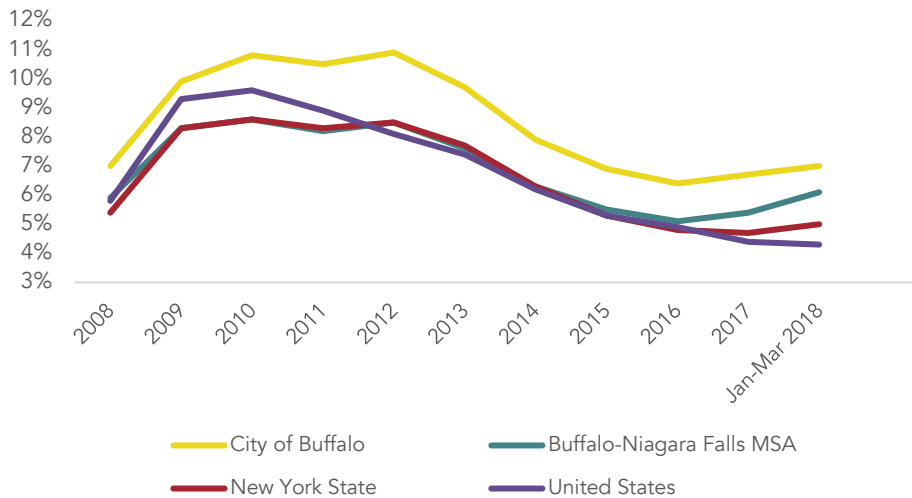# Employment Data for Buffalo-Niagara

AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CITY, REGION, STATE, AND NATION, 2008-2018

City of Buffalo · Buffalo-Niagara Falls MSA · New York State · United States

	City of Buffalo[1]	Buffalo-Niagara Falls MSA[2]	New York State[3]	United States[4]
Jan-Mar 2018	7.0%	6.1%	5.0%	4.3%
2017	6.7%	5.4%	4.7%	4.4%
2016	6.4%	5.1%	4.8%	4.9%
2015	6.9%	5.5%	5.3%	5.3%
2014	7.9%	6.3%	6.3%	6.2%
2013	9.7%	7.6%	7.7%	7.4%
2012	10.9%	8.5%	8.5%	8.1%
2011	10.5%	8.2%	8.3%	8.9%
2010	10.8%	8.6%	8.6%	9.6%
2009	9.9%	8.3%	8.3%	9.3%
2008	7.0%	5.9%	5.4%	5.8%

Unemployment in each geographic area shot upward in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, but declined in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. In 2017, unemployment rose in the city and region while falling in the state and nation.

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
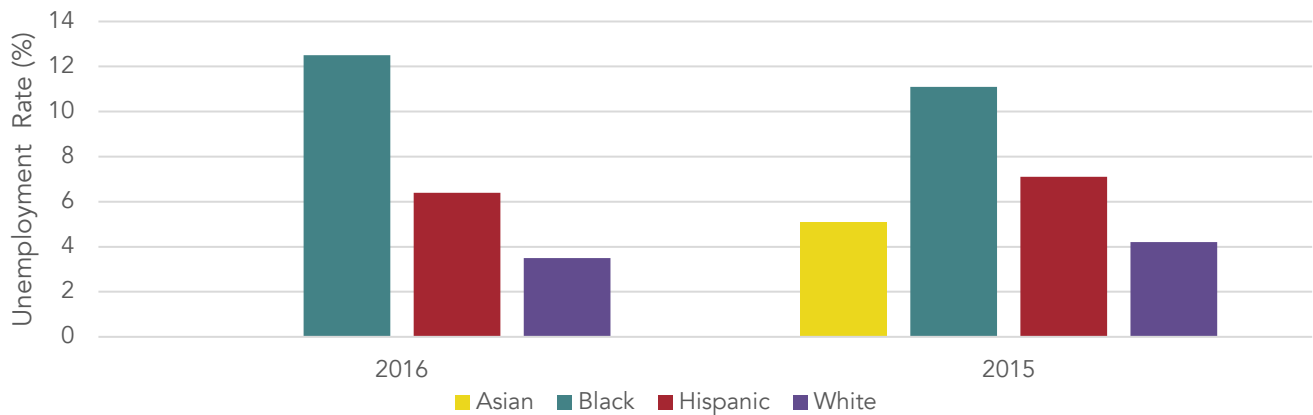- Racial Disparities in Buffalo-Niagara: Housing, Income, and Employment

Buffalo Briefs are available in the Buffalo Commons library at www.ppgbuffalo.org.

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, APRIL 2018 (PRELIMINARY DATA)

	City of Buffalo[5]	Buffalo-Niagara Falls MSA[6]	New York State[7]
In the Labor Force	108,600	545,500	9,621,100
Employed	101,800	516,500	9,201,900
Unemployed	6,800 (6.3%)	29,000 (5.3%)	419,200 (4.4%)

UNEMPLOYMENT BY RACE FOR THE BUFFALO-NIAGARA FALLS METROPOLITAN AREA

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY RACE FOR THE BUFFALO-NIAGARA FALLS METROPOLITAN AREA[8]

	2016 Labor Force Participation Rate	2016 Employment-Population Ratio	2016 Unemploy-ment Rate	2015 Labor Force Participation Rate	2015 Employment-Population Ratio	2015 Unemploy-ment Rate
Asian	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	64.5%	60.9%	5.1%
Black	51.7%	45.2%	12.5%	62.0%	54.6%	11.1%
Hispanic or Latino	53.9%	50.4%	6.4%	67%	61.7%	7.1%
White	63.2%	60.9%	3.5%	62.8%	59.1%	4.2%

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[9]

	2016 Unemployment Rate	2015 Unemployment Rate
Less than High School	12.8%	12.0%
High School (or equivalent)	4.9%	5.7%
Associate degree or some college	3.6%	3.8%
Bachelor's degree	1.8%	3.5%

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[10]

	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment-Population Ratio	Unemployment Rate
Both sexes 20-64 years	77.4%	72.8%	5.8%
Male	80.4%	74.9%	6.6%
Female	74.5%	70.8%	5.0%
Female with one or more own children under 18 years	76.7&	72.6%	5.4%

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

	Percent Male[11]	Median earnings (dollars) for male[12]	Percent Female[13]	Median earnings (dollars) for female[14]	Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings[15]
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	50.6%	41,919	49.4%	30,420	72.6%
Employee of private, for-profit company workers	52.7%	39,671	47.3%	26,855	67.7%
Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers	33.0%	38,269	67.0%	32,500	84.9%
Local government workers	42.7%	55,212	57.3%	40,426	73.2%
State government workers	47.1%	59,600	52.9%	47,835	80.3%
Federal government workers	58.3%	64,221	41.7%	55,469	86.4%

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%.

Key Terms[16]

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

1   United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Buffalo city labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. 2008-2018. Raw data. https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/la, Washington, DC.

2   United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY Metropolitan Statistical Area labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. 2008-2018. Raw data. https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/la, Washington, DC.

3   United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. New York labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. 2008-2018. Raw data. https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/la, Washington, DC.

4   United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. United States labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. 2008-2018. Raw data. https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/la, Washington, DC.

5   United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Buffalo city labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. 2008-2018. Raw data. https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/la, Washington, DC.

6   United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY Metropolitan Statistical Area labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. 2008-2018. Raw data. https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/la, Washington, DC.

7   United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. New York labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. 2008-2018. Raw data. https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/la, Washington, DC.

8   U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program. Employment Status, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates. 2016. Raw data. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S2301&prodType=table, Washington, DC.

9   Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program. Class of Worker by Sex for the Civilian Employed Population 16 years and Over, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates. 2016. Raw data. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S2408&prodType=table, Washington, DC.

12 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program. Class of Worker by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (In 2016 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the Civilian Employed Population 16 years and Over, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates. 2016. Raw data. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S2418&prodType=table, Washington, DC.

13 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program. Class of Worker by Sex for the Civilian Employed Population 16 years and Over, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates. 2016. Raw data. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S2408&prodType=table, Washington, DC.

14 U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program. Class of Worker by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (In 2016 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the Civilian Employed Population 16 years and Over, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates. 2016. Raw data. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S2418&prodType=table, Washington, DC.

15 Ibid.

16 "How the Government Measures Unemployment." United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Last modified October 8, 2015. Accessed June 14, 2018.

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD