Indicator: Occupational Change
Report Prepared by Hofstra University

Why is this important?

The occupational salary structure is a direct measure of the opportunity Long Islanders have to secure a job that provides an adequate standard of living. Changes in the size and pattern of growth and contraction within specific occupations and occupational groupings provide a guidepost to the areas of looseness and tightness in the job market. The relationship between occupational size and growth, on the one hand, and the average level of pay within occupational groups, on the other, relates to the standard of living experienced by working people on Long Island.

How are we doing?

In the last five years, workers in nearly all occupational groupings on LI have experienced decreases in pay after adjusting for inflation. The one exception to this is category of personal care and service occupations, which has seen a 6% increase in average annual pay. However, this group also has the second lowest average annual pay of 22 occupational groups ($24,702). (CHART A)

The ten largest detailed occupations make up about 20% of the jobs on Long Island. Nine of these occupations (all but registered nurses) are non-professional/managerial occupations, and seven of them have average salaries that are below the average for Long Island. (CHART B)
Change in Annual Pay for Occupations on Long Island: 2003-2007

- Personal care and service occupations
- Healthcare support occupations
- Business and financial operations occupations
- Computer and mathematical occupations
- Education, training, and library occupations
- Food preparation and serving related occupations
- Architecture and engineering occupations
- Long Island Median
- Construction and extraction occupations
- Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations
- Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance...
- Life, physical, and social science occupations
- Production occupations
- Transportation and material moving occupations
- Sales and related occupations
- Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations
- Office and administrative support occupations
- Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations
- Legal occupations
- Management occupations
- Protective service occupations
- Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media...
- Community and social services occupations

-12.0% 10.0% 8.0% -6.0% -4.0% -2.0% 0.0% 2.0% 4.0% 6.0%
CHART B

Salary in Ten Largest Detailed Occupations: 2007

- Retail salespersons: $10,000
- Cashiers: $11,950
- Office clerks: $15,670
- Registered nurses: $46,270
- Teacher assistants: $22,040
- Stock clerks and order fillers: $23,960
- Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks: $30,860
- Sales reps, wholesale and manufacturing: $35,980
- Customer service representatives: $36,910
- Executive secretaries and administrative assistants: $45,830

Median: $46,270
Mean: $47,042