

Economic Development

In order to consider economic development options for Newfield we must first take stock of the economic conditions in our town today. The data on Newfield's business establishments and the numbers of workers they employ are very sparse. We do have some information for 1998, 2002 and 2007 for the private sector and 2009 for the public sector, the most recent years the data are available: The private sector data are actually collected at the ZIP code level, but our 14867 zip code appears to cover all of the town and a few blocks of Enfield. These data are presented in the following table.

For each industry, the table presents the number of establishments and employees (specified as ranges) in each category. For the year 2007, there were a total of 51 establishments. Of those, two are public sector establishments, The Newfield Central School District and the Town of Newfield government. The remaining 49 are private sector firms. The public sector contributes one third of the total annual payroll of nearly \$10.8 million and employs approximately 210 individuals. With a payroll of \$6.656 million, business firms employ somewhere between 250 and 499 individuals. That broad category for business employee numbers is in part to preserve confidentiality because, with a few exceptions, a large portion of the business activity in the town is made up of small firms. Four-fifths of the 49 business firms in the town employ 1-4 workers while the top two firms employ 50-99 and 20-49 employees, respectively.

While helpful for getting a feel for the economic activity in the Town, these numbers are not complete in two dimensions. First, it is likely that a substantial number of individuals are self employed. Presuming many of those do not hire any employees; they would not be included in the numbers described above. Second, the table represents a snapshot of economic activity at one point in time but does not reflect how economic activity has changed over time.

While town and school employment has been stable over the past decade there have been changes in the number of business firms and size of those firms as measured by the number of employees. From 1998 to 2007 the number of business establishments in the Town grew from 37 to 47. The size distribution of business firms changed dramatically, however. The number of the smallest firms employing 1-4 individuals increased from 24 to 39 while the number of mid-size firms with 20-49 employees dropped from 4 to 1. In terms of industry category, those losses were one each from construction, manufacturing and information. The remaining firm that employs 20-49 individuals is a manufacturing firm. These gains and losses from 1998 to 2007 yield a ten percentage point increase in the share of all firms employing 1-4 individuals, from 70 to 80 percent of all firms. At best, the increase in the number of smallest firms provided just enough jobs to compensate for the minimum possible job loss from the departure of the 3 larger firms. At worst, smallest firm jobs increased by 15 while larger firm jobs decreased by 147. The actual situation is probably somewhere in between, meaning that the town has experienced a net loss in jobs from 1998 to 2007. The implication is that more town residents seek employment outside the town and commute to jobs further away.

Business Patterns for the Town of Newfield (ZIP code 14867)

Number of Establishments by Employment-size class in 2007

Annual payroll: \$10,801,400

	Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-48	50-99	100-249
Total	51	39	5	3	2	1	1
Mining	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	8	7	1	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Retail trade	7	5	1	1	0	0	0
Transportation & warehousing	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Information	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Finance & insurance	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Real estate & rental & leasing	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Professional, scientific & technical services	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Admin, support, waste mgt, remediation services	9	7	1	0	0	1	0
Accommodation & food services	4	3	0	1	0	0	0
Other services (except public administration)	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
Education (2009)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Local Government (2009, many part time)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Individual Canvassing

Useful websites:

Tompkins Area Development - <http://www.tcad.org/>

US Economic Census - <http://www.census.gov/econ/census07/>

CARDI (Community and Rural Development Institute) - <http://devsoc.cals.cornell.edu/cals/devsoc/outreach/cardi/>