180	631	1.4%	\$35,165
541	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,537	2,954	417	16.4%	\$26,995
325	Chemical Manufacturing	2,192	2,498	306	14.0%	\$48,215
236	Construction of Buildings	1,970	2,272	302	15.3%	\$30,350
621	Ambulatory Health Care Services	4,396	4,670	274	6.2%	\$38,874
624	Social Assistance	3,256	3,525	268	8.2%	\$16,484
611	Educational Services	2,273	2,503	230	10.1%	\$30,744
238	Specialty Trade Contractors	2,854	3,073	218	7.7%	\$32,613
311	Food Manufacturing	1,267	1,480	214	16.9%	\$31,288
	Total of above industries	70,033	73,800	3,767	5.4%	\$33,840

Source: NYS DOL.

- The North Country region's stagnant employment growth, adding only 629 jobs (0.4%) between 2000 and 2002, reflects the slow state of the New York economy which suffered a 2.3% decline in total insured employment over the 3-year period. Between 1992 and 2000 the North Country experienced 5.6% total insured employment growth (almost 8,000 jobs) compared to 11.2% statewide.
- The government, hospitals, chemical manufacturing and construction sectors were among the best performers during the period between 2000 and 2002. Eight out of the 10 growing industries paid higher than the average overall annual wage in the North Country of \$28,666. The top 10 growing industries in the region paid an average wage 18% higher than the North Country average wage for all industries.
- Declining industries in the North Country were concentrated in manufacturing, with primary metal manufacturing, leather and allied product manufacturing and paper manufacturing recording the largest employment losses in the region. Six out of the 10 industries with the largest employment losses in the region had higher average wages than the North Country's 2002 average annual wage of \$28,666. Job losses in primary metal manufacturing are especially severe considering the industry paid an average wage of \$62,203, 217% higher than the average wage for the North Country.
- Unemployment rates fell 0.3 percentage points to 7.2% in 2003, compared to 1.8 percentage point increase experienced by the state overall. The labor force participation rate declined over the decade by more than one percentage point to 57.6% in 2000.

NAICS	Industry	Employment		2000-2002 Change		Avg. Wage 2002
		2000	2002	#	%	
	Total Employment	151,084	151,713	629	0.4%	\$28,666
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing	2,670	2,172	-497	-18.6%	\$ 62,203
316	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	254	24	-230	-90.5%	\$ 38,637
322	Paper Manufacturing	3,577	3,368	-209	-5.8%	\$ 47,293
334	Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	609	411	-198	-32.5%	\$ 29,267
721	Accommodation	2,980	2,785	-195	-6.6%	\$ 15,932
237	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	773	581	-192	-24.8%	\$ 42,613
212	Mining (except Oil and Gas)	564	373	-191	-33.9%	\$ 35,620
484	Truck Transportation	1,350	1,176	-175	-12.9%	\$ 27,798
452	General Merchandise Stores	3,560	3,389	-171	-4.8%	\$ 15,184
713	Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	1,662	1,493	-169	-10.2%	\$ 18,335
	Total of above industries	17,998	15,770	-2,228	-12.4%	\$ 31,785

Source: NYS DOL.

Income and Poverty

North Country - 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	5.9	3.2	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.0
1990	8.3	4.5	0.6	1.4	1.3	0.0
2000	9.5	4.9	0.7	1.6	1.9	0.0
2001	9.5	4.9	0.6	1.6	2.0	0.0
1980-1990						
Change	2.4	1.3	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.0
Ann Avg % Change	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	4.8%	2.2%	n/a
1990-2000						
Change	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.0
Ann Avg % Change	1.4%	0.8%	1.9%	1.3%	3.4%	1.5%
2000-2001						
Change	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Ann Avg % Change	-0.3%	0.4%	-16.9%	-1.4%	4.4%	67.3%

Source: BEA. Deflator applied by Fiscal Policy Institute.

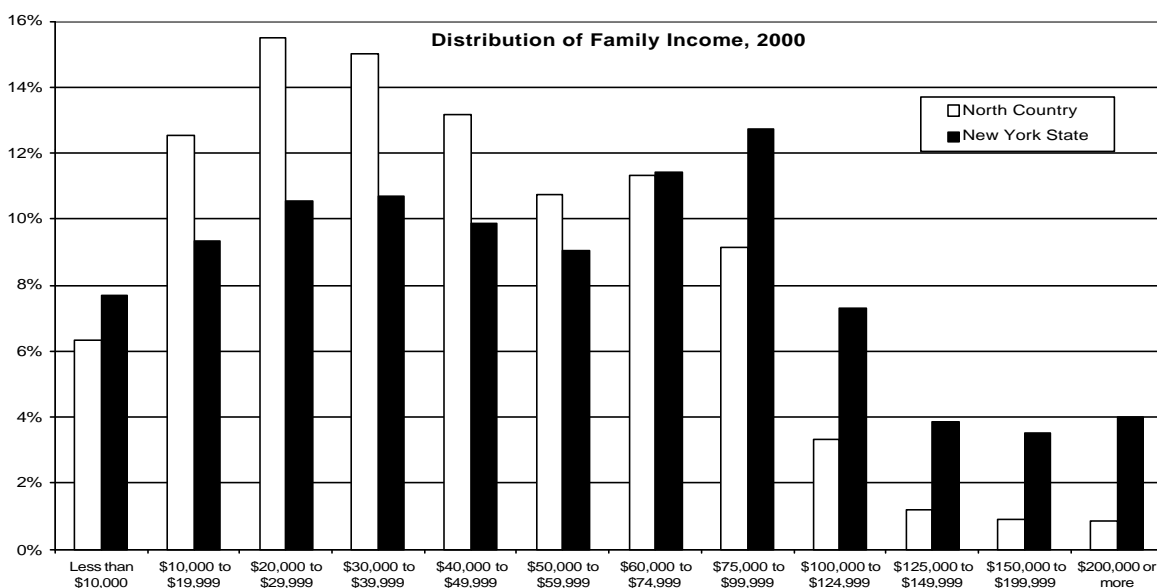
- All seven counties in the North Country have median family incomes below the median family income for the state. Clinton, Franklin and Hamilton counties all experienced growth in median family income over 10%, compared to the states' increase of 0.2% during the 1990s.

- The North Country has the highest concentration of families in the \$10,000-\$30,000 income bracket (28% compared to 20% in New

York State) and the lowest concentration of families in the \$75,000+ income bracket (15% compared to 31% in New York State).

- Per capita income in the North Country rose 13.2% to \$22,233 in the period between 1990 and 2001. The increase was well below the average New York State increase in per capita income of 17.3%.
- In the last decade, the poverty rate in the North Country grew 0.1 percentage points to 14.3%, slightly lower than New York State's 14.6% poverty rate in 2000. During the same period the share of the population earning less than 200% of the poverty level fell 1.1 percentage points to 36.3% of individuals. The region ranks 2nd (out of the 10 Labor Regions) in its share of people living below 200% of poverty.

- From 1990 to 2000, real total personal income increased \$1.2 billion, putting the North Country's personal income at \$9.5 billion, the smallest region in New York State in terms of personal income. Between 1990 and 2000, the wages and salaries component of personal income grew an average of 0.8% annually from \$4.5 billion to \$4.9 billion, yet during the 1994-2000 expansion period the region witnessed a 1.2% annual increase in wages and salaries, well below the New York State annual growth rate of 4.3% during the same time period.



Source: Census Bureau.

Prospects

Located in the Northeastern corner of New York State between the borders of Canada, Vermont and the southern border of the Adirondack Park, the North Country is strategically located to take advantage of international economic activity and tourism. The region contains the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous 48 states (the Adirondack Park), half of which is public “forever wild” forest preserve and the other half privately owned.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, the health care and social assistance sector is an engine of growth for the North Country. Due to the requirements of servicing areas with low population densities such as the North Country, the region experienced an increase in the number of small family health centers and clinics. Major hospitals in the region also have undergone capital projects to increase the scope of their services. While demand for health care services is increasing due to an aging population, North Country health care employers have noted difficulty in attracting employees due to low entry-level wages.

Due to its isolation from major metropolitan areas (there are no Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the North Country), the North Country is slightly isolated from other large-scale economic activity centers in New York State. While New York State Department of Correction’s literature cites prisons as economic engines in the North Country, a recent report by the non-profit Washington DC-based Sentencing Project challenges the generally accepted premise that rural prisons support economic growth in their host counties.

Out of 14 prison openings in rural New York from 1982 to 2001, 11 were in the North Country. The Sentencing Project study compares the experience of seven rural counties with prisons that have opened since 1982 to seven control counties that have never had a prison. King et al. conclude: “Overall, over the course of 25 years, we find no significant difference or discernible pattern of economic trends between the seven rural counties in New York that hosted a prison and the seven rural counties that did not host a prison. While prisons clearly create new jobs, these benefits do not aid the host county to any substantial degree since local residents are not necessarily in a position to be hired for these jobs.”

Counties in upstate New York that received prisons did not gain significant employment advantages or any economic advantages, as measured by per capita income, when compared to the control counties.

In response to the healthcare employee shortage, the New York State Department of Labor, the Iroquois Healthcare Association and the Consortium for Worker Education are collaborating on workforce development programs (such as the Health Care Career Opportunity) in the North Country. Programs such as these are intended to link community needs to sustainable job growth.

Top Employers in the North Country, 2002
Aluminum Co of America
Bombardier Mass Transit Corp
Carthage Central School District
Champlain Valley Physicians Health Plan
Citizen Advocates Inc
City of Watertown School District
Clarkson University
County of Clinton
County of Franklin
County of Jefferson
County of Lewis
County of St Lawrence
Hepburn Medical Center
Indian River Central School District
International Paper Co Corp
Jefferson Rehab Center Inc
Kinney Drugs Inc
Kraft Foods North America Inc
Price Chopper Operating Co Inc
Samaritan Medical Center
St Lawrence University
St Lawrence-Lewis Co BOCES
State of New York Government Agencies
SUNY at Plattsburgh
SUNY at Potsdam
The Penn Traffic Co Inc
Tops Inc
US Postal for Fort Drum
Wal-Mart Associates Inc
Wyeth-Ayerst

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