

Trends in Health Care Employment in New York State

Highlights

- In New York, job growth in health care exceeds job growth in all other employment sectors.
- Health care is an important driver of employment growth in upstate New York.
- Health care employment grew by 15% in New York City between 2013 and 2017.
- Hospitals account for the largest proportion of employment in health care settings.
- Job growth is strongest in home health care and ambulatory care settings.

Background

Health care employment in the United States is growing rapidly, significantly outpacing job growth in all other employment sectors. Health care jobs grew by about 20% nationally between 2006 and 2016, while employment in all other sectors grew by only 3% during the same time period.¹ The demand for health services is expected to continue to increase, driven in part by an aging population and rising rates of chronic diseases.

According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), health sector employment is projected to grow by about 18% in the US between 2016 and 2026, accounting for nearly one-third of all new jobs.² Nationally, hospitals are the largest employers within the health care industry and continued to add jobs in 2018. Between January and September of 2018, hospitals added 79,000 jobs compared to adding 70,000 jobs for all of 2017.³ Employment in home health care also continues to rise, adding approximately 10,000 jobs between January and September of 2018 and about 17,000 jobs in 2017.

Researchers at the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) analyzed available New York State employment data to examine New York's job market compared to these national trends.

Data and Limitations

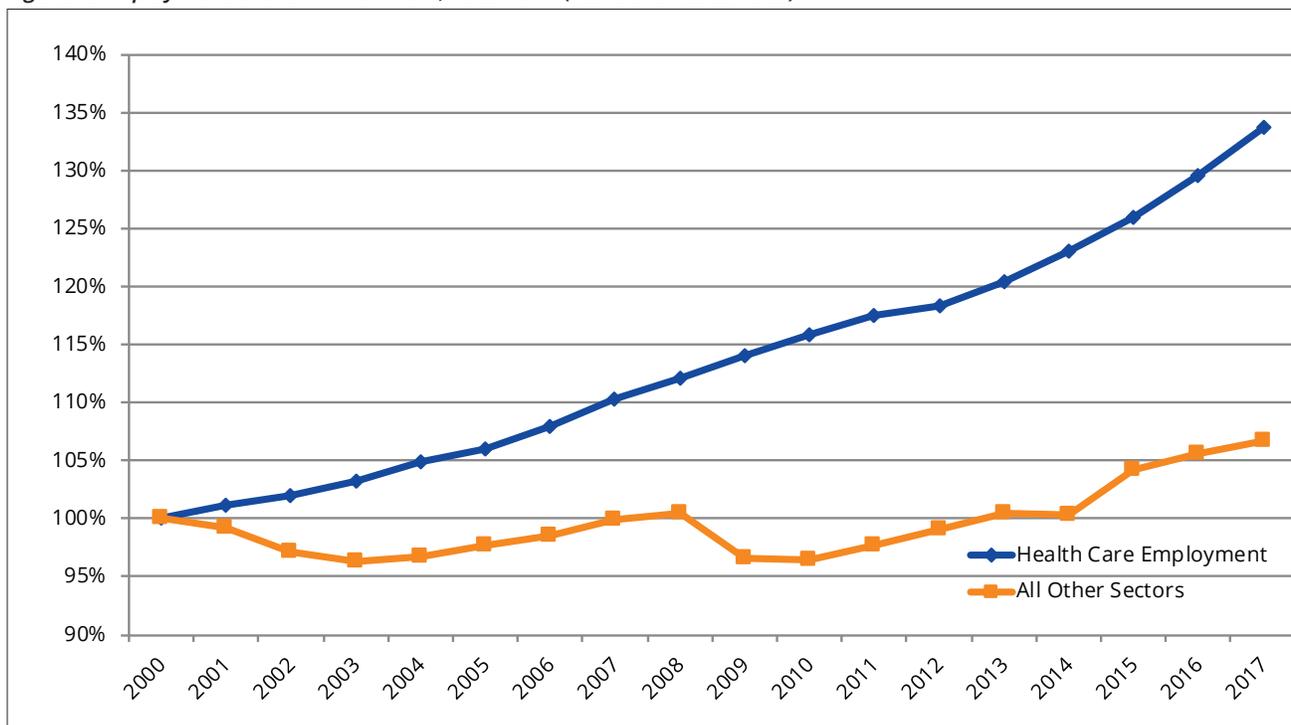
The primary data source used for this analysis was the Covered Employment and Wages Program (ES-202) obtained from the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL). Data from 2000-2017 were used to describe trends in health care employment by region and setting.* It is important to note that these data reflect the number of jobs in the market, not necessarily the number of employed people (eg, one individual may hold more than one health care job). A number of factors potentially affected the information reported, including closures, mergers, and expansions of health care facilities. Consequently, large changes in jobs in specific health sectors may reflect a change in ownership rather than actual fluctuations in the number of jobs. Additionally, the location of a few respondents to the DOL survey could not be determined. Consequently, summing the data by DOL regions will not add up to the statewide totals.

* Settings within the health sector include hospitals (public and private), nursing and personal care facilities (excluding residential, mental retardation, mental health and substance abuse facilities, and other residential care facilities), home health care, and ambulatory care settings (excluding home health care).

In New York, job growth in health care exceeds job growth in all other employment sectors.

Consistent with national trends, job growth in health care in New York significantly outpaced job growth in all other employment sectors. Between 2000 and 2017, health care employment in New York grew by just over 34%, while employment in all other sectors grew by approximately 6% (Figure 1). Between 2008 and 2017, jobs in health care grew by 19% compared to about 6% growth in all other employment sectors. Over the past 5 years, health care job growth has been stronger in the New York City region than in regions outside New York City. Since 2013, health care jobs in the New York City region has increased by 15%, nearly twice the rate for all the other regions in the state.

Figure 1. Employment Growth in New York, 2000-2017 (Standardized to 2000)



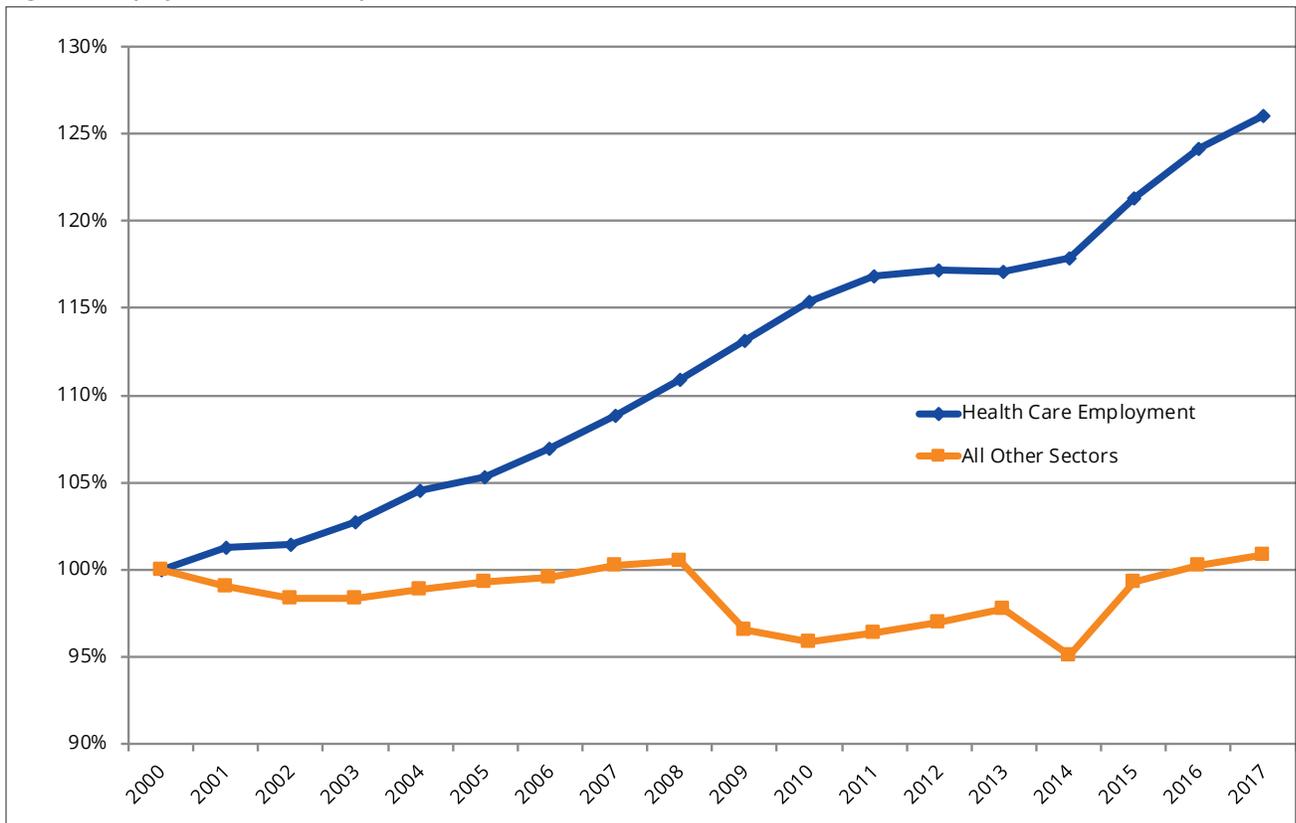
Source: New York State Department of Labor, ES-202.

Health care is an important driver of employment growth in upstate New York.

The difference in job growth between the health care sector and all other employment sectors was more prominent in upstate New York.[†] Between 2000 and 2017, health care jobs in upstate New York increased by more than 26%, while jobs outside of the health care sector increased by less than 1% during that same period (Figure 2).

[†] Includes Long Island and all regions north of New York City.

Figure 2. Employment Growth in Upstate New York, 2000-2017 (Standardized to 2000)



Source: New York State Department of Labor, ES-202.

Health care employment grew by 15% in New York City between 2013 and 2017.

Overall, health sector employment in the state grew by 11% between 2013 and 2017 (Table 1). During this time period, New York City experienced the most job growth, adding over 70,000 health care jobs, followed by Long Island which added nearly 16,000 jobs. Not all upstate regions, however, experienced strong job growth in the health care sector. Health care employment in the Southern Tier region decreased slightly between 2013 and 2017, while health care employment in the Mohawk Valley region increased by only 1% during the same time period.

Table 1. Total Health Sector Employment in New York, by Department of Labor Region, 2013-2017

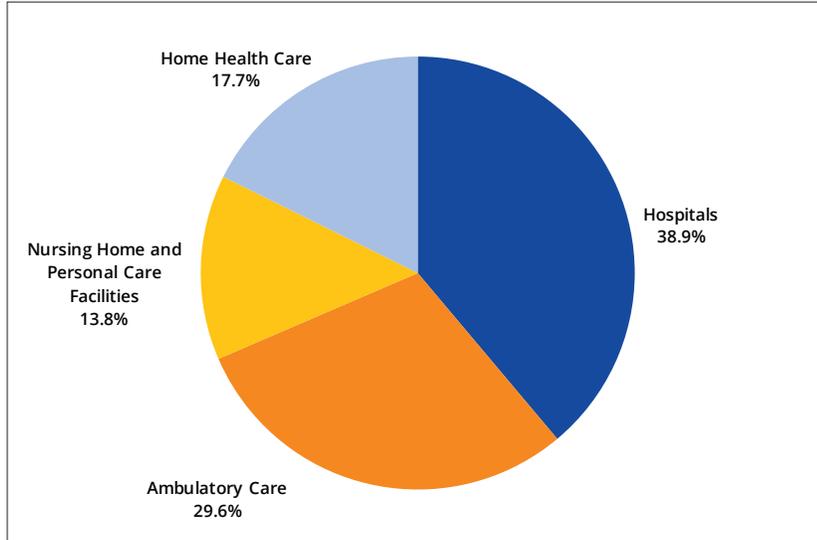
Region	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change Between 2013 and 2017	
						Number	Percent
Capital District	56,459	57,226	57,919	58,620	59,768	3,309	5.9%
Central New York	38,941	39,123	39,334	40,091	39,920	979	2.5%
Finger Lakes	63,357	64,791	65,592	67,141	68,202	4,845	7.6%
Hudson Valley	111,702	113,251	116,098	118,332	120,691	8,989	8.0%
Long Island	164,474	165,458	170,890	176,662	180,419	15,945	9.7%
Mohawk Valley	26,905	26,247	26,659	26,945	27,177	272	1.0%
New York City	466,456	484,870	492,963	510,845	537,105	70,649	15.1%
North Country	17,897	18,215	18,601	18,903	18,975	1,078	6.0%
Southern Tier	29,089	28,650	28,816	29,069	28,924	-165	-0.6%
Western New York	70,964	71,039	71,446	72,662	73,305	2,341	3.3%
Total	1,046,244	1,068,870	1,093,759	1,125,967	1,161,221	114,977	11.0%

Source: New York State Department of Labor, ES-202.

Hospitals account for the largest proportion of employment in health care settings.

Within the health care sector, hospitals accounted for the largest percentage of jobs in New York. In 2017, hospitals made up nearly 39% of health care employment, followed by ambulatory care (30%), home health care (18%), and nursing home and personal care facilities (14%) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Health Sector Employment in New York, by Setting, 2017

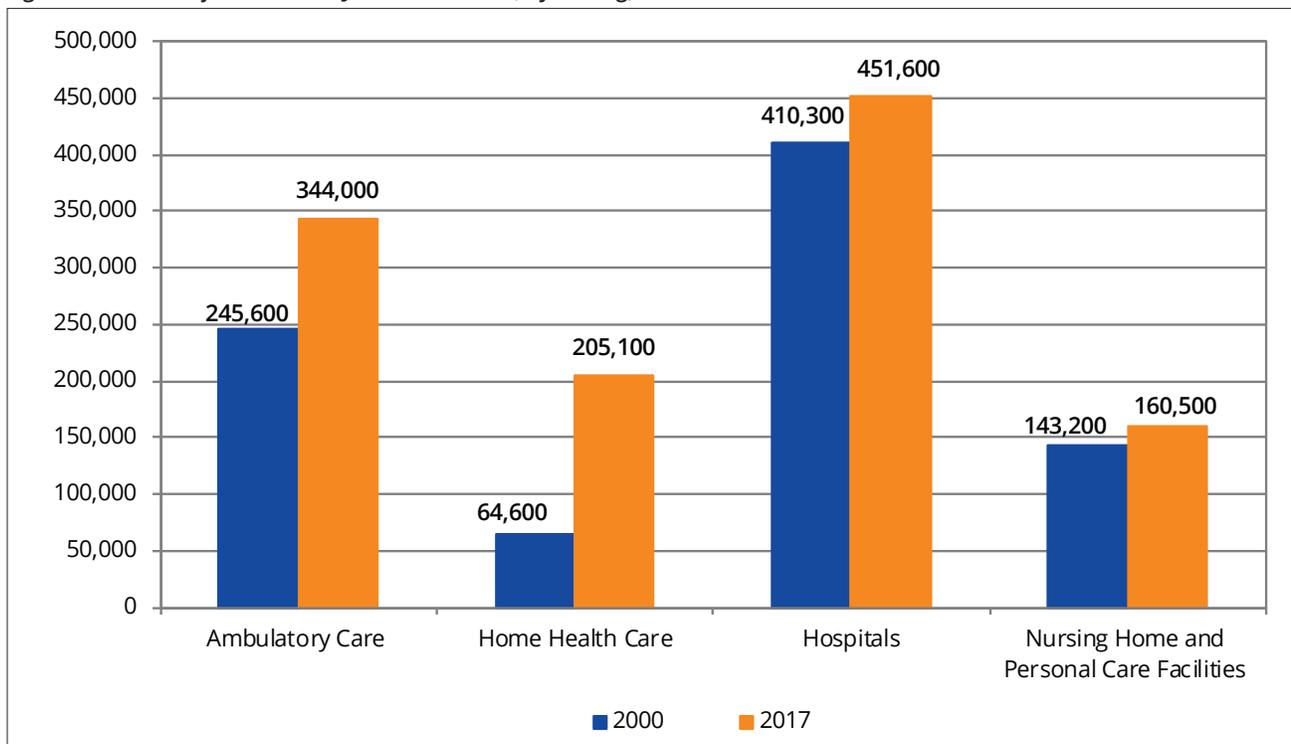


Source: New York State Department of Labor, ES-202.

Job growth is strongest in home health care and ambulatory care settings.

Between 2000 and 2017, jobs in home health care in New York more than tripled, adding over 140,000 jobs, while jobs in ambulatory care increased by about 40%, adding approximately 98,000 jobs.

Figure 4. Number of Health Care Jobs in New York, by Setting, 2000-2017



Sources: New York State Department of Labor, ES-202.; US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics.

Conclusions

Consistent with national trends, job growth in the health care sector in New York continued to outpace growth in all other employment sectors. Health care employment is especially important in upstate New York, where job growth in employment sectors outside of health care has shown little growth over the past 15 years. While hospitals continue to be the largest employer in health care in New York, job growth has been strongest in recent years in home health and ambulatory care settings.

Continued monitoring of health care employment trends is important, given the changes that are occurring in health care delivery, with less emphasis on acute care and growing emphasis on ambulatory care. These changes can impact job growth in health care, potentially reducing demand for workers in some settings and in some occupations. Stakeholders need reliable information about health care jobs and job growth to inform policy decisions, particularly as it relates to health workforce development.

References

1. Martiniano R, Moore J. Health Care Employment Projections, 2016-2026: An Analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Projections by Setting and by Occupation. Rensselaer, NY: Center for Health Workforce Studies, School of Public Health, SUNY Albany; February 2018.
2. US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections, Accessed October 17, 2018.
3. US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Employment Statistics Highlights: September 2018. <https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/ceshighlights.pdf>. October 5, 2018. Accessed October 18, 2018.



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Established in 1996, CHWS is an academic research center based at the School of Public Health, University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY). The mission of CHWS is to provide timely, accurate data and conduct policy relevant research about the health workforce. The research conducted by CHWS supports and promotes health workforce planning and policymaking at local, regional, state, and national levels.