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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Labor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New York Records Largest Drop in Private Sector Jobs Since 2009

Statewide Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.5 % in March 2020

Note: Data in this release are from the March 2020 Establishment and Household Surveys. While this data broadly reflects the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and related public health efforts on the state's labor market, it is important to note the March reference periods for both surveys occurred before many coronavirus-related business and school closures were implemented. In addition, data collection rates were lower than normal due to coronavirus-related challenges. As a result, many of the coronavirus-related job losses from March are not fully reflected in these job figures. Other datasets on the Department of Labor's website may provide additional information on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on New York's economy.

According to the preliminary results from the U.S. Department of Labor's business and household surveys for March 2020, the number of private sector jobs in New York State decreased over the month by 42,900, or 0.5 percent, to 8,315,700. This was the state's steepest monthly employment drop since April 2009. Just over one-half of the monthly jobs decline occurred in leisure and hospitality (-23,300), mostly in accommodation and food services (-23,000).

In March 2020, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 3.7% to 4.5%. This change (+0.8 percentage points) was the state's largest recorded monthly increase, since at least 1976. In addition, the number of unemployed New York State residents rose by 73,900, while labor force levels dropped by 132,300 – both monthly records.

The number of private sector jobs in New York State is based on a payroll survey of 18,000 New York businesses conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Monthly payroll employment estimates are preliminary and subject to revision as more data become available the following month. The federal government calculates New York State's unemployment rate based partly upon the results of the Current Population Survey, which contacts approximately 3,100 households in the State each month.

Note: Seasonally adjusted data are used to provide the most valid month-to-month comparison. Non-seasonally adjusted data are valuable in year-to-year comparisons of the same month – for example, March 2019 versus March 2020.

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United States and New York State: February – March 2020

1) Jobs data (seasonally adjusted):

The table below compares the month-over-month change in total nonfarm and private sector jobs in the United States and New York State.

Change in Total Nonfarm and Private Sector Jobs
February – March 2020

	Change in Total Nonfarm Jobs: (private sector + government)		**Change in Private Sector Jobs:**	
	Net	**%**	**Net**	**%**
United States	-701,000	-0.5%	-713,000	-0.5%
New York State	-41,700	-0.4%	-42,900	-0.5%

2) Unemployment rates (seasonally adjusted):

The State's unemployment rate is calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, using a statistical regression model that primarily uses the results from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS contacts approximately 3,100 households in New York State each month.

In March 2020, the statewide unemployment rate increased from 3.7% to 4.5%. New York City's unemployment rate increased over the month from 3.4% to 4.4%. Outside of New York City, the unemployment rate increased from 3.9% to 4.6%. These monthly increases were the largest on record for each area since current record keeping began in 1976.

The number of unemployed New Yorkers also increased by 73,900 over the month, from 354,100 in February to 428,000 in March 2020, representing the largest monthly uptick on record.

Unemployment Rates (%)*

	March 2020*	February 2020	March 2019
United States	**4.4**	3.5	3.8
New York State	**4.5**	3.7	4.0
New York City	**4.4**	3.4	4.3
NYS, outside NYC	**4.6**	3.9	3.8

*Data are preliminary and subject to change, based on standard procedures outlined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

United States, New York State and Metro Areas: March 2019 – March 2020

1) Jobs data (not seasonally adjusted):

The following table compares the changes in total nonfarm and private sector jobs occurring in the United States, New York State and metro areas in the state, between March 2019 and March 2020.

**Change in Total Nonfarm and Private Sector Jobs by Area*
March 2019 – March 2020**

	Change in Total Nonfarm Jobs: (private sector + government)		Change in Private Sector Jobs:	
	Net	**%**	**Net**	**%**
United States	+1,445,000	+1.0%	+1,230,000	+1.0%
New York State	+17,100	+0.2%	+12,900	+0.2%
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	+4,800	+1.0%	+4,100	+1.1%
Binghamton	-1,000	-1.0%	-1,100	-1.4%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls	-2,900	-0.5%	-3,700	-0.8%
Dutchess-Putnam	+700	+0.5%	+500	+0.4%
Elmira	-300	-0.8%	-500	-1.7%
Glens Falls	+600	+1.1%	+400	+1.0%
Ithaca	-1,900	-2.9%	-2,000	-3.5%
Kingston	+700	+1.1%	+800	+1.7%
Nassau-Suffolk	+2,500	+0.2%	+3,100	+0.3%
New York City	+22,800	+0.5%	+12,200	+0.3%
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	-5,700	-0.8%	-3,900	-0.6%
Rochester	-1,300	-0.2%	-1,200	-0.3%
Syracuse	+100	0.0%	-200	-0.1%
Utica-Rome	-1,200	-0.9%	-1,000	-1.0%
Watertown-Fort Drum	-600	-1.5%	-500	-1.7%
Non-metro counties	-2,600	-0.5%	-2,300	-0.6%

*In March 2020, the reference period for the survey of establishments (which include the 12th of the month) used to estimate the number of payroll jobs occurred before many coronavirus-related business and school closures in the second half of the month. As a result, many of the coronavirus-related layoffs that took place in March are not fully reflected in these job figures.

Note: The sum of sub-state area job estimates will usually differ from the New York State total. This is because the State total is calculated separately from the sub-state areas and is estimated based on an independent sample.

Job highlights since March 2019:

- Nine metro areas in New York State lost private sector jobs since March 2019:
  - Ithaca (-3.5%)
  - Elmira (-1.7%)
  - Watertown-Fort Drum (-1.7%)
  - Binghamton (-1.4%)
  - Utica-Rome (-1.0%)
  - Buffalo-Niagara Falls (-0.8%)
  - Orange-Rockland-Westchester (-0.6%)

- Rochester (-0.3%)
- Syracuse (-0.1%)

- Non-metro counties in New York State lost 2,300 private sector jobs over the past year.

Change in jobs by major industry sector: March 2019 – March 2020

1) Jobs data (not seasonally adjusted):

The table below compares the change in jobs by major industry sector in New York State occurring between March 2019 – March 2020.

Change in Jobs by Major Industry Sector*
March 2019 – March 2020

Sectors with Job Gains or No Change:	
Educational & Health Services**	+32,200
Professional & Business Services	+25,400
Other Services	+6,800
Government**	+4,200
Construction	+3,800
Natural Resources & Mining	0
Sectors with Job Losses:	
Leisure & Hospitality	-24,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-16,500
Financial Activities	-8,400
Information	-3,300
Manufacturing	-2,500

*In March 2020, the reference period for the survey of establishments (which include the 12th of the month) used to estimate the number of payroll jobs occurred before many coronavirus-related business and school closures were implemented. As a result, many of the coronavirus-related job losses from March are not fully reflected in these job figures.

**Educational and health services is in the private sector. Government includes public education and public health services.

Highlights among New York State sectors with job losses since March 2019:

- The industry sector experiencing the largest over-the-year decline in employment was leisure and hospitality (-24,600). Within this sector, job losses were greatest in accommodation and food services (-22,200), especially food services and drinking places (-20,400).

- Trade, transportation and utilities (-16,500) had the second largest over-the-year job loss. Sector job losses were focused in retail trade (-13,800), especially clothing and accessories stores (-7,100).

- Over the past year, the third largest employment drop was in financial activities (-8,400). Within the sector, most job losses occurred in finance and insurance (-4,300) and real estate, rental and leasing (-4,100).

Note: The responsibility for the production of monthly estimates of state and metro area nonfarm employment by industry moved from the NYS Department of Labor's Division of Research and Statistics to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), starting with the March 2011 estimates. More detailed information on the change is available on the BLS web site.

Many economic data series have a seasonal pattern, which means they tend to occur at the same time each year (e.g., retail jobs usually increase in December). Seasonal adjustment is the process of removing seasonal effects from a data series. This is done to simplify the data so that they may be more easily interpreted and help to reveal true underlying trends. Seasonal adjustment permits comparisons of data from one month to data from any other month.

In New York State, payroll jobs data by industry come from a monthly survey of 18,000 business establishments conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data are preliminary and subject to revision. Jobs data by industry do not include agricultural workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers or domestic workers in private households.

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, for New York and every other state are based on statistical regression models specified by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The state's unemployment rate is based partly upon the results of the Current Population Survey, which contacts approximately 3,100 households in New York each month.

See State and Area Jobs Data

See Labor Market Overview

See Jobs and Unemployment Fact Sheet

Table 1. Number of Nonfarm Jobs by Place of Work
New York State and Areas
(In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	March 2020	March 2019 (R)	Change to March 2020 from: March 2019 Net	%
New York State	9,715.4	9,698.3	17.1	0.2%
Metropolitan Areas				
Albany-Schenectady-Troy Metro Area	471.4	466.6	4.8	1.0%
Binghamton Metro Area	101.8	102.8	-1.0	-1.0%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	557.5	560.4	-2.9	-0.5%
Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division	148.6	147.9	0.7	0.5%
Elmira Metro Area	36.5	36.8	-0.3	-0.8%
Glens Falls Metro Area	52.9	52.3	0.6	1.1%
Ithaca Metro Area	64.0	65.9	-1.9	-2.9%
Kingston Metro Area	62.1	61.4	0.7	1.1%
Nassau-Suffolk Metropolitan Division	1,332.6	1,330.1	2.5	0.2%
New York City	4,646.9	4,624.1	22.8	0.5%
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	716.4	722.1	-5.7	-0.8%
Rochester Metro Area	534.7	536.0	-1.3	-0.2%
Syracuse Metro Area	317.8	317.7	0.1	0.0%
Utica-Rome Metro Area	126.2	127.4	-1.2	-0.9%
Watertown-Fort Drum Metro Area	40.1	40.7	-0.6	-1.5%
Counties Outside Metropolitan Areas				
Allegany	15.5	15.3	0.2	1.3%
Cattaraugus	30.8	30.6	0.2	0.7%
Cayuga	24.5	24.9	-0.4	-1.6%
Chautauqua	50.1	50.4	-0.3	-0.6%
Chenango	17.3	17.5	-0.2	-1.1%
Clinton	34.5	35.1	-0.6	-1.7%
Columbia	21.1	21.3	-0.2	-0.9%
Cortland	19.4	19.6	-0.2	-1.0%
Delaware	15.0	15.3	-0.3	-2.0%
Essex	14.5	14.7	-0.2	-1.4%
Franklin	18.5	18.8	-0.3	-1.6%
Fulton	17.1	16.9	0.2	1.2%
Genesee	22.1	22.5	-0.4	-1.8%
Greene	14.9	14.8	0.1	0.7%
Hamilton	1.6	1.8	-0.2	-11.1%
Lewis	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0%
Montgomery	19.0	19.3	-0.3	-1.6%
Otsego	25.3	25.6	-0.3	-1.2%
St. Lawrence	39.0	39.0	0.0	0.0%
Schuyler	4.4	4.6	-0.2	-4.3%
Seneca	12.3	12.3	0.0	0.0%
Steuben	37.3	37.7	-0.4	-1.1%
Sullivan	29.5	28.2	1.3	4.6%
Wyoming	12.7	12.8	-0.1	-0.8%

Note: Data are subject to revision. R=Revised. Net and % changes based on rounded data.
Source: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, 518-457-3800.

Table 2. Number of Nonfarm Jobs By Industry
New York State
(In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Industry	March 2020	March 2019 (R)	Change to March 2020 from: March 2019 Net	Change to March 2020 from: March 2019 %
Total Nonfarm	9,715.4	9,698.3	17.1	0.2%
Total Private	8,215.4	8,202.5	12.9	0.2%
Goods Producing	830.8	829.5	1.3	0.2%
Natural Resources & Mining	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0%
Construction	390.2	386.4	3.8	1.0%
Manufacturing	435.8	438.3	-2.5	-0.6%
Durable Goods	252.8	254.7	-1.9	-0.7%
Non-Durable Goods	183.0	183.6	-0.6	-0.3%
Service-Providing	8,884.6	8,868.8	15.8	0.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,516.5	1,533.0	-16.5	-1.1%
Wholesale Trade	322.6	326.6	-4.0	-1.2%
Retail Trade	888.0	901.8	-13.8	-1.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilitie	305.9	304.6	1.3	0.4%
Information	272.7	276.0	-3.3	-1.2%
Financial Activities	712.3	720.7	-8.4	-1.2%
Professional and Business Services	1,371.9	1,346.5	25.4	1.9%
Education and Health Services	2,195.5	2,163.3	32.2	1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	897.5	922.1	-24.6	-2.7%
Other Services	418.2	411.4	6.8	1.7%
Government	1,500.0	1,495.8	4.2	0.3%

Note: Data are subject to revision. R=Revised. Net and % changes based on rounded data.
Source: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, 518-457-3800.

CHART 1: PRIVATE SECTOR JOB COUNT

(Seasonally Adjusted)

NEW YORK STATE

JANUARY 1990 - MARCH 2020

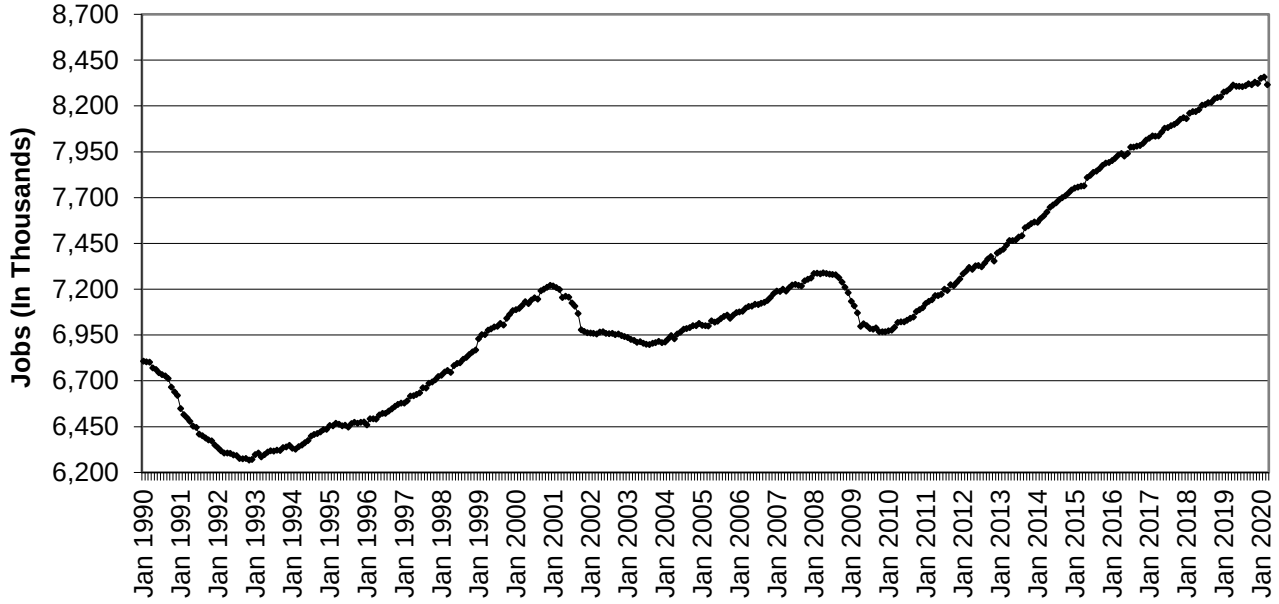
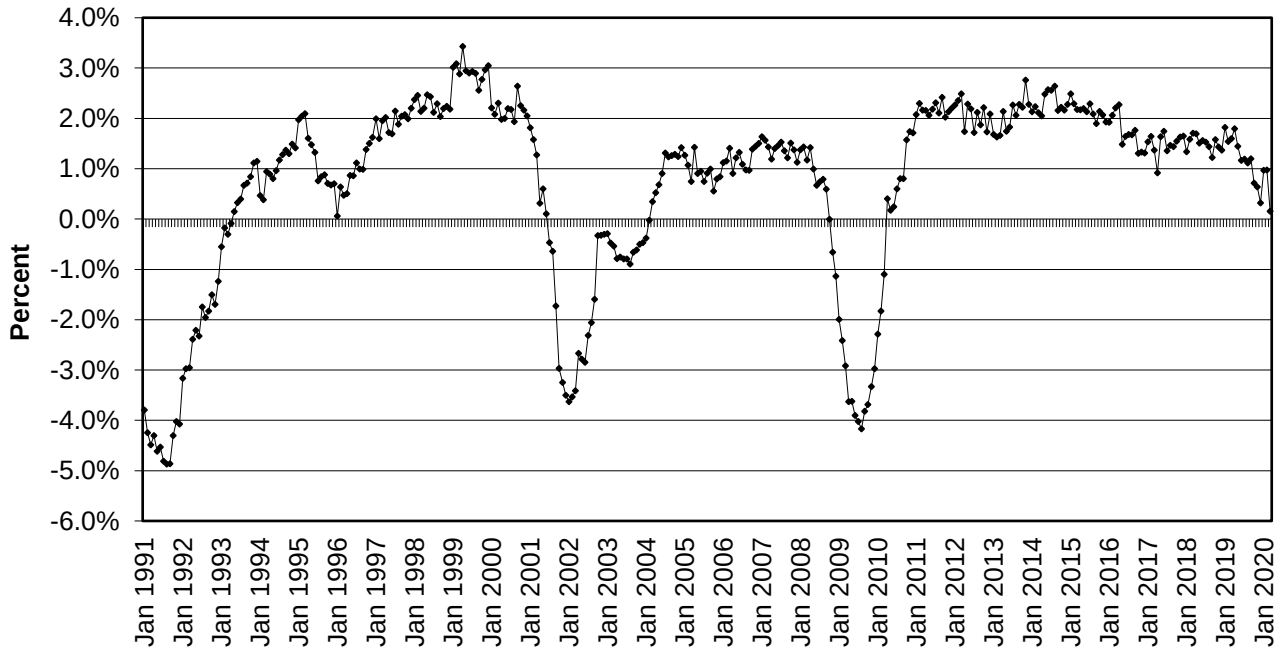


CHART 2: OVER-THE-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

NEW YORK STATE

JANUARY 1991 - MARCH 2020



Note: The current private sector jobs series begins in January 1990; thus, over-the-year changes in the series start in January 1991.

CHART 3: OVER-THE-YEAR CHANGE IN NONFARM JOBS BY SUPERSECTOR

NEW YORK STATE

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

MARCH 2017-MARCH 2018, MARCH 2018-MARCH 2019, MARCH 2019-MARCH 2020

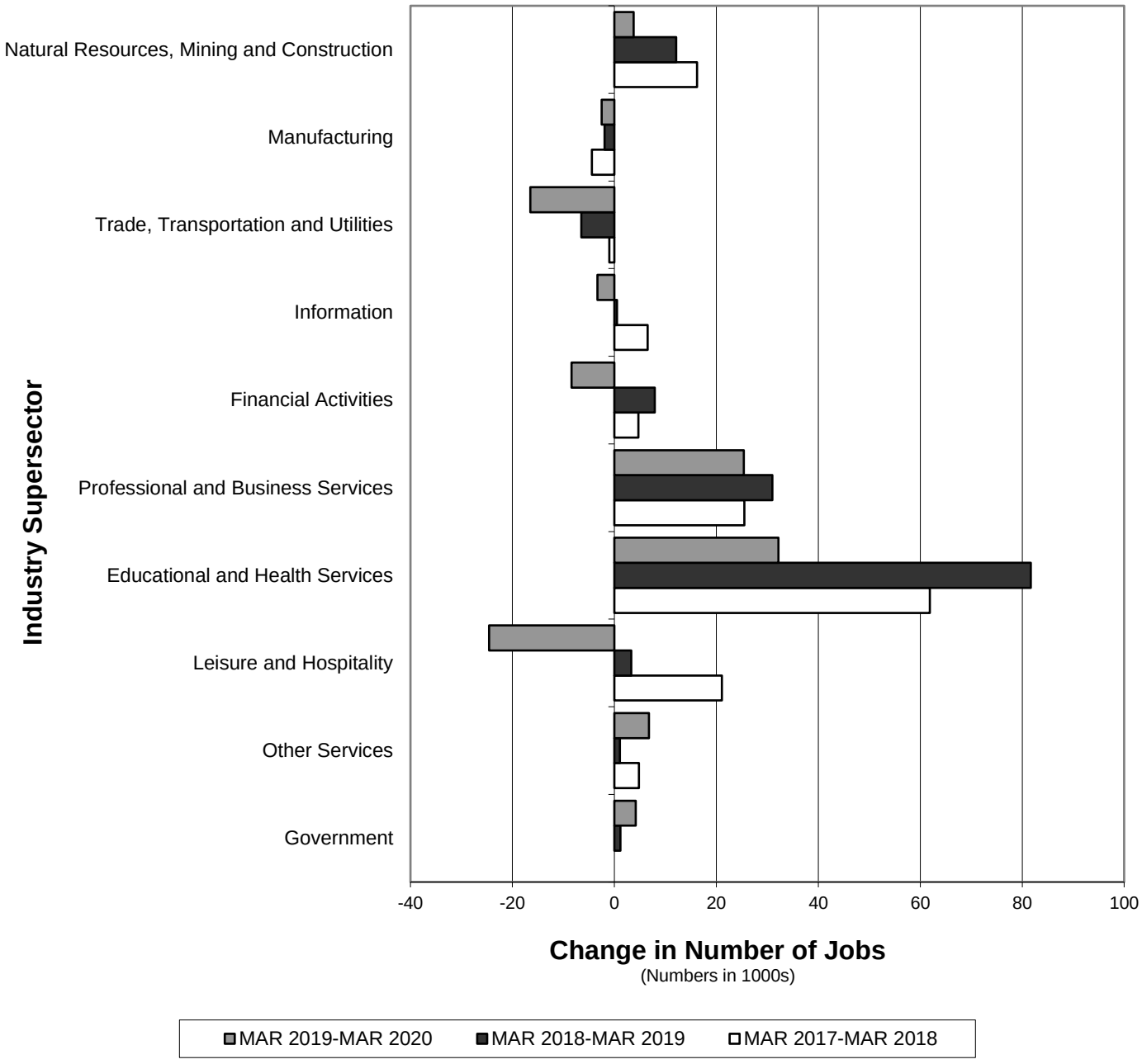
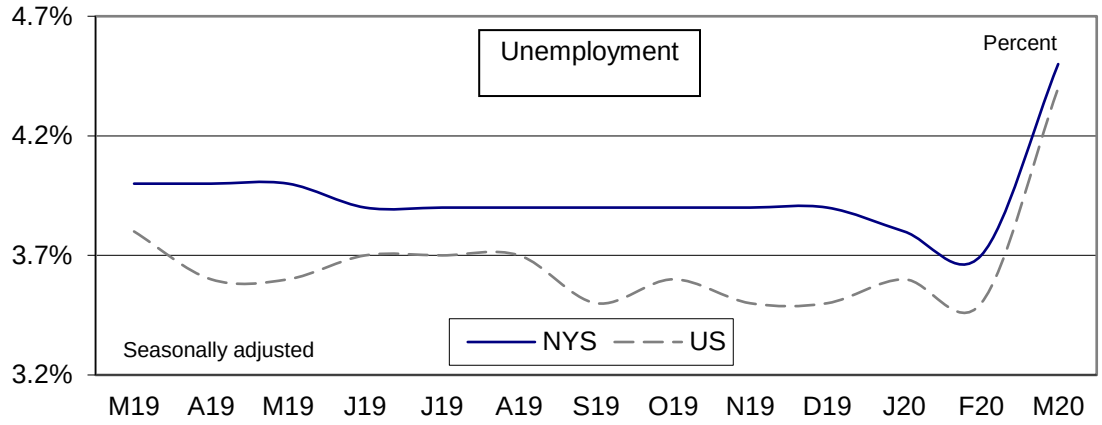


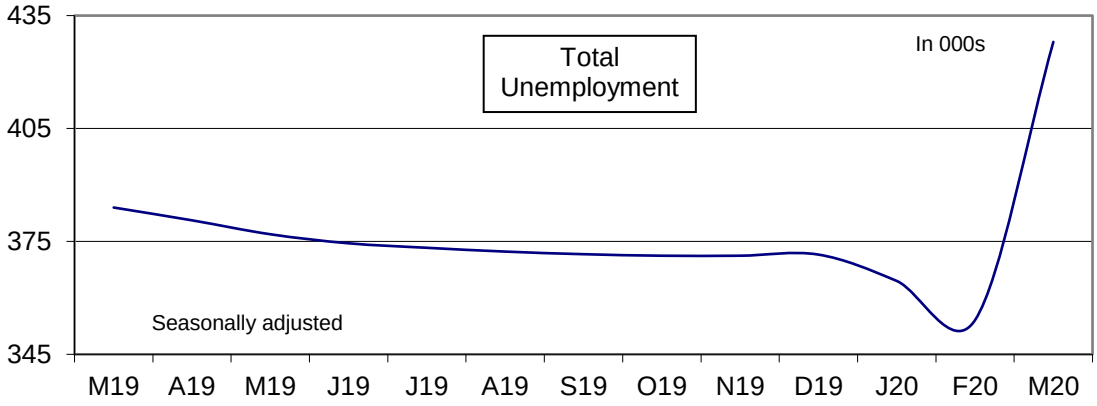
CHART 4: LABOR FORCE STATISTICS IN MARCH 2020

In March…

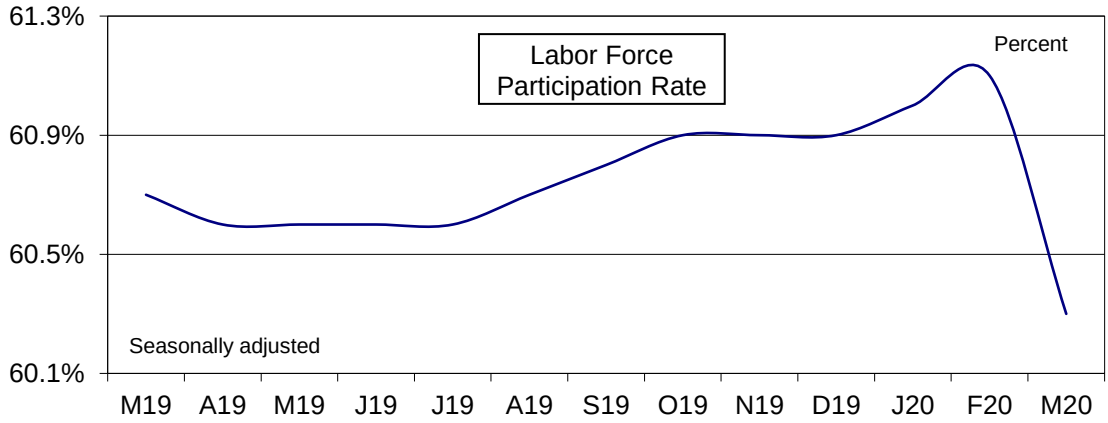
…NYS unemployment rate increased



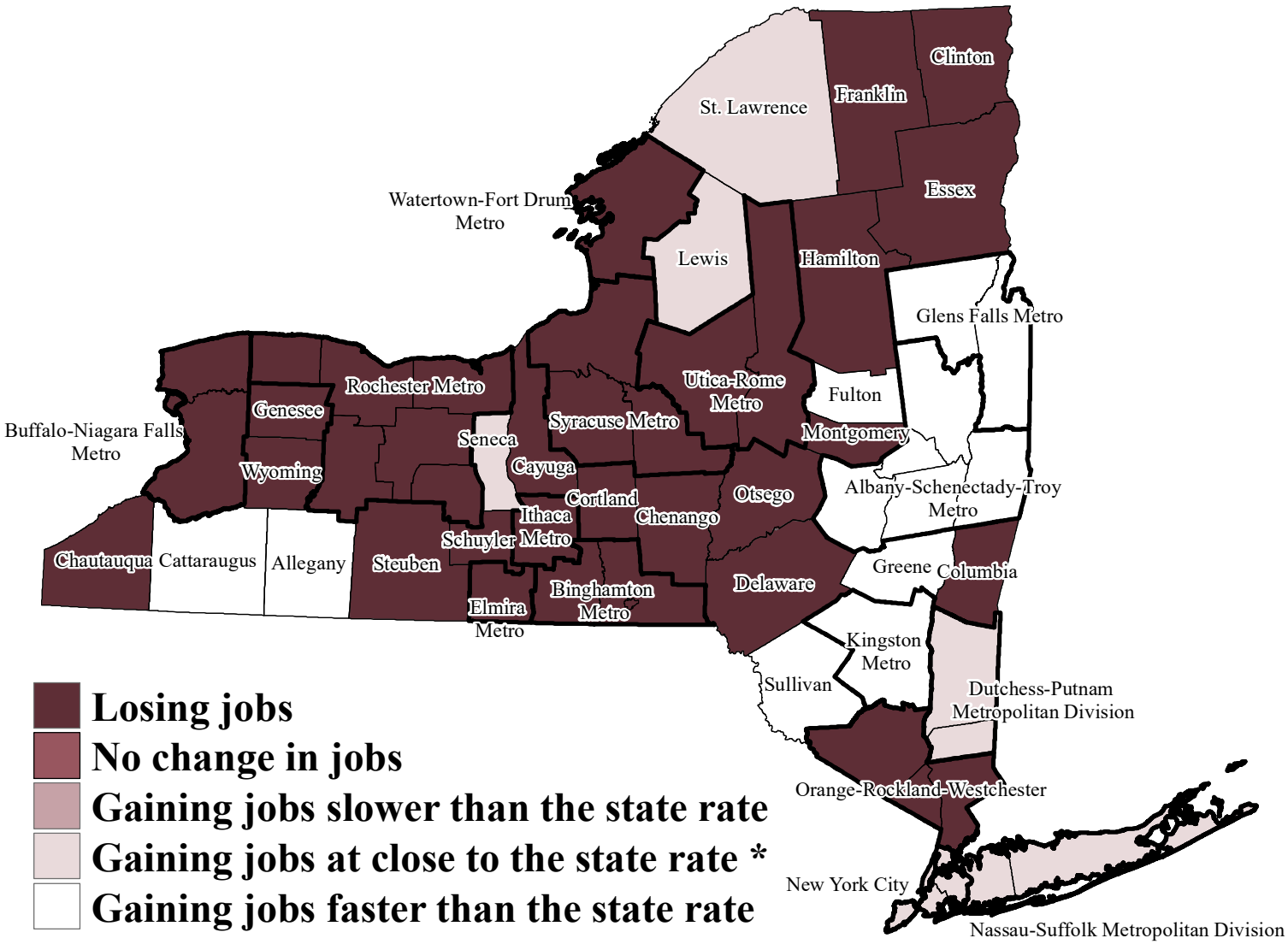
…NYS total unemployment increased



…NYS labor force participation rate decreased



Percent Change in Private Sector Jobs by Area, New York State, March 2019 - March 2020



* Represents job gain of between 0.0% and 0.4% from March 2019 to March 2020.

FACT SHEET

This fact sheet conveys important technical information that will contribute to a better understanding of labor force data ("household survey"), including resident employment/unemployment rates, and jobs by industry data ("business survey"), which are presented in the New York State Department of Labor's monthly press release.

State unemployment rates based on regression model

Beginning with data for January 1996, unemployment rates for New York State and all other states (as well as New York City and the City of Los Angeles) have been estimated using time-series regression statistical models developed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Advantage of regression model

Use of a time-series regression model reduces the month-to-month variation in unemployment rates and resident employment by reducing variation caused by sampling errors and other components of statistical noise (irregularities).

Benchmarking of estimates

Once each year, labor force estimates, such as civilian labor force and the unemployment rate, are revised to reflect updated input data including new Census Bureau populations controls, newly revised establishment jobs data and new state-level annual average data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). As part of this procedure, all state figures are reviewed, revised as necessary and then re-estimated. This process is commonly referred to as "benchmarking."

Changes in methodology

Labor force estimates are now produced with an improved time-series regression model, which utilizes "real-time" benchmarking. "Real-time" benchmarking reduces end-of-year revisions, which also means that major economic events will be reflected in a more timely manner in state labor force estimates.

In addition, the new methodology includes an updated way of estimating for sub-state areas (e.g. counties, metro areas) the number of unemployed who are new entrants or re-entrants into the labor force. This change in methodology will result in lower unemployment rates in some areas and increased rates in others.

Unemployed and UI Beneficiaries

The estimate of the number of unemployed includes all persons who had no employment during the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month), were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Unemployment insurance (UI) beneficiaries include those who apply for and qualify for UI benefits. Consequently, the estimate of the number of unemployed and the number of UI beneficiaries do not necessarily move in tandem.

Jobs data

Jobs data are obtained from a separate joint federal-state survey of business establishments. The survey, called the Current Employment Statistics of Establishments, has a sample size of 18,000 establishments in New York State. It excludes self-employed workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers and domestic workers employed by private households. This data represents a count of jobs by place of work. Data for each month is revised the following month as more complete information becomes available.