


Capital Region Indicators

Benchmarking Progress in New York's Capital Region

CAPITAL DISTRICT
Regional
Planning
Commission

Developing regional success through collaborative planning and partnerships

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CDRPC is dedicated to connecting members of our community together through various means. As such, we are pleased to provide service-learning opportunities for students enrolled at area colleges and universities. We recognize that these opportunities provide meaningful real-world experiences to students so that they are ready to be productive employees once they graduate.

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About the Capital District Regional Planning Commission

The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) is a regional planning and resource center serving the upstate New York counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady. CDRPC provides objective analysis of data, trends, opportunities and challenges relevant to the Region's economic development and planning communities.

CDRPC serves the best interests of the public and private sectors by promoting intergovernmental cooperation; communicating, collaborating, and facilitating regional initiatives; and sharing information and fostering dialog on solutions to regional problems. Our organization provides added capacity to local municipalities through its regional coordination programs. By partnering with CDRPC, local municipalities are able to leverage the expertise of a full-time professional planning staff with significant network resources to provide added benefit to the work that is regularly performed in the Region.

Purpose

CDRPC was established in 1967 as a regional planning board by a cooperative agreement among the counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady. Its original purpose was to perform and support comprehensive planning work, including surveys, planning services, technical services, and the formulation of plans and policies to promote sound and coordinated development of the entire Region. Today, CDRPC is charged with the facilitation and coordination of a wide variety of regionally-administered programs including Regional Analytics and Mapping, Economic Development, Sustainable Communities, Water Quality, and Human Services.

Board Members

CDRPC is governed by a Board of Commissioners who are appointed to the Commission by their local governments. CDRPC is grateful to its Board for their ongoing guidance and dedication to the ideas and ideals that make CDRPC such a valuable asset in the Capital Region.

Albany County	**Rensselaer County**	**Saratoga County**	**Schenectady County**
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Introduction

In 2003, we released our first regional indicators report entitled *Capital District Regional Indicators Report: 2003*. That report provided a series of key indicators and benchmarks to help evaluate the Capital Region against regions with similar characteristics around New York State and the Country.

This new report compliments our work from 2015, *Capital Region Statistical Report*, and enables us to compare our region against others in a manner similar to that used in the 2003 report.

This Report primarily relies on a time series comparison of five-year data from the *American Community Survey (ACS)*. In late 2015, the US Census Bureau released the *ACS 2010-2014* five-year data which provide the nation with the first opportunity to perform a time-series comparison of this information from the first 5-year survey for the period 2005-2009. The *ACS* data is important because it provides detailed information that was previously collected from a sample in the decennial census using a Census questionnaire with detailed questions, commonly referred to as the "Long Form." The Census discontinued the Long Form and replaced it with the ongoing *American Community Survey*.

This Report examines six topics and compares the Albany-Schenectady-Troy Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), comprised of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie Counties, with a peer group. The six areas are:

- Social Welfare
- Education[1]
- Housing
- Economics
- Transportation
- Health

The Peer group of Metropolitan Areas used to compare our region were selected based on the following two criteria:

1. The MSA must contain a state capital.
2. The MSA must have a population within 40% of the Albany-Schenectady-Troy MSA population.

[1] Data in this category was not always available from the American Community Survey and in certain instances, data was only available for locations within New York State.

Excluding Honolulu, eleven MSAs met our selection criteria according to 2010-2014 data. In addition, though they do not meet the selection criteria, we have also included Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse, NY, because they are major cities in Upstate New York.

Thus, the peer group includes a total of fourteen MSAs listed below:

1. Baton Rouge, LA Metro Area
2. Boise City, ID Metro Area
3. Columbia, SC Metro Area
4. Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA Metro Area
5. Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA Metro Area
6. Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT Metro Area
7. Jackson, MS Metro Area
8. Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR Metro Area
9. Madison, WI Metro Area
10. Raleigh, NC Metro Area
11. Salt Lake City, UT Metro Area
12. Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY Metro Area
13. Rochester, NY Metro Area
14. Syracuse, NY Metro Area

For each topical area, we use indicators from the *Capital Region Statistical Report*. For most indicators, we compare data from the 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year summary and the 2010-2014 ACS five-year summary. When data is not available from the ACS, we obtained data from other sources as explained in the following sections.

As previously noted, this report is primarily based on data from the ACS. The ACS is an ongoing survey that collects data about certain characteristics of the US population. The report uses 5-year estimates, which are period estimates collected over a specified time period. In the case of this report, we use two 5-year, non-overlapping periods: 2005-2009 and 2010-2014. The most recent 5-year estimates were released in December 2015 and it was the first time that 5-year data was available in non-overlapping periods. It is important not to compare overlapping periods because data in the survey will be reflected more than once and introduces challenges in making independent comparisons. CDRPC provided this ACS data to the Rockefeller College in 2016 for its analysis.

In certain instances, ACS data was not available for the peer group. This includes certain education, health, and transportation data. In these circumstances, non-ACS data was used to provide the reader with an opportunity to evaluate these trends; these data sources are noted in the report.

Executive Summary

This Report reflects overall good news for the Capital Region. In fact, the data shows that our region has shown improvements compared to the other 14 metropolitan areas in either rank or measure across all indicators between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014. In some areas, the Region was gaining ground on its peers. The region has improved its position in social welfare, education, housing, economics, transportation, and health as highlighted below and discussed further in this Report.

Social Welfare: We examined diversity to assess community well-being, social environment, equal access to opportunities, and services to all residents of the Capital Region.

- Among the selected peers, the regional Median Household Income improved from 6th highest in the 2005-2009 period to 3rd highest in 2010-2014 period. Though as a result of the recession, the region's Median Household Income decreased by nearly 2%, from $63,052 to $61,841 (2014 dollars), it was less of a decrease than experienced by others in the peer group and resulted in the Capital Region's improved rank.
- The overall poverty rate improved from 5th to 4th lowest. Given the greater increase in poverty in other areas of our peer group, our rank improved, but the Overall Poverty Rate increased from 10.3% to 11.5%.
- Teen pregnancy rates remained the lowest of all peers, with a decline in rate from 11% to 9%.

Education: We examined education to assess the educational attainment of residents in the Capital Region, including potential challenges associated with disadvantaged students, overall attendance by school type, and graduation rates. In certain instances, where data was not available at a national level, we examined issues at a state level in a manner that was appropriate to the data available.

- The region's post-high school educational attainment (Associates Degree and higher), remained 3rd highest, with an increase in rate from 59.9% to 63.8%
- The percentage of non-high school graduates fell by 1.9 points from 9.9% to 8.0%.

Housing: We looked into a series of housing characteristics to help determine how the region measured up with regards to housing affordability including the cost of housing, tenure, and building activity.

- Rates of homeownership have improved in the Region, from 66.2% in the 2005-2009 period to 69.64% in the 2010-2014 period, improving from 6th to 3rd highest among its peers.

Economics: We examined data about the labor force, business establishments, and port activity to assess the health of the regional economy. This information is important in understanding the region's overall ability to capitalize on innovation, adapt to changing global demands, and to provide living wage jobs in order to raise the standard of living for all Capital Region residents.

- The rank of Capital Region among the MSAs in the peer group regarding labor force participation rate moved up four spots to six in 2010-2014 compared to 2005-2009.
- The region's position for Unemployment Rate among its peers remained stable from a tie for 5th lowest to 5th lowest alone despite an increase in the rate from 5.0% to 7.1%.

Transportation: The Capital Region enjoys an integrated multi-modal transportation network that makes it easy to get from one place to another safely and reliably. We looked at key indicators to determine how the Capital Region's transportation appears to perform against its peers in the movement of people and goods.

- Public transit utilization in the Capital Region increased by more than 16%, exceeding a peer average increase of approximately 6%.
- Among its state peers, Albany still ranked second right after Buffalo with the most enplanements between 2005 to 2014.
- Enplanements from the Albany International Airport have declined since 2005, but the airport experienced a small uptick from 2013 to 2014.

Health: The overall health of all Capital Region residents is an important consideration when assessing the overall well-being of the region. We've examined fertility, insurance coverage and incidents of cancer as benchmarks.

- The Capital Region has the second lowest rate of uninsured individuals at 6.7%.
- The Capital Region has the fourth highest number of cancer incidents and that number has risen slightly from 2007 to 2012.

Despite the gains in many areas, some challenges remain. The region continues to recover from the economic effects of the national recession that was generally recognized to have occurred between December 2007 and June 2009. The immediate effects of the recession were likely captured in the 2005-2009 estimates. Lingering effects of the recession and eventual recovery is reflected in the 2010-2014 period.

We believe that the Capital Region is heading in the right direction, based on the indicators observed here. The challenges that exist do not appear to be serious warnings, but are areas that should be monitored for future changes. We look forward to future updates to this report as new information becomes available.

1. Social Welfare

Vision Statement: To embrace diversity and fairness in order to promote community well-being and an enhanced social environment, including equal access to opportunities and services to all residents of the Capital Region.

Indicators:

Summary:

- The 2010-2014 median household income for the Capital Region was $61,841; third highest in the peer group.
- In 2010-2014, 60% of the Capital Region households earned $50,000 or more annually, an improvement from 56% in 2005-2009
- In 2010-2014, 19% of households in the Capital Region earned less than $25,000 annually, an improvement from 20% in 2005-2009.
- 41% of African-American households in the Capital Region report earning less than $25,000 annually in 2010-2014, nearly twice the regional average and an increase from 39% in 2005-2009
- In 2010-2014, 11.5% of the Capital Region residents were living below the poverty line, an increase from 10.3% in 2005-2009.
- The Capital Region had a significant population of children living in poverty (16.3%) in 2010-2014. This high percentage may further exacerbate already stressed resources.
- Pregnancy rates among young women aged 15-19 declined between the two five year periods from 11% per 1,000 females in 2005-2009 to 9% in 2010-2014.

1-1. Median Household Income

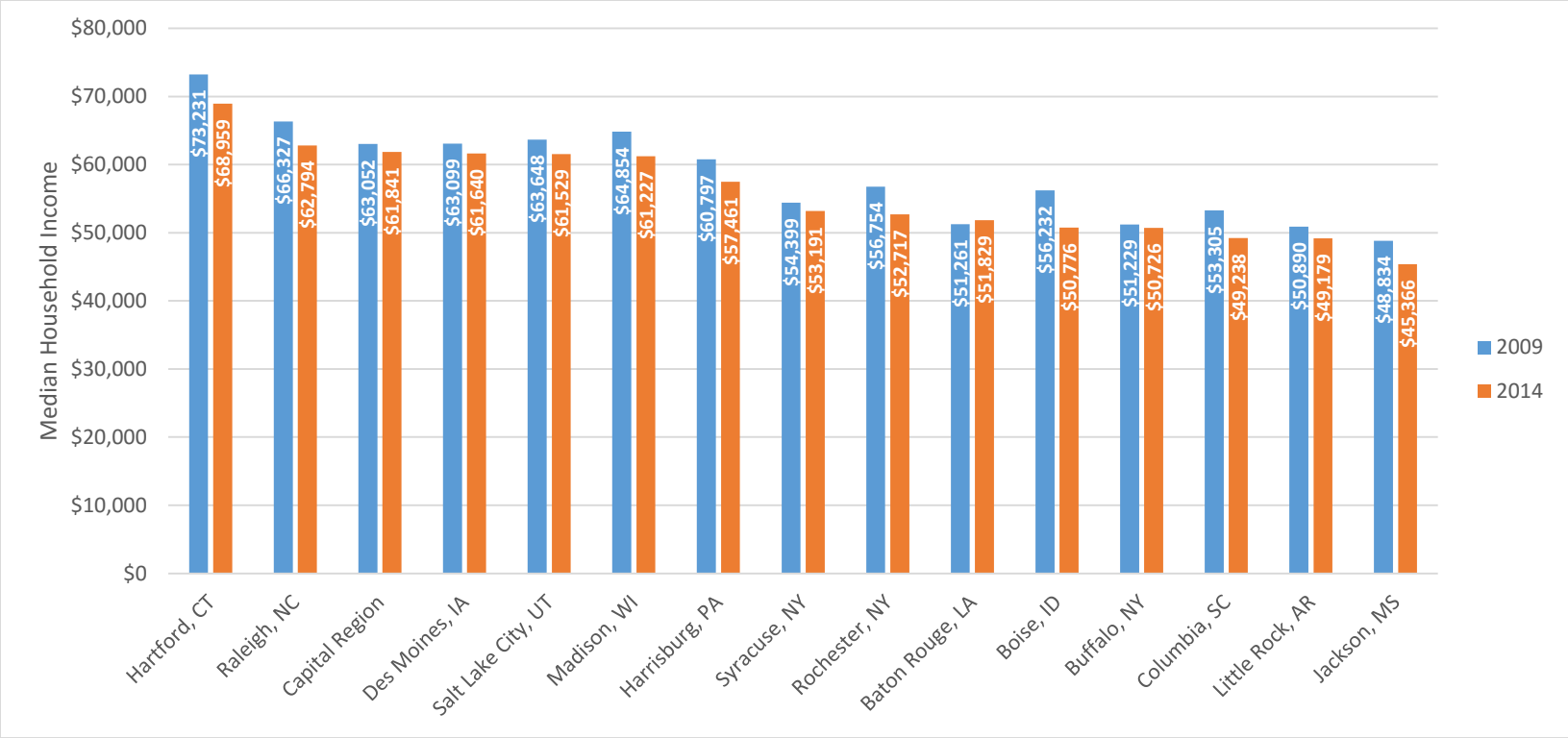
Definition: This indicator represents the mid-point in which half of the measured peer group households have a greater income and half have a lower income. Median household income is a more accurate measure of income than the average income because it reduces the influence of outlier incomes to reflect the actual household income for the MSA. This indicator is based upon annual, reported household income before taxes, and does not include non-cash benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies), capital gains or losses, and the income of non-relatives, such as housemates.

Significance: The median household income indicator is one of the best tools available for policy makers to understand income levels in a region. This indicator allows those in the peer group to easily compare the median income of households in their region to other regions in order to better understand income distribution. Locations with higher median incomes are likely to have higher home values, higher educational attainment levels, and lower levels of unemployment and crime. Policy-makers can use income as a measure of general economic well-being in a region. It can also help them determine poverty status in order to assess the need for assistance. Incomes are held at 2014 constant dollars in order to best compare income over time.

Data Highlights:

- The Capital Region had the fifth highest median household income in 2005-2009 and third highest in 2010-2014.
- The Capital Region's median household income, adjusted for inflation, was $63,062 in 2005-2009 and $61,841 in 2010-2014. Though this represents a nearly two percent decrease, the Capital Region was above average compared to its peers for both periods.
- The average median household income in the peer group was $58,527 in 2009-14 and $55,898 in 2010-2014. The Baton Rouge MSA was the only one among the 15 MSA's in the study, including the Capital Region, to experience an increase in median household income between the two periods.

Figure 1-1.1. Median Household Income, Ranked by 2014 MHI (2014 Constant Dollars)



1-2. Households by Income Range

Definition: Household income by range represents the reported number of households that fall into predetermined income range categories. Household income is based upon reported household income before taxes, and does include non-cash benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies), capital gains or losses, the income of non-relatives, such as housemates. Households are reported by percentage, and broken down by their corresponding income range. Household income includes the income of all people 15 years and older. The figure displaying the 2005-2009 data is in 2009 constant dollars and the figure displaying the 2010-2014 data is in 2014 constant dollars.

Significance: An equitable income distribution is a key component of a regionally successful economy. Urban households are often disproportionately affected by lower incomes. Regions with lower household incomes often experience high crime and unemployment, and increased dependence on social programs. Policy makers can use this indicator to easily identify how households in each region compare to overall poverty and median household income indicators. This, in turn, allows them to determine where the greatest need lies.

Data Highlights:

- The Capital Region has had a wealth distribution similar to the average distribution of other peer group members, with little change over time.
- The Capital Region experienced the greatest growth within the top two income categories ($100,000-$149,000 and $150,000+) by approximately two percentage points. The smallest decreases occurred in the $75,000-$99,999 and $0-$24,999 income categories, with an approximately one percentage point decrease, signaling a growing upper class, while the lower and middle class experienced insignificant change.
- The Capital Region had a more equitable distribution in 2010-2014 than 2005-2009. There were higher percentages in the upper income ranges ($100,000+) and smaller percentages in the lower income ranges ($0-$49,999), while percentages in the middle income ranges ($50,000-$99,999) declined slightly.
- The Capital Region consistently had a large percentage of households in the lower ($25,000-$49,999) income ranges, at 23.5% in 2005-2009 and 21% in 2010-2014.
- In 2005-2009, the Capital Region had a higher percentage of households earning more than $50,000 annually (56.1%) than the average for the peer group (52.5%). The Capital Region also had a higher percentage of households earning more than $50,000 (59.6%) than the average for the peer group in 2010-2014 (54.8%).

Figure 1-2.1. Distribution of Household Incomes: 2005-2009

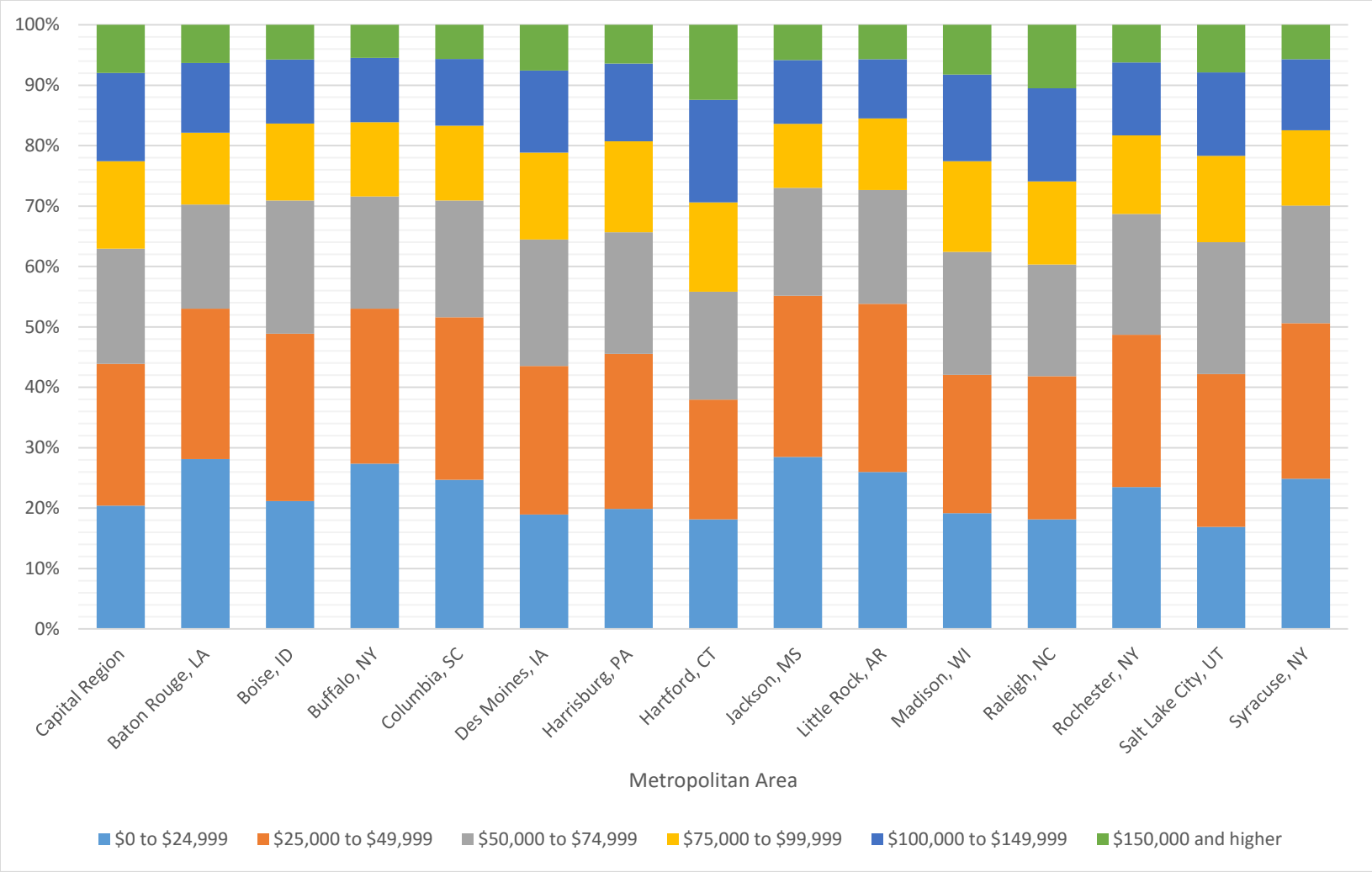
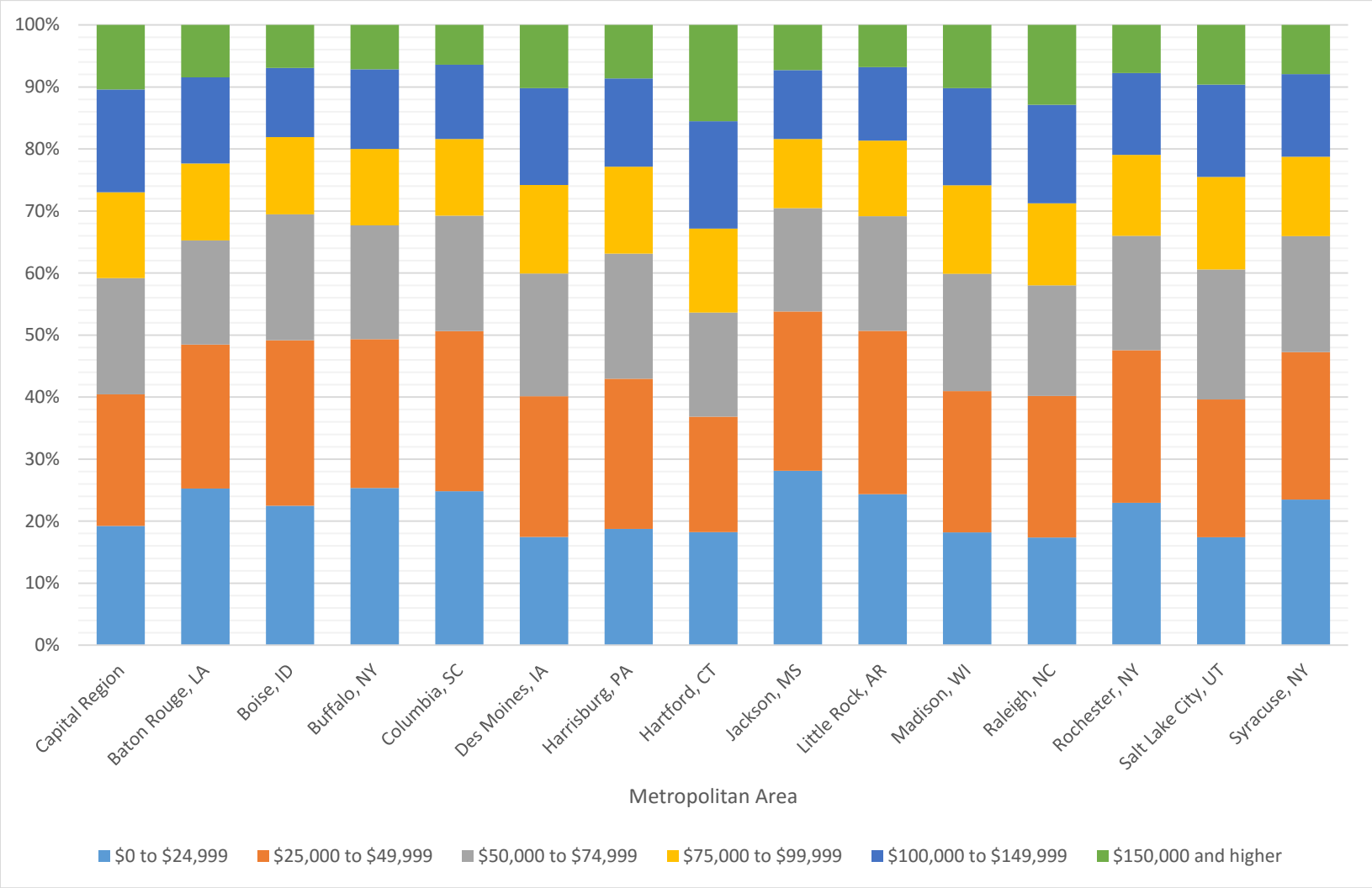


Figure 1-2.2. Distribution of Household Incomes: 2010-2014



1-3. Percent of Households by Income Range and Race & Hispanic Origin

Definition: Household income by range and race represents the reported number of peer group households that fall into predetermined income range categories, broken down by the race of each household. Hispanic origin is also represented in its own column. Households are displayed in a percentage, based upon their corresponding income range. Household race is self-reported. The 2005-2009 data is held in 2009 constant dollars and the 2010-2014 data is held in 2014 constant dollars. The Peer Group listed on the bar graph (Figure 1-3.2) represents the average of the 14 MSA's not including the Capital Region.

Significance: The distribution of income can differ greatly across racial lines. Racial wealth inequality occurs throughout the United States, and varies amongst peer group regions. Income is one key measure of wealth distribution, and is a critical factor in reducing economic inequality. Policy makers can use this information as a regional indicator of economic well-being, and to help them better understand economic conditions and policy effects.

Data Highlights:

- Overall, the Capital Region had a very similar racial income distribution in both time periods when compared to the peer group.
- In the peer group, most racial/ethnic groups listed decreased their representation in the lowest income range in 2010-2014. However, in the Capital Region, all minority groups increased their representation in the lowest income range for that period. Only whites had a smaller percentage of their households in the lowest income range.
- In the Capital Region, all populations increased their representation in the highest income range between the two periods except Asians (who had the highest proportion already in that income range). Asians also experienced the most significant increase in percentage points in the lower income range (5.5%) between the two time periods.
- In 2005-2009, the Capital Region had a smaller percentage of Asians in the lowest income range than the peer group (17.9% vs. 20.9%), and a larger percentage of Hispanics/Latinos (36% vs. 34.1%). In 2010-2014, the Capital Region had a larger proportion of African Americans in the lowest range than the peer group (41.1% vs 37.9%) as well as Hispanics/Latinos (37.2% vs. 33.2%).

Figure 1-3.1. Percent of Households by Income Range, Race & Hispanic Origin – Capital Region

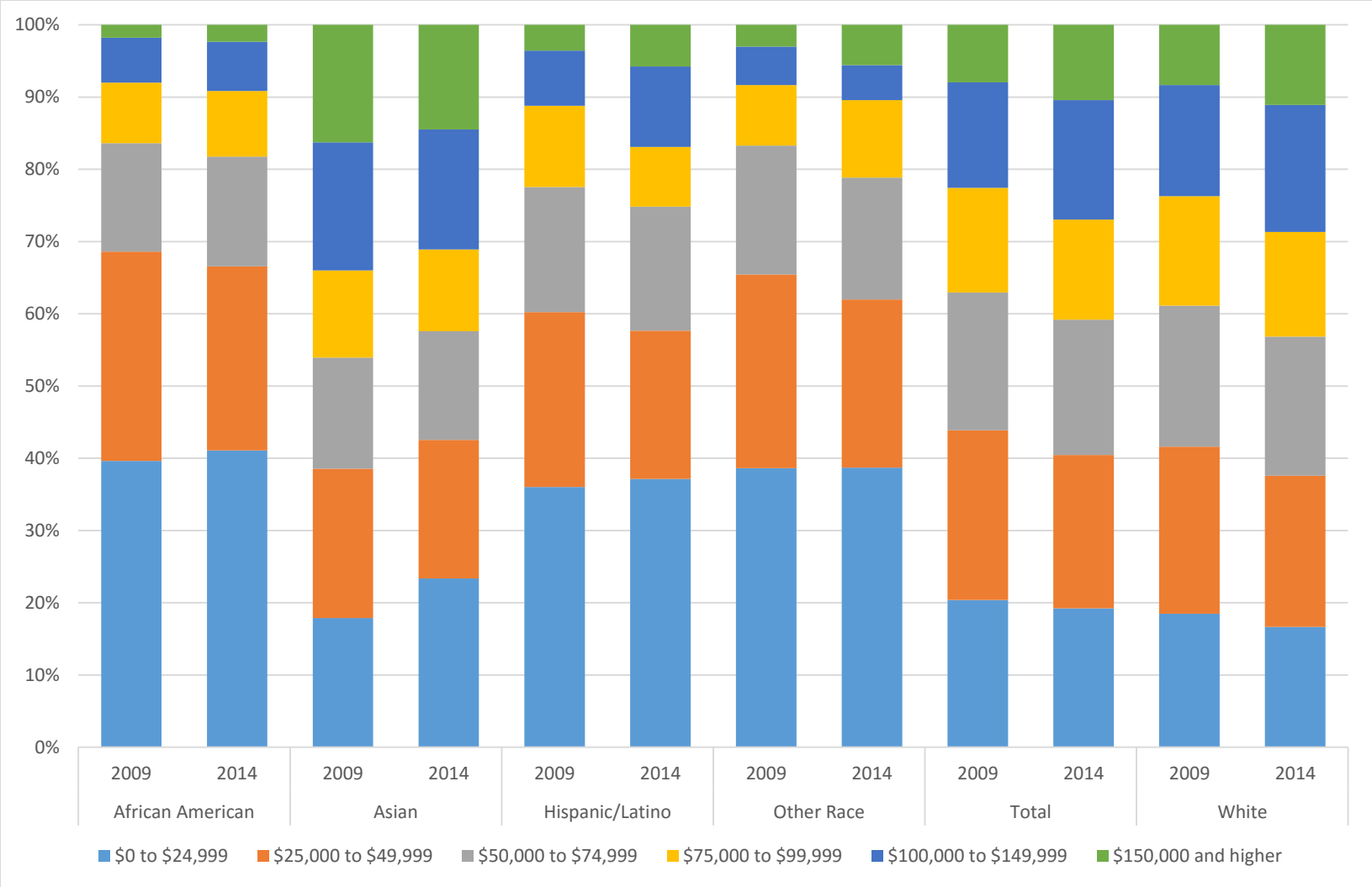
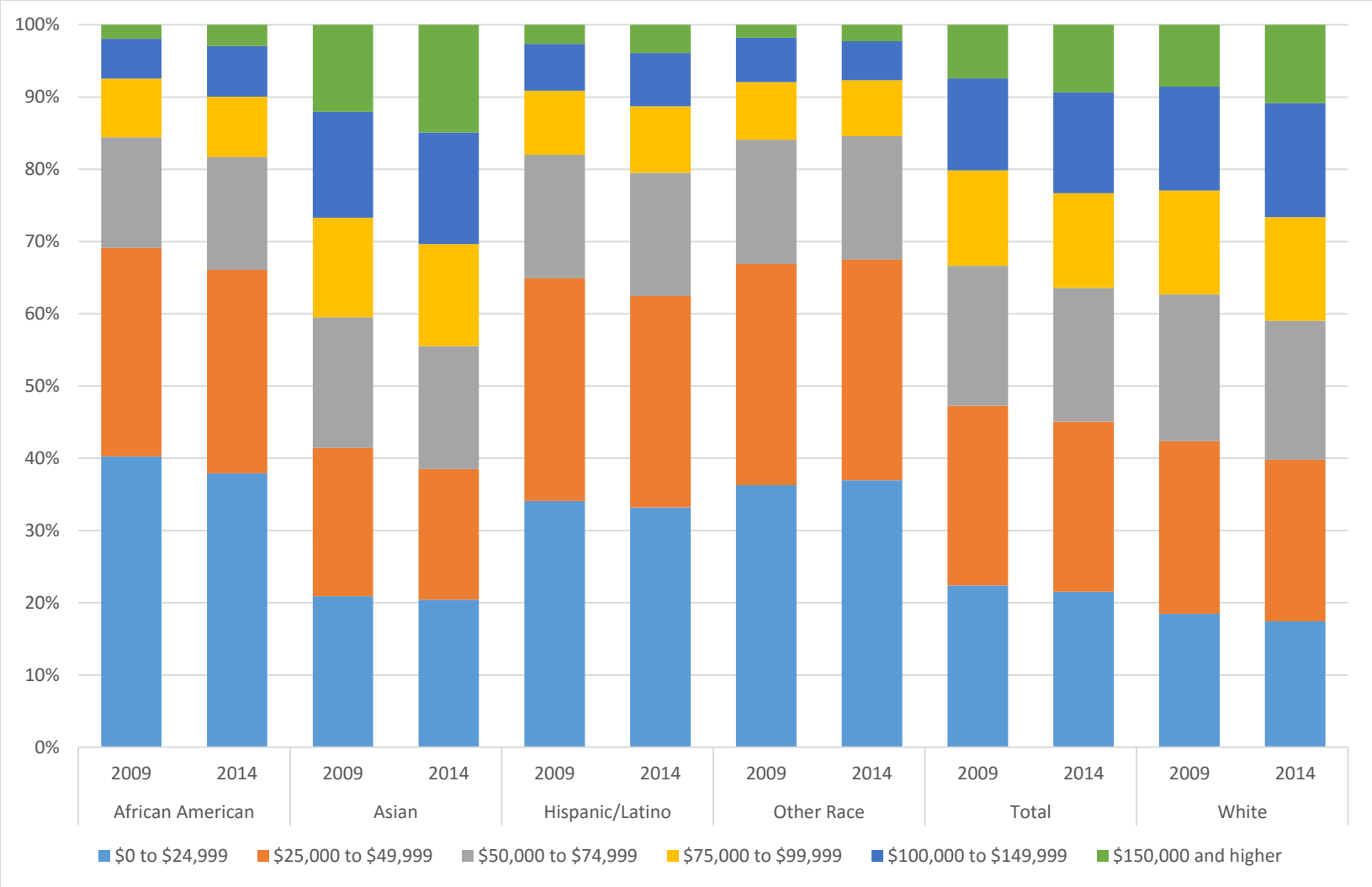


Figure 1-3.2. Percent of Households by Income Range, Race & Hispanic Origin- Peer Group



1-4. Overall Poverty Rate

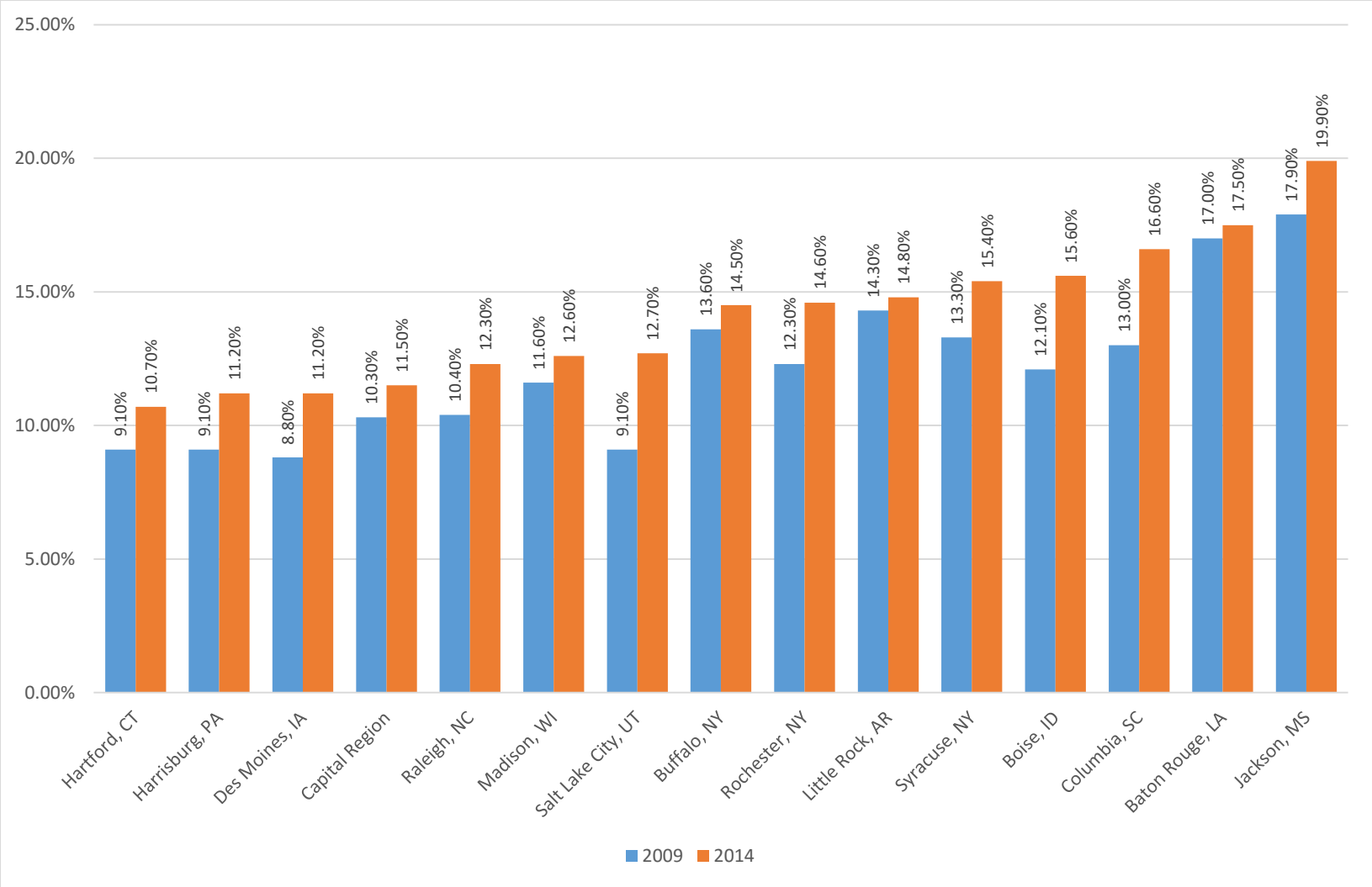
Definition: The overall poverty rate represents the percentage of individuals living below the poverty threshold. The official poverty definition uses monetary income before taxes and does not include capital gains or non-cash benefits. The poverty threshold is measured in relation to the size of each household and the age of each member. The poverty rate is updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. If total family income equals or is greater than the threshold, the family (or unrelated individual) is not in poverty. Poverty rate is measured by dividing the total household income into the poverty threshold, which results in a ratio of income to poverty.

Significance: The overall poverty rate measures the percentage of the population considered to have too little income to meet basic needs. Poverty has a significant impact on the quality of life of those directly and indirectly affected by it. Families and individuals living below the poverty threshold are faced with persistent financial challenges, and are forced to make difficult decisions about the necessities of life. As a key measure of wealth distribution, and a critical factor in reducing economic inequality, policy makers can view this information as an indicator of overall economic well-being for the region, and use it to help them better understand economic conditions, policy effects, and the overall need for and access to government social programs.

Data Highlights:

- The poverty rate in the Capital Region increased from 10.3% in 2005-2009 to 11.5% in 2010-2014.
- The Capital Region was consistently in the lower end of peer group poverty rates between the two time periods (5th lowest in 2005-2009 and 4th lowest in 2010-2014).
- The poverty rate in all 15 MSA's, including the Capital Region, increased between 2005-2009 to 2010-2014. The average overall poverty rate for the peer group increased 2.0% going from 12.1% in 2005-2009 to 14.1% in 2010-2014.

Figure 1-4.1. Overall Poverty Rates



1-5. Poverty Rate by Age Group

Definition: The poverty rate by age group measures the percentage of the population, by age cohort, that fall below the poverty line threshold. The age groups are divided into those aged 0-17, 18-64 and 65 and older. The poverty rate is updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. Poverty rate is measured by dividing the total household income into the poverty threshold, which results in a ratio of income to poverty. The poverty of children age 15 and younger is based upon the income of adults in the household. Unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children), institutional group quarters (such as prisons or nursing homes), college dormitories, military barracks, living situations without conventional housing (and who are not in shelters) are not counted in this measure of poverty.

Significance: This indicator measures which subset of the population is most prone to being in poverty. Children who live in poverty are more likely than others to go without necessary food, be retained in grade, and drop out of school. The elderly who live in poverty may struggle to pay for such things as quality nutrition, satisfactory housing, and proper medical care. Individuals ages 18-64 in poverty could indicate a high unemployment rate. Regional poverty often impacts related indicators such as crime, health, education, and homeownership rates. Policy makers can use this information to improve access to programs and address poverty and poverty related issues in their region.

Data Highlights:

- The distribution of poverty by age group in the Capital Region is comparable to other regions in the peer group. Children (0-17) consistently have the highest poverty rate when compared to adults (18-64) and seniors (65+).
- Between the two periods, the poverty rate increase for children in the Capital Region by 3.2 percentage points, for adults by 1.3, and decreased for seniors by 1.7.
- In 2005-2009, the Capital Region had the fifth highest poverty rate for those over 65 (8.6%; tied with Raleigh, NC). In 2010-2014, this rate decreased to 6.9%, dropping it to the eleventh highest and below the peer group average of 7.8%.
- In 2005-2009, the average poverty rate for the peer group was 16.2% for children, 11.2% for adults and 8.5% for seniors. The Capital Region had a 3.1 percentage point lower poverty rate for children, a 1.5 lower poverty rate for adults and 0.1 higher poverty rate for seniors. In 2010-2014, the average poverty rate for the peer group MSAs was 19.4% for children, 13.3% for adults and 7.8% for those seniors. While the Capital Region's poverty rates were lower than all peer group averages in 2010-2014, its rates for children and adults increased but decreased for seniors.

Figure 1-5.1. Poverty Rate by Age Cohort: 2005-2009

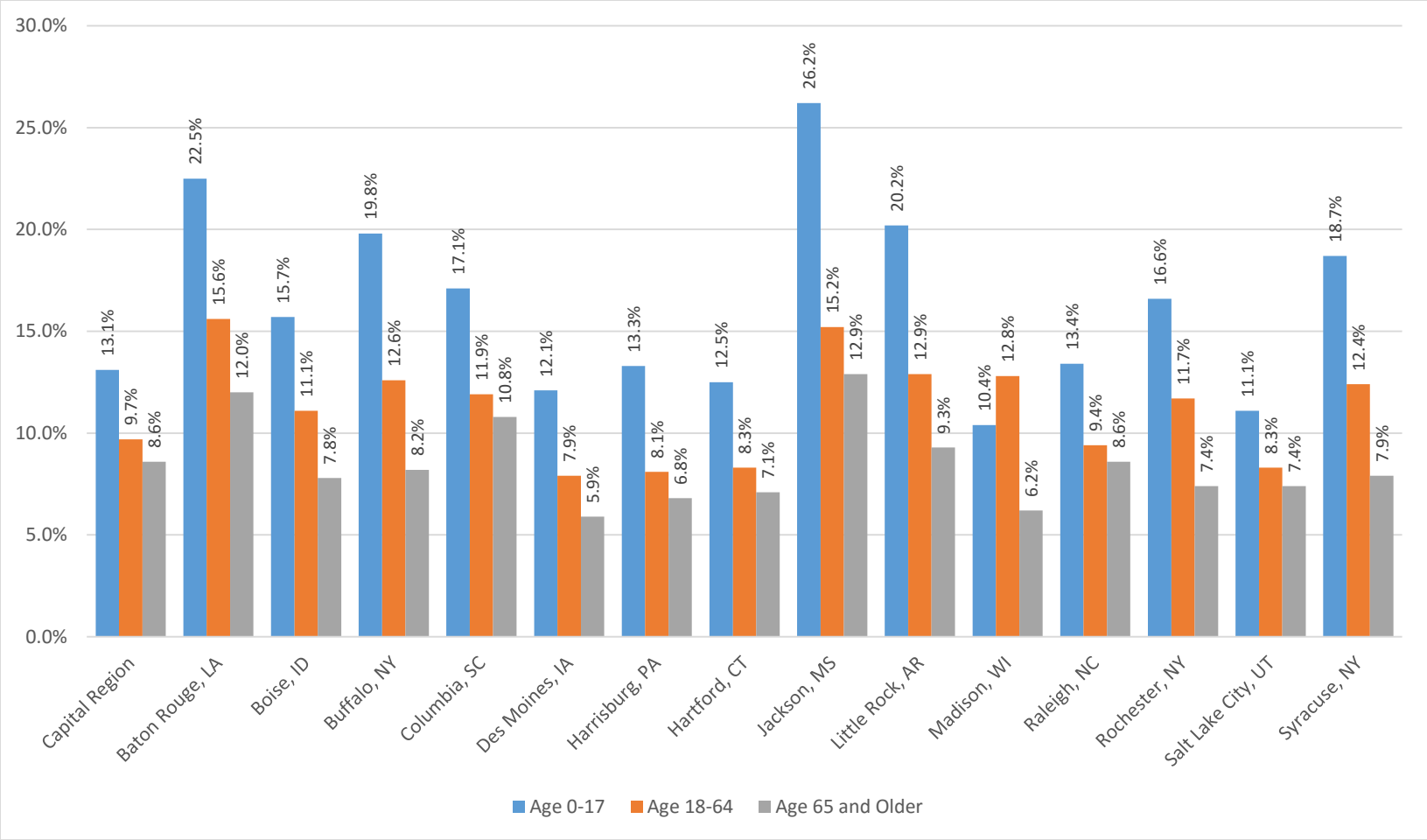
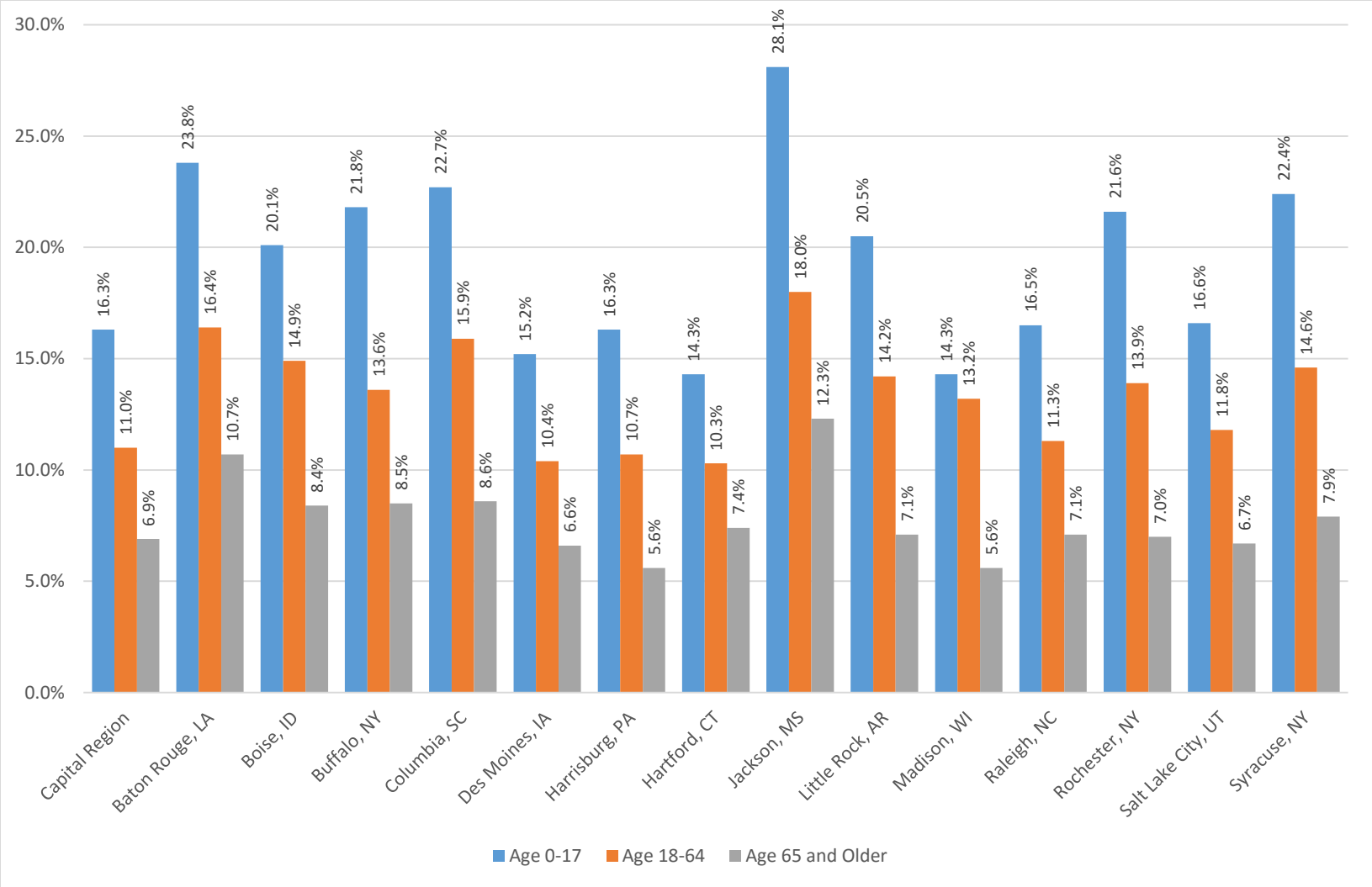


Figure 1-5.2. Poverty Rate by Age Cohort: 2010-2014



Social Welfare

1-6. Teen Pregnancy

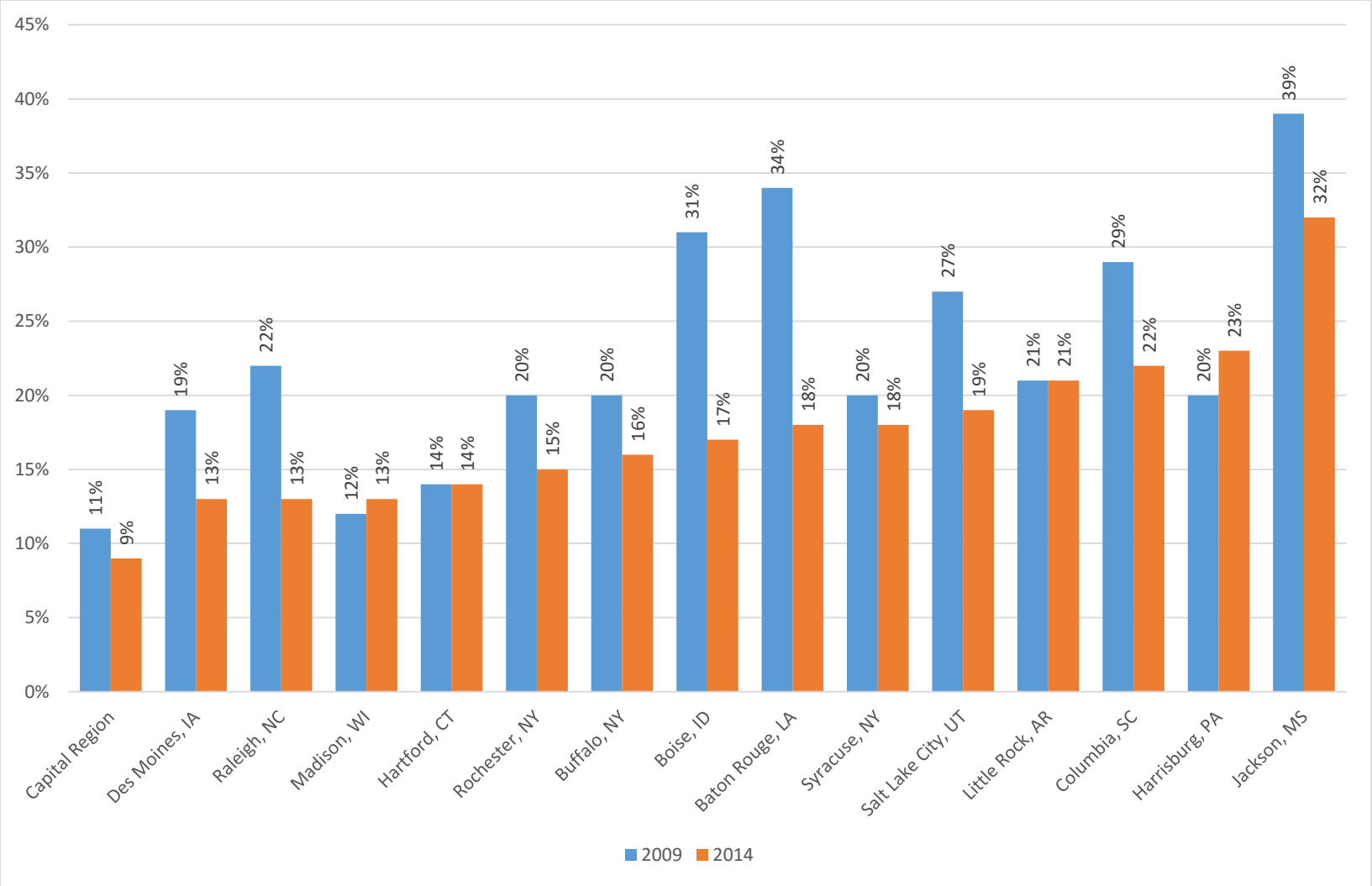
Definition: The teen pregnancy rate measures the number of births, reported by women aged 15-19, per 1,000 women. The teen pregnancy rate is the number of births to women 15-19 divided by the number of women 15-19, multiplied by 1,000. These rates are compiled using estimates gathered from the American Community Survey (ACS) responses to whether someone has given birth within the last 12 months. A drawback to using ACS data is that it only provides information for women beginning at age 15 and does not include information for younger women. In addition, the age cohort breakdown is from 15-19, which means that the statistics for teen pregnancy could be affected by more women aged 18-19 having children than those 15-17.

Significance: Teen pregnancy has far-reaching impacts on young women, their children, and their extended family. Teen mothers are less likely than their peers to finish high school or obtain a college degree, are more likely to be single heads of household living in poverty, and are more likely to experience domestic violence. Children born to teen mothers, compared to children of older mothers, will more likely struggle in educational settings, exhibit poor health and behavioral difficulties, and face neglect, abuse, and poverty. This indicator can help policy makers develop programs intended to target this demographic and address the factors that contribute to and are related to their regional teen pregnancy rates.

Data Highlights:

- The teen pregnancy rate in the Capital Region has consistently been the lowest of any of the peer group metropolitan areas.
- The teen pregnancy rate in the Capital Region decreased from 11% in 2005-2009 to 9% in 2010-2014 (2 percentage point difference).
- The Capital Region's reported teen pregnancy rate of 9% in 2010-2014 is nearly half the average teen pregnancy rate of 17.5% for the peer group metropolitan areas.

Figure 1-6.1. Teen Pregnancy Rates



Social Welfare

2. Education

Vision Statement: Assure a comprehensive, inclusive education system that guarantees equal access to high-quality education and learning opportunities, includes requirements to ensure competency, accommodate the workforce needs of the region, and incorporates early childhood, traditional and technical training, professional trades training and retraining, and adult and re-entry education.

Indicators:

Note: For indicators 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4, data is not collected by the American Community Survey. The data comes from the New York State Education Department, is limited to New York State, and provides important insight.

Summary:

- For the 2010-2014 period, the percentage of the population with an Associate's Degree or greater in the Capital Region increased by 3.9 percentage points from 2005-2009.
- Urban school areas contain a high percentage of students from economically disadvantaged households. In urban schools in 2014 61% are classified as economically disadvantaged, up from 54% in 2009.
- School attendance rates in urban areas is slightly below 93%, at least 2 percentage points lower than rural and suburban counterparts.
- Variance in graduation rates remains consistent from 2009 & 2014 in regards to region classification, with each region showing a stabilization or positive trend upwards, on average of about 2%.

2-1. Educational Attainment:

Definition: Educational attainment is the highest level of education an individual 25 years or older has achieved. Non-High School Graduate indicates no high school or equivalency diploma; High School Graduates indicates a high school or equivalency diploma; Some College indicates individuals that have attended college but have not earned a degree; Masters or Greater indicates individuals that have earned a Master's Degrees, Doctorates, and/or other advanced degrees.

Significance: In order for our workforce to continue to be competitive in the global economy, we must ensure that our workers remain highly skilled and educated. The availability of educated and skilled employees is essential to attract quality jobs, and can help foster innovation and increase productivity for existing employers.

Data Highlights:

- The average of those who have not at least graduated high school across all regions is 10.24% from 2010-2014, an improvement from the 11.64% who did not complete high school based on the 2005-2009 ACS data set.
- The Capital Region has one of the highest educated populations, ranking fourth in comparison with those in the peer group; with 47% of its population has an associate's degree or higher.
- Persons with an associate's degree across every region continue to be the smallest attainment group averaging 8.4% among peer regions. However, seeing as there is a rise in bachelors and secondary degrees, this may be a result of more persons seeking a higher degree.
- When compared to the 2009 data it is clear that every MSA in the analysis has been trending upwards in their educational attainment.

Figure 2-1.1. Education Attainment: 2005-09

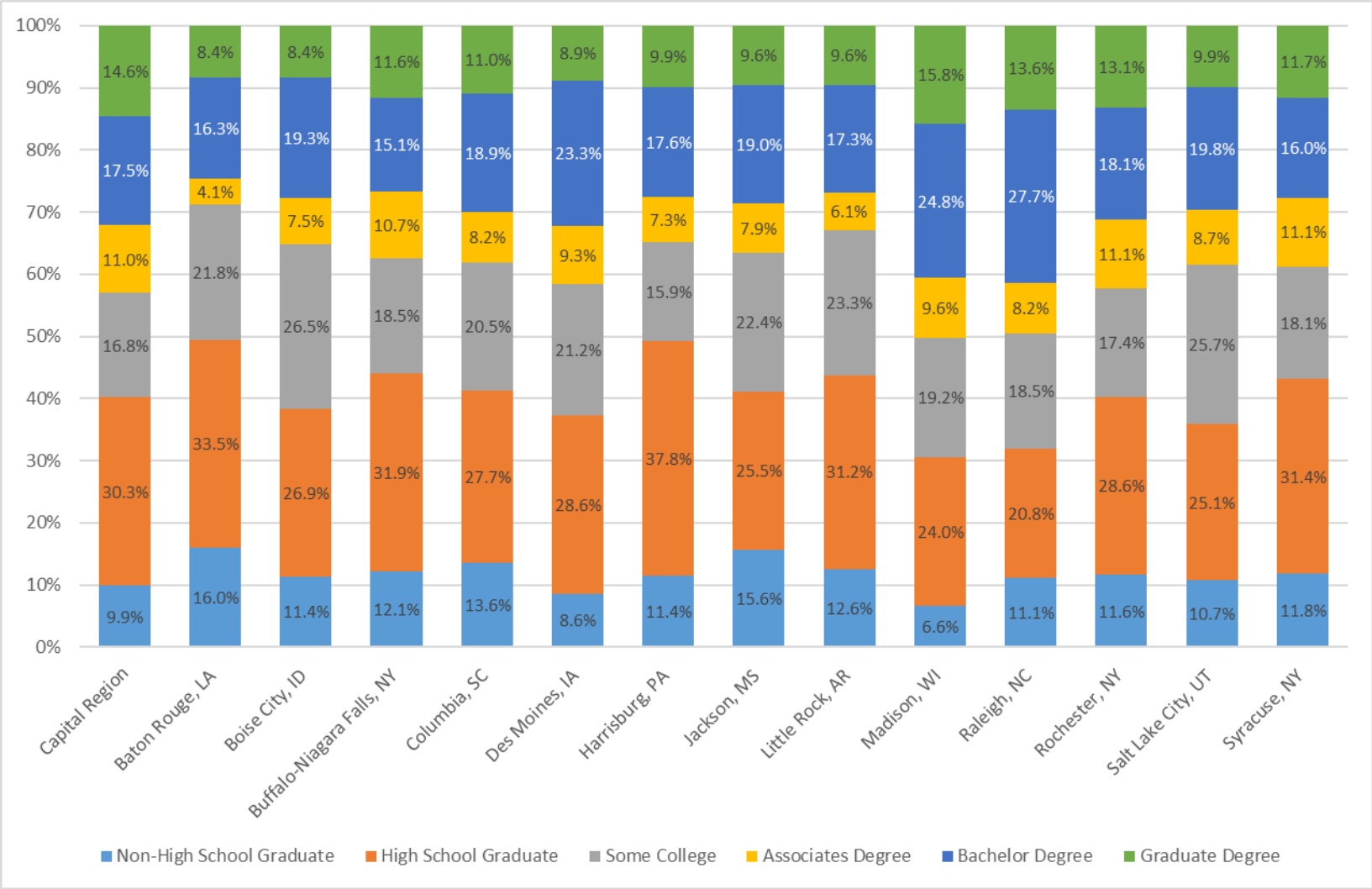
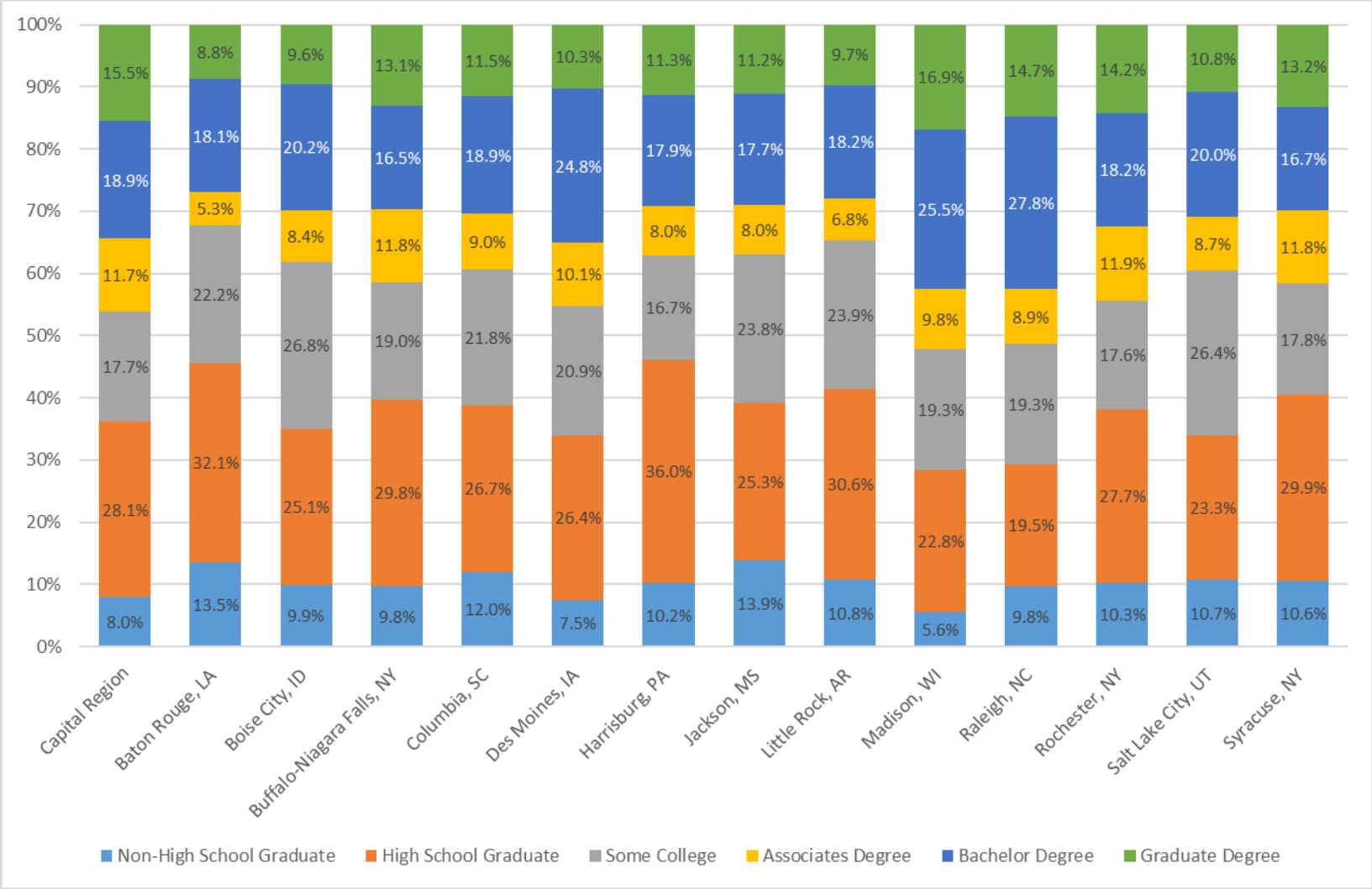


Figure 2-1.2. Education Attainment: 2010-14



2-2. Percentage Rate of Economically Disadvantaged Students in the Capital Region

Definition: Economically disadvantaged students are those who are a member of a household that meets the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced-price meals (less than or equal to 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines). They may also participate in economic assistance programs, such as Social Security Insurance (SSI), Food Stamps, Foster Care, Refugee Assistance (case or medical assistance), Earned Income Tax Credit, Home Energy Assistance Program, Safety Net Assistance, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or Family Assistance. If one student in a family is identified as low income, all students from that household may be identified as low income. By utilizing the median percentage, a more accurate understanding can be achieved due to deemphasizing extremely high or low rates that may be outliers.

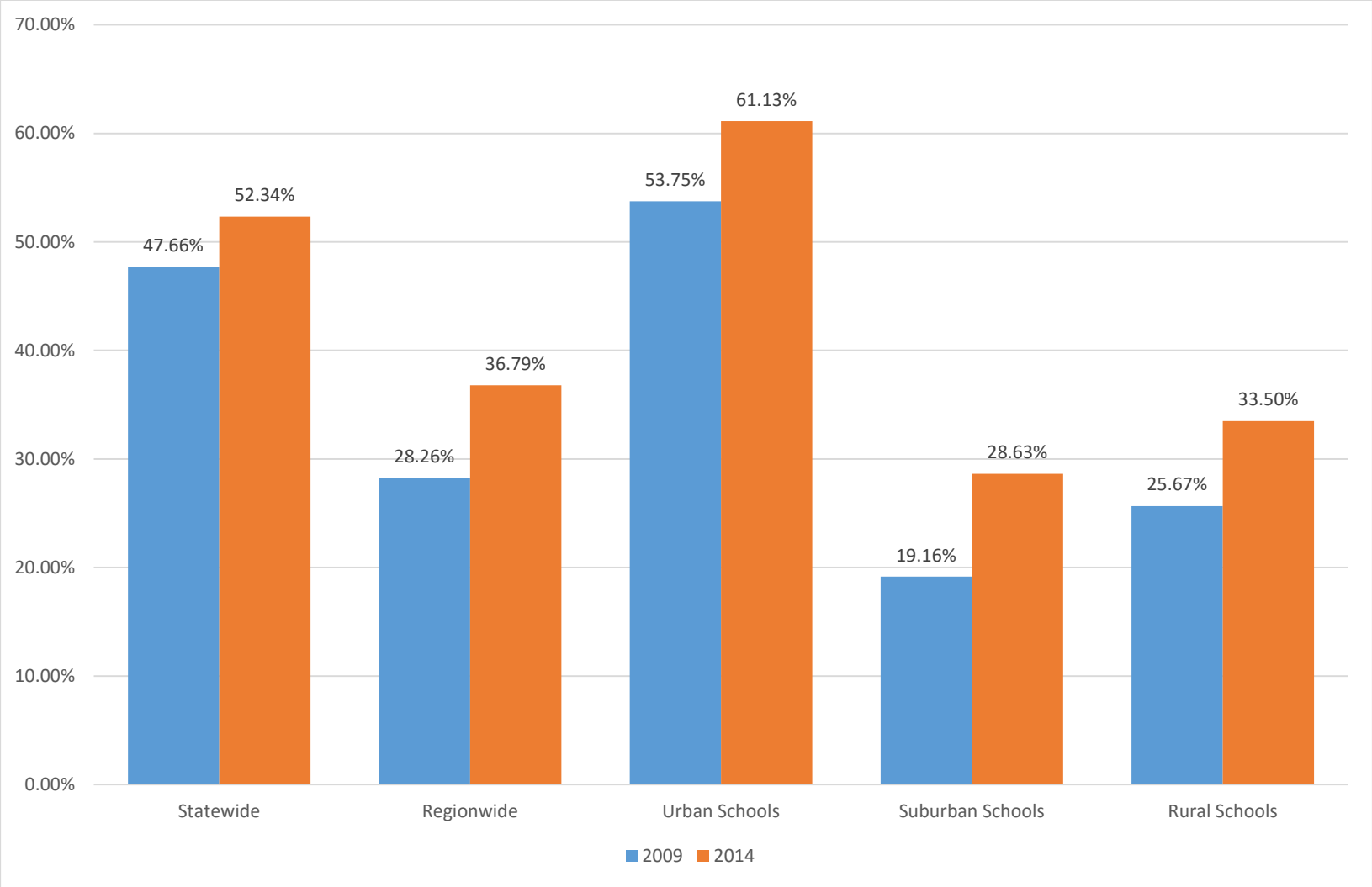
Significance: Studies have shown that student performance and low household income are linked. When there is an increase in the percentage of economically disadvantaged students, student performance decreases. Income is not the only factor that determines the performance of students, but it can be used to predict average student performance. The higher the concentration of economically disadvantaged children within a school district, the more measurable the impacts are on student performance.

Note: Urban Schools include Albany, Cohoes, Mechanicville, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, Watervliet. Suburban Schools include Ballston Spa, Bethlehem, Brunswick, Burnt Hills, East Greenbush, Green Island, Guilderland, Lansingburg, Menands, Mohonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, South Colonie, South Glens Falls, Waterford-Halfmoon, and Wyantskill. Rural Schools include Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Berlin, Duanseburg, Edinburg, Galway, Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Schuylerville, Stillwater, and Voorheesville.

Data Highlights:

- As a region, the Capital Region's percentage of disadvantaged students ranks well behind the statewide average.
- There has been an upward trend of increased poverty and economically disadvantaged students.
- Urban schools experience greater percentages of economically disadvantaged students than either rural or suburban regions.
- Suburban schools have experienced the highest growth rate of economically disavantaged students.

Figure 2-2.1 Percentage Disadvantaged



2-3. Capital Region School Attendance Rates

Definition: The annual attendance rate is determined by taking the total possible attendance for a school year and dividing it by the school district's total attendance.

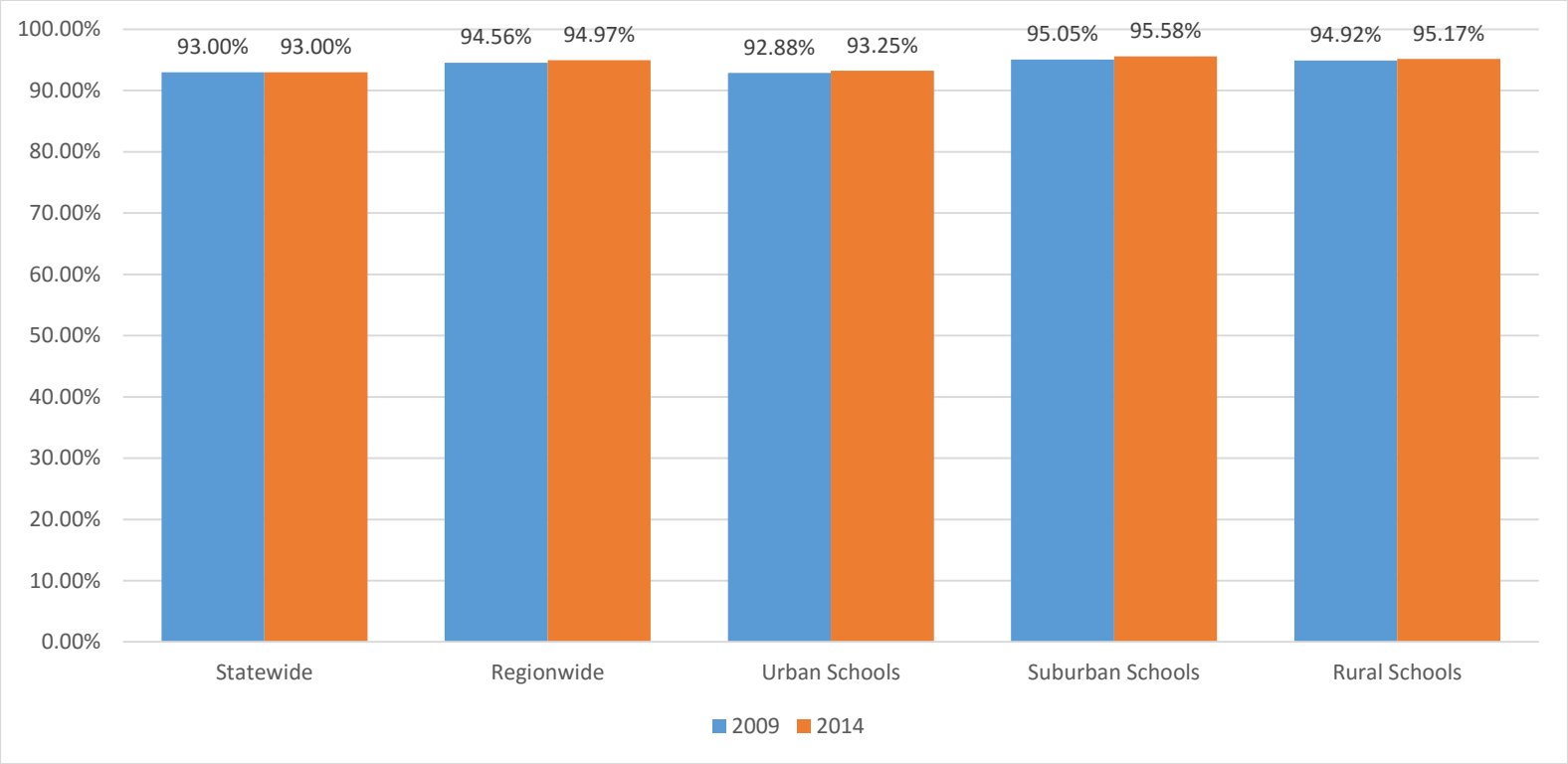
Significance: Historically, students who attend school regularly are more likely to complete high school and tend to have higher rates of achievement. Frequent absences make it difficult for students to maintain a positive rapport in the classroom and it poses a serious challenge to the teacher's ability to instruct the class. Additionally, repeated absences starting as early as kindergarten have contributed to adolescent delinquency and high school dropouts.

Note: Urban Schools include Albany, Cohoes, Mechanicville, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, Watervliet. Suburban Schools include Ballston Spa, Bethlehem, Brunswick, Burnt Hills, East Greenbush, Green Island, Guilderland, Lansingburg, Menands, Mohonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, South Colonie, South Glens Falls, Waterford-Halfmoon, and Wyantskill. Rural Schools include Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Berlin, Duanseburg, Edinburg, Galway, Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Schuylerville, Stillwater, and Voorheesville.

Data Highlights:

- The Capital Region sits above the statewide average in attendance for both 2009 and 2014.
- Attendance rates across time and region show little variability, consistently averaging between 93-95%.
- No individual school district recorded an average attendance rate lower than 91% over the entire 10-year time span.
- Despite challenges with economics and graduation rates faced by urban regions, there is no obvious difference between urban regions and suburban or rural regions attendance rates.

Figure 2-3.1. Attendance Rate by Area



2-4. Capital Region High School 4-Year Graduation Rates (2009 & 2014)

Definition: The median percentage of students who graduate either with a Local or Regents diploma by August 31st, four years after entering 9th grade. A student who started 9th grade in the Fall of 2010 and completed high school by August 31st, 2014 would be considered a four-year graduate. By utilizing the median, a more accurate understanding can be achieved due to de-emphasizing extremely high or low rates that may be outliers.

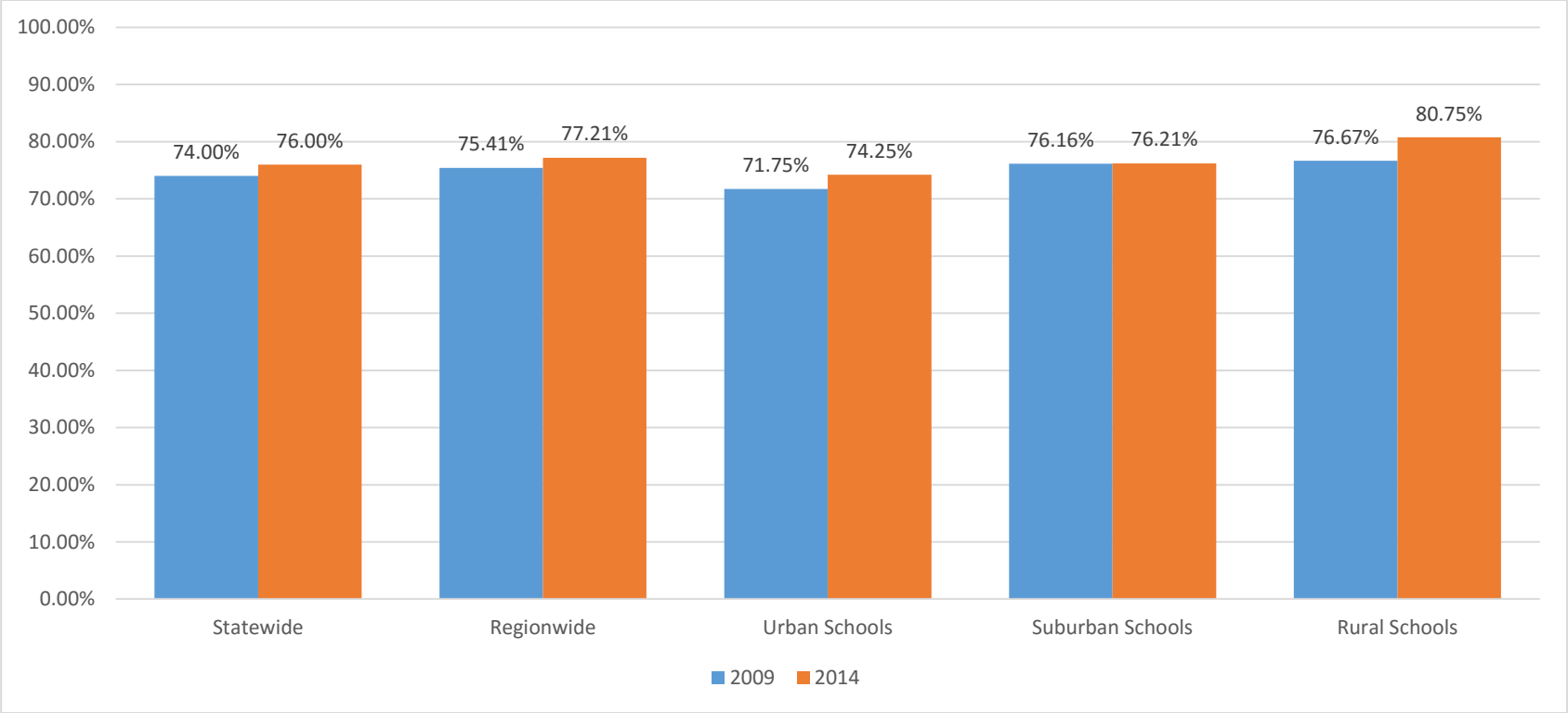
Significance: To remain competitive in today's global economy, it is necessary for an individual to at least earn a high school diploma. Individuals who do not have at least a high school diploma tend to have higher unemployment rates and earn less than individuals with high school diplomas. Earning a high school diploma also allows for easier access to higher education, which further improves a graduate's earning potential and job opportunities.

Note: Urban Schools include Albany, Cohoes, Mechanicville, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Troy, Watervliet. Suburban Schools include Ballston Spa, Bethlehem, Brunswick, Burnt Hills, East Greenbush, Green Island, Guilderland, Lansingburg, Menands, Mohonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, South Colonie, South Glens Falls, Waterford-Halfmoon, and Wyantskill. Rural Schools include Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Berlin, Duanseburg, Edinburg, Galway, Hoosic Valley, Hoosick Falls, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Schuylerville, Stillwater, and Voorheesville.

Data Highlights:

- As a whole, the Capital Region's graduation rate is slightly above the statewide average, which was 74% in 2009 and 76% in 2014.
- While suburban and rural school graduation rates vary slightly among the individual districts, the urban schools had a greater degree of variation. For example, Albany CSD reported a graduation rate of 54% while Saratoga Springs reported a 90% graduation rate.
- This indicator remains consistent with other trends shown in the analysis with rural and suburban schools performing better than urban schools.

Figure 2-4.1. Graduation Rate by Area



3. Housing

Vision Statement: Ensure access to affordable housing across all communities to meet present and prospective housing needs, with particular attention to provisions for low and moderate income housing, workforce housing, and accessibility to public transportation and employment centers.

Indicators:

Summary:

- Homeownership in the Capital Region increased by 3.44% from 66.20% in 2005-2009 to 69.64% in 2010-2014.
- 45.6% of renters in the Capital Region were cost-burdened in 2010-2014.
- 28.7% of homeowners in the Capital Region were cost-burdened in 2010-2014.
- The cost burden to low-income renters for 2010-2014 in the Capital Region was 76.3%.
- In comparison to other peer metropolitan service areas, the Capital Region low-income homeowners experienced the highest percentage of cost-burden for 2010-2014 at 67.0%.
- Compared to 2005-2009, from 2010-2014, the Capital Region experienced a 74.0% increase in the number of multi-family building permits.

3-1. Housing Tenure

Definition: Housing tenure is the percent of occupied housing units that are rented or owner-occupied.

Significance: Americans tend to place a high value on owning a home, and historically government policies have supported this goal. Homeownership provides a variety of benefits to individuals and the community, including improving neighborhood stability.

Data Highlights:

- Homeownership rates for the Capital Region increased from 66.20% in 2005-2009 to 69.64% in 2010-2014.
- Renter rates for the Capital Region for 2010-2014 were 30.40%, a decrease from 33.80% in 2005-2009.
- From 2005-2009 to 2010-2014, the Capital Region showed an increase of 3.44 percentage points in homeownership.
- There was a corresponding 3.44 percentage point decrease in Capital Region renters from 2005-2009 to 2010-2014.
- The Capital Region had the 7th lowest homeownership rate in 2010-14 among its peers versus 3rd lowest in 2005-09 .

Figure 3-1.1. Rates of Homeownership vs. Rentals, 2005-2009

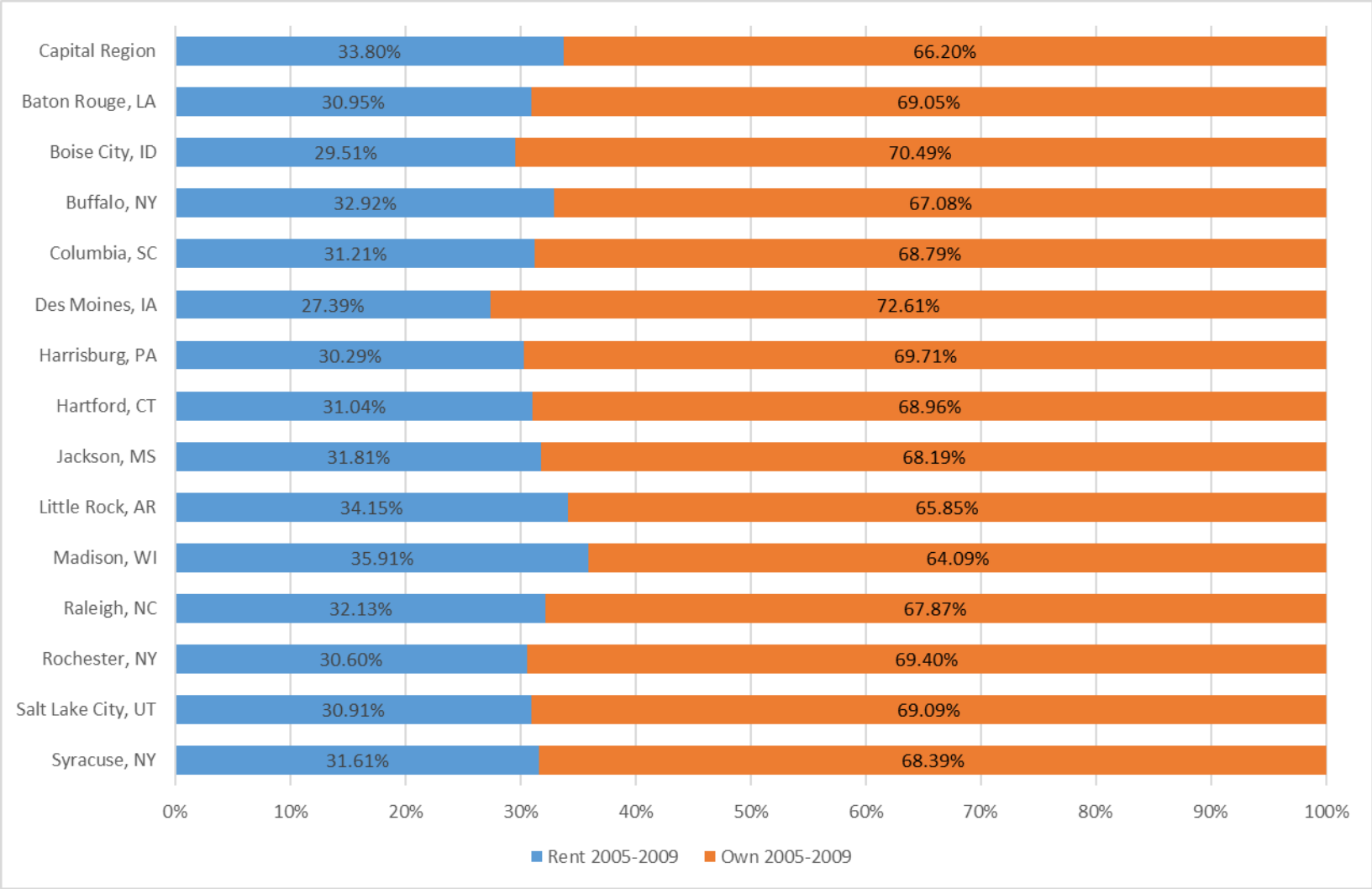
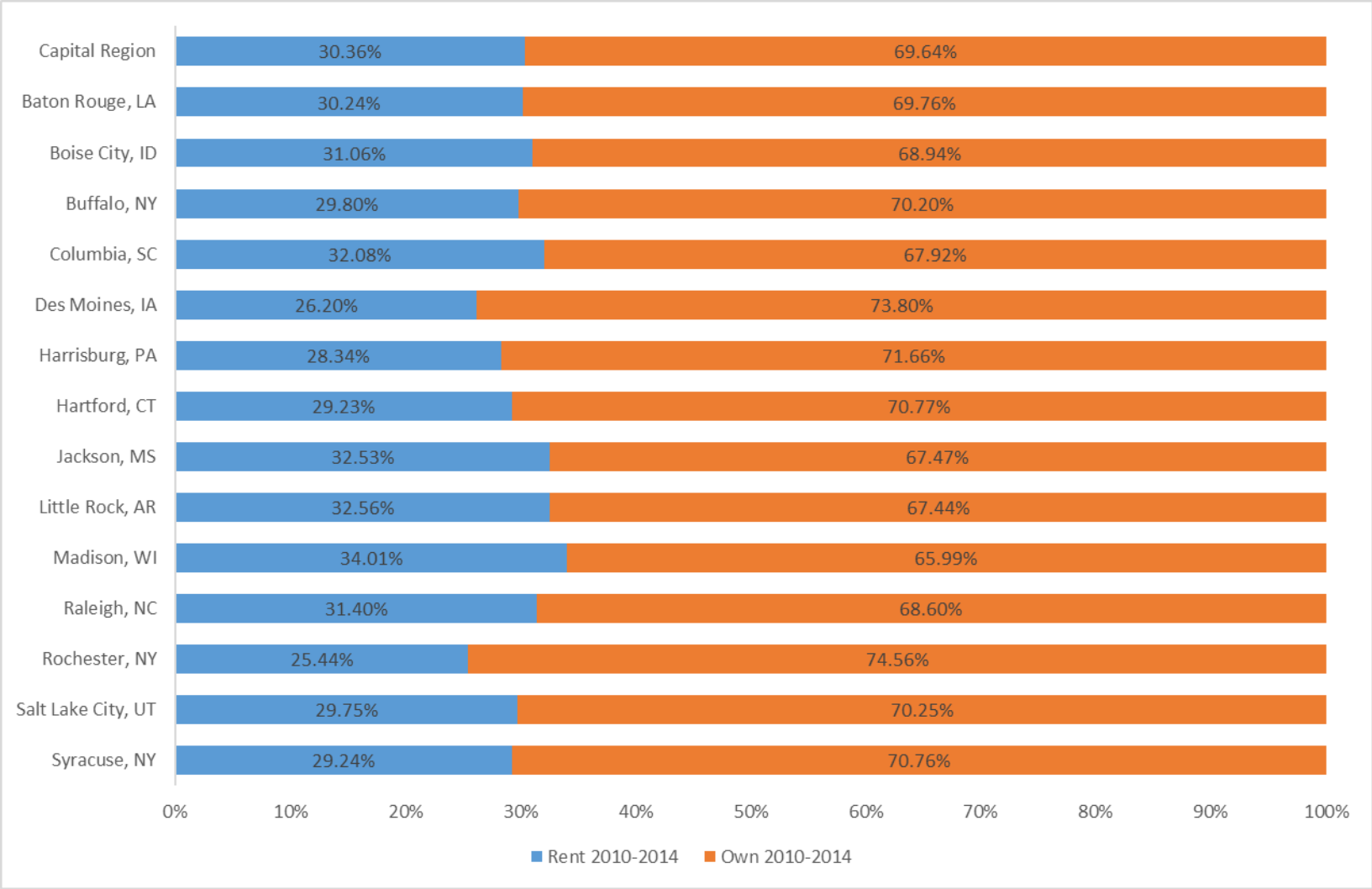


Figure 3-1.2. Rates of Homeownership vs. Rentals, 2010-2014



3-2. Housing Affordability, Renters

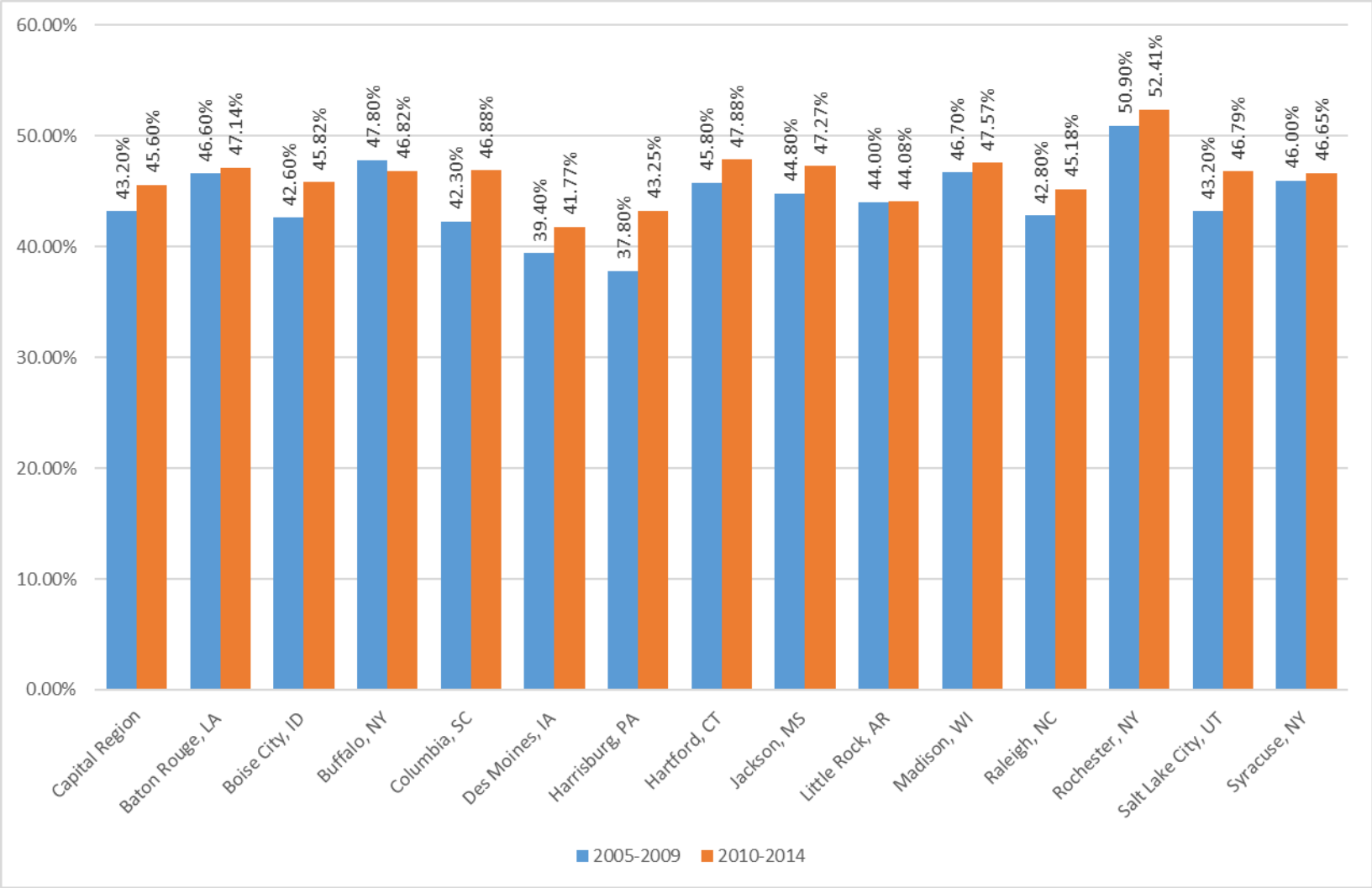
Definition: The percentage of renter households spending more than 30% of household income on gross rent, which includes utilities, if paid by the renter. This data came from the American Community Survey spreadsheet titled "Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months."

Significance: This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income on housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Data Highlights:

- 45.6% of Capital Region renters were cost-burdened in 2010-2014. On average, 44.3% of renters in the peer group were cost-burdened in the same time period. The Capital Region is virtually average compared to peers.
- The number of renters in the Capital Region who were cost-burdened increased by 2.4 percentage points from 2005-2009 to 2010-2014.
- The Capital Region had fewer cost-burdened renters than the other peer MSA regions in New York State (Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse).
- In 2010-2014, the Capital Region had fewer cost-burdened renters than 10 of the 15 peers.
- The percent of cost burden renters increased in all but one of the peer MSA's between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014.

Figure 3-2.1. Renters Spending more than 30% of Income on Gross Rent



3-3. Housing Affordability, Homeowners

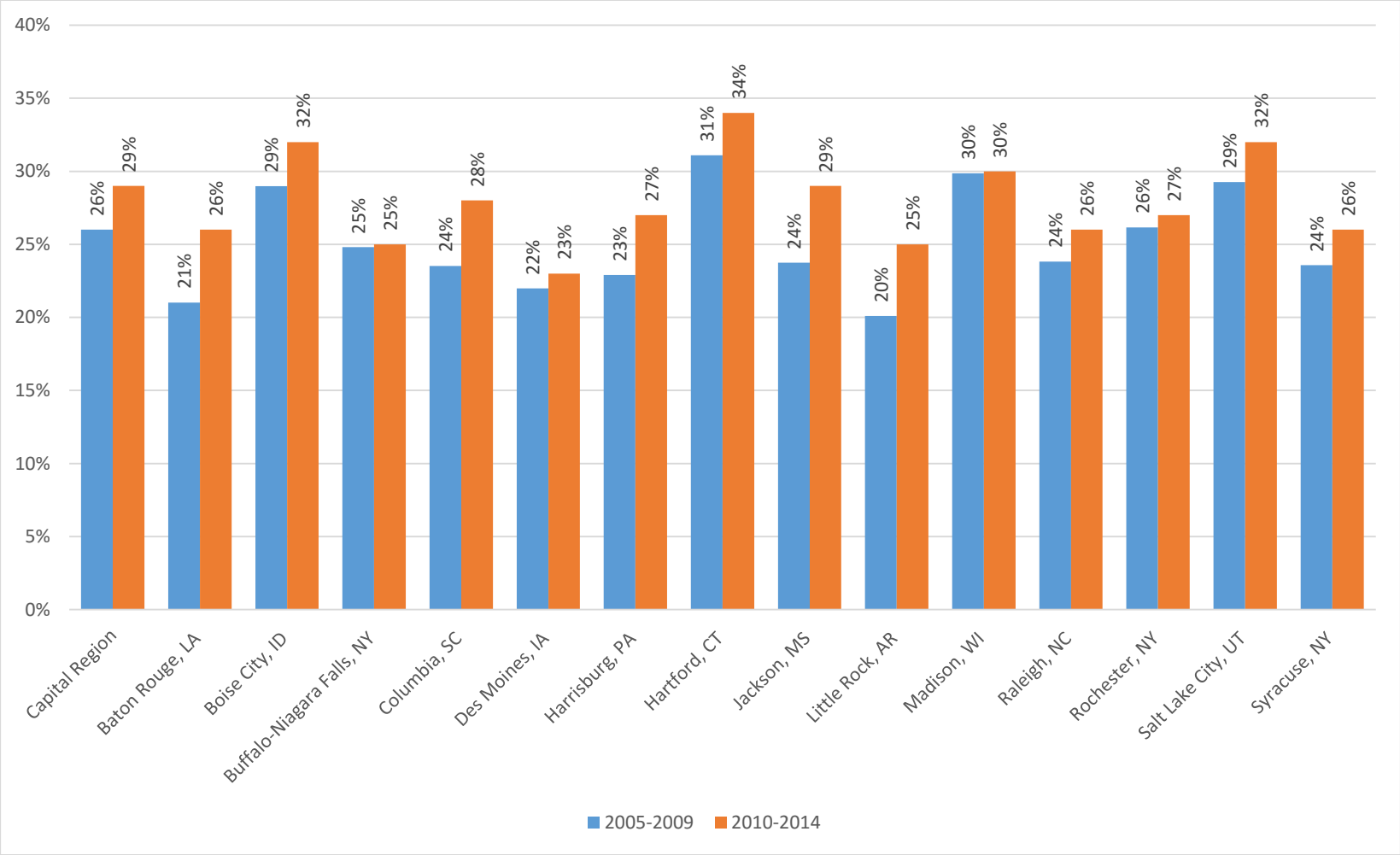
Definition: The percentage of homeowner households spending more than 30% of household income on selected housing costs, which includes taxes, insurance, and utilities. The data came from the ACS data titled "Household Income by Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months." This data broke down all households spending over 30% on housing by ranges of income.

Significance: This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Data Highlights:

- 29% of Capital Region homeowners were cost-burdened in 2010-2014. On average, 28.3% of homeowners in the peer group were cost-burdened in the same time period.
- The number of homeowners in the Capital Region who were cost-burdened increased by 3 percentage points from 2005-2009 to 2010-2014.
- In 2010-2014, the Capital Region had fewer cost-burdened homeowners than 4 of the 14 other MSA peers.

Figure 3-3.1. Homeowners Spending more than 30% of Income on Housing



3-4. Gross Rent Relative to Household Income for less than $35,000

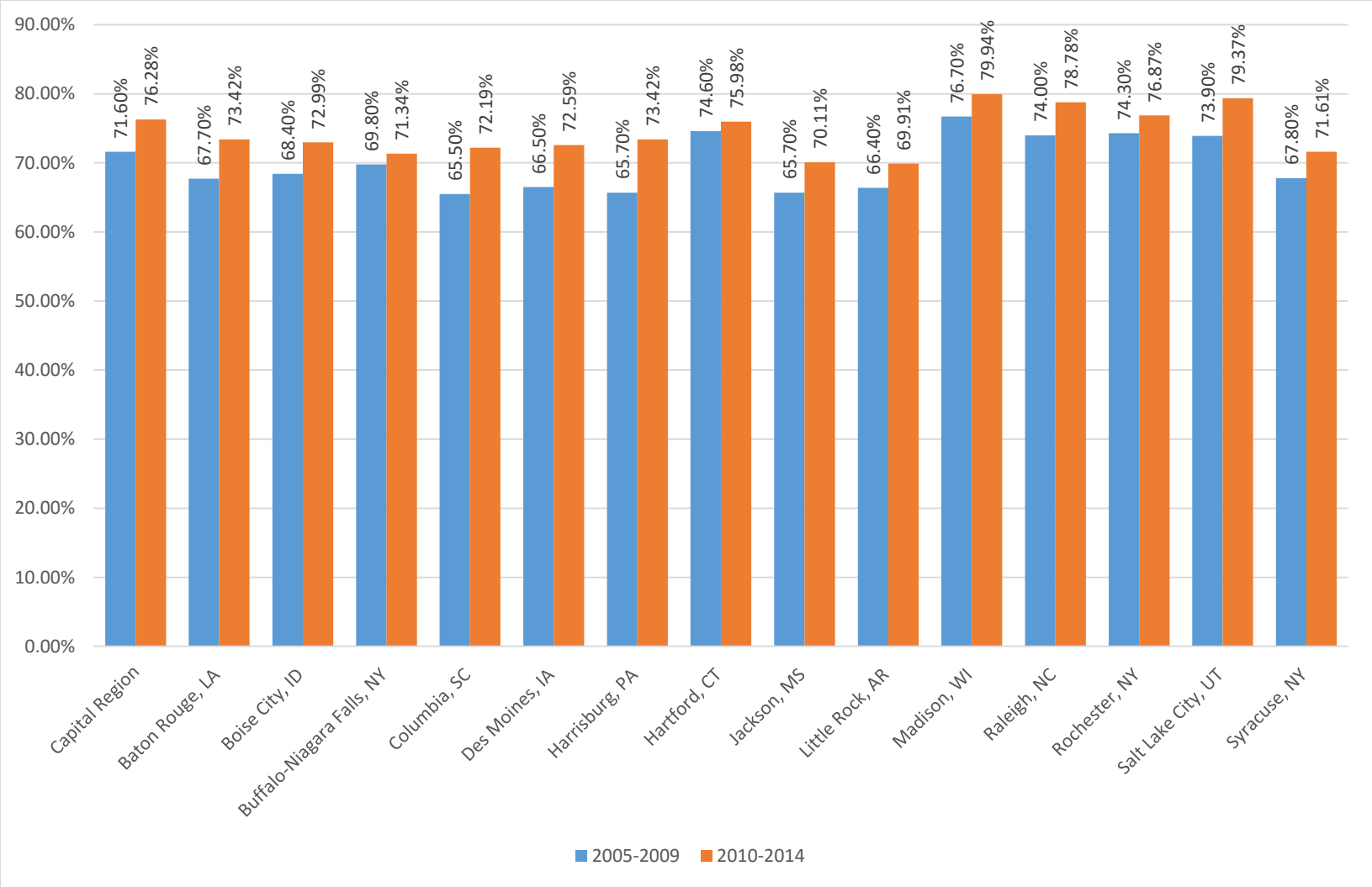
Definition: The percentage of renter households with an income of less than $35,000 spending more than 30% of household income on gross rent, which includes utilities if paid by the renter. To measure this indicator, we used the American FactFinder table entitled "Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months" and isolated the data that described that total number of renters in the Capital Region and its peers with households making less than $35,000, and identified the percent in this income bracket that is paying more than 30% in rent. We did this for 2005-2009 as well as 2010-2014, then ran a number of percent change analysis to identify the trends described below.

Significance: This indicator illustrates housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Data Highlights:

- Since 2005-2009, low-income renters in every metropolitan service area have experienced an increased cost-burden.
- The cost-burden to low-income renters in 2010-2014 in the Capital Region is 76.3%. The average cost-burden to low-income renters for the peer group is 74.3%, meaning the Capital Region is doing a little worse than peers in this respect.
- The Capital Region has the 5th highest cost-burden to low-income renter ratio among the peer group for 2010-2014.
- The cost-burden to low-income renters between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 in the Capital Region increased by 4.7 percentage points.
- The average percent increase in cost burden was 4.4 percentage points, making the Capital Region slightly above average. Thus the Capital Region's cost burden among renters is increasing at a slightly faster rate than its peers.

Figure 3-4.1. Renters with Income Under $35,000 Spending 30% of Total Income on Rent



Housing

3-5. Homeowner Housing Costs Relative to Household Income for less than $35,000

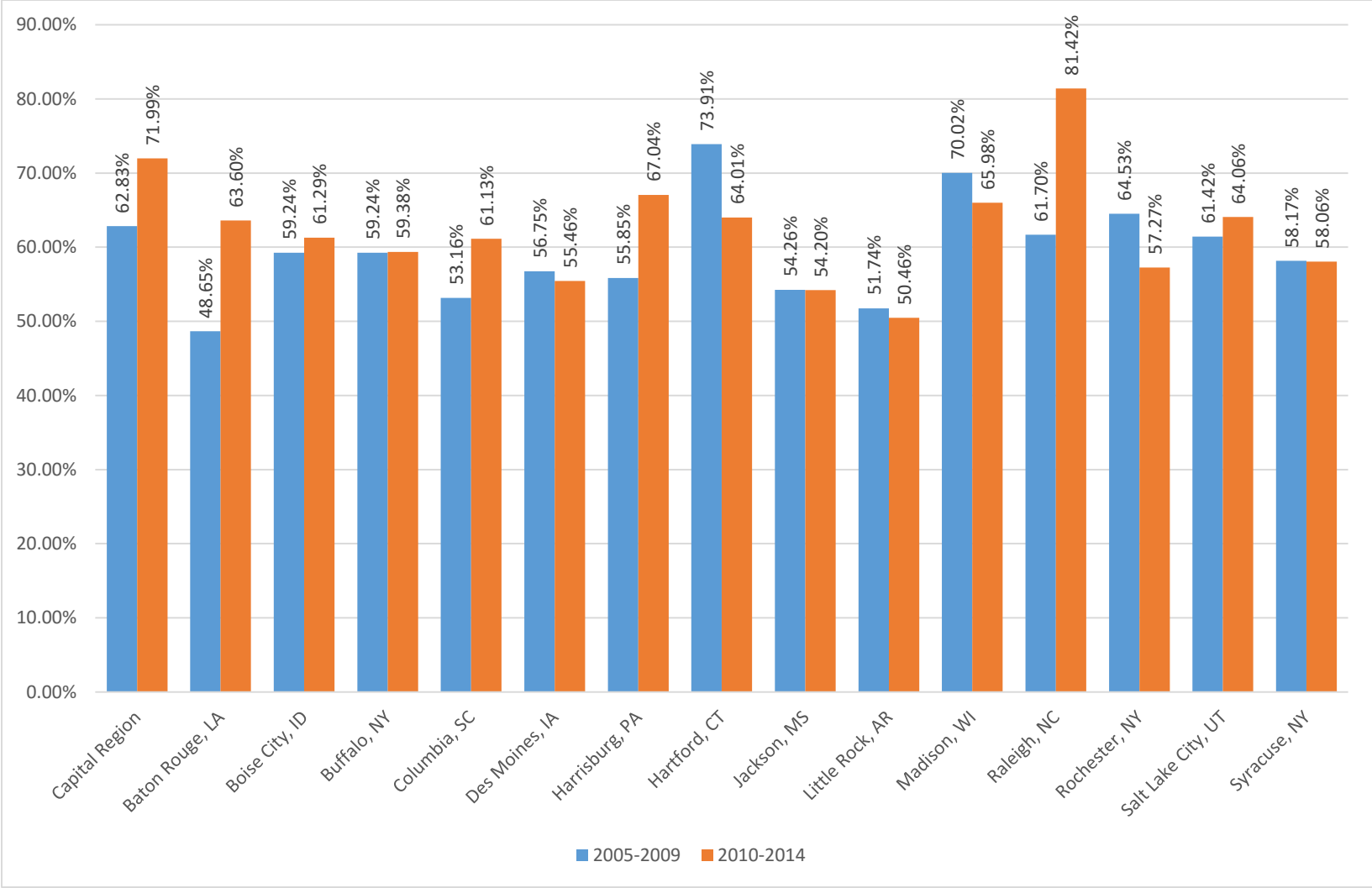
Definition: The percentage of homeowner households with an income of less than $35,000 spending more than 30% of household income on selected housing costs, which includes taxes, insurance, and utilities. For this indicator, we followed the identical process as we did for indicator 3.4, except that we used the American FactFinder table "Household Income by Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months."

Significance: This indicator addresses housing affordability in relation to household income. The Federal Housing and Urban Development Department guideline for affordability is that housing costs should consume no more than 30% of household income. Households spending more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Data Highlights:

- Since 2005-2009, low-income homeowners in 14 of the 15 metropolitan service areas have experienced an increased cost-burden.
- The cost-burden to low-income homeowners in 2010-2014 in the Capital Region is 67%. The average cost-burden to low-income homeowners for the peer group is 62.3%, meaning the Capital Region is doing worse than peers in this respect.
- The Capital Region has the 14th highest cost-burden to low-income homeowner ratio out of the 15 MSA peer group for 2010-2014.
- The percentage of cost-burdened low-income homeowners in the Capital Region increased by 9% between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014.
- The average increase in cost burden was 2.9%, making the Capital Region a high outlier. Thus, the Capital Region's cost burden is increasing at a much higher rate than its peers.

Figure 3-5.1. Homeowners with Income Under $35,000 Spending more than 30% of Income on Housing



Housing

3.6. Building Permit Issuances

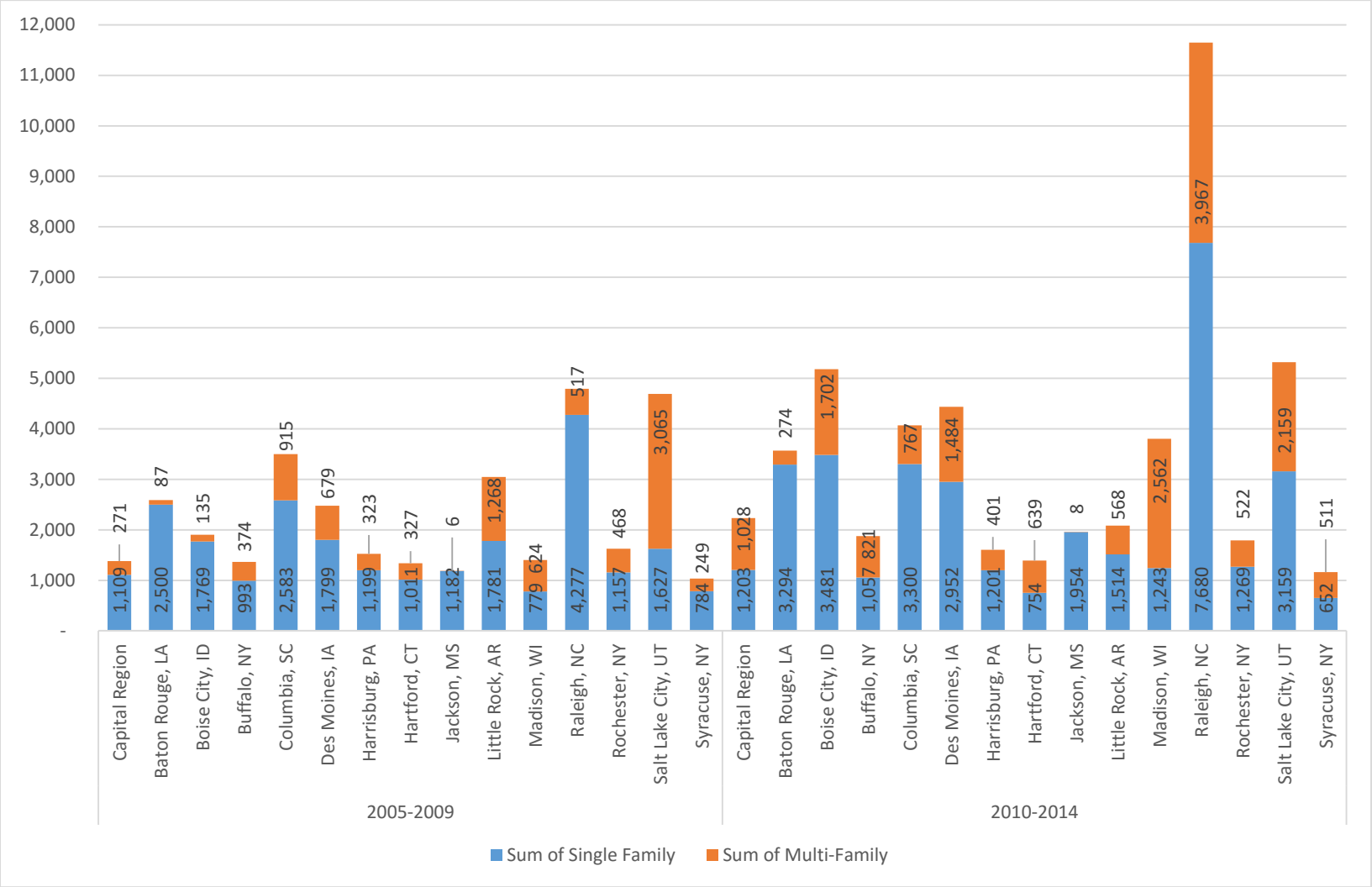
Definition: The number of housing unit approvals by home type.

Significance: Residential building activity can be an indicator of a community's growth and prosperity. When a community has sufficient wealth, the construction industry can meet changing residential demands with ease. In addition to being a barometer for community growth and wealth, building activity is a measure of the vitality of a sector of the local economy.

Data Highlights:

- Single family homes represent the majority of new building units from 2009 to 2014.
- Overall, the majority of the metropolitan service areas experienced an increase in building permits from 2009 to 2014.
- From 2009 to 2014, the Capital Region MSA experienced an 8% increase in the number of single family building permits and a 279% increase in the number of multi-family permits.

Figure 3-6.1. Residential Building Permits across Peer Metropolitan Service Areas



Housing

4. Economics

Vision Statement: Build a sustainable and diverse regional economy based on innovation and adaptability to volatile global demands to ensure living wage jobs in all sectors in order to raise the standard of living for all Capital Region residents.

Indicators:

Summary:

- The labor force participation rate in the Capital Region decreased by 0.2 percentage points in 2010-2014 (65.9%) compared to 2005-2009 (66.1%). The overall average of the peer group decreased by 1.7 percentage points between 2005-2009 (64.4%) and 2010-2014 (62.7%).
- The average unemployment rate in the Capital Region increased by 1.6 percentage points between 2005-2009 (5.8%) and in 2010-2014 (7.4%). The rate in the peer group also increased by 1.6 percentage points between 2005-2009 (6.2%) and in 2010-2014 (7.8%).
- The average employment in the peer group increased by 14,356 (3.68%) between 2005-2009 (390,098) and 2010-2014 (404,454). The Capital Region experienced an increase of 6,939 (1.62%).
- Between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014, the Capital Region experienced a 1.62 percentage point increase in the number of business establishments, exceeding the average peer rate increase of 1.54 percentage points. The number of business establishments increased in 8 but decreased in 6 peer regions.
- The cargo tonnage at the Port of Albany increased since 2011 but decreased slightly in 2014. Tonnage at Baton Rouge has increased consistently. The ranking of both the Ports of Albany and Baton Rouge by cargo volume in 2014 was 52nd and 9th, respectively, out of 149 U.S. ports.

4-1. Labor Force Participation

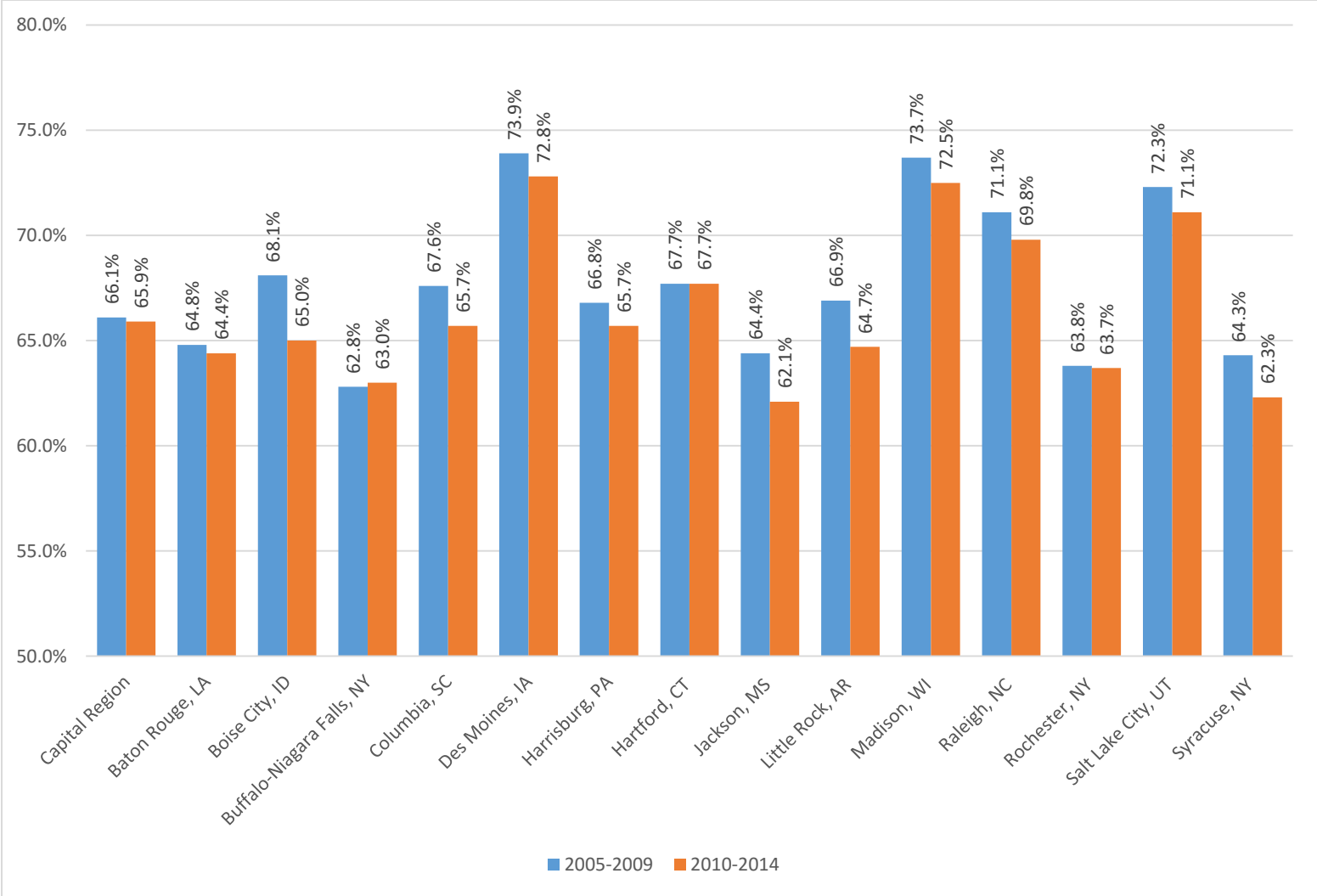
Definition: The labor force participation rate is the percent of total persons 16 and over who are in the labor force and who are not in institutions such as prison, mental hospitals, and nursing homes. It is measured by dividing the total number of people who are participating in the labor market (16 years and over) by the total population 16 years of age and over. The labor force includes both those who are employed and unemployed but looking for a job.

Significance: Labor force participation rates are the measure of an individual's ability and willingness to work outside the home. In general, the higher it is, the more likely it is to positively affect the regional economy.

Data Highlights:

- The labor force participation rate in the Capital Region decreased slightly by 0.2 percentage points, going from 66.1% in 2005-2009 to 65.9% in 2010-2014.
- The rank of the Capital Region among the MSAs in the peer group regarding labor force participation rate moved up four spots to six in 2010-2014 compared to 2005-2009.
- The average of the labor force participation rate of the MSAs in the peer group in 2010-14 was 66.4%, decreasing by 1.2 percentage points compared to 67.6% in 2005-2009. Between the two time frames, the labor force participation rate increased in only one of the 15 peer groups, the Buffalo-Niagara Falls MSA. The degree of decline of the Capital Region is smaller than those of the other MSAs in the peer group.

Figure 4-1.1. Labor Force Participation Rate by the MSAs in the peer group



Economics

4-2. Unemployment Rates

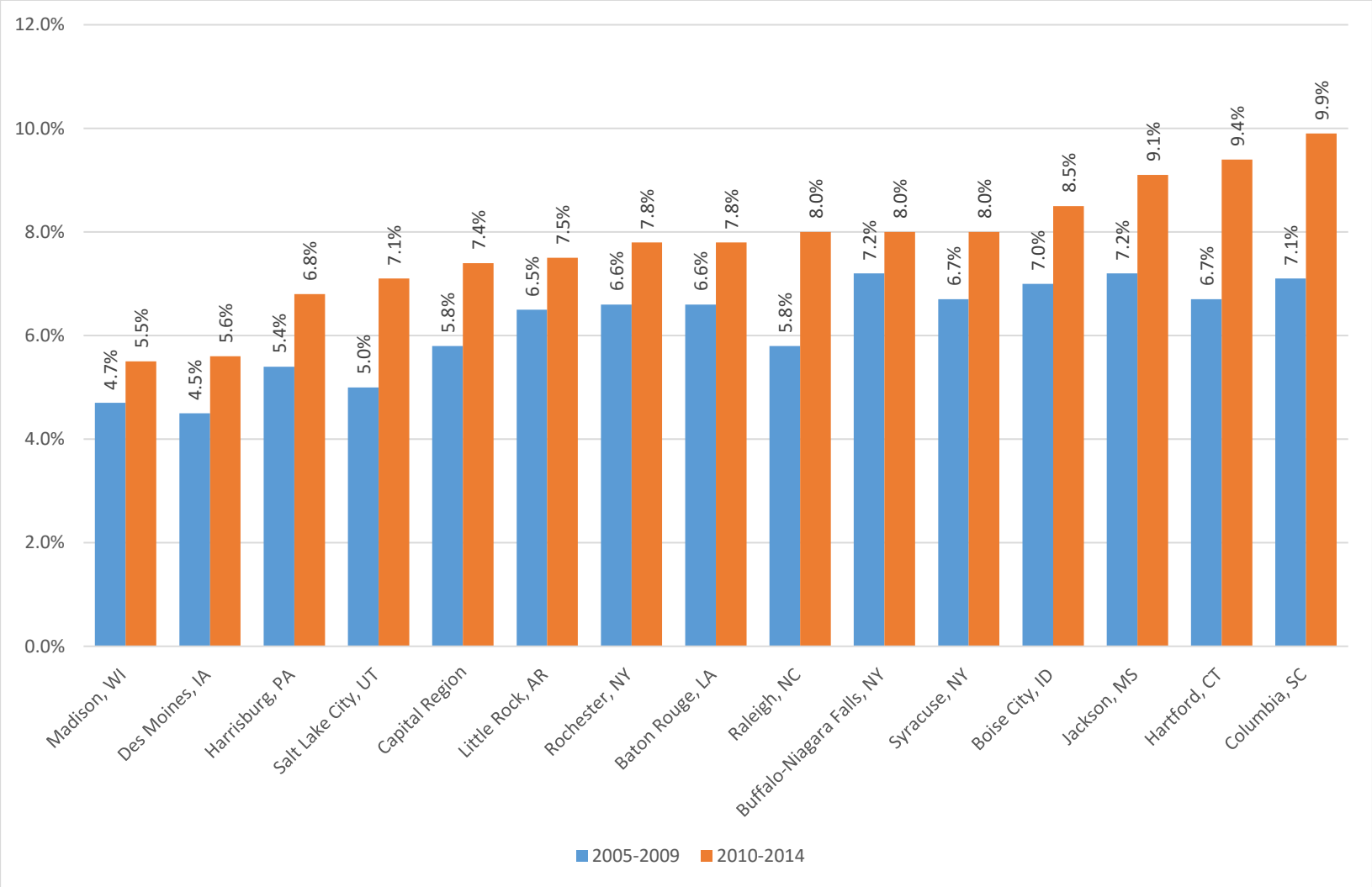
Definition: Unemployment rates are the percentage of unemployed people as a percentage of total labor force. Unemployed people include people 16 years or older, not working but are available and actively looking for work. The labor force includes people 16 years or older, who are not in institutions such as prison, mental hospitals, and nursing homes. Rates represent the annual average.

Significance: Unemployment rates represent an estimate of local economic conditions, and also signify the availability of employment opportunities. Unemployment causes adversities to individuals financially and may lead to inadequate health and other economic challenges to the household. Unemployment also affects the society as a whole, regarding government subsidies and loss of revenues for local businesses.

Data Highlights:

- The unemployment rate in the Capital Region increased by 1.6 percentage points from 5.8% in 2005-2009 to 7.4% in 2010-2014.
- The average of the unemployment rates of the MSAs in the peer group also increased by 1.6 percentage points from 6.2% in 2005-2009 to 7.8% in 2010-2014. The unemployment rates of all the peer group MSA's increased between the two periods.

Figure 4-2.1. Unemployment Rates



Economics

4-3. Employment by Sector

Definition: Employment by sector signifies the total number of people working in different sectors of the economy and covered by unemployment insurance laws. Occupations are self-identified by persons completing the American Community Survey and as a result, there may be discrepancies between ACS data and information from the Department of Labor. Employment by sector data is collected by the place of work and is based on North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.

Significance: One of the fundamental policies to build a vibrant and competing regional economy is to create and maintain a diverse workforce. A dynamic local economy will consist of numerous employment opportunities and can immune the economy in the face of any adverse market failure.

Data Highlights:

- Total employment across all industries in the peer group in 2010-2014 (6,066,807) increased by 215,334 (3.68%) compared to that in 2005-2009 (5,851,473).
- Cumulatively, the two largest employment sectors in 2010-2014 were Educational Services & Healthcare and Retail Trade; both sectors accounted for 36.53% of all employment in the peer group. The smallest employment sector was Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, and Mining (1.11%), which was also the smallest sector in 2005-2009.
- Educational services & Healthcare saw the largest change of employment among sectors in 2010-2014 (1,520,044), which increased by 11.55% compared to 1,362,640 employees in 2005-2009. On the contrary, Construction, Wholesale Trade, and Manufacturing decreased by 45,057; 20,708; and 17,956 respectively between the two periods.
- Regarding the change of employment regionally, the Capital Region experienced an increase of 6,939 (1.62%), while the average number of employment in the peer group increased by 14,356 (3.68%) during the two periods.
- The Capital Region shows a similar trend in changes of employment by sector with other peer groups with two exceptions. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting in the Capital Region declined by 235 (8.05%), whereas average employment in the peer group increased by 602 (15.46%). Also, Government in the Capital Region declined by 3,291 (7.08%), while average employment in the peer group increased by 708 (3.18%).

Figure 4-3.1. Employment Rates by Sector in the Peer Group (2005-2009)

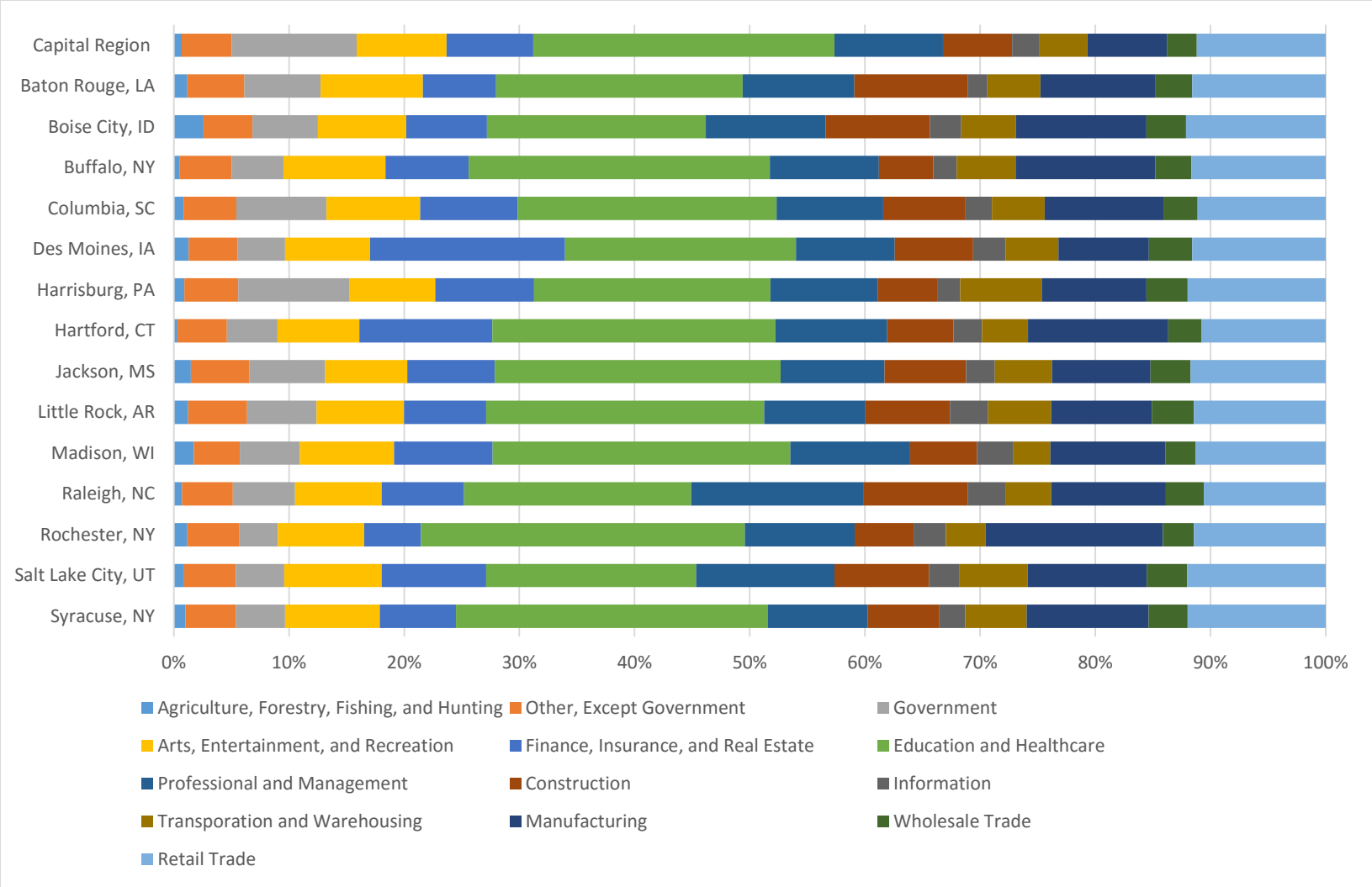
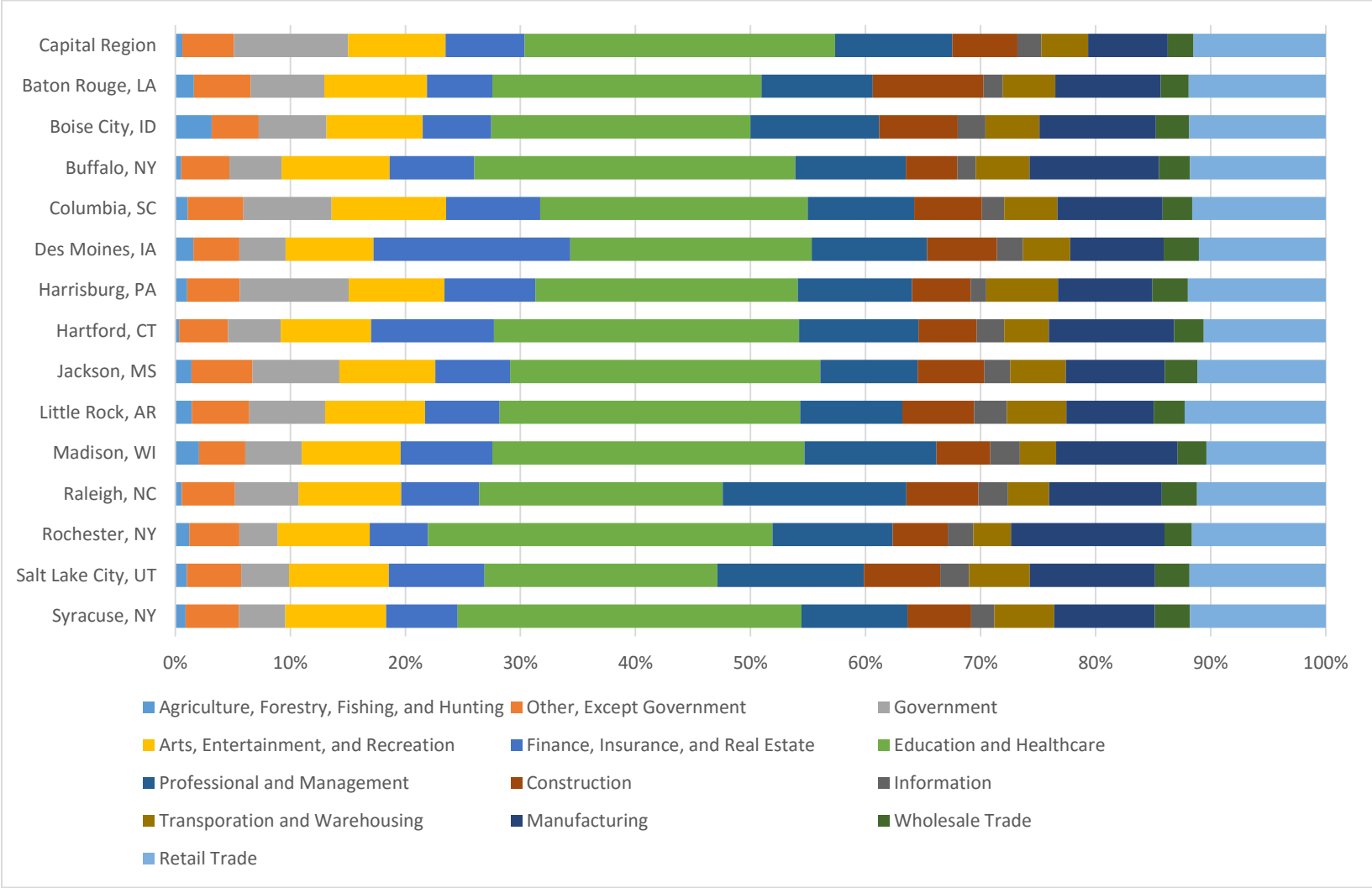


Figure 4-3.2. Employment Rates by Sector in the Peer Group (2010-2014)



4-4. Business Establishments

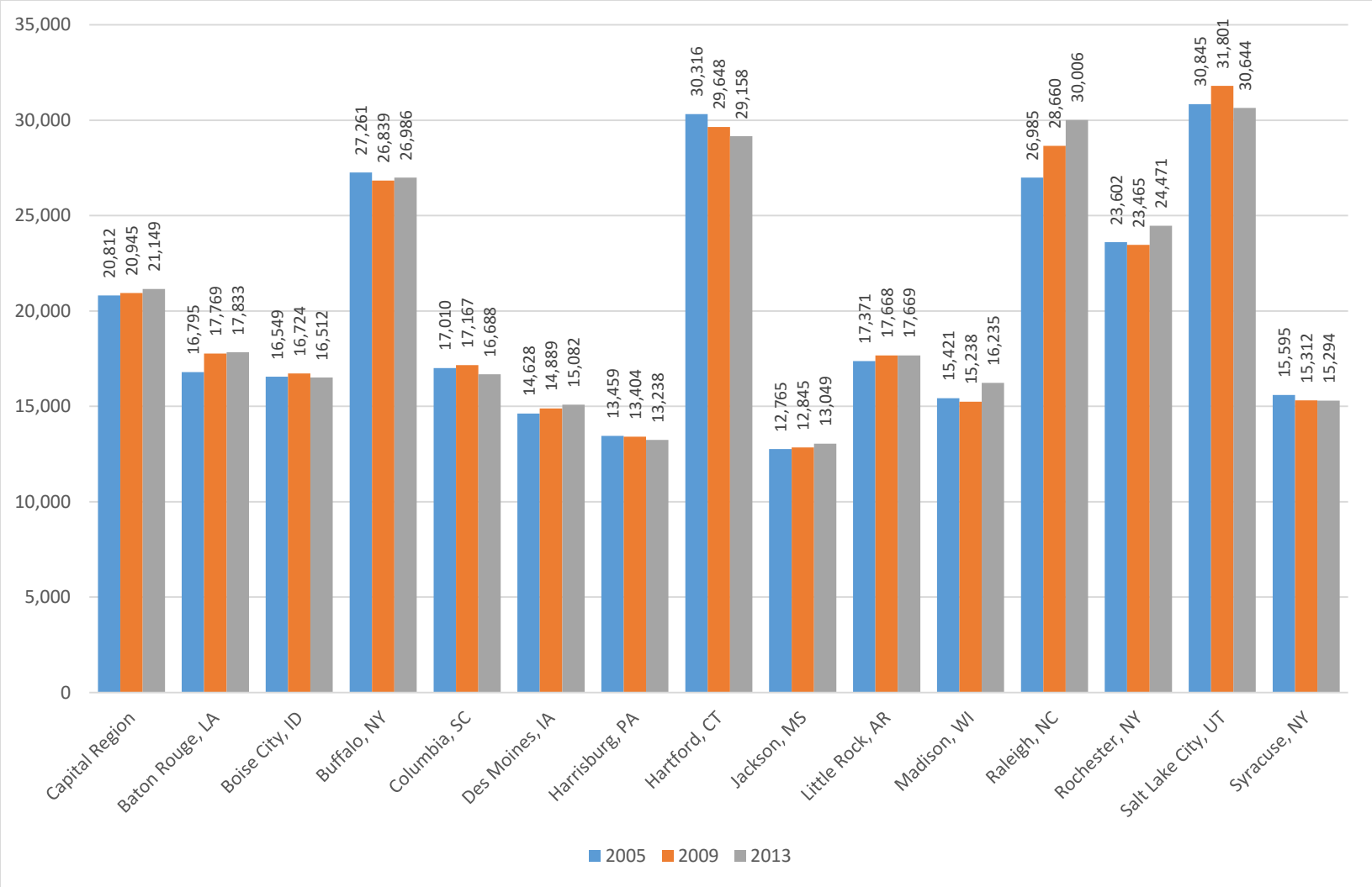
Definition: The number of business establishments is derived from the County Business Patterns of the United States Census Bureau. This data come from the business register which is a multi-relational database that contains a record for each known establishment that is located in the United States with paid employees. This includes most establishments classified in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). A business establishment is defined as a physical location at which business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed. The number of operating establishments with one or more paid employees is measured in each city.

Significance: The number of business establishments in the region is an indicator of the economy and the business climate. Comparison of regions in the number of business establishments can show the region's position in the business environment.

Data Highlights:

- The Capital Region experienced an increase of 1.62% in the number of business establishments between 2009 and 2013.
- Across all the peer group MSAs, the decrease of business establishment occurred primarily between 2009 and 2013.
- Between 2005 and 2013, the number of business establishments increased in 8 regions in the peer group, including the Capital Region, but decreased in 7 regions.

Figure 4-4.1. Number of Business Establishments by the MSAs in the peer group



Economics

4-5. Cargo Tonnage at Port

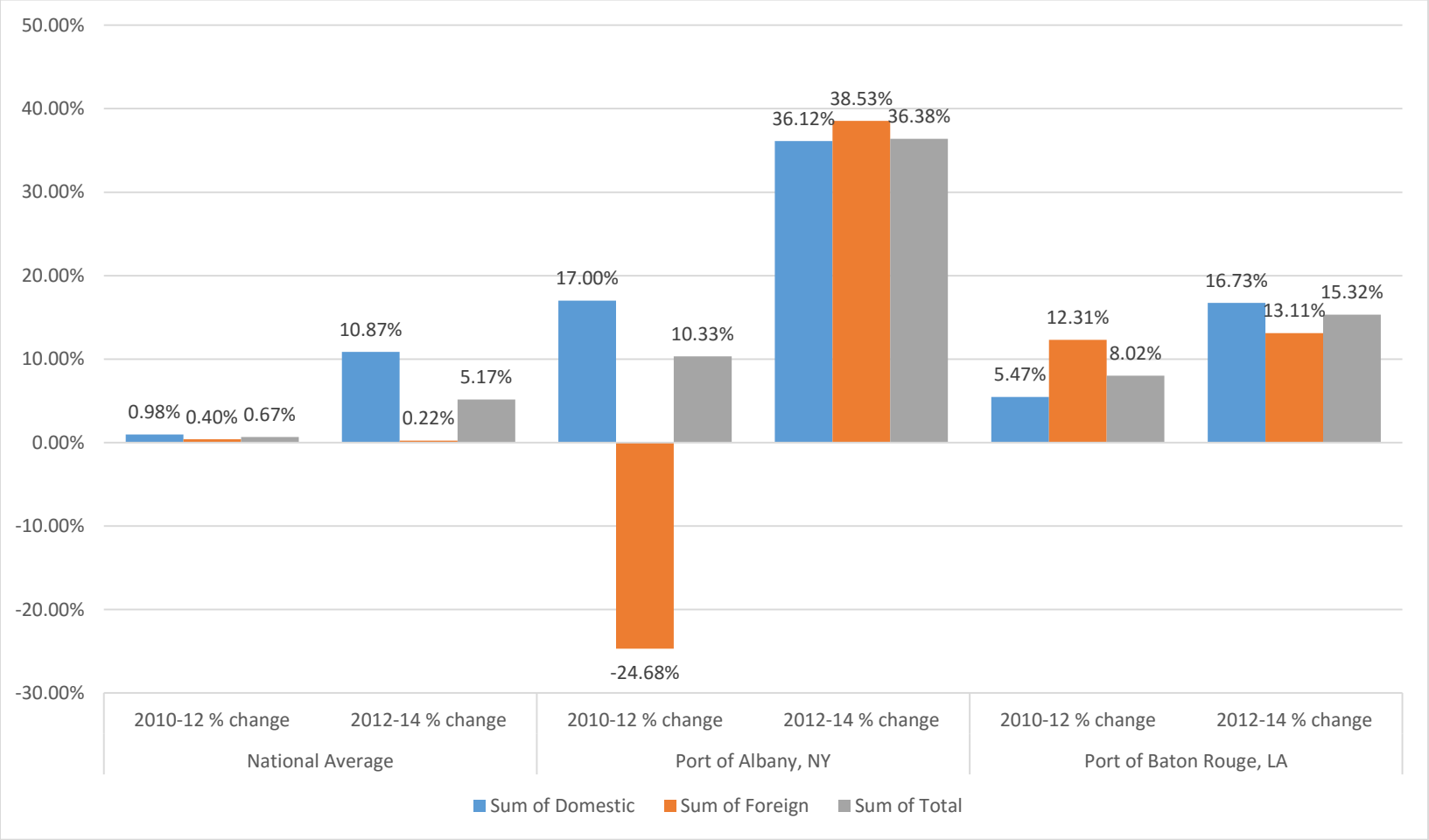
Definition: Total cargo tonnages handled at the Port of Albany and the Port of Baton Rouge are organized by foreign and domestic cargo. Only two ports are shown because only two regions among all the peer groups, Capital Region and Baton Rouge, LA, have a port. The total number of ports in the U.S. is 149.

Significance: In general, the more cargo tonnage a port has, the more of a transaction it is. This can be compared with tonnages which are carried by other means of transportation, such as airplanes and trucks.

Data Highlights:

- Although the percentage change of foreign trade at the Port of Albany decreased between 2010 and 2012, the total cargo tonnage at the Port of Albany has increased by 10.3% between 2010 and 2012, and by 36.4% between 2012 and 2014. This is larger than the national average percentage changes and those at the Port of Baton Rouge.
- The ranking of the Port of Albany by cargo volume in 2014 was 52nd, and that of the Port of Baton Rouge was 9th among the total 149 U.S. ports.

Figure 4-5.1. The Percentage Change of Cargo Tonnage (2010-2012 and 2012-2014)



5. Transportation

Vision Statement: Plan, create, and manage an integrated multi-modal transportation network that makes it easy to get from one place to another safely and reliably; more thoroughly link transportation and land use planning.

Indicators:

Summary:

- Between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014, the Capital Region saw an increase in several types of transportation methods. These include driving alone, public transportation, walking to work, and other forms of commuting[2]. The one category that did not see any increase is carpooling, which saw a 13% overall decrease between these two time periods.
- The Capital Region ranked 6th in the percentage of people whose commute time is under 20 minutes.
- The Capital Region saw an increase in households with at least one vehicle available for transportation from 2005-2009 and 2010-2014. The number of households with vehicle availability in the Capital Region outpaces many of its peers in comparison. The amount of vehicles available presents both opportunities and downsides that are discussed in the vehicle availability section.
- Albany International Airport's enplanements performance resembles other similar cities located in Upstate New York. The cities of Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse all saw a decrease in total enplanements between 2005 and 2014. This can be attributed to the Great Recession that started in 2008, which more than likely had an adverse impact on airline enplanements in the ensuing years. Within this time period, in 2008, American Airlines left the Capital Region. Continental Airlines, which once ran Continental Express and Continental Connection, both independently owned regional airlines, also ceased providing services upon its merger with United Airlines. Continental provided services to/from Albany International Airport until 2010.

[2] Other forms of commuting include taxi, bicycle, etc.

5-1. Mode to Work

Definition: The American Community Survey asks a sample of households to indicate the "mode to work" for each worker residing in the household. Respondents were instructed to indicate the mode used for most of the distance if this person usually used more than one method of transportation during the trip.

Significance: Mode to work gives a view of how people travel to and from work on any given day. Although driving alone can be a measurement of affluence and independence for some, it also demonstrates how much a certain area can be overly reliant on the automobile for making trips. A large distribution of transit trips to work can signify a strong image of transit service, availability, and effectiveness. Also, greater transit ridership equates to less pollution and congestion for the community.

Data Highlights:

- The most popular method to work in the Capital Region is driving to work alone. In fact, over 300,000 individuals or approximately 4 out of 5 commuters in both 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 drive to/from work alone.
- When comparing 2005-2009 and 2010-2014, we see the following increases in the means of transportation in the Capital Region:
    - Public transportation: 16.5% (11,813 to 13,761)
    - Other: 5% (20,001 to 21,113)
    - Driving alone: 3% (332,467 to 344,331)
    - Walked: 1% (15,566 to 15,765)
- When comparing 2005-2009 and 2010-2014, we see the following decrease in the means of transportation in the Capital Region:
    - Carpooling: 13% (37,085 to 32,910)
- When comparing averages of each mean of transportation within the peer group between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014, we see the following changes:
    - An increase of 5% in individuals who drive alone to work (4,371,998 to 4,605,043)
    - A decrease of 7% in individuals who carpool to work (540,176 to 504,175)
    - An increase of 6% in individuals who use public transportation to work (110,204 to 116,645)
    - An increase of 8% who use other to work (291,759 to 318,797)
    - An increase of 1% who walked to work (137,896 to 139,493)

Figure 5-1.1. Transportation Means to Work 2005-2009

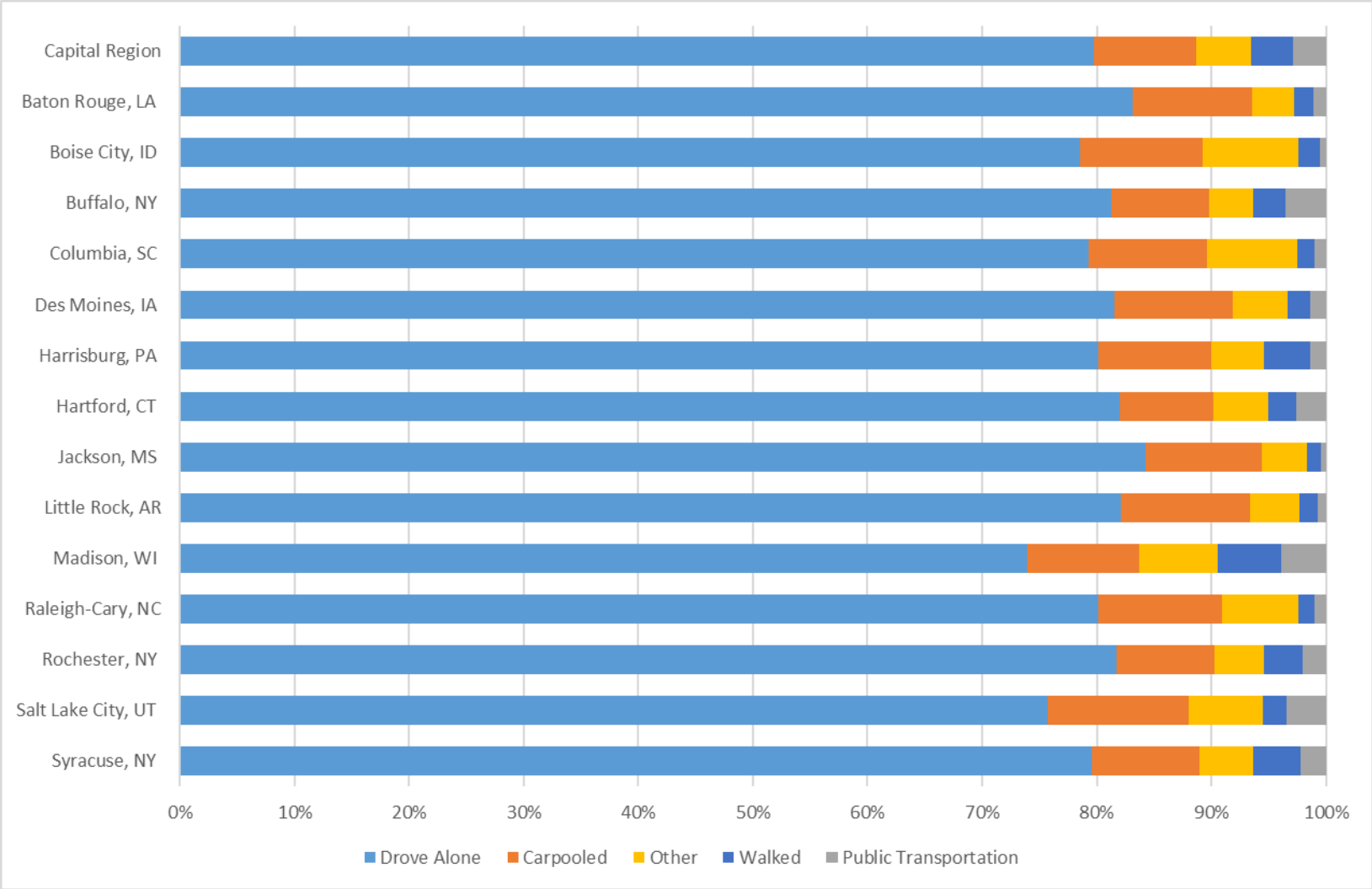
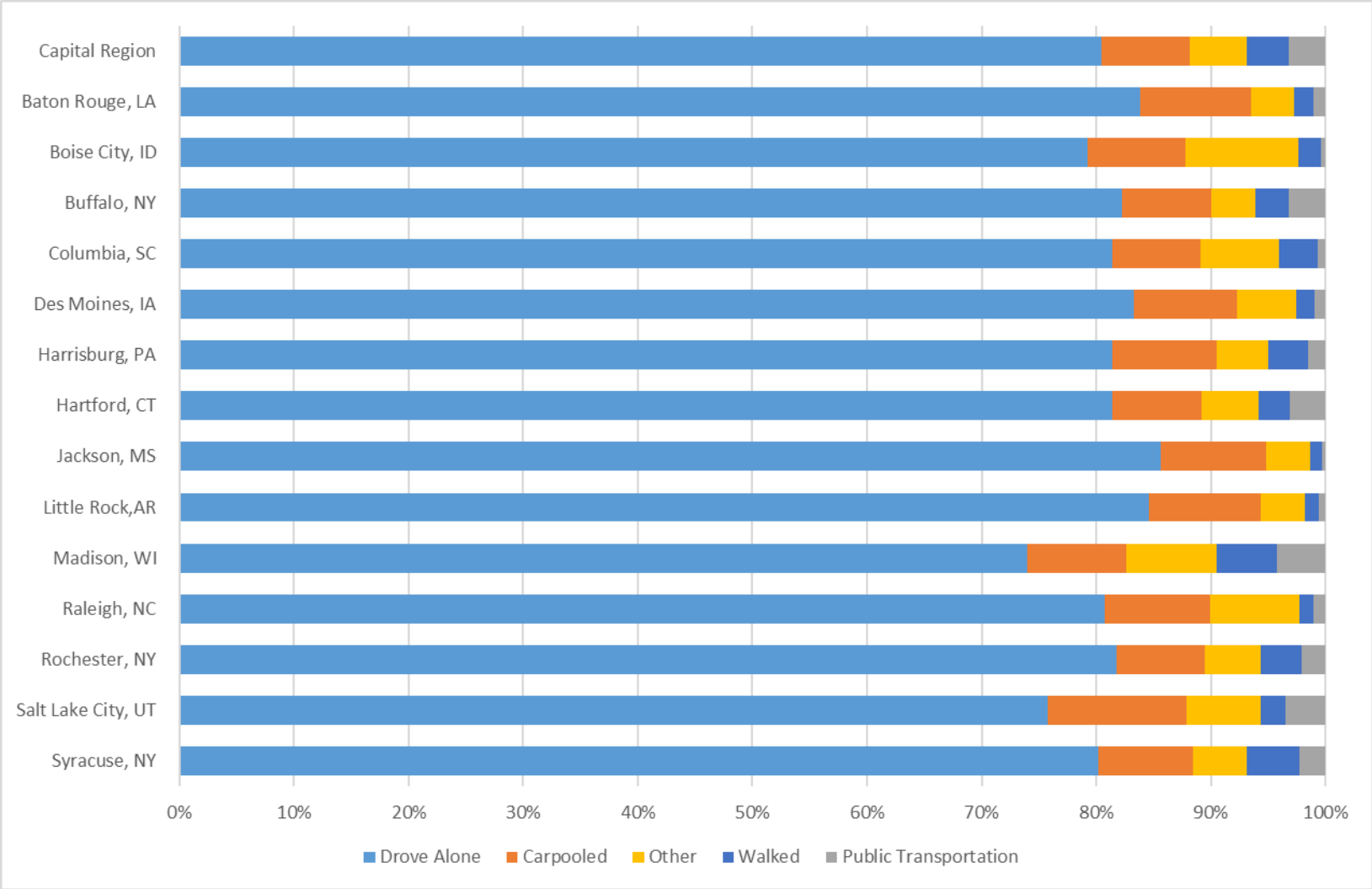


Figure 5-1.2. Transportation Means to Work 2010-2014



5-2. Travel Time to Work

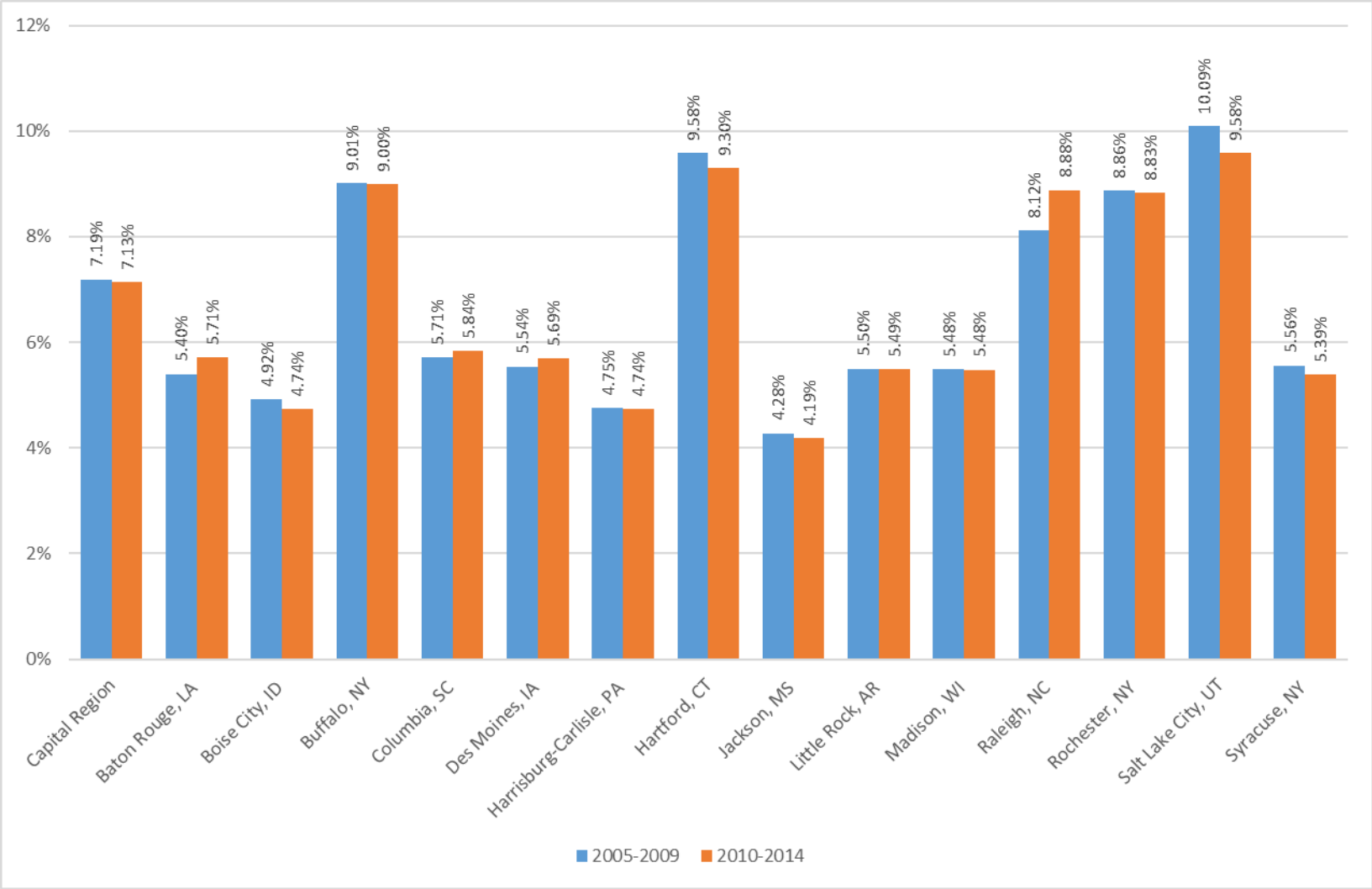
Definition: The American Community Survey asks a question on their questionnaire with regards to commuting to work for an individual. Specifically, the survey asks how many minutes it typically takes for the person to get home from work.

Significance: Commute time has become a focus of urban revival in the United States in the past few years. Cities and regions are looking at ways in which workers can get to their jobs more quickly through different strategies as more and more individuals look to move back into downtown neighborhoods. A region that can move employees more quickly will be more competitive economically as it is attractive to employers and future workers.

Data Highlights:

- In the Capital Region, 7% of the population traveled to work in under 20 minutes and that was virtually unchanged between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014.
- The Capital Region ranked 6th in the percentage of people whose commute time is under 20 minutes.
- Baton Rouge, Columbia, Des Moines, and Raleigh are the only MSAs that experienced an increase in the number of commuters who's travel time to work was under 20 minutes.

Figure 5-2.1. Percentage of people travel under 20 mins to work between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014



5-3. Household Vehicle Availability

Definition: The American Community Survey asks households how many automobiles, vans, and trucks are used by members within that household. The question and answers are different from asking about the number of registered vehicles per household. The ACS question is seen as more accurate than registered vehicles per household because a relative's car or company cars are counted in the American Community Survey.

Significance: There are multiple factors that push households to purchase at least one vehicle for transportation. With greater technology, vehicles have started to last longer. This creates a larger stock of viable used vehicles for lower-income households to purchase. The increasing affordability of cars means more low-income households can own one of their own. Decentralized development and suburban sprawl have increased the need for a car to commute to work, as well as shop for basic necessities. The downside of higher vehicle ownership is that it adds to street congestion and air pollution.

Data Highlights:

- The percentage of households in the Capital Region with no vehicles for the period 2005-2009 was 3%; meanwhile for the period 2010-2014 that percentage was down slightly to 2.9%. The percentage of households in the Capital Region for the period 2005-2009 with two vehicles was 47.92%; also virtually unchanged from 2010-2014 when it was 46.59%.
- Similarly, the percentage of households with one vehicle also remained generally unchanged from 27.44% to 28.63% between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 as well as the percent with three or more vehicles going from 21.56% to 21.87%.
- Among the peer group, Salt Lake City, UT had the highest percentage of three or more vehicles per household for both time periods. Madison, WI had the highest percentage of households with two vehicles and Buffalo had the highest percentage of households with one vehicle and no vehicles.

Figure 5-3.1. Household Vehicle Availability in 2005-2009

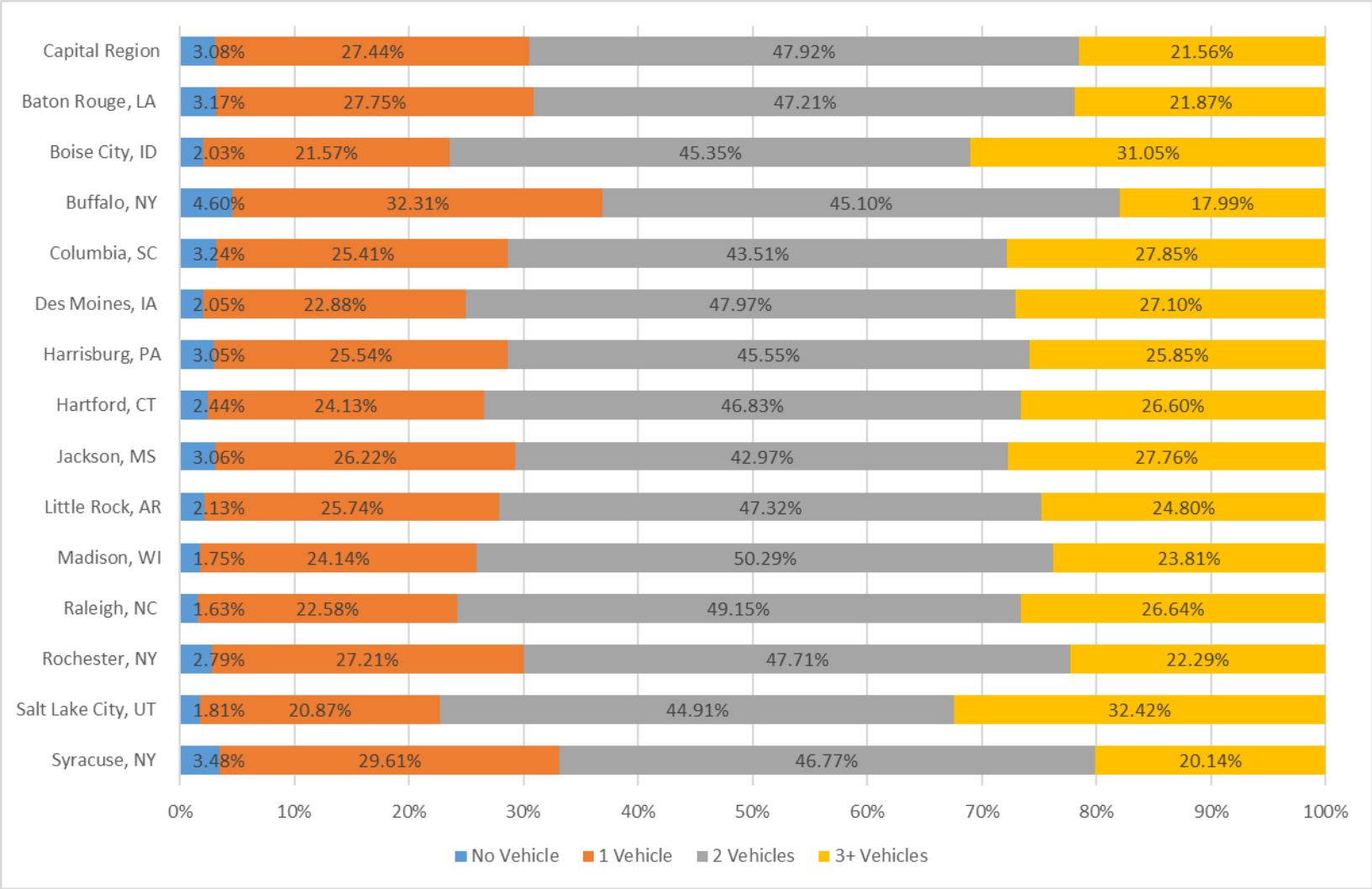
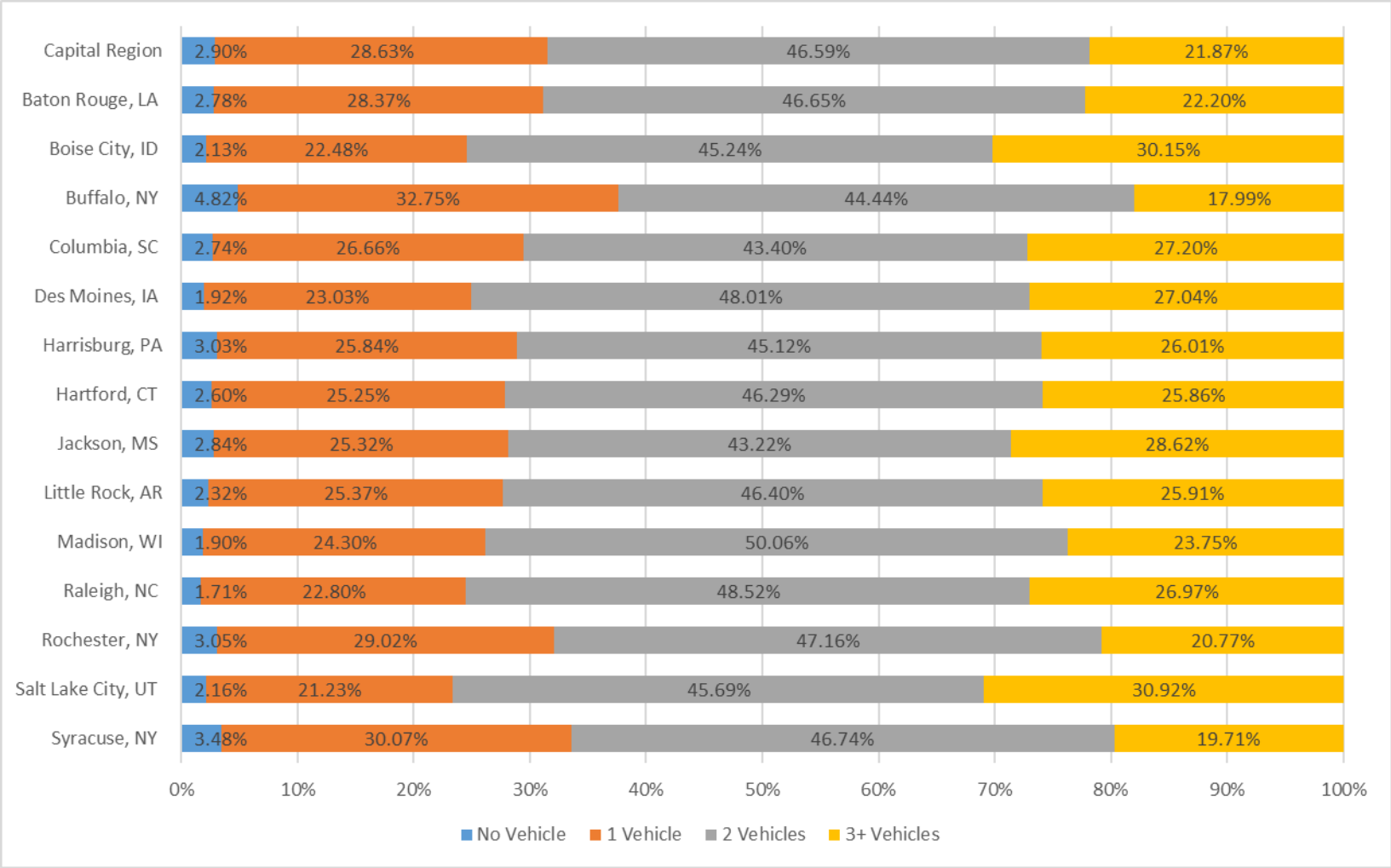


Figure 5-3.2. Household Vehicle Availability in 2010-2014



5-4. Airport Enplanements

Definition: An enplanement is defined as a revenue passenger boarding an aircraft.

Note: The data presented here is limited to New York State peer regions.

Significance: An active airport provides accessible, uncomplicated movement into and out of a region. An airport can also aid commerce and makes a more alluring business location. In addition to this, an active airport with affordable fares helps improve the local quality of life by providing greater recreational travel opportunities. An airport creates both greater economic opportunities for the region in which it is located while also increasing the quality of life due to greater travel opportunities.

The Albany International Airport (AIA) is the major air center for the Capital Region, Northeastern New York, and Western New England. In 2015, Albany International Airport was served by Air Canada, AirTran, American Eagle, Cape Air, Delta Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, and US Airways. There have been notable changes to Albany International Airport since the mid-2000s. One such example is when American Airlines left in 2008. Continental Airlines, which once ran Continental Express and Continental Connection, both independently owned regional airlines, also ceased providing services in 2010. Continental provided services to/from Albany until its merger with United Airlines. According to the AIA, the price of jet fuel peaked around 2008 and in anticipation of higher costs, airlines hedged their purchase of fuel costs at rates above the actual market which resulted in higher ticket prices, lower capacity, and declining enplanements across the nation.

Data Highlights:

- The Capital Region's total enplanements decreased in the period of this report going from 1,533,301 in 2005 to 1,210,825 in 2014. Buffalo's enplanements peaked in 2008 at 2,744,501 before declining steadily to 2,378,469 in 2014. Rochester also experienced a period of steady decline from 2005 (1,450,181 enplanements) to 2014 (1,173,933 enplanements). The same with Syracuse with 1,222,657 enplanements in 2005 falling to 987,169 in 2014.
- Between 2005 and 2014, Albany had the highest drop in enplanements (21%) when compared to Buffalo (2%), Rochester (19%) and Syracuse (19%).
- With the exception of 2007, 2010, and 2013, Albany still ranked second behind Buffalo with the most enplanements throughout both time periods.
- Enplanements in the Capital Region continued a steady decline since 2005 through 2013 when enplanements bottomed out to below 1.2 million. However, in 2014 enplanements rebounded to 1,210,825, an increase of 14,293..

Figure 5-4.1. Airport Enplanements from 2005-2014

6. Health

Vision Statement: Provide access to affordable, quality healthcare to improve the physical and mental well-being of all Capital Region residents.

Indicators:

Summary:

- Most regions have seen a drop in the total number of live births from the periods 2005-2009 to 2010-2014; compared with peers, the Capital Region has seen relatively small losses in the number of births.
- The population of people over the age of 65 has grown from 2005-2009 to 2010-2014. All peer cities had an increase in the 65+ population within that time span.
- All regions show a portion of their population as without any insurance coverage whatsoever, and there is no observed region that sees an insured rate of 95% or higher (less than 5% uninsured); the Capital Region had a 6.7% uninsured population.
- On the whole, cancer rates from 2007 to 2012 are slowly increasing in all MSAs, with only Syracuse, NY and Rochester, NY seeing reductions in the number of cancer incidents. *Prostate cancer* rates have declined universally across all MSAs. *Lung cancer* rates have increased. *Breast cancer* rates appear to be increasing across a majority of the selected MSAs.
- While a majority of the observed MSAs have seen a decrease in the percent change of Tuberculosis (TB) cases, the Capital Region shows an increase.

6-1. Fertility by MSA, 2005-2009 to 2010-2014

Definition: This indicator represents total fertility rates by region for the periods 2005-2009 and 2010-2014. This indicator uses data from two five-year long studies conducted by the American Community Survey (ACS). It is important to note that this data does not count women under the ages of 15 or over the ages of 50. While it is possible for women outside of the observed age group to become pregnant and deliver, it is exceedingly rare and not something that is substantial for the purposes of this report. Also, this data deals only with women that had become pregnant and delivered their children alive. Stillbirths, abortions, and miscarriages are not measured here.

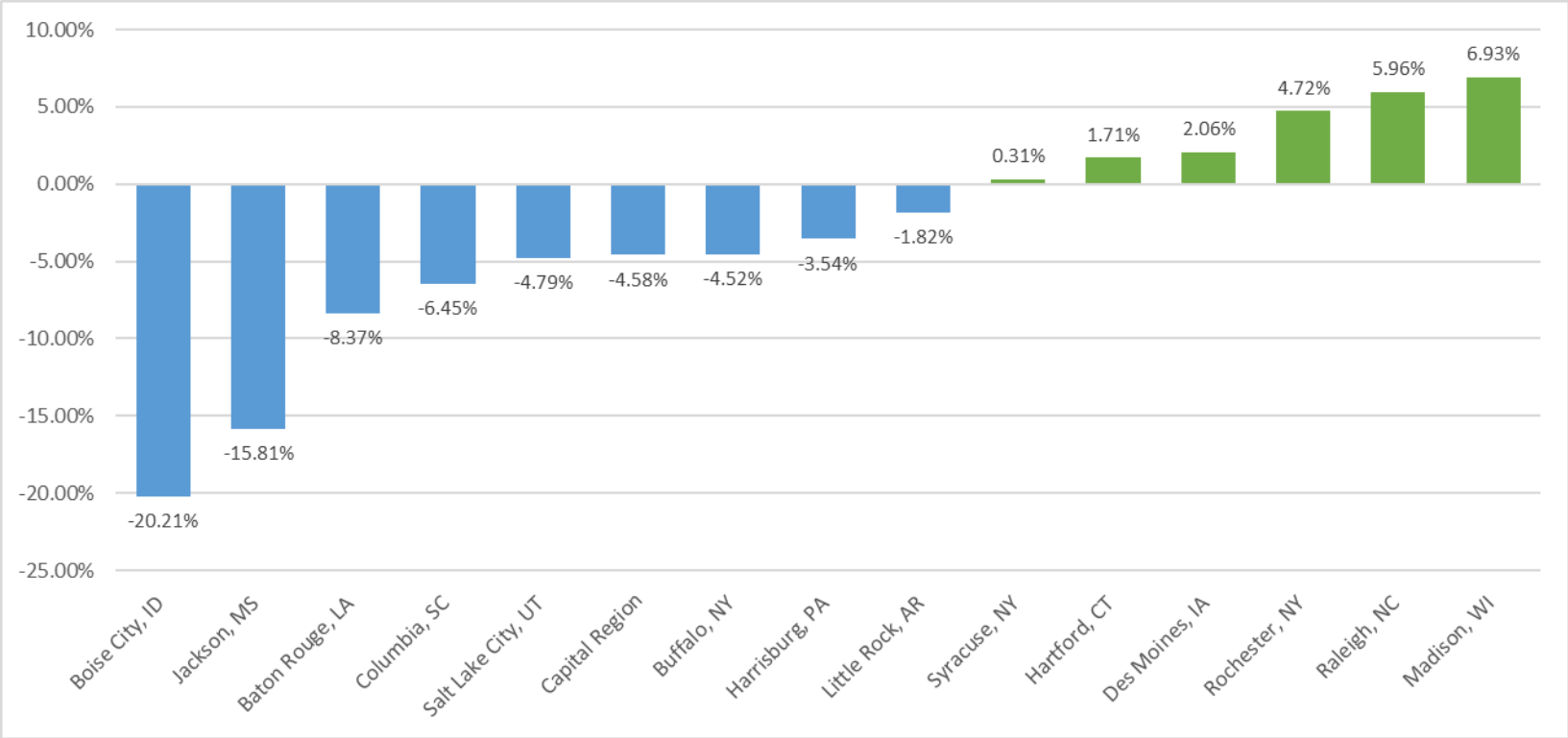
Significance: Fertility rates can be used to gain a more comprehensive view of the reproductive health of a community. Additionally, these rates can help predict population growth or decline. For example, matching up economic factors (such as poverty rate) with changes in births, especially in teenage births, can reinforce or dispel an assumed relationship with poverty and teenage pregnancy.

Even though a declining birth rate could signify problems, it could also indicate positive change. Perhaps local officials have been working to promote safe sex initiatives. An observed reduction in the birthrate (especially amongst teens) would be a sign of success.

Data Highlights:

- The percentage of women between ages 15 and 50 giving birth has decreased by 11.50%, while in the Capital Region it has decreased by 4.58%.
- The sharpest decline in the percentage of women between ages 15 and 50 giving birth is seen in Boise City, ID. The largest increase was in Madison, WI.
- The percentage of women between ages 15 and 50 giving birth decreased in a majority of the peer regions.

Figure 6-1.1. Percent Change of Women Aged 15-50 Giving Birth, 2005-2009 to 2010-2014



6-2. Resource-Intensive Population, 2005-2009 to 2010-2014

Definition: This indicator represents disabled residents in 2010-2014 and residents over the age of 65 in years 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 by MSA. As it relates to the number of persons living with disabilities, a focus has been placed on those individuals who are both disabled and do or do not have insurance to assist in medical expenses. This is important because the population that is not insured are either paying for their medical bills out of pocket, are being subsidized by the government, or are going without treatment altogether.

Note: Since data on insured individuals was not collected prior to the 2010-2014 American Community Survey there is no comparable data set for the 2005-2009 period.

Significance: Disabled residents and residents over the age of 65 tend to draw more health-related resources from localities[3]. Being disabled generally requires a large amount of health intervention and support. All of this support can be costly and many times people facing disabilities are hit with a large bill for the services rendered to treat them[4]. These costs are in the form of rehabilitation centers, elder homes or specialized care and transportation services. Higher populations of these individuals within localities can signify areas that have increased structural and financial stress as a result of keeping up with the health needs of this segment of the population. These areas should be investigated more closely on an economic and service level to determine how well they are handling the needs of the population, while also balancing the health system as a whole both financially and structurally.

Data Highlights:

Disabled Population

- The Capital Region's percentage of individuals with disabilities is 9.4%. The Capital Region has a 0.7% disabled population with no insurance, which is the smallest percentage compared to all other MSAs. The second smallest population is Syracuse, NY, with approximately 0.8%.
- The high rate of insurance for disabled people in the Capital Region means that at the very least, these people are afforded greater opportunity to receive treatment.

Population over the Age of 65

- All peer cities experienced an increase in the number of individuals over the age of 65 between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014.

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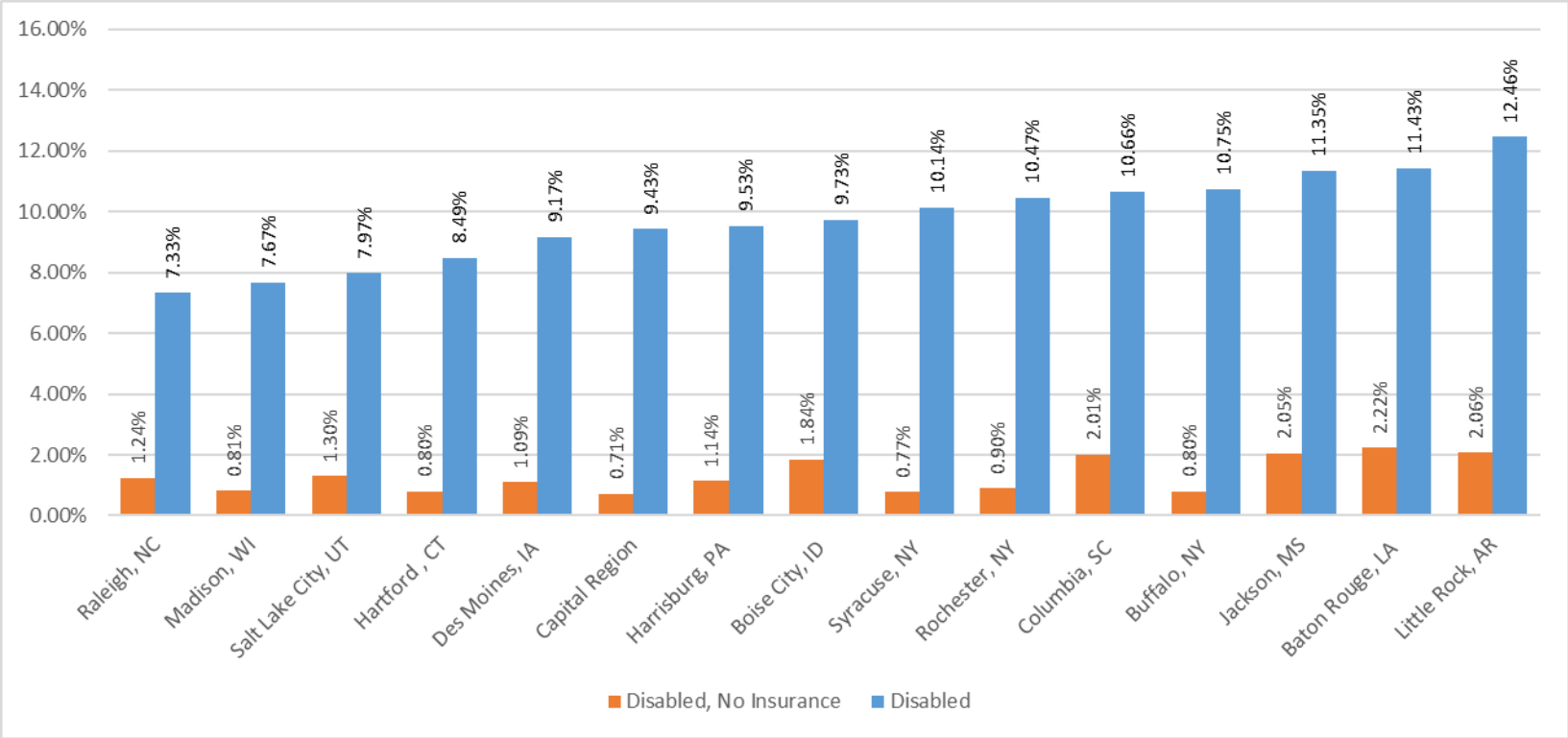
[3] Roush, Michael R., and Michael Morris. "Addressing the Economic Challenges of Americans with Disabilities." *National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households* (2013): n. pag. *www.realeconomicimpact.org*. National Disability Institute. Web. 26 Mar. 2016.

[4] Roush, Michael R., and Michael Morris. "Addressing the Economic Challenges of Americans with Disabilities." *National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households* (2013): n. pag. *www.realeconomicimpact.org*. National Disability Institute. Web. 26 Mar. 2016.

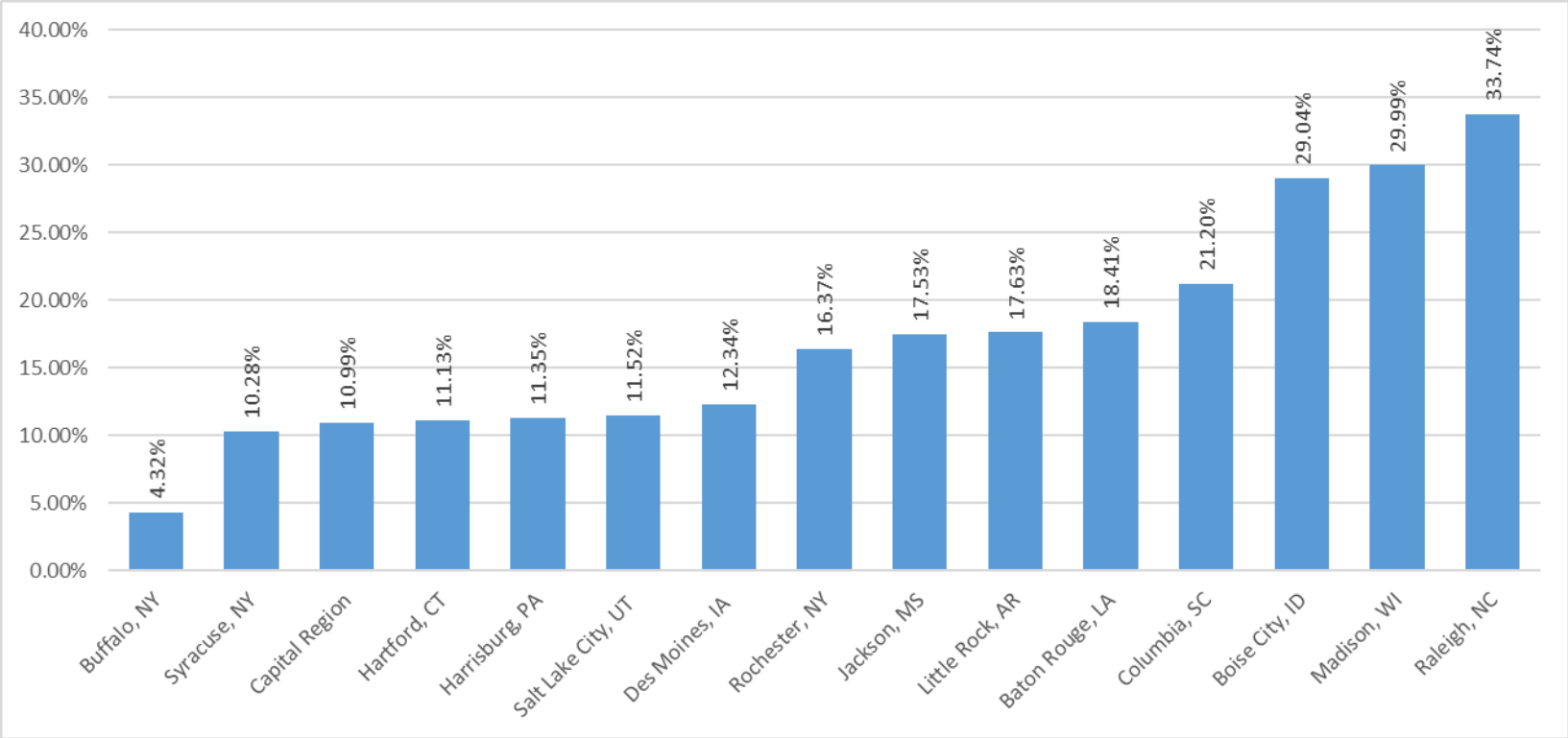
- The Capital Region experienced an 11.0% increase in the number of persons 65+ between the two periods.
- Compared to Raleigh, NC (the MSA with the highest increase observed) the Capital Region's over-65 population increase was a little less than one third as much.
- Compared to Buffalo, NY (the MSA with the smallest over 65 growth), the Capital Region's over-65 population growth was more than double.
- One reason for this growth is that people living in these areas are living longer. However, a more significant reason for the increase is the fact that the first of the baby boom generation (those born between 1946 to 1964) began turning 65 in 2011.

Figure 6-2.1. Percentage of Disable Persons & Percent Without Health Insurance, 2010-2014



Health

Figure 6-2.2. Percentage Change in Population over the Age of 65, 2005-2009 to 2010-2014



6-3. Health Insurance Coverage Percentage by MSA, 2010-2014

Definition: This indicator measures the percentage of residents that are covered with health insurance in each of the peer MSAs. The data for this analysis was collected only from 2010-2014 as there was no other time when such data was present. The push for universal health insurance coverage began with the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010.

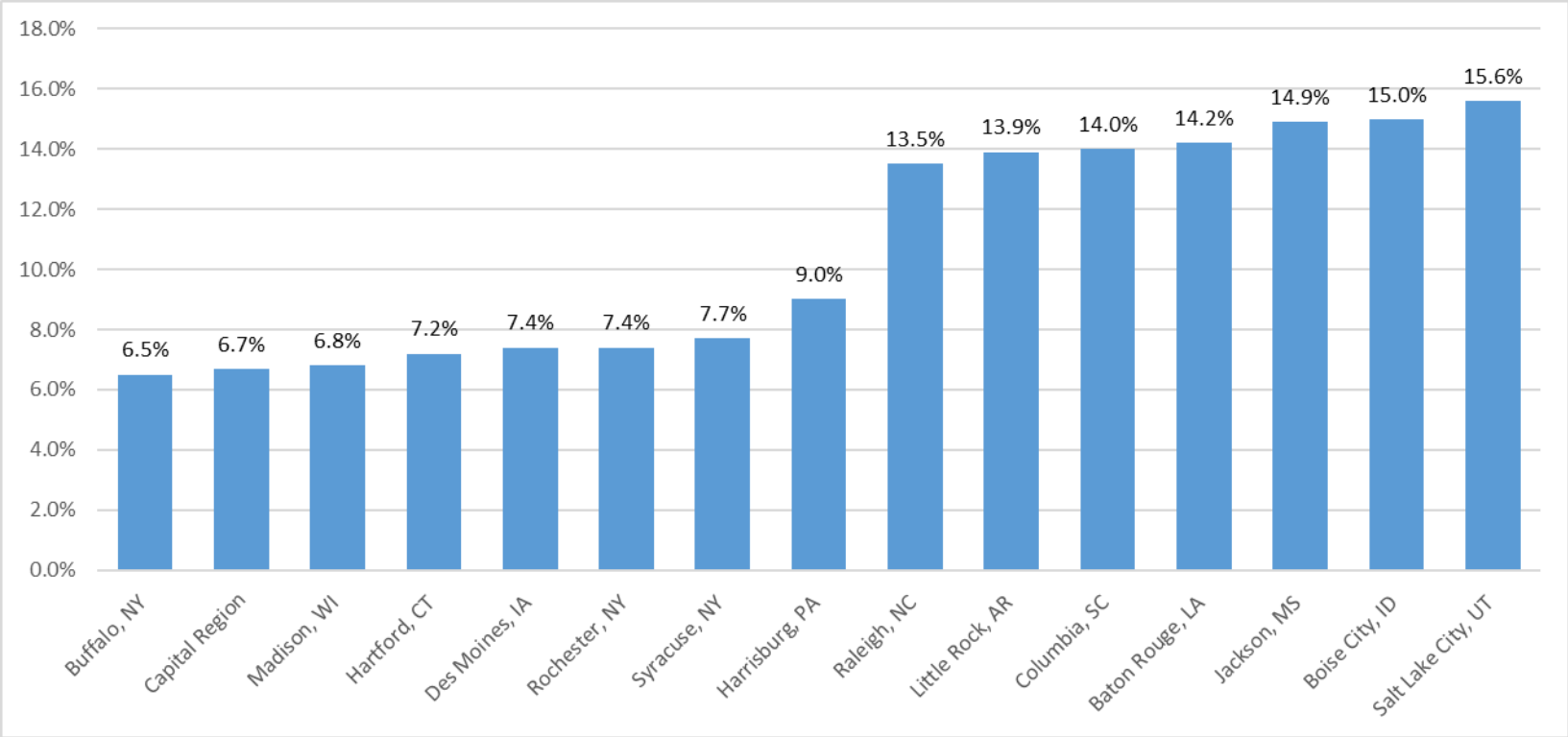
Significance: With the passing of the Affordable Care Act, it has become increasingly important to measure the percentage of Americans that are receiving health insurance coverage, as a main goal of the Act is to promote universal coverage for all Americans[5]. By not being insured, the cost of care increases dramatically to a point where health care cannot be accessed due to the financial burden on uninsured people[6]. Determining areas that lack coverage could be useful to officials that are trying to increase enrollment. In areas where coverage is particularly high, one can look into other contributing factors to gain a better sense of why the coverage rate is so high.

Data Highlights:

- Compared to the other observed MSAs, the Capital Region has the second lowest uninsured rates with only 6.7% of the population being uninsured. Buffalo has the lowest percentage of uninsured at 6.5%.
- The uninsured rate in the Capital Region is almost three times lower than the rate in Salt Lake City, UT (15.6%) which is the MSA observed to have the highest uninsured rates.
- The number of people that are still uninsured varies by region but there is no observed region that sees an uninsured rate of less than 5% or greater than 16%.

[5] "Strategic Goal 1." *www.HHS.gov*. U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, 14 Jan. 2015. Web. 26 Mar. 2016.
[6] "Strategic Goal 1." *www.HHS.gov*. U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, 14 Jan. 2015. Web. 26 Mar. 2016.

Figure 6-3.1. Percentage of Population without Health Insurance Coverage, 2010-2014



6-4. Cancer Incidence by MSA, 2007 and 2012

Definition: This indicator represents the number of diagnosed cancer incidents by MSA, measured in the years 2007 and 2012. It is important to note that this indicator is taken from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and from the American Community Survey (ACS). While this data does not coincide chronologically with the data taken from the ACS, we find that the information that is gained from these two data sets is extremely important to better understand the overall state of health of a given region. Data regarding cancer is only from reported cases in a medical setting. This is important because there is a possibility that there may be more cases of cancer that go undiagnosed.

Significance: The rate of cancer diagnosis can be used to identify areas that are more prone to cancer in general. A sudden spike in cancer rates in an area could signify a larger environmental or structural issue that would need to be investigated. Being able to break down the different types of cancer that residents are facing can give a better picture of the overall health condition for the area. For example, an area that has a very high rate of lung cancer compared to other regions might be suffering from an increased level of air pollution or there may be a higher incidence of smoking among the population[7]. The ability to see the different types of cancer that regions are more prone to is important because it can be used to better prepare the healthcare system from a structural and administrative standpoint.

Data Highlights:

Cancer Incidents

- The Capital Region has the fourth highest number of cancer incidents and that number has risen slightly from 2007 to 2012
- Only two of the Peer MSA's, both in New York, experienced a decrease in the number of cancer incidents between 2007 and 2012: Syracuse and Rochester; the other MSA's saw increases ranging from less than 1% to greater than 11%.
- The increase in the rate of cancer can be tied to the fact that the techniques for identifying cancer have become more precise and we are now detecting cancer where before it might have been undetected.
- To get a more comprehensive look at cancer statistics we need to separate cancer into different types and look to see if there are any major changes in the rates of specific types of cancer.

Prostate Cancer

- The Capital Region saw a decrease of 246 incidents of prostate cancer.
- The number of incidents for prostate cancer have declined on average by 141 incidents across peer MSAs from 2007 to 2012.
- The percent change for prostate cancer have declined universally across all MSAs from 2007 to 2012.

[7] "What Causes Cancer?" *What Causes Cancer*. American Cancer Society, n.d. Web. 26 Mar. 2016.

- The Capital Region has seen a reduction in prostate cancer incidence and has the third largest percentage decline among the peer MSAs, with Madison, WI in first place followed by Salt Lake City, Utah.
- The declining incidence for prostate cancer could be due to better screening and treatment for patients or ease of access to treatment due to the implementation of the ACA.

Lung Cancer

- The Capital Region was one of six MSA's that experienced a decrease in the number of lung cancer incidents between 2007 to 2012.
- Nine of the 15 peer MSA's experienced an increase the largest being the Boise City, ID at over 17%.

Breast Cancer

- The Capital Region has the sixth highest increase in Breast Cancer incidences at a little over 10%; Madison, WI has the largest increase at 25%.
- Breast cancer incidences increased in thirteen of the fifteen observed MSAs with only Jackson, MS and Buffalo, NY showing a reduction in the total number of cases reported between the years 2007 – 2012.

Figure 6-4.1. Percent Change in Cancer Incidence by MSA, 2007 to 2012

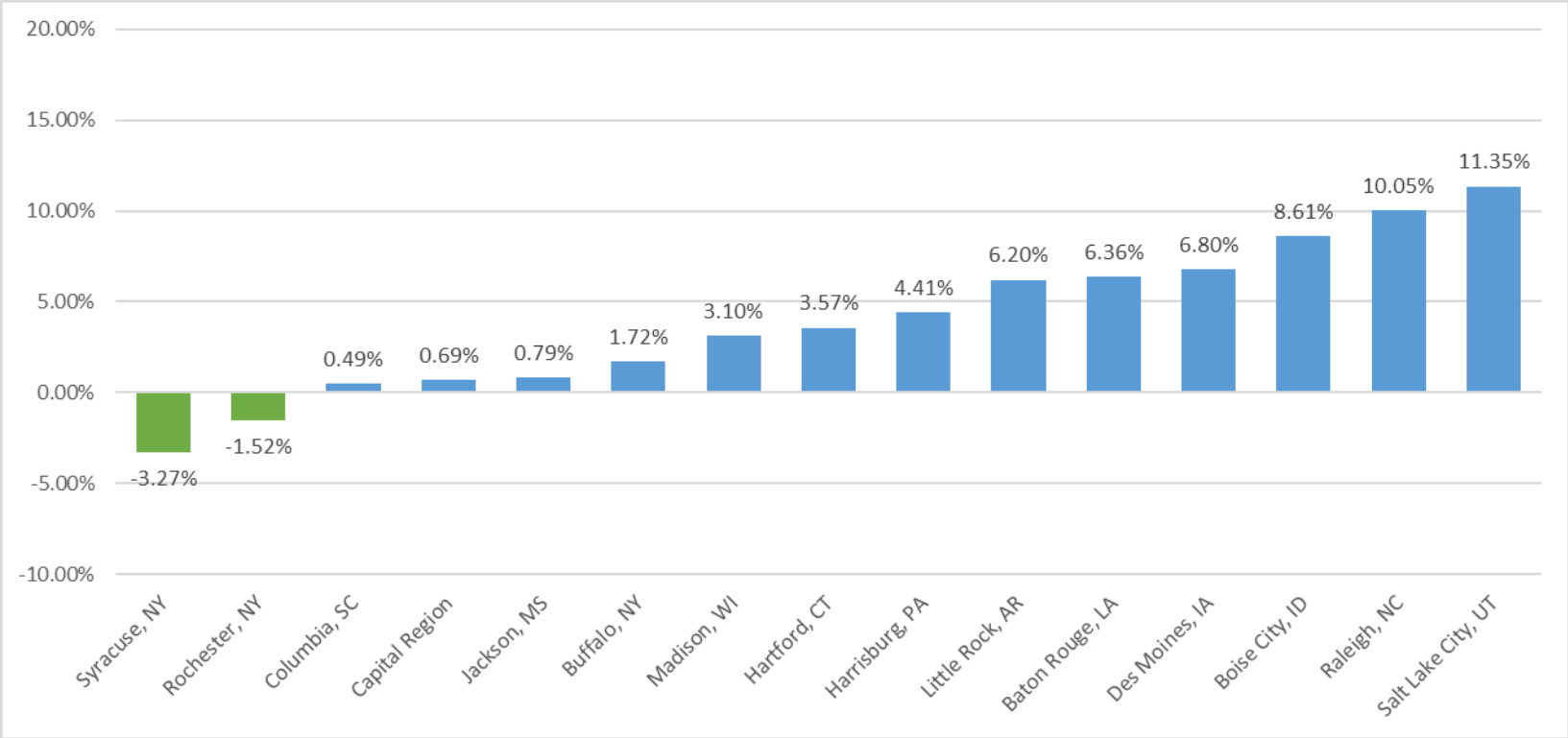


Figure 6-4.2. Percent Change in Prostate Cancer Incidents by MSA, 2007 to 2012

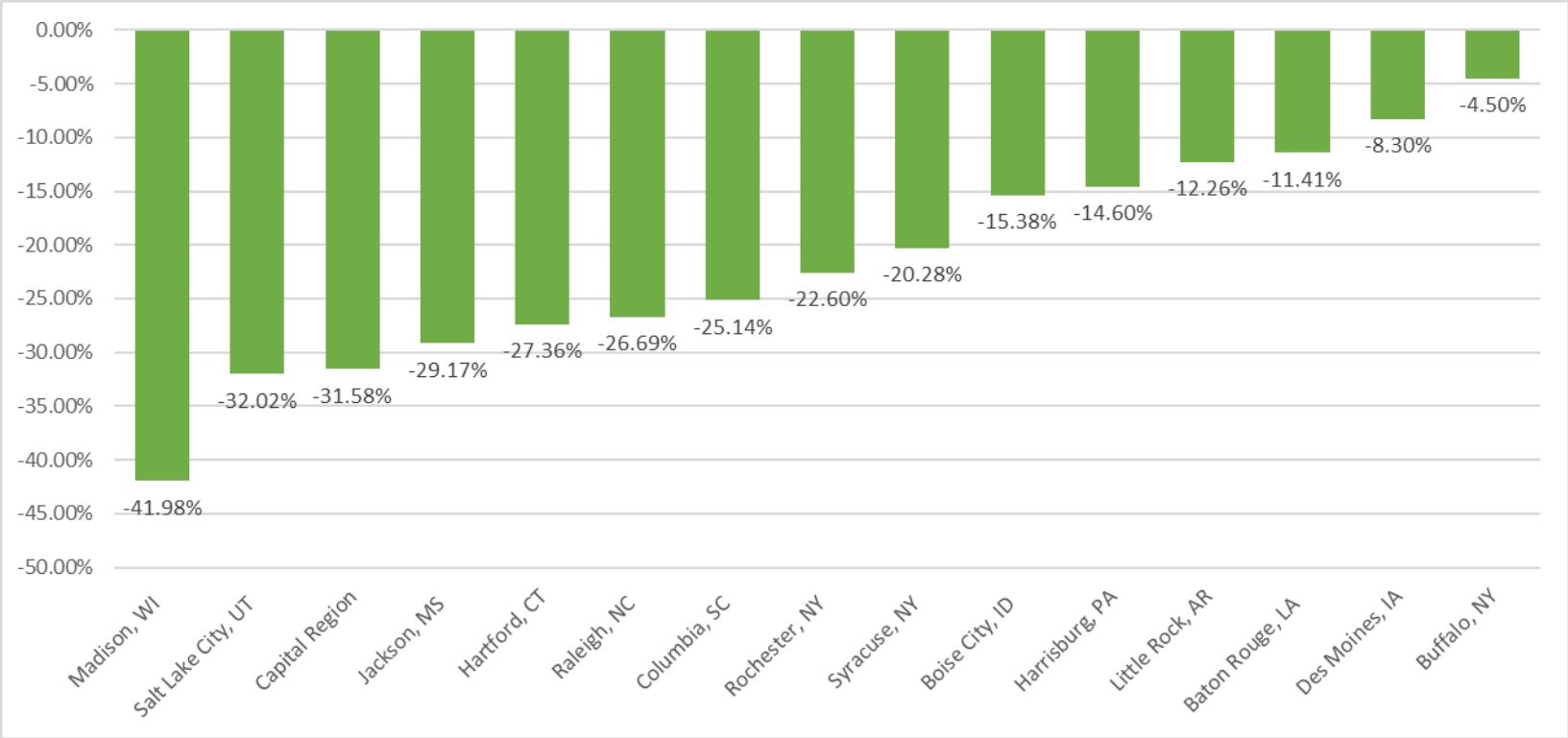
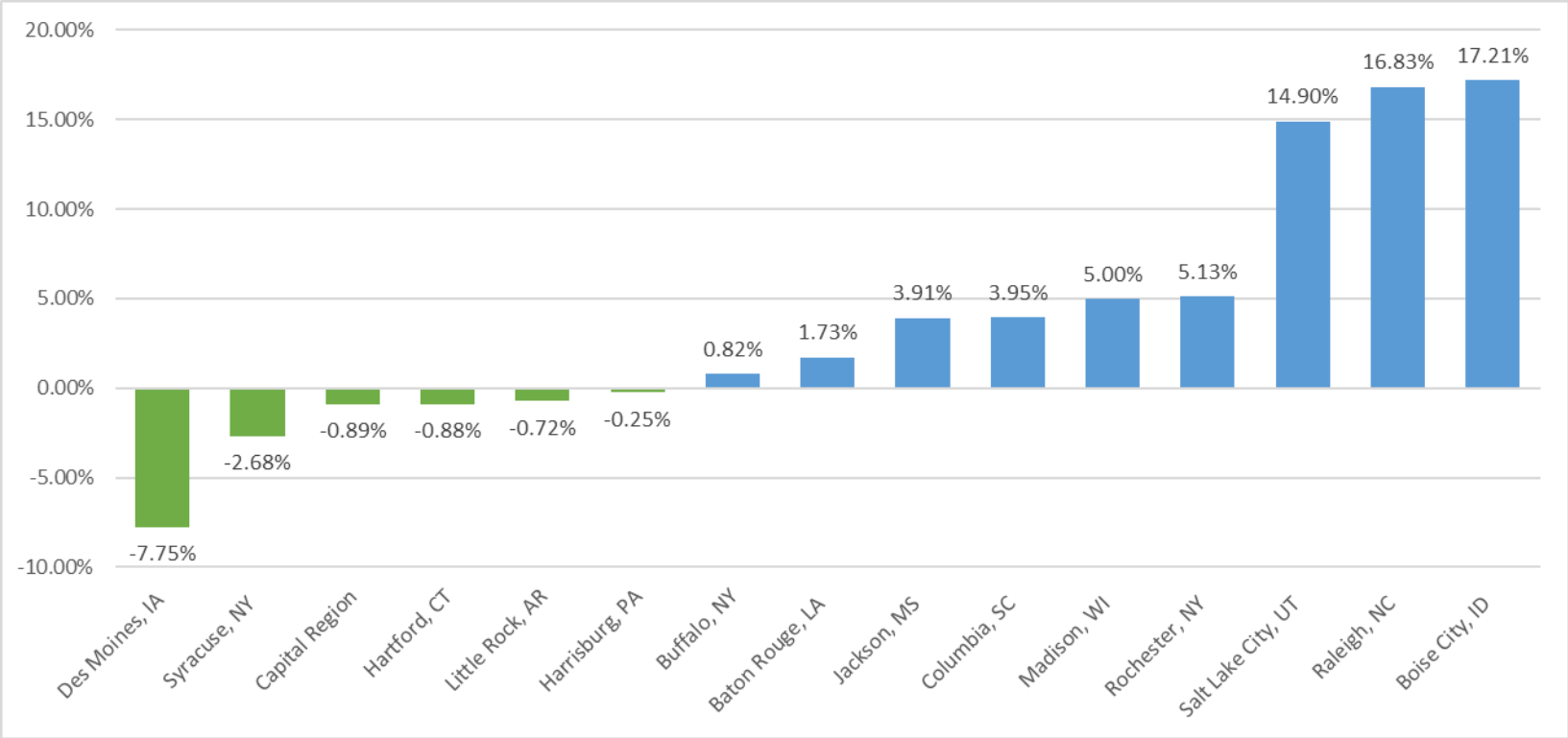
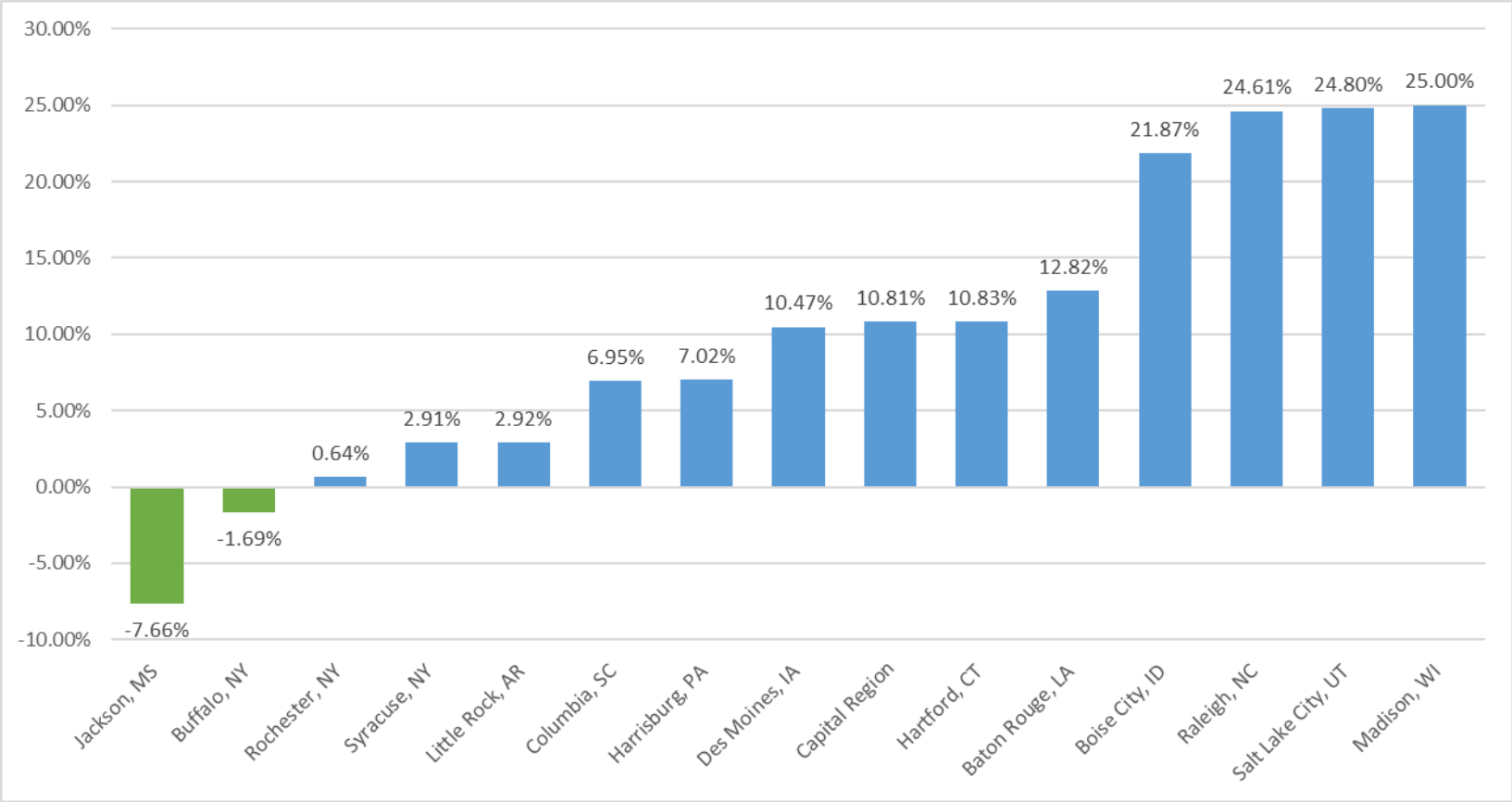


Figure 6-4.3. Percent Change in Lung Cancer Incidents by MSA, 2007 to 2012



Health

Figure 6-4.4. Change in Breast Cancer Count from 2007 to 2012



6-5. Tuberculosis Incidents 2009 and 2014

Definition: This data, taken from the CDC, shows Tuberculosis (TB) cases that have been reported by medical professionals. It is possible that there have been other TB cases that have gone undocumented. Here we present the *percent change* by region, not the *raw number*. The raw numbers of TB cases are very small (the highest measured rate was around 2% of the total population) It's also important to note that the data shown in this section are not 5-year trends, but two separate observations taken five years apart.

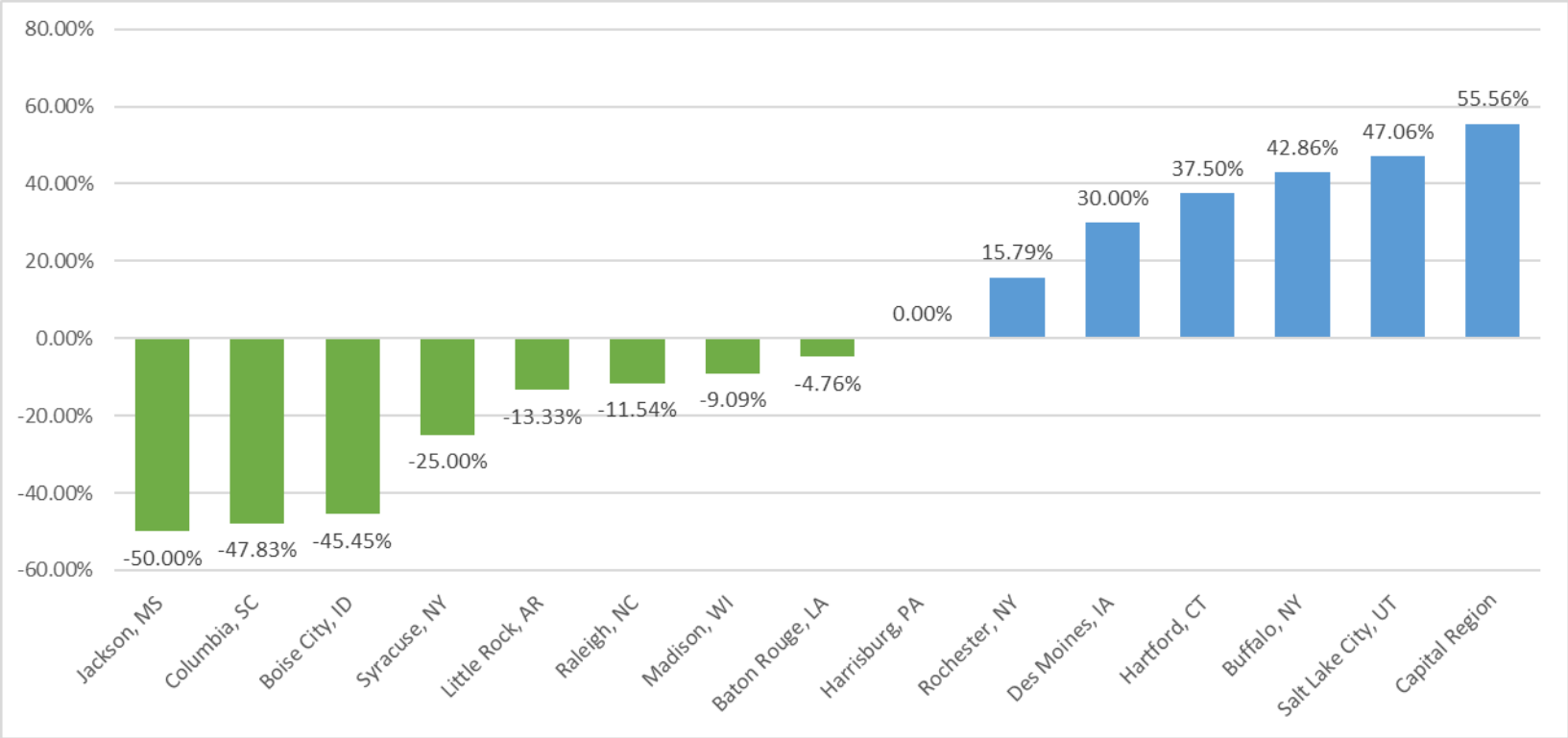
Significance: TB is an extremely deadly disease that is actively sought out to be eliminated by public institutions around the world[8]. In the United States, most colleges and universities do not allow students to enroll without proving TB immunity. Because of the importance placed on tracking and eliminating cases of TB by many institutions, this data is important to be able to see trends in the spread of the disease. Areas that show a large percentage change in TB cases may require more resources/education in order to contain a potentially deadly outbreak.

Data Highlights:

- While *raw number* of cases of TB are small, the *percentage changes* in TB cases across a five-year period show trends in spread or control of the disease.
- The Capital Region has the highest increase in TB rates at 55.6% between the two periods.
- While the raw number increases are small, this could change rapidly due to the extremely contagious nature of the disease. Even small increases over time could be an indicator of a future issue.

[8] "Fact Sheets." http://www.cdc.gov. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 28 Oct. 2011. Web. 26 Mar. 2016.

Figure 6-5.1. Percent Change in Tuberculosis Rates across MSAs 2007 to 2012



Health

Data Sources

American Association of Port Authorities. U.S. Port Rankings by Cargo Tonnage 2010, 2012, and 2014.

Center of Disease Control and Prevention. The Online Tuberculosis Information System 2009 & 2014.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The United States Cancer Statistics 2007 & 2012

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New York State Education Department; Enrollment Data for 2009 & 2014.

New York State Education Department; High School Graduation Rate for 2009 & 2014.

New York State Education Department; School Report Cards for 2009 & 2014.

US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; American Community Survey, 2005 – 2009 and 2010 – 2014.

US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; County Business Patterns of United States.

CDRPC