



# How Many Jobs Can Governors Create?

By Mike Maciag

Governors can affect their states' employment picture, but not in the way—or with the speed—that most people think.

During their State of the State addresses earlier this year, many governors took the opportunity to remind the public of just how far their economies have come since the recession. New York's Andrew Cuomo mentioned his state's declining unemployment rate and the record number of private-sector jobs. New Jersey's Chris Christie cited the creation of 278,000 jobs since he took office in 2010. New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez said an uptick in manufacturing and tech jobs was a "direct result" of recent business-stimulating reforms.

Governors claim credit for positive jobs reports and get blamed when the numbers aren't so good. But, in reality, myriad factors affecting job growth are beyond their control. National and global economic shifts greatly influence job gains and losses, along with the performance of a state's industries.

Published research doesn't offer any consensus on the degree to which governors generate growth across a state's economy, but it's certainly less than they give themselves credit for, at least in the short term. A cross-section of economists interviewed speculated that governors are generally responsible for just five to ten percent of changes in total employment over a four-year term. "In the short run, their effect is quite limited," says Edward Glaeser, a Harvard University economist. "Most of the things that affect a state's economy are way beyond a governor's control." Examples might include housing booms, aging populations, and large fluctuations in commodity prices.

The performance of a state's major industries plays an even greater role in driving job totals up or down. This was particularly evident in the oil and gas boom that provided a boost for several governors' economic claims over the past few years. During the first four years of former North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple's administration, from 2010 through 2014, employment jumped a staggering twenty-two percent. But then oil prices dropped, and over the last two years of his



term that ended in December, total employment declined more than five percent. "Relative to the business cycle," says David Neumark, an economist at the University of California, Irvine, "governors' policies are trivial." No one disputes

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**IS SOLICITING BIDS FROM DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS CERTIFIED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**  
**Robert Moses Causeway over Fire Island Inlet—Bridge Steel Repairs**  
 NYSDOT Contract No: D263406  
 Bid Date: March 29, 2017

Subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to Asbestos Abatement, Barrier, CPM Scheduling, Field Trailer, Haul and Dispose, Landscaping, Marine Boats, Marine Works, Miscellaneous Metals, MPT, Painting, Saw Cutting, Sealing, Striping, Surveying, and Testing. Please see contract documents for further opportunities.

Interested firms please contact John Papagiannakis at Skanska Koch Inc., [john.papagiannakis@skanska.com](mailto:john.papagiannakis@skanska.com)

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**IS SOLICITING BIDS FROM DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS CERTIFIED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**  
**Replacement of Bruckner Expressway over Westchester Creek (Unionport Bridge)**  
 NYCDOT Contract No: 84116BXR008  
 Bid Date: April 3, 2017

Subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to Asbestos Abatement, Barrier, CPM Scheduling, Demolition, Drainage, Electrical, Fencing, Field Trailer, Haul and Dispose, Landscaping, Marine Boats, Marine Works, Miscellaneous Metals, MPT, Painting, Paving, Railings, Rebar, Saw Cutting, Sealing, Striping, Surveying, and Testing. Please see contract documents for further opportunities.

Interested firms please contact John Papagiannakis at Skanska Koch Inc., [john.papagiannakis@skanska.com](mailto:john.papagiannakis@skanska.com)

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**IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED MWBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS**  
**North River WWTP Cogeneration and Electrification Project**  
 NYC Department of Environmental Protection Contract No. NR-38  
 Bid Date: March 21, 2017

**Description of project:**  
 The contract includes the installation of a cogeneration system of five cogenerating engines, heat recovery, exhaust treatment, noise reduction, and other auxiliary equipment that will supply combined heat and power to the WWTP. The city has preselected the equipment that will constitute the cogeneration system to be installed under this contract (the "pre-selected equipment") and has entered into a supply and services contract with the designated supplier of such equipment. The contractor will be required upon notice to proceed to enter into a contract with the designated supplier for the purchase and performance of the pre-selected equipment. The contract also includes removal of (5) five main sewage pump combustion engines and drive systems, removal of (5) five multi-stage process air blowers, installation of (5) five three-megawatt generators, installation of new heat recovery and dissipation systems and associated equipment required for the cogeneration system, installation of (1) one new main sewage pump, piping and valves, and a complete pump power train (PPT) for each of the (6) six main sewage pumps. The PPT includes, at a minimum, electric motor, motor controller, shafting, speed reducers, and intermediate line shafting.

**Subcontracting opportunities include, but are not limited to:**  
 Instrumentation, Mechanical, Demolition-Mechanical, Demolition-Structural, Demolition-Electrical, Demolition-Architectural, Pump Supply, Valve Supply Piping Supply, HVAC, Plumbing, Fire Suppression, Fire Alarm, Electrical, Switch Gear Supply, Concrete Surface Repair, Concrete Joint Repair, Concrete Crack Repair, Structural Concrete, Concrete Reinforcing, Container Services, Doors, Louvers, Flood Doors, Terrazzo Flooring, Concrete Topping, Flood Protection, CPM, Masonry, Miscellaneous Metals, Railings, Structural Steel, Fill Materials, Hauling and Disposal, Signs, Cleaning, System Integration, Material Testing, Operation and Maintenance Manuals.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: [Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com](mailto:Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com)

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**NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS**

**2017**

**Essentials of Procurement, Contracting, Bonding, and MWBE**  
 Friday, March 17, 2017, 8:00 am–5:00 pm  
 New York City College of Technology, 300 Jay Street, NMM Building, Brooklyn, NY  
 Main Sponsor(s): Brooklyn Small Business Development Center  
 Contact: Miriam Colon, 718-797-0187, [sbdc@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:sbdc@citytech.cuny.edu)  
 Fee: Free; registration required  
 Have you been thinking of how to start or energize or expand your business? Find some helpful answers and contacts in this dynamic, day-long, free event in downtown Brooklyn. From business experts who care about your success, you will learn how to obtain bonding and contract opportunities from federal and major prime firms. You will be able to meet with financial lenders. You will better understand the 8(a) SBA certification process. Great possibilities!

**Is Your Small Business Ready for Government Contracting?**  
 Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 5:30–6:30 pm  
 Roxbury Innovation Center, 2300 Washington Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA  
 Main Sponsor(s): Small Business Administration Massachusetts District Office  
 Contact: Nadine Boone, 617-565-5590, [nadine.boone@sba.gov](mailto:nadine.boone@sba.gov)  
 Fee: Free; registration required  
 The United States Government is the world's

largest customer—it buys all types of products and services in both large and small quantities, and it is required by law to provide opportunities for small businesses. The Small Business Administration's Office of Government Contracting and Business Development works with other federal agencies to award at least twenty-three percent of all prime government contract dollars to small businesses and to help federal agencies meet specific statutory goals for small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and other small businesses. Are you and your small business ready to start participating?

**How to Become a Vendor for the US Department of Homeland Security**  
 Thursday, March 23, 2017, 8:30 am–1:00 pm  
 Liberty Hall Corporate Center, 1085 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ  
 Main Sponsor(s): Union County EDC  
 Contact: Rogers Ramsey, 908-527-1166, [rramsey@ucecdc.com](mailto:rramsey@ucecdc.com)  
 Fee: Free; registration required  
 This is a free program being offered by UCEDC, a nonprofit economic development corporation that is dedicated to helping New Jersey's small business community. The Department of Homeland Security purchases a wide variety of goods and services and they are committed to small business participation in their acquisition. The department consists of many agencies: Customs and Border Protection, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Coast Guard, FEMA, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Secret Service, and TSA. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to expand into a new market and grow your revenues at this FREE seminar.