

# ERIE COUNTY



Erie is the region's economic powerhouse, with more people, firms and jobs than the other seven counties combined. Large private employers like General Motors, Kaleida, M&T, and Moog help contribute close to half a million jobs and over 24,000 firms do business here. Many are located in Buffalo—the county's largest city—and its surrounding suburbs. Private-sector employers generally do not have to look far to fill jobs. About three-quarters of jobs are filled by workers who live in the county. An additional 10% commute from Niagara County, particularly from the cities of Niagara Falls and Lockport. Outside the region, Monroe County supplies 3% of Erie County's private-sector workers. Commutes from Monroe to Erie are facilitated by Interstate 90, which connects Buffalo and Rochester. Erie has the largest proportion of workers in the region with commute times between 30 and 45 minutes.

## BY THE NUMBERS, 2014

Population

**922,835**

Number of Firms

**24,086**

Number of Jobs

**456,767**

Number of People in the Labor Force (2015)

**449,200**

% Employment in Public Sector

**15%**

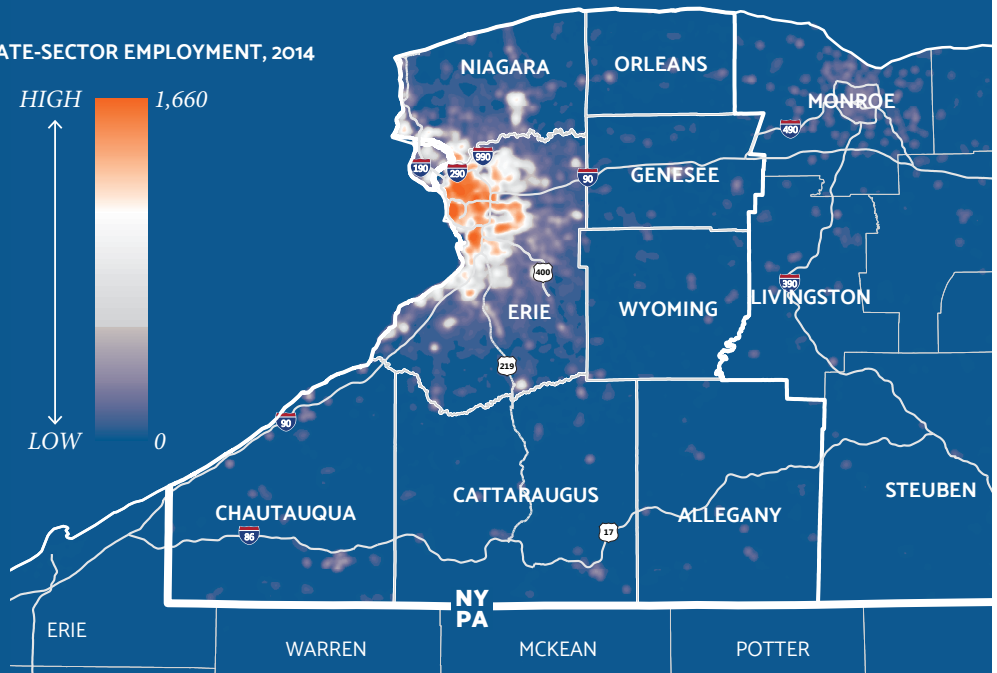
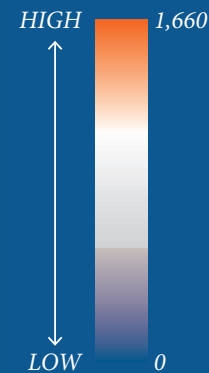
Average Private-Sector Wage

**\$43,182**

Source: See Data Sources & Notes for the various data sources.

## Concentration of private-sector workers by location of residence, 2014

PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT, 2014



TOP 5 COUNTIES IN WHICH ERIE COUNTY WORKERS RESIDE

% of Erie County workers commuting...

... from these counties

76%	Erie County
10%	Niagara County
3%	Monroe County
3%	Cattaraugus County
1%	Chautauqua County
7%	All Other Locations

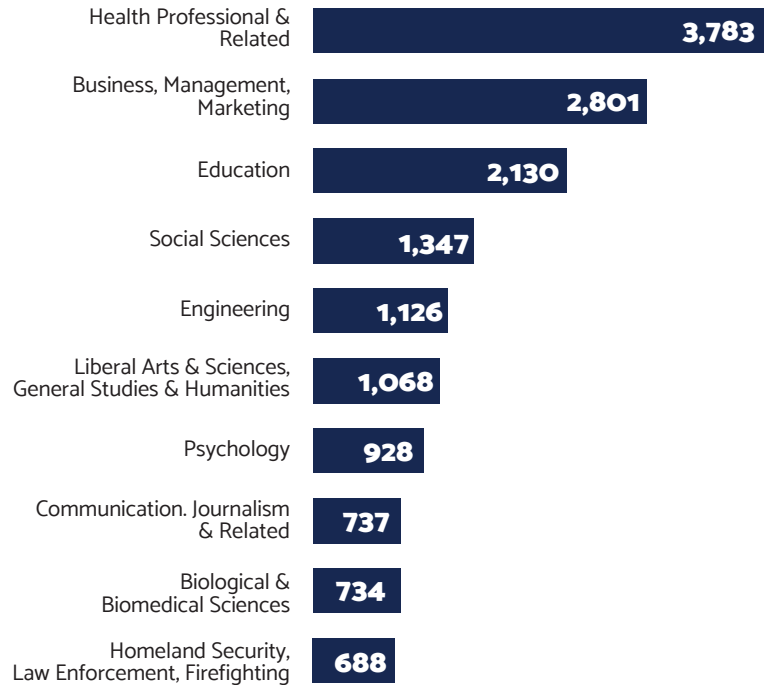
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, OnTheMap Application, 2014.

Nearly two dozen institutions of higher education are located in Erie County. This includes the University at Buffalo, New York's largest public research university. Colleges and universities in Erie County granted over 20,000 degrees and certificates in 2014. Health, business, education, social sciences and engineering are among the largest programs of study. These and other degrees support the county's large and diverse employment base and industry specializations such as Finance and Insurance, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, and Management of Companies and Enterprises.

Erie County's large base of institutions and degree programs helps to retain and attract students to the county. It also contributes to a highly educated workforce. Nearly 40% of the labor force has a bachelor's degree or higher, exceeding regional and national benchmarks.

## TOP 10 FIELDS OF STUDY

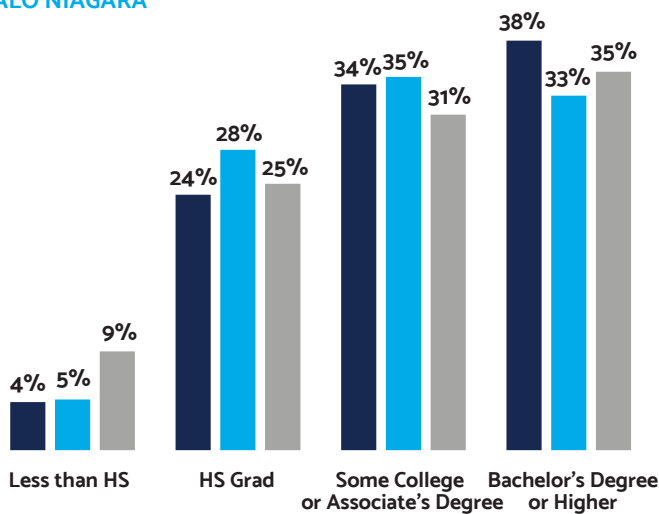
DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED AT ERIE COUNTY COLLEGES, 2014



Source: National Center for Education Statistics; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2014.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LABOR FORCE

ERIE COUNTY  
BUFFALO NIAGARA  
US



Source: American Community Survey, 1 and 5-year estimates, 2014.  
NOTE: Percentages are based on the total number of workers in the labor force, ages 25-64.

## INDUSTRY SPECIALIZATIONS FOR ERIE COUNTY

Management of Companies and Enterprises  
Finance and Insurance  
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services  
Wholesale Trade  
Educational Services

These industry specializations as a % of total employment for...



Erie County

24%



Buffalo Niagara

20%

Source: NYS DOL, QCEW, 2014. Excludes industries that comprise less than 0.5% of county's employment.