

# Workforce Is More Divided, Report Shows

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By Mara Gay 13 hours ago

Manhattan's white-collar workers make more than double what its non-office workers do, according to a new study, and there are also disparities within the professional ranks: proportionally fewer blacks and Hispanics than 20 years ago and a persistent wage gap between men and women.

The report, from New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, compares U.S. Census data for Manhattan from 1990 and 2012, which shows an increasingly polarized workforce.

In 2012, office workers earned an average salary of \$100,900, or 110% more than the \$47,947 average salary for a non-office worker. In 1990, office workers earned an average salary of \$41,181, or 75% more than the \$23,590 average salary for non-office workers.

"We wanted to see who works in these office buildings, where they live, what kind of education they have, what they earn," Mr. Stringer said. "This can help us in understanding patterns of racial and gender inequality that we see every day."

About 1.2 million people hold white-collar office jobs in Manhattan, according to the study, which looked at data from the 1990 U.S. Census and the Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey.

The office jobs included architects, financial managers, attorneys, public relations specialists and journalists.

Excluded were those who work in elementary and secondary education and health-care employees who work in hospitals.

Mr. Stringer said he focused on Manhattan because 85% of the city's office space is located in the borough.

For blacks and Hispanics, most of the higher-paying office jobs are largely out of reach.

In 2012, 11% of black New Yorkers between the ages of 25 and 40 worked in a Manhattan office building, down from 15.6% in 1990. And 9% of Hispanic New Yorkers worked in a Manhattan office in 2012, compared with 10.4% in 1990.

Factoring in gender, Hispanic and black men fared worse: By 2012, 7.7% of Hispanic men from 25 to 40 worked in offices, compared with 8.3% of black men and 34.7% of white men of the same age.

"The overall trend for women and minorities is that they are still at a disadvantage," Mr. Stringer said. "You have two tracks."

The study shows a stubbornly high wage gap among New York City workers along gender lines, with women earning just under 60% of what men earn. Female office workers earned 59.9% of what male office workers did in 2012, compared with 56% in 1990.

White-collar workers were far more likely to have a college degree in 2012 than they were two decades earlier.

The percentage of Manhattan office workers with at least a bachelor's degree rose to 77% in 2012 from 54% in 1990, the study found.

And by 2012, almost one in three white-collar workers in the city held a graduate degree.

"It's clear you need a higher education to be part of the office workforce," Mr. Stringer said.

"When you dig deep in terms of this report, education is not a luxury, it's a necessity to succeed and to move into the middle class in New York," he said.

The study also found that the city's white-collar employees are working about three more hours than they did on average in 1990. About 70% of the city's professional workforce lived within the five boroughs in 2012—nearly the same proportion as in 1990—while one-sixth of them live in New Jersey or Pennsylvania.

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