

Hunter College - CUNY
Department of Geography
Nature of New York

Exercise 19: Economic Nature of New York

REQUIRED 

Due date: **May 11, 2018**. Late submission will be penalized.

PURPOSE: This exercise reviews the economic geography of your counties within NYS's 10 Economic Regions and assesses their economic health by looking at the location of both business enterprises and available workers. At the same time, you will compare each county's economic base to NYS's economy to see how each fit into the state's economic matrix and if their performances are better or worse than that of NYS. (Be sure to make note which region each one of your counties is in. In a rare occurrence two of your counties may be in the same economic region. If that is the case, differentiate each county within the economic region.)

INTRODUCTION: NYS Empire State Development Corp. (<https://esd.ny.gov/>) is the economic driver of the State of New York's economic plan. Its current logo is "New York State: The Future of Business". Its site provides information to anyone wishing to locate an economic activity in NYS. You can get a summary of the economic regions by clicking on the regional map or going to <https://esd.ny.gov/why-new-york-state>.

The NYS Department of Labor (<https://www.labor.ny.gov/home/>) provides a wealth of information. On the top index bar click on **Government Research & Statistics** (<https://www.labor.ny.gov/home/research.php>) then click on **Labor Statistics** which contains links to many topics (<https://labor.ny.gov/stats/index.shtm>). Scroll down the page to view topics. On the left sidebar under "Data by Topic" there is an "A to Z Index" for locating information. There is also a button for "Regional Data".

The NYS Economic Development Council spearheads the state's economic initiatives (<http://www.nysedc.org/>). The NYS Site Locator (<http://newyorkstate.zoomprospector.com/>) helps prospective business find the best site to relocate within the state. If you visit this site remember to zoom to your county to get best results; zoom out to see statewide possibilities.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Economic statistics are closely related to Census of Population.
2. The geography of unemployment is as important and as telling as the geography of employment. The location of the loss of jobs and the selection of sites to locate new industries to invigorate a local economy is to be viewed within the context of the make-up of local population. It is part of any economic geography analysis.
3. Not all NYS sites are up-to-date. The US Census of Business and Manufacturing occurs in years ending in 2 and 7. Data from the 2012 census is released through US Dept. of Labor web sites. Statistics gathered by 2010 Census of Population are released after they are processed. **For the latest census numbers go to US Census NY Quick Facts (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/NY>) and American Fact Finder (<https://factfinder.census.gov/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>)**
4. The US Department of Labor is always revising its benchmarking process. This may make it difficult to compare current data with data from past reports. Always check criteria used to gather and report statistics to see if they match.

READ THE ASSIGNMENT ON PAGE 3 BEFORE BEGINNING THE RESEARCH PHASE.

TAKE NOTES AS YOU PERUSE THE INFORMATION in A to H below SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO RETRACE YOUR STEPS. REMEMBER THAT THIS IS AN ECONOMIC REGION ANALYSIS, NOT A SPECIFIC COUNTY ANALYSIS, ALTHOUGH COUNTY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION DOES APPEAR. USE IT IF YOU FIND IT.

RESEARCH: This section provides you with the information to do the assignment on the next page. FYI: because of cross-linking, a number of pages are accessed from different starting points but wind up on the same web page. These links are included to show the ease of finding data.

- A. Go to <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lsgqog.shtm> and read **Geography Explained**. At the left side bar click on **REGIONAL DATA**, then **FIND YOUR REGION**. From the alphabetical listing of counties note the name of the economic region each of yours is in.
- B. Look over the most recent **Economic Trends** report from the State Comptroller's Office at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/finance/finreports/fcr/2016/economic.htm> for **2016** which are the latest available. The 2016 index is at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/finance/finreports/fcr/2016/fcrindex.htm>
- C. Go to **REGIONAL OVERVIEWS** (<https://esd.ny.gov/why-new-york-state>). Determine the region in which your counties are located. Scroll down the page to the **Regional links**. Read about your regions.
- D. View the regional labor statistic profiles at <http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/regmap.shtm>.
- E. Go to NYS Dept. of Labor (<https://www.labor.ny.gov/home>) Click on "Businesses" header then scroll halfway down to "**Labor Statistics**" index site (direct link: <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/index.shtm>). From this page you can follow links to review the economic status off your counties and also to compare them to the entire State of New York.
- F. Go to <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/index.shtm>. On the left sidebar click **Unemployment**. Check your three counties' **unemployment rate** against that of NYS. (*The dropdown box has an alphabetical list of counties embedded about a third of the way down from the top of the listing after the urban areas.*) For 2017 rates see <https://labor.ny.gov/stats/pressreleases/prlaus.shtm>. **SCROLL to the bottom of the page** then click on the **State and Area Unemployment Rates** and the **Unemployment Rate Map** links. Be sure to note the percentage rate for each of your counties and that for NYS.
- G. Go to <https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/regmap.shtm>. Click on the left sidebar listing to get information about **employment** in your counties. See the **Significant Industries** at <http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/Significant-Industries.shtm>. Look at the trends. List the industries that have gained or lost the most jobs in your areas.
- H. Go to https://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/enys_index.shtm to access the state labor department's monthly newsletter. Look for the issue that highlights the regions in which your counties are located. This is a good source of information. Issues dating back to 2004 are available for you to look at.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. List each of your counties and the economic region in which it is located. (Research section A.)

Using the information from the web sites accessed above (“B-H”), compare your three counties and the regions they are in, to themselves and to NYS by summarizing the information you found. This can be done in paragraph or chart format. In the rare case that two counties fall in the same region, try to differentiate them. Otherwise lump the two together when doing your analysis.

2. Address the character of the workforce (age, education, etc.) for the types of jobs that are available in each county. Does there appear to be a match? (Review the Population exercise and go back to the Census NY Quick Facts and American Factfinder web site. for additional and supportive information.
3. List the sectors of industry that employ the most people in each county (region). Be sure to include the agricultural, mining and forestry sectors where appropriate. Give a few examples within each sector.
4. Identify the sectors of growth and note sectors of decline.
5. Compare overall unemployment rates by county. Are things getting better or worse for those looking for work? Best to look over the statistics for an extended period of time - 3 to 5 years.
6. How does each county's trends in its economic health compare to NYS as a whole? (Remember to **use rates and percentages** to compare a county or a region to the State not whole numbers. NYS is a much larger entity than any county or region so whole numbers are meaningless unless you convert them to percentage.)
7. Return to the Economic Development Council's web site (www.nysedc.org).
 - a) Click on the “ASSETS” button at the top of the page to get to the interactive map. Locate your three counties and list any assets that are located there, if any. If none, say so.
 - b) Then click on the “CASE STUDIES” button. On the left sidebar click on the regions in which your counties are located and list any EDC successes within each of your counties. Briefly summarize the business venture and the support received from the state.
8. In paragraph form summarize what you have found out about your counties and their economic regions. Which of your counties has the most robust economic setting and setting for economic growth? Be sure to compare trends to the NYS averages.