County Facts: Rensselaer County, NY
Population 160,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 4.5% (Rensselaer County), 4.4% (NY), 4.7% (United States)
Poverty rate: 11.8% (Rensselaer County), 15.1% (NY), 15.4% (United States)
Median family income (000s): $67 (Rensselaer County), $62 (NY), $57 (United States)
Population growth 2000-2017: 5% (Rensselaer County), 5% (NY), 16% (United States)
Manufacturing share of workforce: 7% (Rensselaer County), 6% (NY), 10% (United States)
Farming share of workforce: 0.7% (Rensselaer County), 0.7% (NY), 1.7% (United States)
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 3.8% (Rensselaer County), 3.0% (NY), 4.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 59% (Rensselaer County), 57% (NY), 66% (United States)
Percent reaching upper-middle class: 26% (Rensselaer County), 25% (NY), 20% (United States)
Percent achieving American Dream: 14% (Rensselaer County), 12% (NY), 14% (United States)
Percent giving birth as a teen: 0.9% (Rensselaer County), 0.8% (NY), 0.8% (United States)
Percent landing in jail: 1.5% (Rensselaer County), 1.2% (NY), 1.7% (United States)
Local school expenditure per student (000s): $9.0 (Rensselaer County), $9.6 (NY), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- RPI
- New York 4-year-college average
- U.S. 4-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 4.7%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

2-Year Colleges

- Hudson Valley CC (public)
- New York 2-year-college average
- U.S. 2-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 10.9%
- Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

- Percent Black
- Percent Hispanic
- Percent over age 65
- Percent college grad
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)
- Life expectancy (years)
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents)

- Rensselaer County
- NY
- United States

- 16% 14%
- 18% 17%
- 13.6% 3.5%
- 25%
- 75
- 83.9
- 16

- 9% 4%
- 13.0%
- 21%
- 68
- 82.4
- 11

- 22%
- 76
- 83.2
- 15
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
• Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
• Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
• Median family income (2016 ACS)
• Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
• Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
• Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
• Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
• Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
• Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
• Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
• Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
• Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
• Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
• Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
• Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
• Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
• Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
• Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
• Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
• Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
• Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
• ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
• BLS: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
• CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
• Census: U.S. Census Bureau