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 (e.g., 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).
Findings

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)


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. Includes Long Island and all regions north of New York City. 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).

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1 Includes Long Island and all regions north of New York City.
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

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<td>Number</td>
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<td>Capital District</td>
<td>56,459</td>
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<td>57,919</td>
<td>58,620</td>
<td>59,768</td>
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<td>Finger Lakes</td>
<td>63,357</td>
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<td>65,592</td>
<td>67,141</td>
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<td>Hudson Valley</td>
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<td>116,098</td>
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<td>Long Island</td>
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<td>Mohawk Valley</td>
<td>26,905</td>
<td>26,247</td>
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<td>New York City</td>
<td>466,456</td>
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<td>510,845</td>
<td>537,105</td>
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<td>18,903</td>
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<td>Southern Tier</td>
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<td>29,069</td>
<td>28,924</td>
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<td>Western New York</td>
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<td>71,039</td>
<td>71,446</td>
<td>72,662</td>
<td>73,305</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,046,244</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,068,870</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,093,759</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,125,967</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,161,221</strong></td>
<td><strong>114,977</strong></td>
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</table>

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**

![Pie chart showing the distribution of health sector employment in New York by setting in 2017.](image)


**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**

![Bar chart showing the number of health care jobs in New York by setting for the years 2000 and 2017.](image)

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

