



The Ithaca Business Index is a composite of six separate economic indicators:

- The number of jobs in Tompkins County
- The size of the labor force
- Retail sales
- Average weekly hours worked
- The number of home sales
- Help wanted advertising in craigslist ithaca, CareerBuilder.com, and Indeed.com

Each data series is seasonally adjusted and re-scaled so that January 1985 is equal to 100. Then the weighted average of all seven indicators is calculated to form the Ithaca Business Index. The weight given to each data series depends on its volatility. Data series that have a tendency to swing widely from month-to-month are given less weight.

For instance, a 3 percent increase in the number of jobs is a dramatic change from one month to the next. But home sales tend to change by 16 percent on average each month. Therefore, home sales receive less weight than employment in the overall Index. Currently, the weights for each indicator are:

- The number of jobs in Tompkins County (40%)
- The size of the labor force (15%)
- Retail sales in Tompkins County adjusted for inflation (15%)
- Average weekly hours worked (20%)
- The number of home sales in Tompkins County (5%)
- Help wanted advertising on craigslist ithaca, CareerBulider.com, and Indeed.com (5%)

In January 1985, the Ithaca Business Index stood at a level of 100.00. In December 2016, the Index reads 169. This means that the County economy has grown 69 percent over those 32 years.