

Workforce Development Board of Sullivan Inc.
Director's Report
May 12, 2026

Workforce Development

- The Program Year 2026 (July , 2026 – June 30, 2027) allocations were released by the US Department of Labor (USDOL). We had been told that funding would remain flat, but that is not the case. For NYS – Youth funding is reduced -9.4%; Adult funding is reduced -10.8% and Dislocated Worker funding is reduced -9.77%. The NYS Research and Statistics staff will have local allocations out within a few weeks.
- The Eligible Training Provider List approval and renewal process is being reexamined at the State level to ensure that we comply with WIOA regulations and meet the necessary measure. It will increase reporting expectations on providers and require all WIOA staff to be more well versed in the overall process.
- Meetings with Business Services will be focused on reviewing what processes and services remain relevant and what may need to be updated to better reflect business needs today and into the future.
- The State will be rolling out a modernization of the unemployment system. The new system is said to be user-friendly and mobile-friendly. NYS Department of Labor Manager, Nicole Congelosi will provide a current update at the meeting.
- Meeting held April 7 at Garnet Catskills with Board member, Eileen Kammerer from Garnet, Dr. David Potash from SUNY, CWD's Michelle Cruz and myself. This was the preliminary discussion on career pathways in the healthcare sector.
- Planning is underway for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Outreach to previous worksites has begun. Policies, applications and forms are updated. Applications are being accepted. Waiting on the passage of the State budget.
- The CDL-A and CDL-B trainings at SUNY Sullivan will begin in July and run through September. These sessions are held on Saturdays and Sundays.

- The second Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class began May 4 at SUNY Sullivan. Five (5) of the students are WIOA funded. The session will run through July 13. Classes are evenings 5:30pm to 8:30pm with clinicals on Fridays from 8:00 am until 4:00pm. The Fall session will begin September 14 and will run through November 13.

NYS Median Weekly Earnings and Unemployment Rates (25 years and over) by Educational Attainment, 2025		
Level of Education	Unemployment Rate	Median Weekly Earnings
All Workers	3.5%	\$1,350
Less than High School or High School Diploma/GED	4.5%	\$880
Some College or Associate Degree	3.4%	\$1,096
Bachelor's Degree	3.4%	\$1,690
Master's Degree or Higher	2.2%	\$1,980

*Note: Median weekly earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers aged 25 and over. Unemployment rates are for all individuals aged 25 and over.

*October 2025 Current Population Survey (CPS) data is unavailable due to the federal government shutdown. Estimates will utilize an 11-month average instead of the standard 12-month average. Caution is recommended when comparing these estimates to prior years' 12-month averages. Source: Current Population Survey

2026 Unemployment Rate Comparison

Month	2026 Sullivan County	2025 Sullivan County	2026 Hudson Valley	2026 New York State	2026 United States
January	4.4%	4.1%	3.7%	4.7%	4.7%
February	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	5.2%	4.7%
March	4.3%	3.9%	3.7%	4.4%	4.3%
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
11-Month Average					

Labor Market Data for March 2026

- ✓ Sullivan County's total nonfarm jobs increased 4.3% (1,300) and private sector jobs increased 4.9% (1,200) for March 2026.

Please note: The net month (February 2026 – March 2026) showed an increase in nonfarm jobs of 1.6% (500) and an increase of 2.0% (500) in private sector jobs.

- ✓ For Sullivan County the job gains were:
 - Private Educational and Health Services at 11.8% (1,000)
 - Professional and Business Services at 9.1% (200)
 - Trade, Transportation and Utilities at 2.3% (100)
 - Government at 1.7% (100)

For Sullivan County the sectors that showed no job growth were:

- Information
- Other Services
- Financial Activities
- Manufacturing
- Mining, Logging and Construction

For Sullivan County the sector that showed job losses was:

- Leisure and Hospitality at -2.8% (-100)

NYS showed a decrease of -0.4% (-35,700) in total nonfarm jobs and a decrease of -0.5% (-41,800) in private sector jobs.

NYS saw the largest jobs gains were found in:

- Private Educational and Health Services at 1.3% (32,500)
- Government at 0.4% (6,100)

NYS saw job losses in:

- Leisure & Hospitality at -1.9% (-17,200)
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -1.0% (-15,200)
- Professional and Business Services at -0.9% (-12,700)
- Manufacturing at -3.0% (-12,200)
- Mining, Logging and Construction at -2.4% (-9,300)
- Information at -1.4% (-3,800)
- Other Services at -0.9% (-3,300)
- Financial Activities at -0.1% (-600)

- ✓ Within the region, Sullivan County's private employment sector grew the fastest, up 4.9 percent. The second fastest growth was

recorded in Kingston MSA (+2.4 percent), followed by Westchester County (+1.4 percent). There were job losses in Putnam County (-0.9percent), Rockland County (-0.8 percent), and the Kiryas Joel-Poughkeepsie-Newburgh MSA* (-0.3 percent).

*MSA stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area. A Metropolitan Statistical Area is defined as a region that includes a central city and surrounding communities that are linked by social and economic factors. This classification is used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to analyze labor market conditions within specific geographic areas.

- ✓ The Hudson Valley region showed an increase of 0.6% (6,300) in total nonfarm jobs and an increase of 0.7% (5,800) in private sector jobs.

The largest job gains were found in:

- Private Educational and Health Services at 4.3% (10,400)
- Professional and Business Services at 0.4% (500)
- Government at 0.3% (500)
- Financial Activities at 0.6% (300)

The Region's job losses were in:

- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -1.6% (-3,000)
- Leisure & Hospitality at -1.5% (-1,300)
- Mining, Logging and Construction at -1.2% (-700)
- Information at -2.6% (-300)
- Other Services at -0.2% (-100)

The Region show no job growth in:

- Manufacturing

- ✓ Sullivan County's unemployment rate was 4.3% for March 2026, an increase from 3.9% in March 2025.

March 2026 had 38,100 people in the labor force (36,400 employed & 1,600 unemployed). The number of employed individuals increased by 4.0% (1,400) and the number of unemployed individuals increased 14.3% (200). Overall, there was an increase of 4.7% (1,700) in the labor force compared to March 2026.

The total labor force increased by 0.5% (200) February to March 2026. The number of employed workers increased by 0.8% (300) and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by -11.1% (-200).

- ✓ The Hudson Valley's unemployment rate was 3.7% for March 2026, an increase from 3.4% in March 2025.
- ✓ NYS's unemployment rate was 4.4% in March 2026, an increase from 4.1% in March 2025.
- ✓ The US unemployment rate was 4.3% in March 2026, an increase from 4.2% in March 2025.
- ✓ The March 2026 unemployment rates across the 62 NYS counties ranged from a low of 3.3% for Putnam County and Rockland counties to a high of 7.5% for Hamilton County. Sullivan County with a 4.3% rate ranked 24th in the State along with Chenango and Tioga counties.
- ✓ Hudson Valley unemployment rankings for March 2026:
 - # 1 Putnam County at 3.3%
 - # 1 Rockland County at 3.3%
 - # 6 Westchester County at 3.6%
 - # 6 Dutchess County at 3.6%
 - #11 Ulster County at 4.0%
 - #11 Orange County at 4.0%
 - #24 Sullivan County at 4.3%

Additional Information:

Move Sullivan 2026 7 Fixed Routes	Average Quarterly Ridership	Quarterly Ridership	Quarterly Paratransit
1st Quarter Totals	499	30,076	967
2nd Quarter Totals			
3rd Quarter Totals			
4th Quarter Totals			
Yearly Totals			