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VA Health facilities report staffing shortage concerns



Protesters in Washington, DC, gather June 6 to speak out against federal budget cuts to the Department of Veterans Affairs. KENT NISHIMURA/REUTERS

Agency official says survey data isn't reliable indicator; Dems in Congress warn of further cutbacks under Trump

David Robinson New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

The number of Veterans Health Administration medical centers reporting concerns about severe staffing shortages across different health care jobs spiked 50% in 2025, a new federal report shows, noting many New York VA facilities struggled to fill some jobs. The findings came from the VA Office of Inspector General and underscored widespread staffing struggles among private-sector health care systems in New York and the nation.

The OIG report was part of an annual survey aimed at uncovering occupations with the largest staffing shortages within each VA medical center. It found:

- Facilities reported a total of 4,434 severe occupational staffing shortages in 2025, a 50% increase from 2024 in which facilities reported 2,959 total shortage occupations.
- 94% of facilities reported severe occupational staffing shortages for medical officer occupations, and 79% of facilities reported severe shortages for nurses.
- Psychology was the most frequently reported severe clinical occupational

staffing shortage and also the most frequently reported Hybrid Title 38 severe shortage occupation, with 57% of facilities reporting it as a shortage.

- Police was reported as a shortage by 58% of facilities, making it the most frequently reported severe nonclinical occupational staffing shortage and the most frequently reported of all occupations.

At the same time, all 139 VA facilities identified some form of staffing shortages.

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“The report simply lists occupations that facilities feel are difficult for which to recruit and retain, so the results are completely subjective, not standardized and unreliable.”

Pete Kasperowicz

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs press secretary

5 Finger Lakes fall festivals full of fun

Madison Scott

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Finger Lakes region is famous for its stunning fall scenery and vibrant seasonal colors.

With autumn approaching, here are five can't-miss fall festivals happening in the Finger Lakes:

Ionia Fall Fest

What: The 27th annual Ionia Fall Fest, sponsored by the Ionia Methodist Church, will celebrate the hamlet's agricultural heritage.

When: The Ionia Fall Fest will run all day long Sept. 20, starting at 7:30 a.m.

Where: The festival will take place at the Ionia United Methodist Church grounds, 2120 Elton Road, off Route 64 and north of Route 5 and 20.

Details: Ionia Fall Fest will include one of Western New York's largest

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Manufacturing contracts for 6th month

Lucia Mutikani

REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. manufacturing contracted for a sixth straight month in August as factories dealt with the fallout from the Trump administration's import tariffs, with some manufacturers describing the current business environment as “much worse than the Great Recession.”

The Institute for Supply Management survey on Sept. 2 also showed some manufacturers complaining that the sweeping import duties were making it difficult to manufacture goods in the United States. President Donald Trump has defended his protectionist trade policy, which has raised the nation's average tariff rate to the highest in a century, as necessary to revive a long-declining U.S. industrial base.

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