The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan. Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can’t afford the essentials.

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Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Putnam County

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the 2019 Labor Force Participation Rate was 60%, by 2021 that number had changed to 57%. This is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures. In 2021, 17% of the population was unemployed, a large number were working in the gig economy, and a small portion of adults (16 years and older) in Putnam County were unemployed. In 2021, households in Putnam County earned an average of $61,548.

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The Labor Landscape is Challenging for ALICE Workers
3,365,090 households in New York are in the ALICE Threshold. In 2021, 30% of the population was unemployed, and a large number were working in the gig economy. ALICE workers are more likely to be fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits. In 2021, 28% of ALICE households were unemployed, a large number were working in the gig economy, and a small portion of adults (16 years and older) in Putnam County were unemployed. In 2021, households in Putnam County earned an average of $61,548.

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