

# Predicting fastest-growing sectors is difficult

Changes in technology, other factors could bring new sectors to the fore

By KERRY FELTNER

**W**ith the long-term decline of manufacturing, health care and education have grabbed the spotlight for job creation here. But other industries could be positioned to emerge from the shadows.

Those who study the local economy predict that over the next five to 10 years other sectors—leisure and hospitality, food processing, and professional and business services—also will be producing growth in the Rochester region.

In addition, the adoption of integrated systems in nearly every industry is predicted to fuel growth for the region.

In 2013, leisure and hospitality accounted for 44,100 employees and professional and business services accounted for 66,100 in the region. By comparison, education and health services accounted for 116,000 of the 435,500 private-sector employees in the metropolitan area.

“(Growth is) going to be (in) professional and business services,” said Delores Conway, faculty associate dean for master’s programs at the University of Rochester. “There’s a new field emerging, which is the field of big data, and (we are) really poised for growth in that area.”

Kent Gardner, chief economist and chief researcher for the Center for Governmental



Local employment at Paychex Inc. has reached nearly 4,000. The professional and business services sector now accounts for more than 66,000 jobs regionally.

Research Inc., points to food processing, saying it is “a real strength of our region.”

“Anytime you’re in an industry that’s growing like food processing,” he added, “(there are) ancillary business opportunities that hover around that.”

Consistent growth in these sectors is expected in the next few years, after a steady

four years of growth in each sector, experts say.

“What we’ve seen over the past couple of years is modest but very consistent job growth,” said Tammy Marino, labor market analyst for the Finger Lakes region with the state Department of Labor. “During the recession, employment took a hit,

but certainly not as severe as many other areas in the nation. In the initial stages of the recovery, the local economy rebounded much quicker than the rest of the nation. Now the rate of job growth has slowed somewhat, but it’s still very consistent.”

Predicting which industry sectors will

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