

Office of the NEW YORK STATE  
**COMPTROLLER**

## Special Report: Mohawk Valley Region Economic Profile

---



New York State Comptroller  
**THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI**

JULY 2018

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Demographics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Local Governments</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Economy and Labor Market</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Centers of Economic Activity</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Planning for the Future</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<b>25</b>

# Executive Summary

---

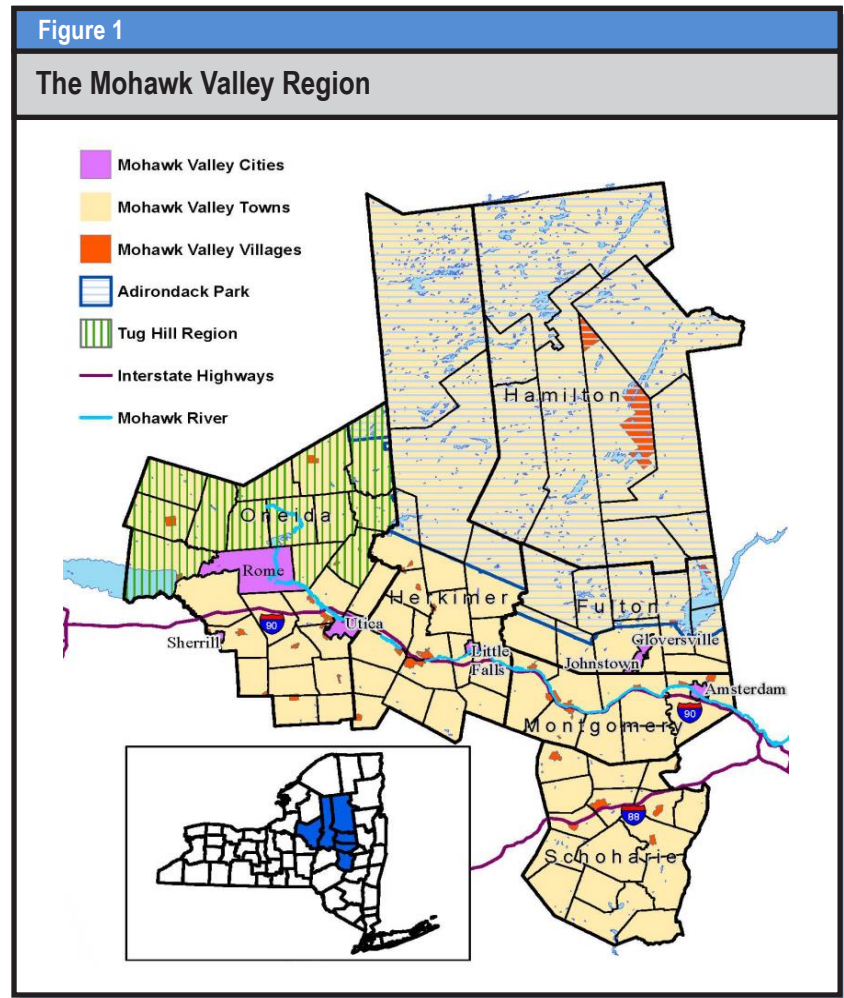
The Mohawk Valley Region, which includes Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida and Schoharie counties, is mostly rural and suburban, with seven small to medium-sized cities all located near the New York State Thruway. Just over 2 percent of New Yorkers reside in the Mohawk Valley. The dominant economic center is the Utica-Rome metropolitan area, which has been the focus of the Region's economic development strategy. Other important facts about the Mohawk Valley include:

- Major colleges, hospitals and a high-tech sector all support the City of Utica's dense and diverse population. The City of Rome, which has a smaller, less concentrated population, is home to a successful industrial park and an expanding public airport. Ongoing economic development efforts are intended to revitalize both cities' downtown districts.
- Home values are generally lower than the statewide average, providing greater access to affordable housing. The percentage of homeowners spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing is lower than in the State overall. Each county in the Region has a percentage of owner-occupied housing higher than the statewide rate, with the exception of Hamilton County.
- Unemployment and child poverty rates are higher in the Mohawk Valley than for the State as a whole, while household income is below the State median. Many of the area's small cities and rural communities face similar demographic challenges, including aging populations and high child poverty rates.
- While the Region has lost industries and employers over the past couple of decades, there has recently been a modest increase in new manufacturing jobs producing food as well as electrical equipment and appliances.
- Many of the Mohawk Valley's economic development projects concentrate on boosting industries by assisting with business expansion and housing restoration. However, regional leaders are focusing on modernizing local infrastructure – including upgrading water systems and wastewater treatment facilities – and combating the effects of climate change and natural disasters, such as flooding and droughts.
- The Erie Canal, which in the 19th century was a major route of commerce and is still a recreational center, runs through the Region. To the north, the Adirondack Park reaches into the Mohawk Valley to include all of Hamilton County and part of Fulton, Herkimer and Oneida.

# Geography

The Mohawk Valley Region covers 5,862 square miles and includes the counties of Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida and Schoharie. It is the only region in New York that does not border another state or Canada.<sup>1</sup> (See Figure 1.)

The Region was important to the early history of New York and the United States as a natural passageway from the Atlantic Ocean into the interior of the continent by way of the Mohawk River, which flows from west to east, through Oneida, Herkimer and Montgomery counties, and then continues into the Hudson River. The Erie Canal and railways also passed through the Mohawk Valley corridor, spurring early industrial development in the Region.<sup>2</sup>



Beyond the Mohawk River, the Region has remained mostly rural. The northern portions are primarily located in the Adirondack Park, the largest protected natural area in the lower 48 states.<sup>3</sup> The Park has several forested areas located in Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer and Oneida counties, including the West Canada Lake Wilderness, the Black River Wild Forest and the Silver Lake Wilderness. There are also many small lakes, creeks and reservoirs, with the largest body of water being the Great Sacandaga Lake in Fulton County. To the west of the Adirondack Park, the upper part of Oneida County is located in the Tug Hill region – a 2,162 square mile area with a concentration of woodlands and marshes.

## Transportation

As part of the New York State Thruway, Interstate 90 runs through the middle of the Mohawk Valley. Since its route generally parallels the Mohawk River, it links all of the Region's cities, making them easily accessible to commercial truck shipping, commuters and travelers. Interstate 90 is the longest Interstate highway in the United States at over 3,000 miles, running from the states of Massachusetts (east terminus) to Washington (west terminus). U.S. Route 20 also runs through the Mohawk Valley and roughly parallels Interstate 90. Following the same corridor, the Erie Canal is still used for cargoes that are too large or heavy for other transportation modes. Another important road in the Region is Interstate 88, a 118-mile highway that connects the Capital District and Southern Tier regions, running through Schoharie County.

### Popular Rivers and Lakes in the Mohawk Valley Region

In addition to the Mohawk River and the Erie Canal, the Mohawk Valley offers many other scenic waterfront and waterway attractions year-round for visitors and outdoor enthusiasts, including:

- **Beaver River and Black River** – Both rivers flow through multiple counties in and out of the Region and are home to a variety of wildlife and a diverse population of birds. The Beaver River Canoe Route is a popular tourist attraction, and the Black River holds an annual RiverFest in August along its 1,916 square miles of watershed.
- **Blue Mountain Lake** – This 1,280 acre lake offers nearby trails and peaks, and is home to the Adirondack Experience, formerly known as the Adirondack Museum. (See Page 16.)
- **Great Sacandaga Lake** – This 29-mile long reservoir is located partially in the northeastern corner of Fulton County, in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. The lake and its immediate surroundings offer a variety of sporting activities throughout the year, including boating, camping, fishing, golfing, hiking, skiing and snowmobiling.
- **Raquette Lake** – Located in Hamilton County, the lake is part of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and is home to the Raquette Lake Camps, a century-old organization that offers boys and girls summer camping and outdoor activities.
- **Other popular lakes:** Big Moose Lake (Hamilton and Herkimer counties), Caroga Lake (Fulton County), the Fulton Chain of Lakes (Hamilton and Herkimer counties), Lake Pleasant (Hamilton County), Peck Lake (Fulton County) and Piseco Lake (Hamilton County).

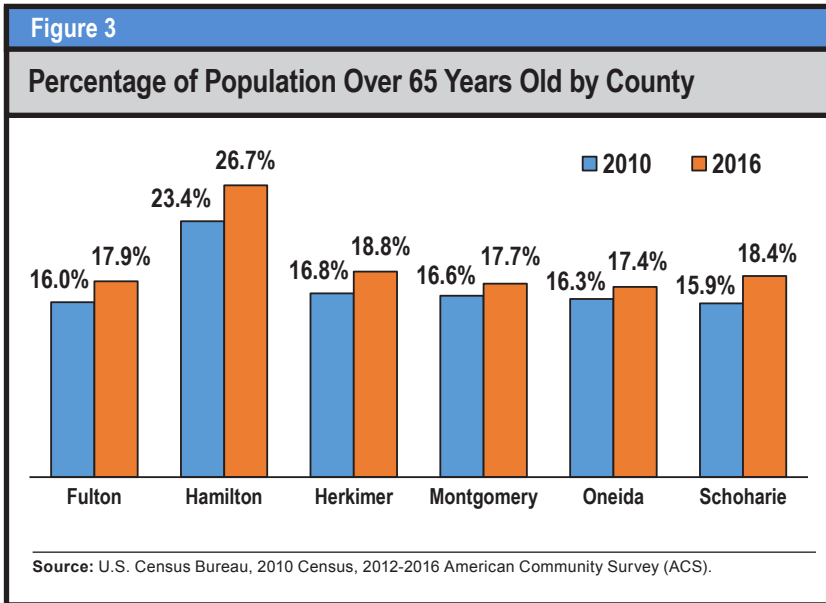
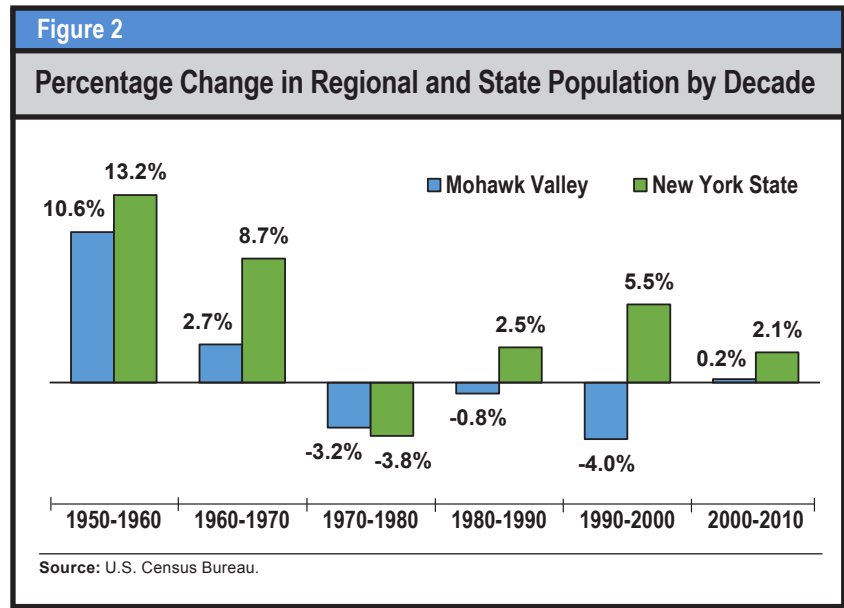
# Demographics

## Population

With 432,612 residents, the Mohawk Valley is home to just over 2 percent of New York State's population. Oneida County (231,332) makes up over half of the Region's population, with many people living in the cities of Rome (32,473) and Utica (60,635). Hamilton County, located entirely within the Adirondack Park, has the smallest population of any county in the State, with 4,485 residents.<sup>4</sup> This very sparsely populated County, with its highly seasonal economy, is often an outlier when compared to regional and statewide measures.

From 1970 to 2000, the State's population increased by 4 percent. However, the Region's population declined 7.7 percent over the 30-year period, from a high of 478,654 residents. (See Figure 2). Most of this decrease was due to significant declines in the cities of Rome (30 percent) and Utica (34 percent). From 2000 to 2010, the area's total population grew slightly, but, since 2010, Census estimates show further declines in each county. (See Figure 5.) The population in every Mohawk Valley city and in a majority of towns and villages also shrank over this period.

Each of the Region's counties has a median age above that of the State's (38.2), ranging from 41.2 years old in Oneida, to 53.5 years old in Hamilton (highest in the State). As has been the case throughout the State, the percentage of the population that is over 65 years old has grown in all counties since 2010. (See Figure 3.)



## Other Demographic Factors

The Mohawk Valley counties each have median household incomes below the State's median (\$60,741). Montgomery County has the lowest median income (\$44,455), while Hamilton County has the highest (\$52,708). (See Figure 4.)

Three counties – Fulton, Montgomery and Oneida – have higher child poverty rates than the statewide rate (22 percent); the highest is in Montgomery, where 33 percent of children are living in poverty. (See Figure 5 for a list of demographic indicators.)

The Region's high school graduation rate of 88 percent is slightly better than that of the State as a whole (86 percent). However, the percentage of people with bachelor's degrees or other advanced degrees is lower than the statewide rate (35 percent), especially in Fulton (17 percent) and Montgomery (16 percent) counties. Only 14 percent of residents in the cities of Gloversville (Fulton County) and Amsterdam (Montgomery County) have such degrees.

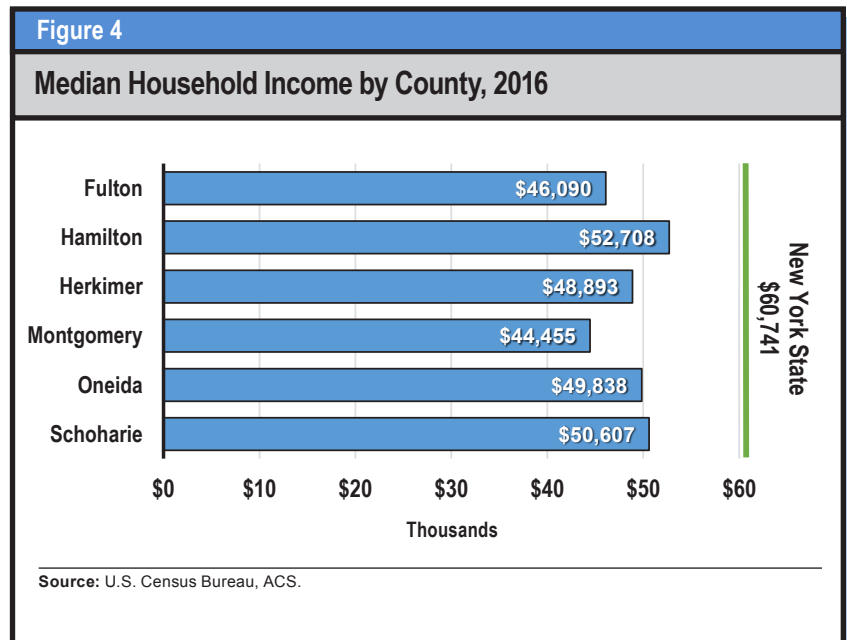


Figure 5

## Demographic Indicators, Mohawk Valley Region Counties

	New York State	Oneida	Herkimer	Fulton	Montgomery	Schoharie	Hamilton	
Population*	19,849,399	231,332	62,240	53,877	49,258	31,420	4,485	
Percentage change in population	2000-2010**	2.1%	-0.3%	0.1%	0.8%	1.0%	3.7%	-10.1%
	2010-2017*	2.3%	-1.5%	-3.4%	-2.9%	-2.1%	-3.9%	-7.6%
Persons per square mile*	421	191	44	109	122	51	3	
Median age	38.2	41.2	43.3	43.0	41.3	43.6	53.5	
White persons	64.3%	86.0%	96.1%	94.9%	88.2%	95.8%	96.5%	
Black persons	15.6%	6.1%	1.1%	1.6%	2.1%	1.5%	0.6%	
Asian persons	8.1%	3.8%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.1%	
Persons reporting two or more races	2.9%	2.5%	1.5%	1.6%	2.6%	1.4%	2.4%	
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin	18.6%	5.2%	2.0%	2.7%	12.6%	3.0%	1.4%	
White persons not Hispanic	56.4%	83.0%	95.0%	93.3%	83.3%	93.5%	95.4%	
Foreign-born persons	22.6%	7.6%	2.9%	1.9%	3.4%	2.9%	2.7%	
Languages other than English spoken at home	30.4%	11.8%	5.3%	3.2%	14.6%	4.1%	5.2%	
Median household income	\$60,741	\$49,838	\$48,893	\$46,090	\$44,455	\$50,607	\$52,708	
High school graduation rate	85.9%	88.1%	90.2%	86.7%	84.5%	88.5%	86.3%	
Bachelor's degree or higher	34.7%	23.8%	21.5%	17.0%	16.0%	20.5%	21.6%	
Owner-occupied housing units	47.5%	57.8%	54.1%	55.2%	56.2%	53.9%	12.0%	
Housing units in multi-unit structures	50.8%	30.4%	19.7%	20.8%	32.3%	15.3%	1.5%	
Persons per household, average	2.63	2.44	2.43	2.36	2.49	2.44	3.70	
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$286,300	\$117,600	\$97,300	\$108,300	\$99,100	\$143,700	\$165,500	
Vacancy rate of housing units	11.3%	13.2%	23.1%	21.6%	15.8%	28.2%	85.9%	
Owner costs exceeding 30% of income	36.8%	25.5%	22.9%	29.3%	26.7%	34.2%	28.2%	
Renter costs exceeding 30% of income	53.6%	49.9%	40.8%	55.1%	52.7%	47.5%	39.5%	
Child poverty rate	21.9%	26.8%	20.7%	23.6%	32.8%	20.1%	12.2%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, except as indicated.

\* 2017 Population Estimates

\*\* 2000 and 2010 Census



# Local Governments

## Entities

The Mohawk Valley has 7 cities, 90 towns, 46 villages and 49 school districts, as well as 44 fire districts and nearly 480 special districts. (See Figure 6.)

Twenty-seven of the Region's towns are located entirely, or in part, in the Adirondack Park and thirteen are in the Tug Hill region. Local governments in the Park must adhere to specific governing programs, and local land use controls are reviewed and approved by the Adirondack Park Agency.<sup>5</sup> Those in the Tug Hill region may be eligible to receive economic development, environmental conservation and governing assistance from the State's Tug Hill Commission.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 6

### Local Governments and Districts in the Mohawk Valley Region

#### General Purpose Local Governments (Municipalities)

Counties	6
Cities	7
Towns	90
Villages	46

#### Special Purpose Local Governments

School Districts	49
Fire Districts	44

#### Districts

Town Special Districts	463
County Special Districts	5
Independent Special Districts	2
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	6

Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller (OSC), January 2018. For notes and definitions, see [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/datanstat/entitytable.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/datanstat/entitytable.htm).



## Shared Services and Consolidation

---

With their small and relatively low-income populations, some Mohawk Valley communities may struggle to provide certain government services. Sharing services is one way for local governments to reduce costs, improve service delivery or maintain services that might otherwise be cut.<sup>7</sup> The Tug Hill Commission encourages local officials to address many of the emerging challenges they face through consolidation and shared service measures.<sup>8</sup> The State also offers a number of incentives to local governments statewide to improve municipal efficiency through, among other things, shared services and cooperative agreements.<sup>9</sup>

Fulton County has been particularly active in the past few years, having created a countywide fuel depot and a consolidated dispatch center, and sharing tax collection and garbage services with other municipalities within its borders.<sup>10</sup>

Examples of potential future sharing can be found in the 2017 Shared Services Plans of Montgomery and Oneida counties. Montgomery County's plan calls for, among other things, the dissolution of the Village of Canajoharie, a multi-jurisdictional town and village court consolidation, the consolidation of the County's public health and mental health departments, and local law enforcement consolidation. Oneida County's plan seeks to implement, among other things, a countywide public works equipment sharing agreement, a countywide shared purchasing agreement, town court consolidation, and code enforcement sharing.<sup>11</sup> Both counties applied for State matching funds in 2018, which are made available for shared service initiatives that generate property tax savings and enable collaboration among local governments.<sup>12</sup>

Since 2014, residents have chosen to dissolve the villages of Barneveld, Bridgewater and Prospect (all located in Oneida County).



## Fiscal Stress

The Comptroller’s Fiscal Stress Monitoring System examines financial data for local governments and school districts in order to identify fiscal stress, which is defined as difficulty in maintaining budgetary solvency. The three levels of fiscal stress are (highest to lowest): Significant, Moderate and Susceptible.

Of the 197 entities in the Mohawk Valley examined for fiscal year ending 2016 (municipalities) and 2017 (school districts), the Town of German Flatts, New Hartford Central School District and Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District were designated as being “susceptible to” fiscal stress. (See Figure 7.)

The System also examines environmental factors that influence local revenue-raising capabilities to help identify the external challenges that communities may be facing. These indicators include population trends, poverty, tax base and unemployment. Twenty-five entities – two counties, two cities, twelve towns, eight villages and one school district – showed elevated signs of environmental stress.

Figure 7			
Fiscal Stress in the Mohawk Valley Region			
Class	Local Government/ School District Name	County	Designation
School District	New Hartford	Oneida	Susceptible
School District	Oppenheim-Ephratah- St. Johnsville	Montgomery	Susceptible
Town	German Flatts	Herkimer	Susceptible

**Source:** OSC; The fiscal stress scores cited are for fiscal year ending 2016 for municipalities and fiscal year 2016-17 for school districts. For more on the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System and the latest scores for local governments, please see [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm).

For more on the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System and the latest scores for local governments, please see [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm).

## Taxes

Homeowners' median property tax bills are relatively low for New York State, ranging from \$2,111 in Hamilton County to \$5,308 in Schoharie County, compared with a statewide median of just over \$8,000.

Sales taxes are more in line with the rest of the State: four of the Region's six counties have sales tax rates of 8 percent, which is common in most counties. However, sales tax rates in Herkimer (8.25 percent) and Oneida (8.75 percent) counties more closely resemble the rates in many downstate counties. (See Figure 8.)

**Figure 8**

**Sales Tax Rates and Effective Property Tax Rates and Median Bills, 2017**

County	Sales Tax Rate	Effective Property Tax	
		Rate per \$1,000 Full Value	Median Bill
Fulton	8.00%	\$30.96	\$3,352
Hamilton	8.00%	\$12.76	\$2,111
Herkimer	8.25%	\$26.08	\$2,538
Montgomery	8.00%	\$39.93	\$3,957
Oneida	8.75%	\$35.35	\$4,157
Schoharie	8.00%	\$36.94	\$5,308
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>8.45%</b>	<b>\$27.98</b>	<b>\$8,012</b>

**Source:** OSC; New York State Department of Taxation and Finance; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS; The Sales Tax Clearinghouse.

**Notes:** County sales tax rates are a combination of the State's 4 percent rate and the local rate imposed by each county. Statewide sales tax rate is the weighted average of all counties and cities, including New York City.

The Oneida Nation of New York is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian Nation that owns 13,000 acres of land, some of which is located in Oneida County, including the Turning Stone Resort Casino. The Nation imposes and collects its own excise, fuel, sales, use and occupancy taxes, and does not pay any taxes to the State or its local governments on this land. However, it does make quarterly payments to New York State on a percentage of the proceeds from its casino gaming devices at the Turning Stone Resort Casino pursuant to an agreement, from which the State then makes annual payments to Oneida County.<sup>13</sup>

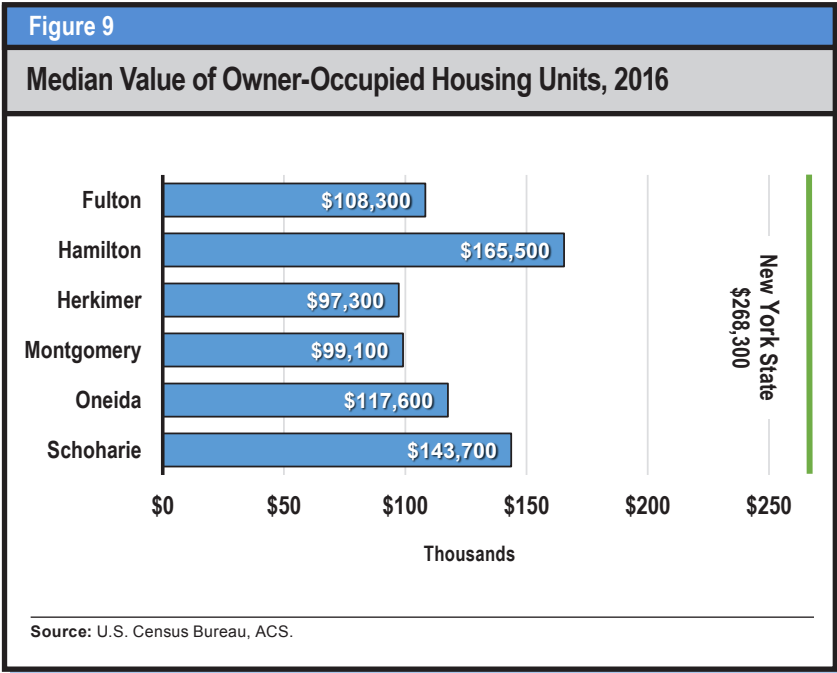


# Economy and Labor Market

## Housing Conditions

Home values in the Mohawk Valley are quite low relative to the rest of the State. Herkimer and Montgomery counties' home values are only about one-third of the State median. Even the two counties with the highest median home values – Hamilton County, with its large number of vacation homes, and Schoharie County, which has large farm lands and borders on the Albany-Schenectady-Troy metropolitan area – are very inexpensive compared with the State median. (See Figure 9.)

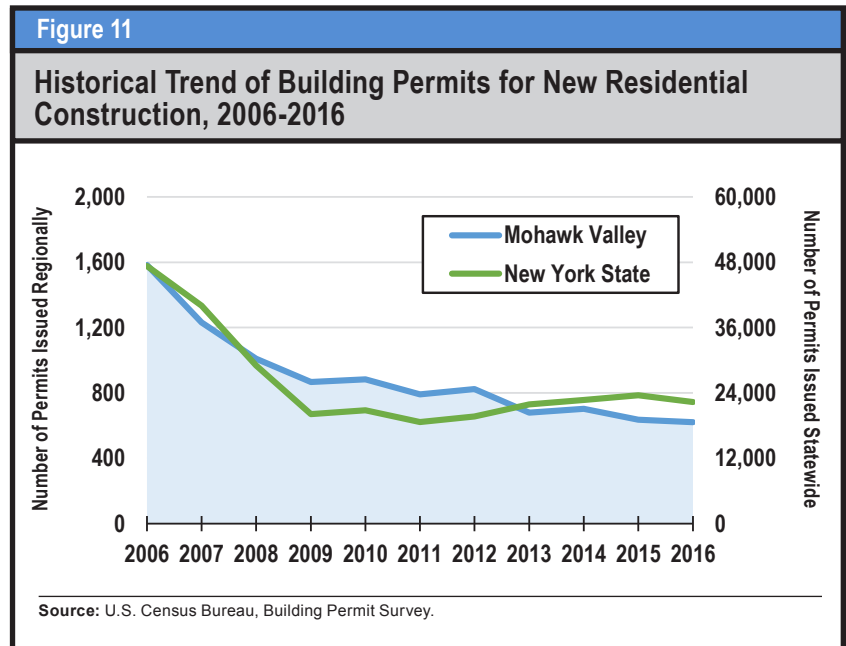
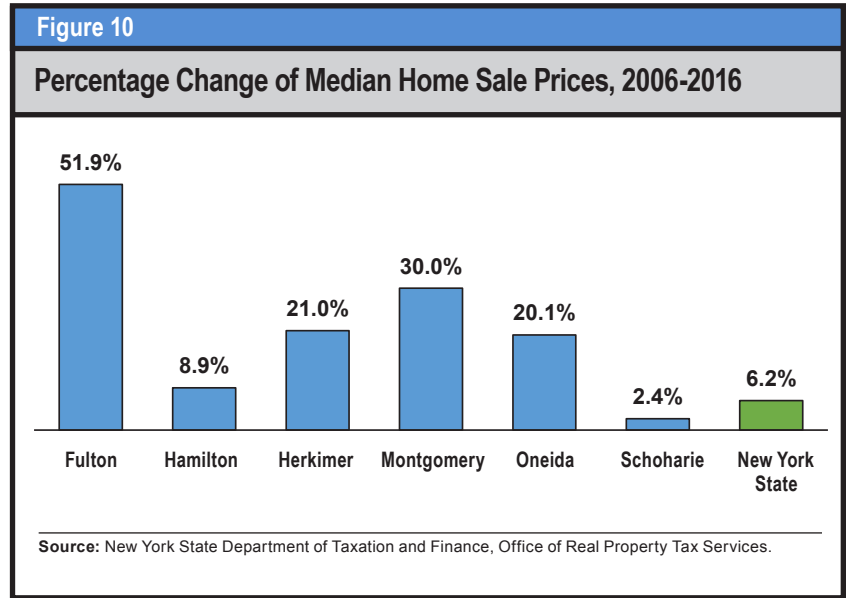
One reason for this may be that many of the Region's communities have a surplus of housing stock, reflected in vacancy rates that are higher than the statewide rate. While Hamilton County's 86 percent vacancy rate is most likely reflective of its high number of seasonal vacation homes, many of the Mohawk Valley's smaller cities have high rates that are likely tied to their long-term population losses. Amsterdam and Little Falls, for example, both have vacancy rates of around 20 percent, while the statewide rate is just over 11 percent.<sup>14</sup> (See Appendix A.)



Low home values are generally indicative of affordable housing for residents of the Region: the percentage of homeowners spending more than 30 percent on housing is lower than in the State overall. Each county also has a higher percentage of housing that is owner-occupied (rather than rented or vacant) when compared to the statewide share, with the exception of Hamilton County. (See Figure 5.)

Regional home prices have been on the rise recently, with all counties seeing some increases between 2006 and 2016. Most of the lowest-cost areas had the largest growth. The biggest increase was nearly 52 percent in Fulton County, but Montgomery, Herkimer and Oneida counties all had increases of more than 20 percent. (See Figure 10.)

Over the same period, the statewide number of building permits issued for new residential construction has started to climb after a steep drop over the course of the recession. However, the number of permits issued in the Mohawk Valley has continued to decline in recent years. (See Figure 11.)



## Unemployment

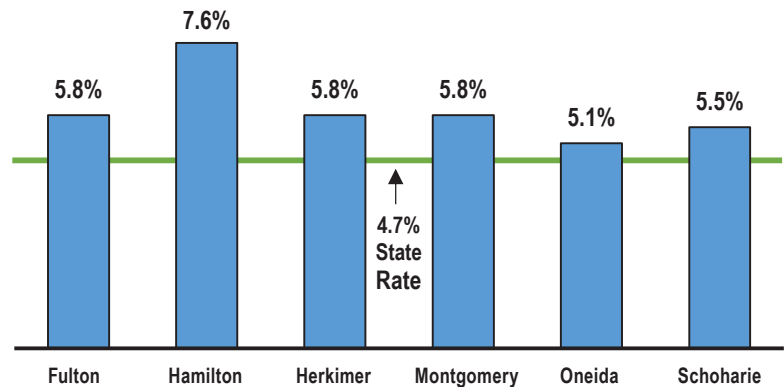
The Mohawk Valley's annual unemployment rate for 2017 was 5.4 percent, compared to the statewide rate of 4.7 percent. Among the counties, Hamilton had the highest unemployment rate (7.6 percent) and Oneida had the lowest (5.1 percent).<sup>15</sup> (See Figure 12)

For most of the 1990s and early 2000s, the Mohawk Valley's annual unemployment rates were lower than the State's. However, since 2011, unemployment in the Region has been higher compared with the State. (See Figure 13.)

For May 2018, the unemployment rate for Mohawk Valley was 4.5 percent, compared to 3.7 percent for the State overall.

Figure 12

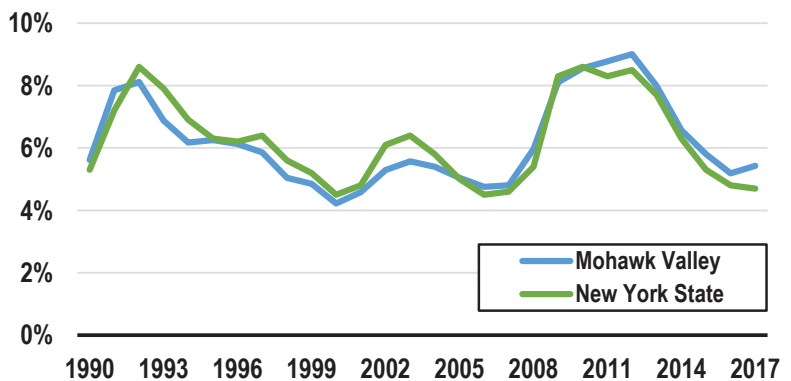
### Unemployment Rate by County, 2017



Source: New York State Department of Labor.

Figure 13

### Unemployment Trend in the Mohawk Valley, 1990-2017



Source: New York State Department of Labor.

## Major Industries

---

In 2017, total employment was 168,996 in the Mohawk Valley, with an average annual wage of \$40,862. This was down 3.6 percent from 175,284 jobs in 2007 (before the start of the most recent economic recession).<sup>16</sup> The following discussion is based on data from the New York State Department of Labor (DOL) and official statements from counties and other local governments in the Region.<sup>17</sup>

The largest sector in the Mohawk Valley is government (federal, State and local), with 39,209 workers, or 23 percent of total employment. This includes, but is not limited to, public school teachers, public administrators, firefighters and police, as well as those employed at the Region's four State correctional facilities (three in Oneida County and one in Fulton County).<sup>18</sup> Since 2010, government employment in the Region decreased by a total of 8.9 percent.

The second largest sector is health care and social assistance, employing 33,144 workers, an increase of 7.0 percent since 2010. Some of the major employers in this industry include the Mohawk Valley Health System (Oneida County), St. Mary's Hospital (Montgomery County), Rome Memorial Hospital (Oneida County), Nathan Littauer Hospital (Fulton County), Little Falls Hospital (Herkimer County) and Bassett Hospital (Schoharie County). In the City of Utica, a project aiming to replace St. Elizabeth and St. Luke's hospitals – both part of the Mohawk Valley Health System – with a new downtown hospital is currently in the early stages of development. The project was awarded a \$300 million State grant in 2017 and has a target completion date of 2022.<sup>19</sup>

The fields of public education and private sector educational services account for 22,600 jobs in the Mohawk Valley.<sup>20</sup> (Public education employment is included in the government sector in Figure 14.)<sup>21</sup> The Region's two comprehensive SUNY colleges – Cobleskill and Polytechnic Institute – employ 1,007 full-time or part-time teachers and staff.<sup>22</sup> There are also three SUNY community colleges that enroll 6,210 full-time (and 5,331 part-time) students: Herkimer County Community College, Fulton-Montgomery Community College in Fulton County, and Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) in Oneida County.<sup>23</sup> Two private colleges – Hamilton College and Utica College – have a combined teacher/staff workforce of 1,224.<sup>24</sup> At the elementary and secondary level, public school districts are major employers in some counties. The Utica City School District in Oneida County has 1,232 employees, the Gloversville City School District in Fulton County employs 670, and the Middleburgh Central School District and the Schoharie Central School District (the two largest school districts in Schoharie County) have a total of 363 teachers and staff.

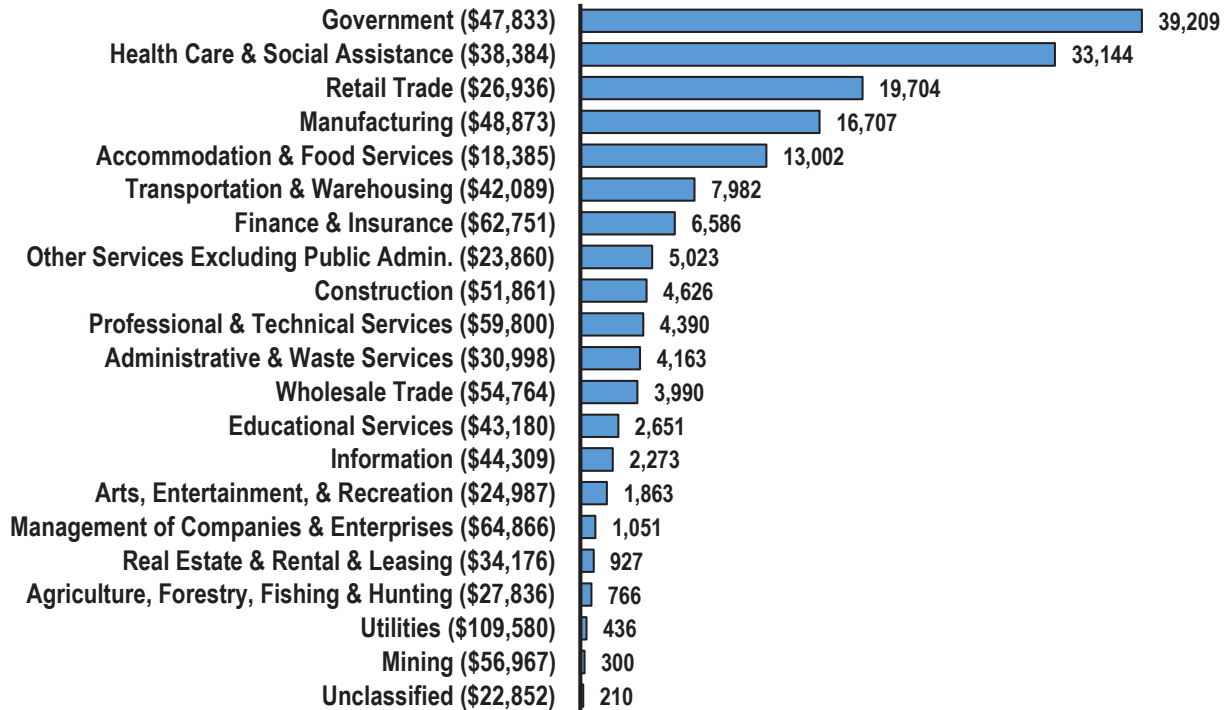
Manufacturing sector jobs in the Region declined significantly (39 percent) from 2000 to 2010. However, employment increased by 1.9 percent from 2010 to 2017, thanks to job growth in certain manufacturing subsectors (including food and electrical equipment and appliances), which have helped to offset job losses in some of the Region's traditional subsectors, such as leather, paper and textiles.

The manufacturing sector is still an important source of employment for many communities throughout the Mohawk Valley, accounting for 16,707 jobs in 2017. Remington Arms in Herkimer County employs approximately 900 workers, making it the largest manufacturer in the Region.<sup>25</sup> The second largest is Kasson Keller Keymark in Montgomery County, which manufactures aluminum extrusions for windows and doors, followed by ConMed Corporation Medical Equipment and



Figure 14

**Industry Sectors in the Mohawk Valley Region by Number of Employees (168,996) and Average Wages (\$40,862), 2017**



Source: New York State Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2017; with calculations by OSC.

Indium Corporation, both located in Oneida County.<sup>26</sup> In the area of food manufacturing, two major players are the Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation, which makes baby food and cereal in the Florida Business Park (Montgomery County), and Fage USA, which has a yogurt manufacturing plant in the Johnstown Business Park (Fulton County).<sup>27</sup>

While the transportation and warehousing sector only makes up 4.7 percent of the Region’s overall employment, it grew significantly (44 percent) from 2000 to 2010, adding over 2,250 jobs. From 2010 to 2017, employment increased by another 7.6 percent. Nearly half of the sector’s jobs are based in Oneida County. However, most of the growth has happened in Fulton and Montgomery counties. Large employers include a Target Distribution Center in the Florida Business Park and Walmart’s Northeast Regional Food Distribution Center in the Johnstown Industrial Park.<sup>28</sup> There is also a Walmart Distribution Center in the Town of Sharon Springs (Schoharie County).

The Mohawk Valley’s retail trade sector and accommodation and food services sector combined employ 32,706 workers, which increased 4.6 percent since 2010. These industries benefit from tourism related to both indoor and outdoor recreation.

## Tourism and Creative Economy

---

The Mohawk Valley has a number of attractions, parks and museums that expand on the natural landscape and heritage of the Region:

- The Adirondack Experience is a wide-ranging indoor and outdoor museum located in Blue Mountain Lake (hamlet) in Hamilton County. The Museum includes a natural exhibition space for recreational activities, summer workshops and special events, such as the Made in the Adirondack North Country Fair.<sup>29</sup>
- The Adirondack Scenic Railroad offers train rides to the public along the historic State-owned tracks, connecting the Mohawk Valley and the North Country regions by way of the Adirondack Park. The line's southern terminus is the Union Station in Utica, which originally opened in 1914 as part of the New York Central Railroad.<sup>30</sup>
- Located in Roscoe Conkling Park, the city-owned Utica Zoo has attracted visitors for over 100 years with a wide variety of exhibits.<sup>31</sup>
- Fort Stanwix National Monument is located in the City of Rome and was originally constructed during the American Revolutionary War to guard the Oneida Carry, an important 18th century trade route along the Mohawk River.<sup>32</sup>
- Howe Caverns in Schoharie County is the largest cave open to the public in the northeast and a popular attraction for spelunkers. More than 100,000 people visit the cave annually, which offers tours and other outdoor activities such as zip lining, rock climbing and a ropes course.<sup>33</sup>
- The Herkimer Diamond Mines first opened to the public in 1955, allowing its visitors to dig for diamond-like quartz crystals from its three mines. The destination also has an onsite resort that offers camping, dining and shopping. The resort is currently under significant redevelopment with new enhancements, due to a fire in October 2017.<sup>34</sup>

The Region has some artistic centers as well. Founded in 1919, the Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute in Utica is a renowned fine arts and cultural center, featuring American and European contemporary and historical collections. The Institute's Fountain Elms is a Victorian-era Italianate home and its museum – designed by world famous architect Philip Johnson – is a historical landmark.<sup>35</sup> The Glove Performing Arts Center in the heart of downtown Gloversville has been around for over 100 years, offering entertainment seekers a wide variety of live performances and full-scale musicals, along with a museum tour featuring memorabilia from the theatre dating as far back as the 1930s.<sup>36</sup>

Finally, the Mohawk Valley has several casinos and racetracks. The largest is the Turning Stone Resort Casino, a 3,400 acre Class III gaming facility located in the Town of Verona. Owned and operated by the Oneida Nation of New York, it is the largest employer (over 4,500 workers) in Oneida County and also offers non-gambling attractions such as restaurants, night life spots, spas, shops and golf courses.<sup>37</sup> Located less than seven miles away is the State-licensed Vernon Downs Casino Hotel, a privately owned entertainment facility that offers horse racing and video gaming, among other things.

# Centers of Economic Activity

## Utica-Rome Metropolitan Area

The Utica-Rome metropolitan area includes all of Herkimer and Oneida counties and nearly 68 percent of the population of the Mohawk Valley Region. According to a national association, it has one of the most affordable housing markets in the nation.<sup>38</sup>

The near-adjacent cities of Rome and Utica – just off of the Thruway and less than an hour east of Syracuse – are home to several colleges and cutting-edge industries and are the focus of many economic development projects in the Region. The State recently awarded Rome \$10 million for downtown revitalization projects, along with a combined total of \$3 million in funding for community restoration projects in Utica and Rome.<sup>39</sup>

The City of Utica is anchored by two major hospitals, two colleges – Utica College and the MVCC – and a downtown district that is home to a minor league professional hockey team and a recently renovated multi-purpose arena. The City also draws 20,000 participants in the annual Boilermaker Road Race. Local officials have plans to make the city center a sports and entertainment destination, and they are working toward retaining Utica’s young and educated population by improving existing housing stock and infrastructure.<sup>40</sup>

Figure 15			
Demographic Indicators, Cities of Rome and Utica			
		Utica	Rome
Population*		60,635	32,473
Percentage change in population	2000-2010**	2.6%	-3.5%
	2010-2017*	-2.5%	-3.7%
Persons per square mile*		3,617	433
Median age		34.1	40.1
White persons		65.1%	88.6%
Black persons		15.3%	5.9%
Asian persons		11.0%	1.3%
Persons reporting two or more races		4.6%	2.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin		11.5%	6.3%
White persons not Hispanic		59.3%	84.7%
Foreign-born persons		19.7%	3.1%
Languages other than English spoken at home		28.7%	7.5%
Median household income		\$32,201	\$44,348
High school graduation rate		79.4%	88.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher		17.1%	19.8%
Owner-occupied housing units		40.4%	46.6%
Housing units in multi-unit structures		57.5%	40.0%
Persons per household, average		2.51	2.32
Median value of owner-occupied housing units		\$89,300	\$94,100
Vacancy rate of housing units		15.1%	14.1%
Owner costs exceeding 30% of income		28.5%	27.6%
Renter costs exceeding 30% of income		58.3%	44.4%
Child poverty rate		48.5%	28.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, except as indicated.  
 \* 2017 Population Estimates  
 \*\* 2000 and 2010 Census

For nearly four decades, Utica has encouraged immigrants from all over the world to resettle in its neighborhoods, calling itself the “Town That Loves Refugees.”<sup>41</sup> Foreign-born persons make up nearly 20 percent of the City’s population. Utica’s large and growing immigrant community has helped support the local economy as consumers, producers and taxpayers. With the help of organizations like the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, more than 16,000 immigrants in the Region have received social and educational services over the years. The Center typically relocates approximately 400 refugees a year to Utica, from countries such as Bosnia, Somalia and Vietnam.<sup>42</sup>

In downtown Utica, MVCC’s thINCubator, a business incubator, provides a variety of programming to support tech-oriented local startup companies.<sup>43</sup> In 2017, it was awarded \$1.3 million in grants to bolster its programs.<sup>44</sup> In addition, the nearby Marcy Nanocenter at SUNY Polytechnic Institute – a 450 acre site between Rome and Utica, in the Town of Marcy – is being developed into a campus for the research and development of semiconductors. The Nanocenter is supported by public and private investments.<sup>45</sup>

The City of Rome is the second largest city by area in the State, although it ranks 16th by population. Just to the east of the City’s central business district, the county-owned Griffiss International Airport is located on the former site of the Griffiss Air Force Base (closed in 1995). Over the years, the public airport has received financial support from both the State and federal government, helping it to meet commercial, governmental and general aviation needs. In 2013, the airport was selected as a test site for the research of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) for the United States Air Force.<sup>46</sup> The airport was granted \$1.4 million in State funding in 2017 to rehabilitate an existing building into office space and provide an incubator center for the business development of drones.<sup>47</sup>

Located next to the airport, the Griffiss Business and Technology Park is a 3,500 acre center for private and public businesses. The park is broken up into several development districts in order to accommodate its 76 tenants and over 5,800 employees in industries that include technology, manufacturing and aviation.<sup>48</sup>

## Other Development Areas

Home to many local farmers, Schoharie County has a high concentration of State-certified agricultural districts that aim to protect and promote the availability of land for farming purposes.<sup>49</sup> The County's growing agricultural sector has helped to boost farm tourism in the area, offering high-end cheeses and produce. "The Fabulous Beekman Boys" television show followed the journey of new farmers and entrepreneurs in the Town of Sharon Springs. In addition, a \$1.4 million dairy processing center located on the SUNY Cobleskill campus in the Town of Cobleskill was opened in 2014 as an investment partnership between the College and the Stewart's Foundation, a charitable organization founded by the owners of the Stewart's convenience store chain, which is located primarily in upstate New York. The center provides processing space for Mohawk Valley's dairy producers and offers educational opportunities to students.<sup>50</sup>

Fulton County is currently in phase two of developing Tryon Technological Park, a 515 acre construction-ready tech park located on the former site of a State juvenile detention center in the towns of Perth and Johnstown.<sup>51</sup> In 2015, the County received \$2 million in State grant funding to improve the existing infrastructure of the Park with a goal of attracting new businesses and helping boost employment opportunities in the area.<sup>52</sup> The Park is accessible from the Thruway and offers regional business training and incubator space for new companies. Its current sole tenant is Vireo Health of New York, a State-authorized medical marijuana manufacturer.<sup>53</sup>



# Planning for the Future

## Economic Development

In 2011, the State established ten regional economic development councils, public-private partnerships meant to “develop long term strategic plans for their regions,” of which the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council is one.<sup>54</sup> From 2011 to 2016, the Council reported that over 460 regional projects were awarded \$444 million in State competitive grant funding with a total investment of \$1.7 billion (public and private sector funds). In 2017, 101 projects in the Region were awarded \$85.5 million in State funding.<sup>55</sup> (See Figure 16 for examples.)

Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) are economic development entities that encourage business development and expansion in counties and other municipalities by offering financial assistance. In 2016, the Mohawk Valley’s eight IDAs reported supporting 186 projects, 37 percent of which were manufacturing projects, with a total reported value of \$1.7 billion.<sup>56</sup>

**Figure 16**

**Mohawk Valley Region Priority Projects Awarded the Highest State Grant Funding in 2017**

Project	Location	Total Amount Awarded	Total Estimated Cost	Total Estimated Jobs to be Created	Project Details
		(in millions)			
<b>Griffiss International Airport Rehabilitation of Building 100</b>	City of Rome, Oneida County	\$1.4	\$7.0	20	The rehabilitation of office space occupied by an unmanned aerial vehicle operations center and the creation of an incubator center for business development.
<b>Rome NY 917 Manufacturing Expansion</b>	City of Rome, Oneida County	\$1.4	\$6.9	9	Purchase of multiple properties at Griffiss Business and Technology Park by Deployed Resource, Inc. and the installation of metal manufacturing equipment.
<b>Southside Hotel Development</b>	City of Amsterdam, Montgomery County	\$1.2	\$6.0	14	Development of a three story, 64 room hotel off of New York State Route 5-S, directly across from the Montgomery County Industrial Park.
<b>Chalmers Multi-Use Redevelopment Project</b>	City of Amsterdam, Montgomery County	\$1.0	\$24.5	27	The revitalization of a New York State Brownfield Opportunity Area into a mixed-use 120-unit residential community, including a banquet facility and restaurant.
<b>Willow Place Road Extension</b>	Town of Verona, Oneida County	\$0.9	\$4.6	0	The acquisition of land and the reconstruction of an existing road to facilitate a tourism destination adjacent to the Turning Stone Resort and Casino.

**Source:** Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, 2017 Progress Report; with information from the Regional Economic Development Council Awards, 2017. Excludes projects in Otsego County.

## Infrastructure

---

Infrastructure planning is vital to the Mohawk Valley's long-term economic growth and prosperity. The Council has had a particular focus on upgrading and improving infrastructure in local governments. For example, much of the Mohawk Valley's aging water infrastructure requires repairs and upgrades. In response to this need, the State awarded a combined \$6.7 million last year to water-related projects in Cobleskill, Gloversville, Herkimer, Johnstown, Sharon Springs, Utica, Vail Mills, Waterville and Westmoreland.<sup>57</sup> Additionally, the Upper Mohawk Valley Water Authority has invested in the repair and monitoring of its water system to mitigate unaccounted-for water loss due to underground leaks.<sup>58</sup>

The cities of Amsterdam, Little Falls and Utica have antiquated municipal sewer systems (Combined Sewer Systems) that become overwhelmed during rainstorms and contaminate their respective waterbodies. This is a situation that, while somewhat typical among New York's older municipalities, will require ongoing monitoring and reporting along with additional investments.<sup>59</sup>

Transportation infrastructure is another fiscal challenge facing the Mohawk Valley. The U.S. Department of Transportation has estimated that it will cost \$406 million to bring all of the Region's 659 local bridges into acceptable condition.<sup>60</sup> In 2017, as part of the State's BRIDGE NY Initiative, the Mohawk Valley was awarded \$13.3 million to fund the rehabilitation and replacement of 10 bridges and culverts.<sup>61</sup> Several municipalities in the Region were also awarded a combined \$3.5 million in State and federal funding for rural transportation projects in 2018.<sup>62</sup>

Access to high-speed broadband is a key requirement for economic development. In March 2018, the State's New NY Broadband Program awarded six regional Internet service providers \$22.7 million to address some of the Mohawk Valley's most underserved areas, including the towns of Charleston, Conesville, Florence, Stratford and Warren.<sup>63</sup>

## Extreme Weather and Climate Change

---

Extreme weather – such as droughts and floods – can threaten public health and safety, cause extensive property damage and have negative consequences for local farmers. In 2011, for example, the combination of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee brought historic flooding and high winds to the Mohawk Valley, creating havoc for many communities and severely damaging homes and infrastructure, particularly in Schoharie County.<sup>64</sup>

In 2017, the Region was awarded \$2.0 million in grants to fund flood mitigation projects on the Sauquoit Creek, which has flooded in the past, causing damage to residential and business-owned waterfront properties.<sup>65</sup> In addition, nearly \$5 million was awarded to local governments for projects related to floodplain restoration and stormwater management.<sup>66</sup>

New York State's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program has partnered with local governments to address climate change. Seven municipalities in the Mohawk Valley have signed the CSC pledge, promising to, among other things, help build a climate-smart community, support a green innovation economy and inform and inspire the public.<sup>67</sup> In 2016, the Region was awarded over \$2 million in CSC grants for projects related to flood mitigation and sanitary sewer line upgrades.<sup>68</sup> In April 2018, the State awarded three Mohawk Valley farms over \$517,000 for projects that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate water quality concerns and improve farm resiliency during periods of extreme weather.<sup>69</sup>

# Looking Ahead

---

The Mohawk Valley's varied landscape – with wilderness and natural resources to the north, rural communities and farms to the south and small-to-midsized cities clustered along the middle – allows for unique opportunities in certain areas, despite the challenges facing many of its local governments.

The Utica-Rome metropolitan area is home to a majority of the Mohawk Valley's population and receives much of the Region's economic development attention. One legacy of the Mohawk Valley's history is that many of its cities now have a surplus of affordable housing. The City of Utica has harnessed this by reaching out to refugees to come and establish families and businesses in the area.

Much of the Region, like many parts of the State, has older physical infrastructure. Local leaders have focused many of their economic development efforts on making needed repairs and upgrades. Measures to improve access to information infrastructure such as broadband – rapidly becoming necessary to development as well – are also important.

In funding these efforts, local governments in the area may benefit from sharing services or consolidating operations. A number of Mohawk Valley municipalities have been working on plans to share services that they anticipate will improve government services or reduce costs. Exploring such possibilities and continuing to work on keeping services affordable is of fundamental importance to the Region.

Finally, the rural areas are critical contributors to the economic success of the Mohawk Valley. Agriculture has long been integral to the Region's economy, and Schoharie County is well positioned to meet the growing interest in farm tourism, such as farm stands and markets. Meanwhile, the primary waterways of the Mohawk River and the Erie Canal, as well as the many rivers and small bodies of water in the Adirondack Park and nearby Tug Hill region, continue to serve as important tourism draws and natural sanctuaries for travelers and outdoor enthusiasts. Maintaining areas of natural beauty and wilderness should always be a part of the Mohawk Valley's plan for the future.



# Appendix: Demographic Indicators

Appendix A						
Demographic Indicators, Mohawk Valley Region Smaller Cities						
		Amsterdam	Gloversville	Johnstown	Little Falls	Sherrill
Population*		17,844	14,951	8,314	4,716	3,038
Percentage change in population	2000-2010**	1.4%	1.6%	2.7%	-4.7%	-2.4%
	2010-2017*	-4.1%	-4.2%	-4.1%	-4.6%	-1.0%
Persons per square mile*		3,044	2,909	1,717	1,229	1,226
Median age		36.5	37.7	39.2	40.2	46.4
White persons		74.4%	93.7%	90.2%	96.2%	95.6%
Black persons		4.4%	1.8%	3.7%	1.2%	3.8%
Asian persons		0.6%	0.8%	1.8%	0.9%	0.3%
Persons reporting two or more races		4.6%	1.6%	3.2%	0.5%	0.1%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin		29.3%	4.4%	3.7%	3.9%	3.1%
White persons not Hispanic		64.5%	91.3%	88.1%	92.7%	93.3%
Foreign-born persons		5.2%	1.6%	3.4%	2.9%	4.2%
Languages other than English spoken at home		28.2%	3.0%	4.7%	6.8%	6.7%
Median household income		\$35,304	\$33,760	\$44,989	\$38,750	\$55,746
High school graduation rate		80.3%	81.5%	89.3%	88.8%	91.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher		14.0%	13.6%	23.8%	23.0%	31.1%
Owner-occupied housing units		38.9%	42.3%	55.7%	42.0%	74.6%
Housing units in multi-unit structures		60.4%	50.3%	38.5%	47.4%	22.7%
Persons per household, average		2.48	2.36	2.38	2.44	2.31
Median value of owner-occupied housing units		\$86,500	\$76,500	\$98,400	\$79,500	\$136,300
Vacancy rate of housing units		20.6%	15.2%	6.9%	19.4%	0.0%
Owner costs exceeding 30% of income		29.2%	25.6%	26.9%	19.7%	22.1%
Renter costs exceeding 30% of income		58.8%	60.3%	54.2%	39.2%	54.2%
Child poverty rate		40.9%	39.2%	15.3%	38.8%	5.1%

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, except as indicated. For the cities of Rome and Utica, see Figure 15.  
 \* 2017 Population Estimates  
 \*\* 2000 and 2010 Census

# Appendix: Demographic Indicators

Appendix B									
Demographic Indicators, Mohawk Valley Region Towns with Populations Greater Than 7,000									
		New Hartford	Whitestown	German Flatts	Kirkland	Herkimer	Marcy	Frankfort	Johnstown
Population*		21,907	18,437	12,629	10,115	9,729	9,454	7,368	7,352
Percentage change in population	2000-2010**	4.7%	0.2%	-2.7%	1.7%	2.1%	-5.1%	2.1%	-0.9%
	2010-2017*	-1.1%	-1.1%	-4.4%	-1.7%	-4.3%	5.6%	-3.5%	2.1%
Persons per square mile*		864	675	375	300	307	287	202	105
Median age		47.7	43.8	38.6	37.9	45.6	41.4	45.1	46.9
White persons		93.5%	97.0%	94.0%	91.3%	94.9%	78.7%	96.4%	94.7%
Black persons		2.0%	1.2%	1.7%	2.8%	1.8%	13.3%	1.0%	2.2%
Asian persons		2.8%	0.7%	0.7%	3.0%	1.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%
Persons reporting two or more races		1.1%	0.8%	2.5%	1.6%	1.5%	4.3%	1.0%	1.0%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin		1.5%	1.7%	3.1%	3.4%	1.4%	8.6%	1.7%	2.7%
White persons not Hispanic		92.3%	95.7%	93.0%	89.0%	94.1%	74.6%	95.5%	93.7%
Foreign-born persons		6.4%	2.7%	1.8%	8.1%	3.6%	4.2%	4.2%	1.9%
Languages other than English spoken at home		7.5%	5.2%	2.0%	10.6%	7.6%	11.3%	6.0%	3.6%
Median household income		\$60,045	\$54,748	\$45,360	\$61,045	\$47,292	\$72,202	\$51,455	\$52,808
High school graduation rate		94.8%	93.0%	91.6%	95.0%	90.0%	81.7%	91.9%	87.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher		40.5%	27.8%	24.2%	42.7%	21.4%	25.9%	22.7%	17.7%
Owner-occupied housing units		69.2%	66.5%	59.2%	58.0%	43.1%	81.7%	68.3%	82.2%
Housing units in multi-unit structures		22.9%	25.7%	32.2%	33.0%	38.5%	9.8%	21.0%	1.6%
Persons per household, average		2.23	2.30	2.43	2.28	2.22	2.65	2.41	2.34
Median value of owner-occupied housing units		\$151,700	\$122,600	\$84,100	\$172,800	\$93,000	\$167,400	\$110,400	\$117,600
Vacancy rate of housing units		8.7%	7.6%	8.0%	8.9%	13.1%	5.3%	8.5%	9.4%
Owner costs exceeding 30% of income		21.5%	20.1%	23.1%	27.4%	21.7%	32.8%	21.3%	36.3%
Renter costs exceeding 30% of income		57.0%	43.4%	41.4%	38.7%	41.8%	12.3%	32.9%	40.2%
Child poverty rate		5.6%	11.9%	28.3%	10.3%	22.8%	6.4%	15.1%	25.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, except as indicated.  
 \* 2017 Population Estimates  
 \*\* 2000 and 2010 Census

# Notes

---

- <sup>1</sup> OSC defines the Mohawk Valley Region as a geographical area that includes Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida and Schoharie counties. This differs from several other definitions using the same name, including those used by the New York State Department of Labor, Empire State Development and its Regional Economic Development Councils, and New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law §35.05(1)(o) (which defines an area by that name as a State-designated heritage area).
- <sup>2</sup> Roy G. Finch, *The Story of the New York State Canals*, 1925, p. 13, [www.canals.ny.gov/history/finch\\_history.pdf](http://www.canals.ny.gov/history/finch_history.pdf). The current canal route runs largely through the Mohawk River between the cities of Troy (Rensselaer County) and Rome (Oneida County).
- <sup>3</sup> Visit Adirondacks, New York, USA, *Explore the Adirondacks*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.visitadirondacks.com/about](http://www.visitadirondacks.com/about).
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2017*.
- <sup>5</sup> Adirondack Park Agency, *About the New York State Adirondack Park Agency*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.apa.ny.gov/About\\_Agency/index.html](http://www.apa.ny.gov/About_Agency/index.html).
- <sup>6</sup> New York State Tug Hill Commission, *About Us*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.tughill.org/about](http://www.tughill.org/about).
- <sup>7</sup> OSC, *Shared Services in Local Government*, p. 1, [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmng/sharedservices.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmng/sharedservices.pdf).
- <sup>8</sup> Tug Hill Commission, *Strategic Plan, 2015 – 2019*, p. 9, [www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Strategic-Plan-2015-2019-JB-FINAL-1-15-15..pdf](http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Strategic-Plan-2015-2019-JB-FINAL-1-15-15..pdf).
- <sup>9</sup> Department of State, Division of Local Government Services, *Local Government Efficiency Program*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lge/index.html](http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lge/index.html).
- <sup>10</sup> New York State Association of Counties, *Existing Shared Services Initiatives*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.nysac.org/sharedservices-existing](http://www.nysac.org/sharedservices-existing).
- <sup>11</sup> Department of State, Division of Local Government Services, *County-wide Shared Services Initiative – County Plans Submitted in 2017*, [www.dos.ny.gov/lg/SubmittedPlans2017.html](http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/SubmittedPlans2017.html). Note that special legislation may be necessary to implement certain shared services or consolidation initiatives.
- <sup>12</sup> New York State Governor’s Office, *Shared Services Initiative*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.ny.gov/programs/shared-services-initiative](http://www.ny.gov/programs/shared-services-initiative).
- <sup>13</sup> New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, *Settlement Agreement by the Oneida Indian Nation, the State of New York, the County of Madison, and the County of Oneida*, May 6, 2013, [www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/oin\\_settlement\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/oin_settlement_agreement.pdf).
- <sup>14</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau defines a housing unit as vacant if no one is living in it at the time of the interview, unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. In addition, a vacant unit may be one which is entirely occupied by persons who have a usual residence elsewhere. County vacancy rates are shown in Figure 5.
- <sup>15</sup> Seasonally adjusted data is not available at the county level.
- <sup>16</sup> New York State Department of Labor (DOL), *Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)*. Data are arranged by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), with the averages and medians by region calculated by DOL. Government employment is shown as a separate industry classification. The 2017 annual data are preliminary and subject to revision, [www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lqcew.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lqcew.shtm), accessed June 7, 2018. OSC used regional employment and wage data for the DOL-defined Mohawk Valley Region (Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie counties), then adjusted it to match the OSC-defined region by adding data for Hamilton County and subtracting data for Otsego County.
- <sup>17</sup> In addition to DOL’s QCEW data, some of the information about the Region’s major employers were obtained from the official statements of local governments in connection with a new issue of municipal securities.

# Notes

---

- <sup>18</sup> Includes the Hale Creek Correctional Facility (Fulton County), Marcy Correctional Facility (Oneida County), Mid-State Correctional Facility (Oneida County) and Mohawk Correctional Facility (Oneida County).
- <sup>19</sup> Greg Mason, “Many questions remain about hospital’s future,” *Observer-Dispatch*, March 29, 2018, [www.uticaod.com/news/20180329/many-questions-remain-about-hospitals-future](http://www.uticaod.com/news/20180329/many-questions-remain-about-hospitals-future). The awarding of funds does not necessarily mean that all of those funds will be disbursed or spent.
- <sup>20</sup> New York State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Market Information, Division of Research and Statistics, *Significant Industries: A Report to the Workforce Development System: Mohawk Valley 2015*, September 2015, p. 2, [www.labor.ny.gov/stats/PDFs/Significant-Industries-Mohawk-Valley.pdf](http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/PDFs/Significant-Industries-Mohawk-Valley.pdf). The data in this report are for the DOL-defined Mohawk Valley Region and cannot be disaggregated.
- <sup>21</sup> This number, as calculated by the Department of Labor in its Significant Industries report, combines public teachers, which are included in the Government sector, and private teachers in the Educational Services sector.
- <sup>22</sup> County of Schoharie, New York, *\$14,725,000 General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2018, p. 6; County of Oneida, New York, *\$30,920,000 General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2017, p. 8.
- <sup>23</sup> The State University of New York, *Fulton-Montgomery Community College*, accessed on May 29, 2018, [www.suny.edu/campuses/fulton-montgomery/](http://www.suny.edu/campuses/fulton-montgomery/); The State University of New York, *Herkimer County Community College*, accessed on May 29, 2018, [www.suny.edu/campuses/herkimer/](http://www.suny.edu/campuses/herkimer/); The State University of New York, *Mohawk Valley Community College*, accessed on May 29, 2018, [www.suny.edu/campuses/mohawk/](http://www.suny.edu/campuses/mohawk/).
- <sup>24</sup> County of Oneida, New York, *\$30,920,000 General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2017, p. 8.
- <sup>25</sup> Central Valley Central School District, Herkimer County, New York, *\$25,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes Official Statement*, 2018, p. 15.
- <sup>26</sup> County of Montgomery, New York, *\$7,243,000 General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2017, p. 8; County of Oneida, New York, *\$30,920,000 General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2017, p. 8.
- <sup>27</sup> County of Montgomery, New York, *\$7,243,000 General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2017, p. 8; Fage, *Our Company*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.usa.fage/company/about-fage](http://www.usa.fage/company/about-fage).
- <sup>28</sup> County of Montgomery, New York, *\$7,243,000 General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2017, p. 8; Fulton Country Center For Regional Growth, *Walmart Regional Return and Food Distribution Centers*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.fccrg.org/walmart-regional-return-and-food-distribution-centers/](http://www.fccrg.org/walmart-regional-return-and-food-distribution-centers/).
- <sup>29</sup> Adirondack Experience, *Visitor Information*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.theadkx.org/visiting-the-experience/visitor-information/](http://www.theadkx.org/visiting-the-experience/visitor-information/).
- <sup>30</sup> Adirondack Scenic Railroad, *Our History*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.adirondackrr.com/adkrr/history/](http://www.adirondackrr.com/adkrr/history/).
- <sup>31</sup> Utica Zoo, *About the Utica Zoo*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.uticazoo.org/about/](http://www.uticazoo.org/about/).
- <sup>32</sup> National Park Service, *Fort Stanwix*, accessed on May 29, 2018, [www.nps.gov/fost/learn/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/index.htm).
- <sup>33</sup> Howe Caverns, *Welcome To Howe Caverns*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.howecaverns.com](http://www.howecaverns.com).
- <sup>34</sup> Stephanie Sorrell-White, “Herkimer Diamond Mines owner moving forward after fire,” *Times Telegram*, October 16, 2017, [www.timestelegram.com/news/20171016/herkimer-diamond-mines-owner-moving-forward-after-fire](http://www.timestelegram.com/news/20171016/herkimer-diamond-mines-owner-moving-forward-after-fire).
- <sup>35</sup> Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute, *History of MWPAl*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.mwpai.org/about/history/](http://www.mwpai.org/about/history/).
- <sup>36</sup> Glove Performing Arts Center, *Welcome to the Glove Theatre!*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.glovetheatre.org/index.asp](http://www.glovetheatre.org/index.asp).

# Notes

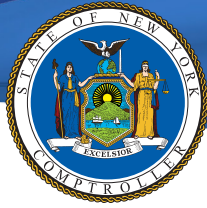
---

- <sup>37</sup> County of Oneida, New York, \$30,920,000 *General Obligations Public Improvement Serial Bonds Official Statement*, 2017, p. 8.
- <sup>38</sup> National Association of Home Builders, Housing Opportunity Index (HOI), *The NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index: Complete Listing by Affordability Rank*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.nahb.org/en/research/housing-economics/housing-indexes/housing-opportunity-index.aspx](http://www.nahb.org/en/research/housing-economics/housing-indexes/housing-opportunity-index.aspx). Ranking based on housing prices and income.
- <sup>39</sup> “Governor Cuomo Announces City of Rome as \$10 Million Mohawk Valley Region Winner of Second-Round Downtown Revitalization Initiative,” *New York State Governor’s Office*, September 14, 2017, [www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-city-rome-10-million-mohawk-valley-region-winner-second-round-downtown](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-city-rome-10-million-mohawk-valley-region-winner-second-round-downtown); Samantha Madison, “Rome, Utica receive \$3 million in grants for projects,” *Observer-Dispatch*, March 22, 2018, [www.uticaod.com/news/20180322/rome-utica-receive-3-million-in-grants-for-projects](http://www.uticaod.com/news/20180322/rome-utica-receive-3-million-in-grants-for-projects).
- <sup>40</sup> Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, 2017 Progress Report. Also see Boilermaker, *Registration Rules*, accessed on May 29, 2018, [www.boilermaker.com/boilermaker-101/registration-rules.php](http://www.boilermaker.com/boilermaker-101/registration-rules.php).
- <sup>41</sup> Office of the New York State Comptroller, *A Portrait of Immigrants in New York*, November 2016, [www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/immigration/immigration\\_2016.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/immigration/immigration_2016.pdf); “The Town That Loves Refugees,” *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, Refugees, Volume 1, Number 138, 2005.
- <sup>42</sup> Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, *About MVRRC*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.mvrcc.org/about/](http://www.mvrcc.org/about/).
- <sup>43</sup> MVCC thINCubator, *About Us*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.thincubator.co/about/](http://www.thincubator.co/about/).
- <sup>44</sup> Regional Economic Development Councils, *2017 Awards*, p. 66, [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2017-12/2017-redc-awards-booklet.pdf](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2017-12/2017-redc-awards-booklet.pdf).
- <sup>45</sup> Marcy Nanocenter at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, *Why Marcy*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.marcynanocenter.com/why-marcy/](http://www.marcynanocenter.com/why-marcy/).
- <sup>46</sup> Oneida County, New York, *Welcome to Griffiss International Airport*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.ocgov.net/airport](http://www.ocgov.net/airport).
- <sup>47</sup> “Local projects to receive state assistance include efforts in Rome, Utica,” *Rome Sentinel*, December 14, 2017, [www.romesentinel.com/county/local-projects-to-receive-state-assistance-include-efforts-in-rome-utica/QBqqin!Ok4UtsPq61skpA23Xd4QKA/](http://www.romesentinel.com/county/local-projects-to-receive-state-assistance-include-efforts-in-rome-utica/QBqqin!Ok4UtsPq61skpA23Xd4QKA/).
- <sup>48</sup> Griffiss Business and Technology Park, *Why Griffiss*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.griffissbusinesspark.com/why\\_griffiss.asp](http://www.griffissbusinesspark.com/why_griffiss.asp); Philip A. Vanno, “Former Rome Lab building coming down for future development,” *Observer-Dispatch*, March 25, 2016, [www.uticaod.com/article/20160325/NEWS/160329612](http://www.uticaod.com/article/20160325/NEWS/160329612).
- <sup>49</sup> Schoharie County, New York, *Draft Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan*, December 2016, [www.schohariecounty-ny.gov/CountyWebSite/Planning/agProtectionPlan.pdf](http://www.schohariecounty-ny.gov/CountyWebSite/Planning/agProtectionPlan.pdf).
- <sup>50</sup> SUNY Cobleskill, *Dairy Processing Center*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.cobleskill.edu/about/offices-services/advancement/pdfs/dairy.pdf](http://www.cobleskill.edu/about/offices-services/advancement/pdfs/dairy.pdf).
- <sup>51</sup> The Tryon Juvenile Detention Facility was closed by the State in 2011.
- <sup>52</sup> Michael Anich, “County OKs bid for Tryon work,” *Fulton County Center for Regional Growth*, August 11, 2015, [www.fccrg.org/fulton-county-news/county-awards-1-8m-in-bids-for-tryon-technology-park/](http://www.fccrg.org/fulton-county-news/county-awards-1-8m-in-bids-for-tryon-technology-park/).
- <sup>53</sup> Tryon Technology Park, *About Us*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.tryontechnologypark.com/AboutUs-History.html](http://www.tryontechnologypark.com/AboutUs-History.html).
- <sup>54</sup> Regional Economic Development Councils, *About Us*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/about](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/about). This region does not exactly match OSC’s definition, including Otsego County and leaving out Hamilton County.

# Notes

---

- <sup>55</sup> Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, 2017 Progress Report; Regional Economic Development Councils, *2017 Awards*. These amounts include projects located in Otsego County, which lies outside the Mohawk Valley as defined in this report.
- <sup>56</sup> Office of the New York State Comptroller, *Annual Performance Report on New York State's Industrial Development Agencies: Fiscal Year Ending 2016*, April 2018, [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/ida\\_reports/2018/ida-performance.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/ida_reports/2018/ida-performance.pdf).
- <sup>57</sup> Regional Economic Development Councils, *2017 Awards*. Excludes engineering studies and projects related to flood mitigation and prevention.
- <sup>58</sup> Office of the New York State Comptroller, *Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board: Water Accountability*, 2015, [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/publicauth/2016/uppermohawkvalley.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/publicauth/2016/uppermohawkvalley.pdf).
- <sup>59</sup> For more information on Combined Sewer Outflows, see the Office of the New York State Comptroller, *A Partially Treated Problem: Overflows From Combined Sewers*, May 2018, [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/infrastructure-series/combined-sewers.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/infrastructure-series/combined-sewers.pdf).
- <sup>60</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *National Bridge Inventory*, 2016, with OSC calculations; Office of the New York State Comptroller, *Local Bridges by the Numbers*, October 2017, [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/local-bridges-by-the-numbers.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/local-bridges-by-the-numbers.pdf).
- <sup>61</sup> "Governor Cuomo Announces More Than \$13 Million to Rehabilitate and Replace Bridges in the Mohawk Valley," *New York State Governor's Office*, January 18, 2017, [www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-13-million-rehabilitate-and-replace-bridges-mohawk-valley](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-13-million-rehabilitate-and-replace-bridges-mohawk-valley).
- <sup>62</sup> "Governor Cuomo Announces \$57.7 Million for 136 Rural Public Transportation Projects Across Upstate New York," *New York State Governor's Office*, June 26, 2018, [www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-577-million-136-rural-public-transportation-projects-across-upstate](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-577-million-136-rural-public-transportation-projects-across-upstate).
- <sup>63</sup> "Governor Cuomo Announces More Than \$22 Million in New NY Broadband Program Round III Awards for the Mohawk Valley," *New York State Governor's Office*, March 1, 2018, [www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-22-million-new-ny-broadband-program-round-iii-awards-mohawk](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-22-million-new-ny-broadband-program-round-iii-awards-mohawk). The \$22.7 million in State grants includes investments made in Otsego County.
- <sup>64</sup> Robert Gavin, "Five years after storm, Schoharie a 'ghost town'," *Albany Times Union*, August 29, 2016, [www.timesunion.com/local/article/Five-years-after-storm-Schoharie-a-ghost-town-9189814.php](http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Five-years-after-storm-Schoharie-a-ghost-town-9189814.php).
- <sup>65</sup> Regional Economic Development Councils, 2017 Awards, p. 67.
- <sup>66</sup> Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, 2017 Progress Report; Regional Economic Development Councils, 2017 Awards.
- <sup>67</sup> New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, *List of Climate Smart Communities*, accessed May 29, 2018, [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/56876.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/56876.html).
- <sup>68</sup> New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, *2016 Climate Smart Communities Grant Awards*, [www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/cscawards16.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/cscawards16.pdf).
- <sup>69</sup> "Governor Cuomo Announces Over \$2 Million in Funding to Help New York Farms Address Impacts of Climate Change," *New York State Governor's Office*, April 27, 2018, [www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-over-2-million-funding-help-new-york-farms-address-impacts-climate](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-over-2-million-funding-help-new-york-farms-address-impacts-climate).



## Office of the NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER

New York State Comptroller  
**THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI**

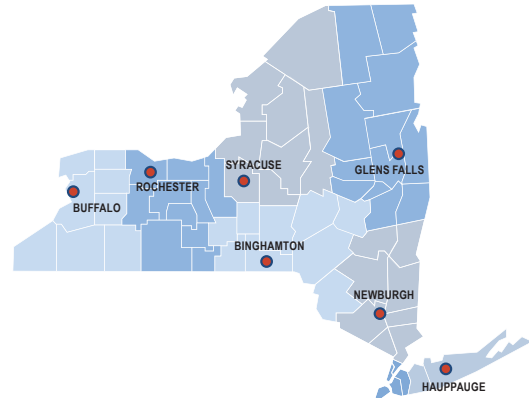
### Division of Local Government and School Accountability

110 State Street, 12th floor, Albany, NY 12236

Tel: 518.474.4037 • Fax: 518.486.6479

Email: [localgov@osc.ny.gov](mailto:localgov@osc.ny.gov)

[www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov)



**Andrew A. SanFilippo,**  
Executive Deputy Comptroller

**Executive • 518.474.4037**  
Gabriel F. Deyo, Deputy Comptroller  
Tracey Hitchen Boyd, Assistant Comptroller

**Audits, Local Government Services and  
Professional Standards • 518.474.5404**  
(Audits, Technical Assistance, Accounting and Audit Standards)

**Local Government and School Accountability  
Help Line • 866.321.8503 or 518.408.4934**  
(Electronic Filing, Financial Reporting, Justice Courts, Training)

**Division of Legal Services**  
Municipal Law Section • 518.474.5586

**New York State & Local Retirement System  
Retirement Information Services**  
Inquiries on Employee Benefits and Programs  
518.474.7736

Technical Assistance is available at any of our Regional Offices

#### **BINGHAMTON REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Tel 607.721.8306 • Fax 607.721.8313 • Email [Muni-Binghamton@osc.ny.gov](mailto:Muni-Binghamton@osc.ny.gov)**  
Counties: Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins

#### **BUFFALO REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Tel 716.847.3647 • Fax 716.847.3643 • Email [Muni-Buffero@osc.ny.gov](mailto:Muni-Buffero@osc.ny.gov)**  
Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

#### **GLENS FALLS REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Tel 518.793.0057 • Fax 518.793.5797 • Email [Muni-GlensFalls@osc.ny.gov](mailto:Muni-GlensFalls@osc.ny.gov)**  
Counties: Albany, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington

#### **HAUPPAUGE REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Tel 631.952.6534 • Fax 631.952.6530 • Email [Muni-Hauppauge@osc.ny.gov](mailto:Muni-Hauppauge@osc.ny.gov)**  
Counties: Nassau, Suffolk

#### **NEWBURGH REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Tel 845.567.0858 • Fax 845.567.0080 • Email [Muni-Newburgh@osc.ny.gov](mailto:Muni-Newburgh@osc.ny.gov)**  
Counties: Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Ulster, Westchester

#### **ROCHESTER REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Tel 585.454.2460 • Fax 585.454.3545 • Email [Muni-Rochester@osc.ny.gov](mailto:Muni-Rochester@osc.ny.gov)**  
Counties: Cayuga, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates

#### **SYRACUSE REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Tel 315.428.4192 • Fax 315.426.2119 • Email [Muni-Syracuse@osc.ny.gov](mailto:Muni-Syracuse@osc.ny.gov)**  
Counties: Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence

#### **STATEWIDE AUDIT**

**Tel 607.721.8306 • Fax 607.721.8313**

---

## Contact

Office of the New York State Comptroller  
Division of Local Government and School Accountability

110 State Street, 12th floor  
Albany, NY 12236  
Tel: (518) 474-4037  
Fax: (518) 486-6479  
or email us: [localgov@osc.ny.gov](mailto:localgov@osc.ny.gov)

[www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/index.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/index.htm)



Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/nyscomptroller](https://facebook.com/nyscomptroller)  
Follow us on Twitter @[@nyscomptroller](https://twitter.com/nyscomptroller)

