

Genesee County Summary*

General Overview

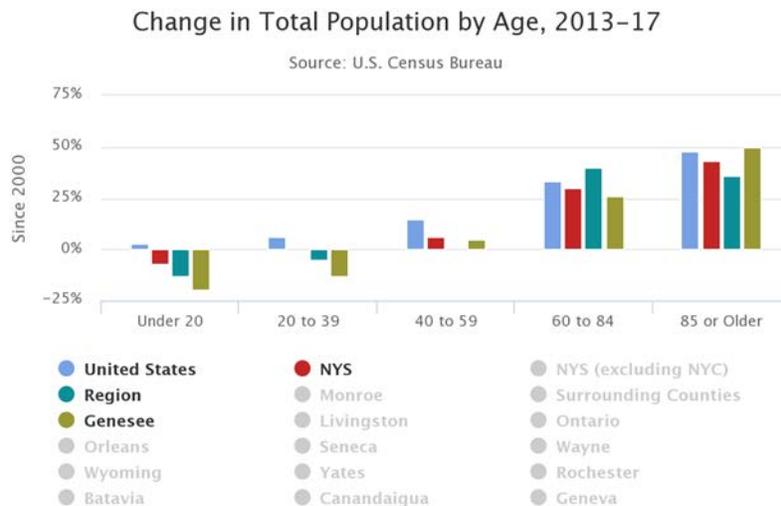
Incorporated in 1805, Genesee County sits on the region’s western border between the cities of Buffalo and Rochester, with Batavia as its county seat and largest municipality. Genesee is one of nine counties in the Greater Rochester Region – Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates. Genesee derives its name from the Seneca word Gen-nis’-hee-yo, meaning “the Beautiful Valley.” Genesee’s standout attributes among the region include a low cost of living and a strong tourism industry anchored by Darien Lake Amusement Park, several golf courses, and Batavia Downs racetrack and casino.

Among its strengths, Genesee has relatively high revenue from tourism and strong growth in average salaries. The average salary in the county, adjusted for inflation, increased by 13% since 2000, more than the state or the nation. However, the county has also been losing population and saw increases in poverty: total poverty rate rose by 5 points and the child poverty rate rose by 11 points from 2000 to 2013-17, which was the highest rate of increase in child poverty among the region’s counties.

Demographic Overview

Genesee County's population fell by 4.3% between 2000 and 2017, in contrast to an increase of 0.9% for the region, 4.6% for the state and 15.7% for the nation. In 2017, Genesee County was home to 57,956 residents, or about 5% of the total regional population.

Similar to other counties in the upstate region, Genesee County has an aging population:



*Please note, the indicator information included in this summary reflects the data available at the time of its composition. Some indicator data may have since been updated on our website. Visit actrochester.org/all-indicators for updates.

- Between 2000 and 2013-17, the number of residents younger than 20 years declined 20% and the 20-to-39 range declined 13% - both greater decreases than for the region as a whole.
- The number of adults 85+ increased 50%, an increase greater than state, national and regional trends.

Despite an increase in diversity, Genesee County remains much whiter than the nation, state, and the region.

- Since 2000, the white population in Genesee has fallen by 6%, while the small number of Asians, African Americans, and Hispanics have increased by 68%, 24%, and 151% respectively.
- In 2017, 93% of Genesee residents were white, in line with the eight counties surrounding Monroe but much higher than the state (64%) and the nation (72%).

Community Vitality

Genesee County attracted more tourism spending per capita than all other counties in the region besides Ontario, Seneca and Yates. In 2017, tourism spending amounted to \$1,678 per resident, for a total of roughly \$97 million. Genesee's rate was higher than the region (\$1,368) but below the state excluding NYC (\$2,089).

Genesee also had the highest recreation spending per resident (\$217), with a rate almost three times higher than the region (\$76) but still below the state (\$358). Genesee's recreation spending per resident decreased by 13% from 2005 to 2017.

Voter registration declined slightly in 2017 but remains comparatively robust, while election turnout rose considerably from 2015 to 2016:

- From 2000 to 2017, the proportion of voting-age residents who were registered to vote in Genesee County fell 5 points to 82%.
- In the 2016 midterms, 58% of Genesee adults turned out to vote, above the statewide rate of 50% and on par with the regional rate.
- In the 2016 presidential election, 58% of voting-age residents turned out to vote, the second lowest rate of the past five presidential elections. This rate is equal to the region and slightly above the national turnout rate (55%). However, the county still outperformed the state, which had 50% turnout in 2016.

Genesee County's registered borrowers was the highest in the region:

- In 2016, 78% of residents in Genesee's county library system were registered borrowers, above the state (57%) and region (63%), and every county in the region.
- The number of library visits has decreased 37% since 2000, but the number of visits per resident (6.8) remains higher than the state (5.6), region (6.0), and higher than every other county in the region except Orleans.

Charitable giving modestly increased but continued to lag behind the region, state, and nation:

- Genesee's charitable giving as a share of income was at 1.4% of income in 2016, lagging behind the state (2.5%), nation (2.3%), and region (1.7%), but higher than some regional counties.

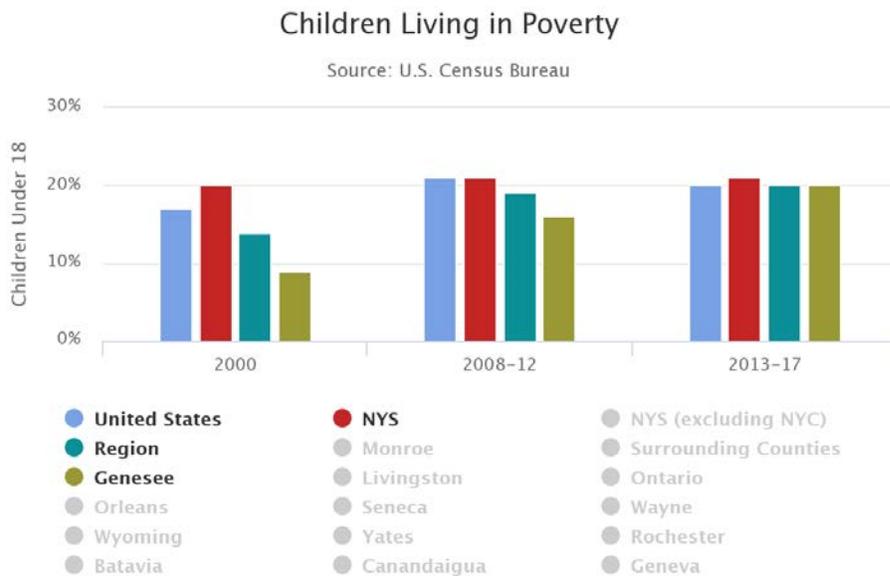
- For 2013-2017, Genesee County saw 8% of its households without a vehicle. The rate has remained consistent since 2000 (7%), and is on par with the nation (9%), the state excluding New York City (10%), and all other counties except Yates (13%).

For 2013-2017, Genesee County saw 8% of its households without a vehicle. The rate has remained consistent since 2000 (7%), and is on par with the nation (9%), the state excluding New York City (10%), and all other counties except Yates (13%).

Children and Youth

Child poverty continues to be a problem for Genesee:

- In 2013-17, Genesee’s child poverty rate was 20%, up from 9% in 2000. Genesee’s rate was on par with the region and nation (both at 20%) and comparable to the state (21%), but higher than all but two counties in the region (Monroe and Orleans). In contrast, in 2000, Genesee had had the lowest county child poverty rate in the region.
- Genesee’s 11-point increase from 2000 to 2013-17 was bigger than the increases experienced in that period by the state, nation, region, and every county in the region.



This is despite families with two parents (and potentially two earners) being more common in Genesee than in the nation, state, or region.

- The proportion of families raised by single parents rose by 5 points from 2000 to 2013-17, less than the regional increase of 8 points, but greater than the state’s increase of 3 points.
- Genesee’s rate of single parenthood in 2013-17 (31%) was the lowest among regional counties, the region, the state, and the nation.

The proportion of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy rose by 17 points from 2000 to 2015, but fell by 5 points in 2016 (12%). The rate is now above both the state (77%) and regional (80%) rates and is among the highest of all regional counties.

The proportion of babies with low birth weights has fluctuated in Genesee County over the decade, but remains below state and national levels:

- The rate of babies with low birth weights was 6% in 2016, on par with 2000.
- The rate in Genesee has been at or below the national, state, and regional rate of 8% for every year from 2000 to 2016.

Child abuse and neglect has worsened since 2000 and remains a serious issue:

- The rate of indicated cases of child abuse and neglect (cases in which there was credible evidence) in Genesee increased by 41% from 2000 to 2016. This is a greater increase than the state (23%) and region (29%).
- The rate in 2016 was 24 per 1,000 children under 18, above the state rate of 16 and the regional rate of 18.

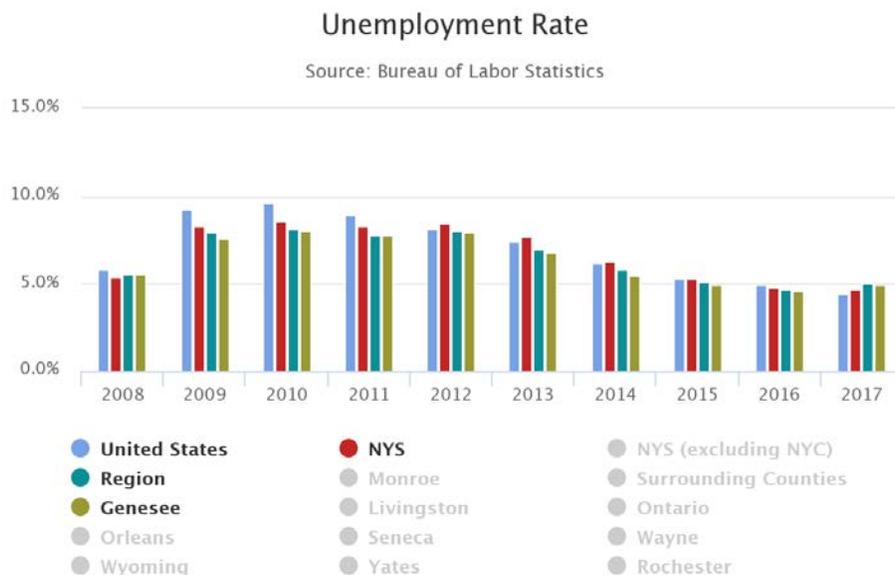
In 2017, Genesee’s rate of foster care admissions was 2.5 per 1,000 children, a 34% decrease from its rate in 2000. Genesee’s rate was higher than the state (2.0) and the region (2.1).

Genesee’s rate of teen pregnancy decreased by 60% from 2000 to 2016, a greater drop than the state, but lower than the region. Its rate in 2016, 2%, matched that of the region. Only two of the surrounding counties had lower teen pregnancy rates in 2016.

Genesee saw 15 live births per 1,000 females age 15 to 19 in 2016, lower than the nation (20), but higher than the state (13) and the region (14).

Economy

Like the state, region, and nation, Genesee’s unemployment soared during the Great Recession of 2008 and its aftermath. However, Genesee’s recovery in terms of employment has been stronger than in other areas:



- Unemployment jumped from 4.5% in 2007 to a peak of 8.0% in 2010, but has since maintained a rate of under 5% since 2015 with 4.9% reported for 2017. Genesee's rate is less than 1 point higher than the low of 3.6% in 2000.
- Genesee's rate in 2017 was just slightly higher than that of the nation and the state (4.4% and 4.7% respectively), but fell below the regional rate of 5%, ranking the county as fourth lowest for unemployment.

Genesee's job growth since 2001 has lagged behind the nation and state, but outperformed several counties in the region. Some sectors outperformed others in the county:

- Genesee experienced one of the smallest increases in job growth in the region in 2017 (0.20%), exceeding only counties that experienced a decrease in 2017 – Orleans (-1.30%), Wayne (-1.80%) and Wyoming (-0.40%).
- In the Manufacturing sector, Genesee's total number of jobs fell less (down 6%) than the nation (down 21%), state (down 34%), and region (down 36%).
- In the Trade, Transportation and Utilities sectors, Genesee saw a higher increase (19%) than the nation, state and the region, ranking second only to Ontario.
- Genesee saw notably less of an increase than the state, nation and region in the Education, Financial Activities, and Leisure and Hospitality sectors.

Genesee's salary growth, adjusted for inflation, has exceeded that of the state and , but its salary level continues to lag behind some of its peers in the counties surrounding Monroe:

- Salaries in Genesee grew 13% from an average of \$34,315 in 2000 to \$40,038 in 2017.
- This compares to 10% growth nationally and statewide.
- Besides Yates and Livingston, Genesee's average salary in 2017 was lower than that of most other regional counties, and was well below the national average of \$55,375 and the state average of \$70,538.

Education

Genesee County has made extraordinary progress in prekindergarten participation:

- Genesee's percentage of 4-year olds in free prekindergarten programs was 62% in 2017 – it was 1% in 2001. This increase mostly occurred between 2007 and 2009.
- Genesee's rate of participation was higher than the state (52%) and the region (44%) in 2017.

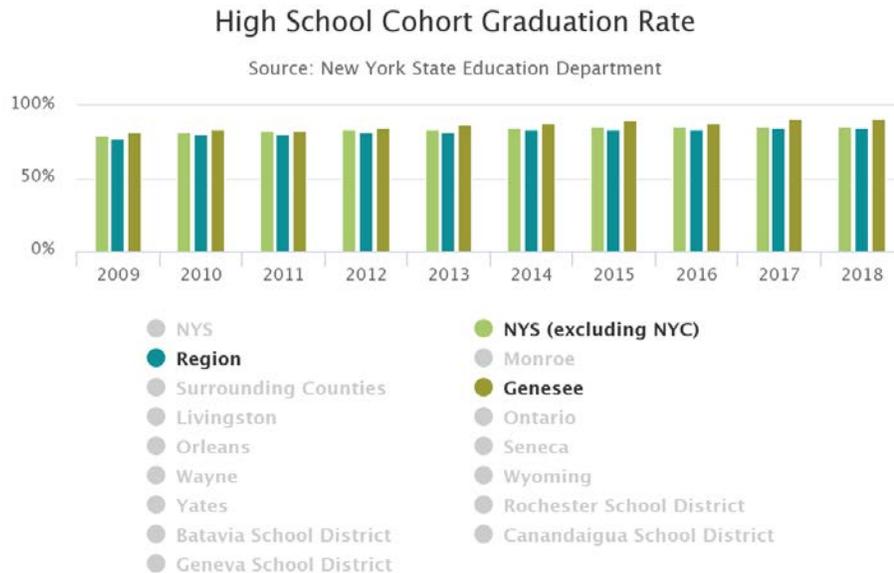
Students in Genesee County showed mixed results on the Common Core-aligned state tests:

- In 2018, 48% of students passed 3rd grade English, about the same rate as the region. A higher share of students passed 3rd grade math (54%), a rate higher than the region .
- The passing rate for 8th grade English (44%) was about even with the region but below the state. The 8th grade math rate (36%) was lower than both the region and state.
- We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2018 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2018, 19% of 3rd-8th graders in the region opted not to take the English or Math exams.

However, students fared relatively better on the Regents test:

- In 2018, 81% of Genesee students passed the Common Core Algebra 1 Regents, versus 70% for the state and 73% for the region.
- In that same year, Genesee posted an 82% pass rate for the Common Core English Regents, above both the state and the region (at 79% and 78% respectively).

Genesee’s four-year high school graduation rate of 91% in 2018 was higher than the state (83%) and region (85%).



Compared to other counties, Genesee County has fewer adults age 25 and older that have attended college, but the county is not too far behind the region, state and nation:

- In 2013-17, 55% of Genesee residents had attended at least some college, a rate just slightly below the region (62%), state and nation (both 60%).
- A smaller share of adults (9%) had less than a high school diploma, but only 21% of adults had a bachelor’s degree or higher – lower than the state (35%), region (32%), and nation (31%).

Overall per-student spending rose by 65% from 2000 to 2017, higher than the region (50%) and the state (57%). In 2017, Genesee districts spent \$23,589 per student, similar to the region but below the state (\$24,712).

Per-student *instructional* spending rose 40% from 2000 to 2017, similar to increase for the region (43%), and the state excluding New York City (44%). In 2017, Genesee spent \$15,047 per student on expenses directly related to its students’ classroom experiences.

Economic Security

The rate of disengaged youth (ages 16 to 19 not enrolled in school and not working) in Genesee County has decreased 33% since 2000. For 2013- 2017, Genesee's rate of 4% was higher than that of the nation and state (both 7%) and region (6%).

Genesee has seen its median income drop substantially since 2000:

- From 2000 to 2013-17, Genesee's median income fell 9% to \$54,033, compared to national and statewide decreases of 7% and 2% respectively. Within the region, only Wayne, Livingston, Orleans, and Monroe counties had larger decreases in their income over that period.
- Genesee's median income in 2013-17 was below the national and state levels (\$57,652 and \$62,765 respectively), and just below the regional level (\$54,972).

Poverty rates were relatively low, but increased from 2000:

- In 2013-17, the poverty rate in Genesee was 13%, below the state and nation (both 15%), and regional (14%) rates.
- However, the rate has increased 5 points from 2000, a greater increase than the state, nation, and region.

The rate of people receiving temporary assistance has remained essentially flat:

- Genesee's rate was 1.1% in 2017, below the state, region, and every county besides Wyoming and Yates.

In 2013-17, 12% of Genesee County households received benefits from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), up 33% from 2008-12. Though Genesee's rate for 2013-17 was lower than the nation, state and region, the increase from 2008-12 was highest of all counties except Livingston (40%).

Health

The rate of people without health insurance is falling:

- In 2016, 5% of Genesee County residents under the age of 65 were uninsured, below the rates for the state (7%) and nation (10%), but equal to the region.
- This is a 7-point decrease from its peak of 12% in 2011 and in-line with rate decreases in the nation, state and region.

The mortality rate, despite falling, has remained relatively high:

- Genesee's mortality rate in 2016 of 720 per 100,000 residents was higher than the state (624) and regional (685) rates.
- The mortality rate is down 13% from 2000; this is less than the statewide and region decrease of 22% and 16% respectively.

In 2017, 6 cases of gonorrhea per 10,000 residents were reported in Genesee County, lower than the state and region (both 17 per 10,000 residents). Ontario's cases increased 500% from 2000, the largest increase of all the counties in the region.

In 2016, 0.2 cases of early syphilis per 10,000 residents were reported in Genesee County, the lowest of all counties in the region and lower than the regional and state rate (0.8 and 3.1 respectively). Genesee’s rate is consistent with 2014.

Housing

Median home values have fallen in Genesee, in contrast to the state and the nation:

- From 2000 to 2013-17, the median home value in Genesee fell 8% to \$111,900. This was a larger decrease than for the region (1%) and is a contrast to the 18% national and 35% statewide increases.
- In 2013-17, the median home value in Genesee was lower than the median for the region (\$133,156), state (\$293,000), and the nation (\$193,500).

Since 2000, the median rent in Genesee has fallen by 2%, a smaller decrease than the region (down by 4%). Both the nation and the state saw median rent increases of 11% and 21%, respectively.

Housing and rent are particularly affordable in Genesee:

- Genesee’s ratio of median home value to median household income, which is a measure of housing affordability, was lower in 2013-17 (2.1) than the region (2.4), state (4.7), and nation (3.4).
- The ratio was unchanged from 2000, as opposed to increases (indicating a decline in affordability) for the region, state, and nation.
- In 2013-17, 30% of median household income went to rent in Genesee, lower than the region (34%), state (36%), and nation (32%). Genesee’s rate was lower than every county except Seneca and Wyoming in 2013-17.

More people owned their homes in Genesee than the state, region, and nation:

- In 2013-17, 73% of housing units were owner-occupied, higher than the national rate of 64%, the state rate of 54%, and the regional rate of 68%. Genesee’s rate did not change from 2000; in contrast, the rate fell slightly regionally and nationally.



Genesee County had the lowest rate of vacant housing units (7%) followed by Monroe (8%) in 2013-17. Though Genesee's vacancy rate has risen 17% since 2000, this increase is far lower than that of the nation (33%), the state (50%), and the region (25%).

Public Safety

Genesee's rate of serious crime remains above state and similar to the region:

- Genesee's rate stood at 197 per 10,000 residents in 2017, slightly higher than the state (182), lower than the nation (275) and similar to the region (214).
- Genesee's rate fell by 27% from 2000 to 2017; a smaller decrease than in the region (39%), state (41%), and nation (33%) over that same period.

Genesee's rate of violent crime – 29 per 10,000 residents – has risen notably since 2000, in contrast to decreases in the state and nation.

- The rate of violent crime in Genesee was on par with the region (28), but lower than the state and the nation (36 and 38 respectively) in 2017.
- However, violent crime has increased 107% from 2000 to 2017, versus a 22% rise in the region, and a drop in both the state (35%) and nation (25%) over that period.

The number of victims of domestic violence per 10,000 residents nearly doubled from 2009 to 2017 – compared to the 7% drop for the state (excluding NYC) and the 11% drop for the region.

Genesee's arrest rate for 2017 was approximately 212 per 10,000 residents, lower than the state (226), but higher than the region (198). Arrests have declined 8% since 2000, a decrease notably lower than the state and region, and the lowest of all counties except Wyoming (1%).

Incarcerations in Genesee County rose 31% since 2008, an increase ranked third highest in the region after Seneca (53%), and Livingston (42%). In 2017, there were 16.7 arrests per 10,000 residents in Genesee, higher than the state (12.3) and the region (13.7).

To learn more about our cities, counties and region, visit <https://actrochester.org/>.