

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Despite weakening economy Transportation Sector remains strong

As the economy tightens, New Yorkers will continue to support the transportation sector, whether they know it or not, according to a study released today. "*Employment in New York City's Transportation Sector*", a report developed by the NYC Labor Market Information Service, found that the transportation sector plays a key role in New York City's economy serving millions of New Yorkers, by moving the goods we consume and employing thousands of workers.

"The capacity to deliver goods, services, and workers into, through, and out of a city is a primary determinant of its economic vitality," said Lesley Hirsch, Director of the NYC Labor Market Information Service, "New York City is among the most vibrant transportation hubs in the nation, consistently ranking first among U.S. cities in passenger miles flown, transit passenger miles, and truck freight volume."

Eighty percent of the freight (by weight) that is moved in the New York metropolitan region is by truck, which is supported by trucking jobs in almost every zip code in the City. Not surprisingly, the largest numbers of jobs are clustered near airports, marine terminals, and around the Hunts Point food distribution center in the Bronx.

"New York City restaurants receive an estimate of 6–8 truck deliveries daily for a total of 40,000 truck trips in New York City for restaurants alone," said Dr. José Holguín-Veras from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who was an expert interviewed for the report.

In 2007, there were nearly 83,000 private sector jobs and close to 69,000 public sector jobs in the transportation sector in New York City. Most of the private sector transportation jobs were in ground passenger and air transportation respectively. As the workforce in the sector continues to age, the sector has been forced to focus on the need to recruit a new, highly trained workforce.

"The transportation sector holds real opportunities for individuals seeking jobs," said Hirsch, "including entry-level occupations that offer wages well above the minimum, require little or no formal postsecondary training, and offer opportunities for advancement."

While opportunities in the short-term are expected to be small in number, the City's competitive advantages, infrastructure needs, and anticipated growth, lead to positive long-term employment prospects in transportation.

"This is the ideal time for workforce development service providers and policy makers to work with industry leaders and educational institutions to craft a longer-term solution," said Hirsch, "In order to continue to meet the needs of the City, a well trained, qualified workforce is vital."

Employment in New York City's Transportation Sector is a comprehensive examination of the trends in four strategic transportation subsectors and their role as sources of jobs for the customers of the City's public workforce system: air, truck, transit and ground passenger, and support activities for transportation. City officials, workforce development professionals, policy makers, scholars, and community advocates gathered at the CUNY Graduate Center on September 19 for a panel discussion of the findings by leading industry and workforce experts in the city. The full report, subsector profiles, and related products are available at www.nyc.gov/wib and www.urbanresearch.org.

About the NYC Labor Market Information Service

The NYC Labor Market Information Service (NYCLMIS) is a joint endeavor of the NYC Workforce Investment Board and the Center for Urban Research at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. The NYCLMIS' objectives are to develop action-oriented research and practical tools that will be used by workforce development service providers and policy makers to improve their practice and to be the portal for cutting-edge and timely labor market data about New York City.

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