CENTER for ECONOMIC GROWTH

ALBANY/NEW YORK'S CAPITAL REGION

ECONOMIC SCORECARD

Q1 2026

OVERALL SCORE

Mixed/Fair

- ✅ The region's economy Q1 score totaled 4.0, giving it mixed/fair performance.
- ✅ The business category achieved the highest score possible, and the transportation and consumer categories also had positive scores.

EMPLOYMENT

Weak

- ✅ Employer establishment growth was strongest in the following industries: all other support services, other consumer goods rental, and tire dealers.
- ⚠️ Unemployment metrics weighed down the employment category score, with the healthcare and social assistance sector registering unusually high unemployment for Q1.

BUSINESS

Strong

- ✅ YTD employer establishment gains were strong in unclassified and retail trade, but they were offset by heavier declines in construction and accommodation and food services.
- ✅ There was strong SBA loan growth (+17%) and fewer business bankruptcy filings (-25%).

TRANSPORTATION

Mixed/Fair

- ✅ Robust increase in passengers at Albany International Airport.
- ⚠️ Amtrak Empire service deboardings (NYC-Albany) were down because of reduced train frequency caused by East River Tunnel construction.

TRADE

Moderate

- ✅ Albany water port exports more than tripled in Q1.
- ⚠️ Albany water port imports were down, as were Albany airport imports and exports.

CONSUMER

Moderate

- ✅ Modest sales tax collection growth, fewer consumer bankruptcy filings, and a lower percent of area borrowers with severely delinquent debt.
- ⚠️ The rate of closed home sales slowed, and Upstate consumer sentiment soured.

KEY

ASSESSMENT	CATEGORY SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
Strong	≥ 3	≥18
Moderate	1 to 2.9	10 to 17.9
Mixed/Fair	-1.5 to 0.9	-2 to 9.9
Weak	< -1.5	< -2

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ECONOMIC SCORECARD

Q4 2025

INDICATORS & SCORING METHODOLOGY

CEG's Economic Scorecard is published quarterly. It tracks 22 monthly local economic indicators across five categories (plus one overall score) to provide insights into the health of the region's economy and the direction in which it is headed. Scores are weighted by economic importance and based on each indicator's year-to-date performance as of the last month of the headline quarter. To prevent marginal changes from having outsized impacts on the total score, year-to-date trend scoring is weighed at 50% for changes of +/-0.3% or less.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR
Employment	Total Private Employment
	Labor Force
	Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims
	Unemployed Workers
	Unemployment Insurance Average Duration
Business	Total Private Employer Establishments
	Empire State MFG Index General Business Conditions
	SBA 7(a) & 504 Loans
	Business Bankruptcy Filings
Transportation	Airport Passengers
	Amtrak Empire Service Passenger Deboardings
	CDTA Ridership
Trade	Vessel Export Value
	Air Export Value
	Vessel Import Value
	Air Import Value
Consumer	Sales Tax Collections
	Closed Residential Sales (#)
	Index of Consumer Sentiment
	Consumer Bankruptcy Filings
	Borrowers with Severely Delinquent Debt (%)

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