

Regional Similarities in Job Change

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This month we took a quick look at job changes by county throughout the northeastern corridor stretching from Portland, Maine to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This collection of 81 counties approximates the northern half of the metro corridor that extends to Richmond, Virginia. This region was home to about 23.1 million private sector jobs in 2004. Between 2001 and 2004 the region added about 140,000 jobs for a growth rate of 0.6 percent.

[As our map illustrates](#), there are some similarities that characterize this region. First, with the exception of the greater Boston area where both the urban and abutting suburban counties have shed jobs, growth during this relatively short period has been the strongest in primarily suburban counties. Second, most of the job losses have been limited to old-line, urbanized industrial areas. Third, there is a general pattern of job diffusion evident in the region, a trend which has been apparent for decades.

The ten counties with the greatest number of net new jobs are shown in the table below.

<u>County, State</u>	<u>Job Change</u> 2001-2004
Kings, New York	26,220
Suffolk, New York	25,026
Nassau, New York	20,017
Monmouth, New Jersey	17,541
Ocean, New Jersey	16,508
Westchester, New York	16,438
Burlington, New Jersey	15,275
Bucks, Pennsylvania	13,098
Plymouth, Massachusetts	11,462
Gloucester, New Jersey	10,968
Total	172,553

The ten counties with the greatest number of net job losses are shown in the following table.

<u>County, State</u>	<u>Job Change</u> 2001-2004
Norfolk, Massachusetts	-4,266
Essex, Massachusetts	-5,061
Hampden, Massachusetts	-5,572
Somerset, New Jersey	-6,256
Hartford, Connecticut	-9,851
Middlesex, New Jersey	-10,398
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	-24,976
Suffolk, Massachusetts	-38,072
Middlesex, Massachusetts	-56,507
New York, New York	-91,033
Total	-251,992

Since 2001 the greatest job growth has been in the suburban counties surrounding New York City while most of the losses have occurred in more urbanized counties. It is apparent from the map that Connecticut looks very similar to most of the other counties in the larger region where the jobs spill-over from urban to suburban counties continues.