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NYS Economy Added 11,200 Private Sector Jobs in February 2020

In February 2020, the number of private sector jobs in New York State grew by 11,200, or 0.1%, to 8,362,600, according to preliminary figures released today by the New York State Department of Labor.

In addition, New York's statewide unemployment rate decreased from 3.8% to 3.7% in February 2020.

The State's private sector job count is based on a payroll survey of 18,000 New York employers 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.

"We reached both a new record high private sector job count and a new record low jobless rate in February 2020. However, it is important to note that these latest monthly labor market data do not yet reflect the economic impact of the current coronavirus outbreak," said Bohdan M. Wynnyk, Director of the New York State Department of Labor's Division of Research and Statistics.

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, February 2019 versus February 2020.

United States and New York State: January – February 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 January – February 2020

	Change in Total Nonfarm Jobs: (private sector + government)		Change in Private Sector Jobs:	
	Net	%	Net	%
United States	+273,000	+0.2%	+228,000	+0.2%
New York State	+10,300	+0.1%	+11,200	+0.1%

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 February 2020, the statewide unemployment rate decreased from 3.8% to 3.7%, its lowest rate on records dating back to 1976. New York City's unemployment rate decreased over the month from 3.5% to 3.4%. Outside of New York City, the unemployment rate decreased from 4.0% to 3.9%.

The number of unemployed New Yorkers also decreased over the month, from 364,500 in January to 354,200 in February 2020.

Unemployment Rates (%)*

	February 2020*	January 2020	February 2019
United States	3.5	3.6	3.8
New York State	3.7	3.8	4.0
New York City	3.4	3.5	4.3
NYS, outside NYC	3.9	4.0	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: February 2019 – February 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 February 2019 and February 2020.

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

	Change in Total Nonfarm Jobs: (private sector + government)		Change in Private Sector Jobs:	
	Net	%	Net	%
United States	+2,313,000	+1.6%	+2,077,000	+1.6%
New York State	+77,600	+0.8%	+75,100	+0.9%
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	+6,000	+1.3%	+5,800	+1.6%
Binghamton	-600	-0.6%	-600	-0.8%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls	-1,100	-0.2%	-2,100	-0.4%
Dutchess-Putnam	+900	+0.6%	+700	+0.6%
Elmira	-100	-0.3%	-200	-0.7%
Glens Falls	+1,000	+1.9%	+700	+1.7%
Ithaca	-1,600	-2.4%	-1,700	-3.0%
Kingston	+600	+1.0%	+700	+1.5%
Nassau-Suffolk	+7,600	+0.6%	+8,400	+0.8%
New York City	+74,300	+1.6%	+64,100	+1.6%
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	-8,800	-1.2%	-6,800	-1.1%
Rochester	-1,000	-0.2%	-700	-0.2%
Syracuse	+1,600	+0.5%	+1,200	+0.5%
Utica-Rome	-1,300	-1.0%	-900	-0.9%
Watertown-Fort Drum	-300	-0.7%	-200	-0.7%
Non-metro counties	+1,800	+0.4%	+1,600	+0.4%

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 February 2019:

- Seven metro areas in New York State added private sector jobs since February 2019:
 - Glens Falls (+1.7%)
 - Albany-Schenectady-Troy (+1.6%)
 - New York City (+1.6%)
 - Kingston (+1.5%)
 - Nassau-Suffolk (+0.8%)
 - Dutchess-Putnam (+0.6%)
 - Syracuse (+0.5%)
- Non-metro counties in New York State added 1,600 private sector jobs over the past year.
- From February 2019 to February 2020, eight metropolitan areas in the state lost private sector jobs including: Ithaca (-3.0%), Orange-Rockland-Westchester (-1.1%), Utica-Rome (-0.9%), Binghamton (-0.8%), Elmira (-0.7%), Watertown-Fort Drum (-0.7%), Buffalo-Niagara Falls (-0.4%) and Rochester (-0.2%).

Change in jobs by major industry sector: February 2019 – February 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 February 2019 – February 2020.

Change in Jobs by Major Industry Sector February 2019 – February 2020

Sectors with Job Gains:	
Educational & Health Services*	+48,100
Professional & Business Services	+31,300
Leisure & Hospitality	+5,900
Other Services	+5,300
Government*	+2,500
Sectors with Job Losses:	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-9,900
Construction	-2,700
Financial Activities	-1,600
Manufacturing	-1,000
Natural Resources & Mining	-200
Information	-100

*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 gains since February 2019:

- Private educational and health services added the most jobs (+48,100) of any major industry sector over the past year. Sector job gains were focused in health care and social assistance (+58,700), especially ambulatory health care (+26,900).
- Over the past year, the second largest employment gain was in professional and business services (+31,300). Most sector job gains occurred in administrative and support services (+15,700) and professional, scientific and technical services (+13,400).
- The third largest statewide employment increase in February 2019–February 2020 occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,900). Within the sector, over-the-year employment gains were largest in accommodation and food services (+7,100), especially food services and drinking places (+8,400).

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

- The industry sector experiencing the largest over-the-year decline in employment was trade, transportation and utilities (-9,900). Within this sector, job losses were greatest in retail trade (-9,300), especially clothing and clothing accessories stores (-5,600).

- The second largest over-the-year job loss was in construction (-2,700). Sector job losses were focused in specialty trade contractors (-5,200), especially building equipment contractors (-4,200).
- Over the past year, the third largest employment drop was in financial activities (-1,600). Within the sector, most job losses occurred in finance and insurance (-1,500), especially securities, commodities and other investments (-1,600).

Unemployment Insurance Benefits: February 2020

1) Regular Unemployment Insurance:

For New York State, during the week that included February 12, 2020, there were 139,752 people (including 128,013 who live in the state) who received benefits under the regular Unemployment Insurance program.

In February 2020, New York State residents who received Unemployment Insurance benefits made up 36% of the total unemployed.

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	February 2020	February 2019 (R)	Change to February 2020 from:	
			February 2019	
			Net	%
New York State	9,723.0	9,645.4	77.6	0.8%
Metropolitan Areas				
Albany-Schenectady-Troy Metro Area	472.1	466.1	6.0	1.3%
Binghamton Metro Area	101.7	102.3	-0.6	-0.6%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	556.5	557.6	-1.1	-0.2%
Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division	147.9	147.0	0.9	0.6%
Elmira Metro Area	36.6	36.7	-0.1	-0.3%
Glens Falls Metro Area	53.3	52.3	1.0	1.9%
Ithaca Metro Area	64.2	65.8	-1.6	-2.4%
Kingston Metro Area	61.7	61.1	0.6	1.0%
Nassau-Suffolk Metropolitan Division	1,325.9	1,318.3	7.6	0.6%
New York City	4,668.0	4,593.7	74.3	1.6%
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	710.3	719.1	-8.8	-1.2%
Rochester Metro Area	535.3	536.3	-1.0	-0.2%
Syracuse Metro Area	318.4	316.8	1.6	0.5%
Utica-Rome Metro Area	126.2	127.5	-1.3	-1.0%
Watertown-Fort Drum Metro Area	40.2	40.5	-0.3	-0.7%
Counties Outside Metropolitan Areas				
Allegany	15.6	15.2	0.4	2.6%
Cattaraugus	31.2	30.5	0.7	2.3%
Cayuga	24.5	25.0	-0.5	-2.0%
Chautauqua	49.9	50.4	-0.5	-1.0%
Chenango	17.3	17.6	-0.3	-1.7%
Clinton	34.7	34.9	-0.2	-0.6%
Columbia	21.0	21.1	-0.1	-0.5%
Cortland	19.7	19.7	0.0	0.0%
Delaware	15.2	15.1	0.1	0.7%
Essex	14.8	14.8	0.0	0.0%
Franklin	18.8	18.8	0.0	0.0%
Fulton	17.0	16.9	0.1	0.6%
Genesee	22.4	22.2	0.2	0.9%
Greene	15.2	15.1	0.1	0.7%
Hamilton	1.7	1.8	-0.1	-5.6%
Lewis	6.4	6.2	0.2	3.2%
Montgomery	19.1	19.0	0.1	0.5%
Otsego	25.4	25.3	0.1	0.4%
St. Lawrence	39.0	39.0	0.0	0.0%
Schuyler	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.0%
Seneca	12.5	12.2	0.3	2.5%
Steuben	37.6	37.4	0.2	0.5%
Sullivan	29.3	28.2	1.1	3.9%
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	February 2020	February 2019 (R)	Change to February 2020 from:	
			February 2019	
			Net	%
Total Nonfarm	9,723.0	9,645.4	77.6	0.8%
Total Private	8,230.0	8,154.9	75.1	0.9%
Goods Producing	820.1	824.0	-3.9	-0.5%
Natural Resources & Mining	4.6	4.8	-0.2	-4.2%
Construction	378.3	381.0	-2.7	-0.7%
Manufacturing	437.2	438.2	-1.0	-0.2%
Durable Goods	253.1	255.1	-2.0	-0.8%
Non-Durable Goods	184.1	183.1	1.0	0.5%
Service-Providing	8,902.9	8,821.4	81.5	0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,521.3	1,531.2	-9.9	-0.6%
Wholesale Trade	322.5	325.9	-3.4	-1.0%
Retail Trade	891.4	900.7	-9.3	-1.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilitie	307.4	304.6	2.8	0.9%
Information	273.1	273.2	-0.1	0.0%
Financial Activities	719.4	721.0	-1.6	-0.2%
Professional and Business Services	1,369.6	1,338.3	31.3	2.3%
Education and Health Services	2,195.2	2,147.1	48.1	2.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	915.0	909.1	5.9	0.6%
Other Services	416.3	411.0	5.3	1.3%
Government	1,493.0	1,490.5	2.5	0.2%

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 - FEBRUARY 2020

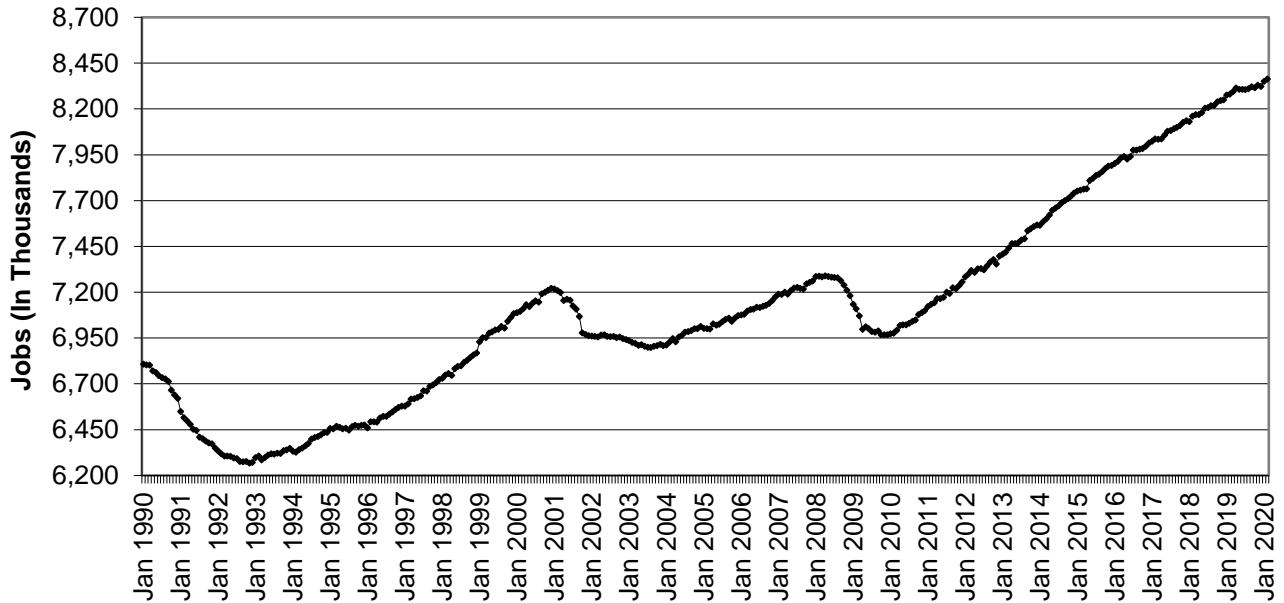
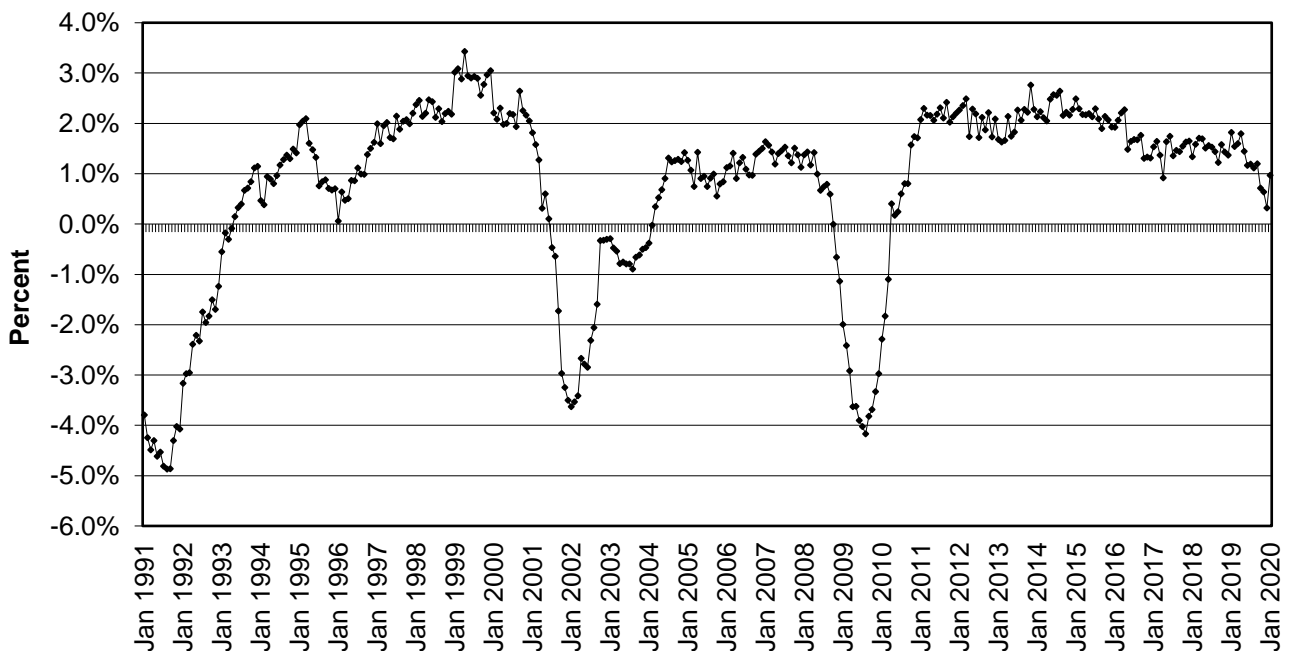


CHART 2: OVER-THE-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
NEW YORK STATE
JANUARY 1991 - FEBRUARY 2020



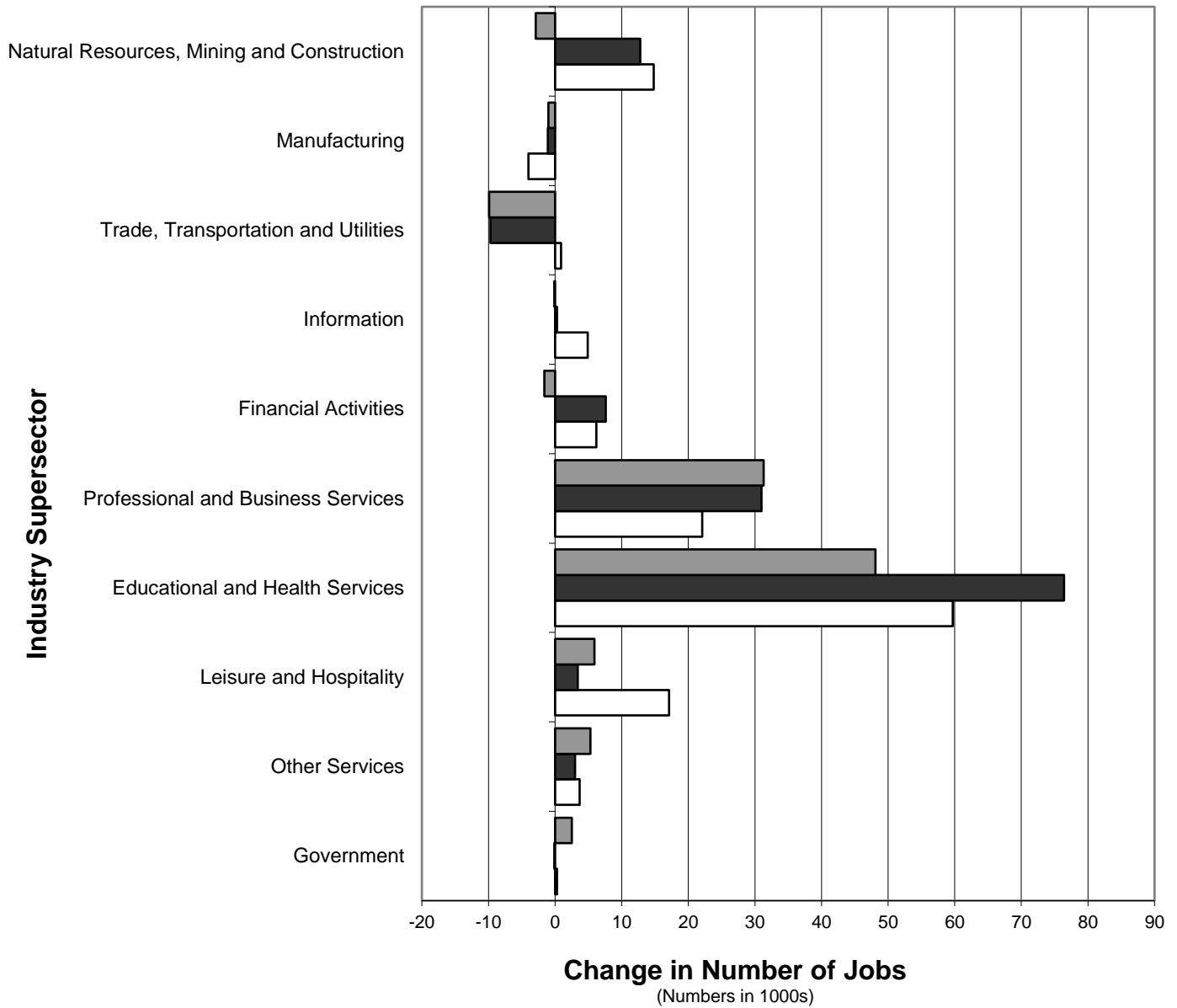
Note: The current private sector jobs series begins in January 1990; thus, over-the-year changes in the series start in January 1991.

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

NEW YORK STATE

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

FEBRUARY 2017-FEBRUARY 2018, FEBRUARY 2018-FEBRUARY 2019, FEBRUARY 2019-FEBRUARY 2020

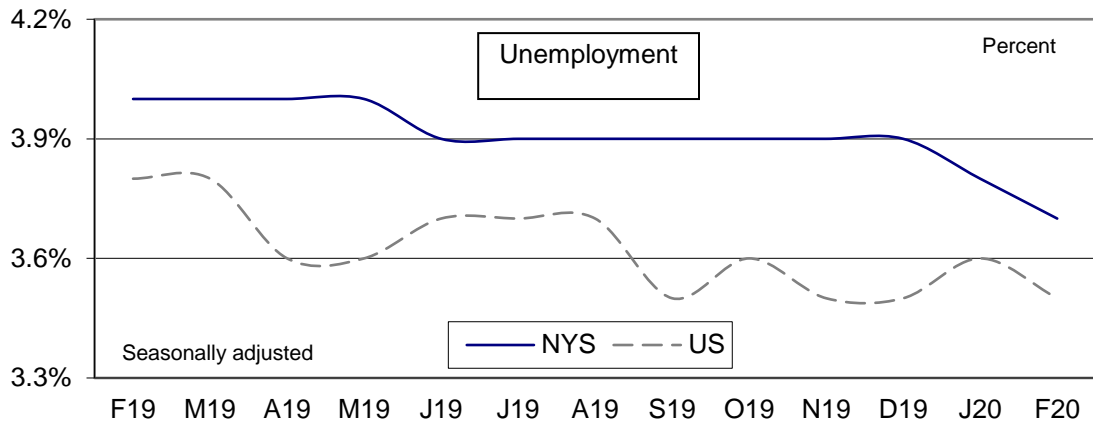


FEB 2019-FEB 2020
 FEB 2018-FEB 2019
 FEB 2017-FEB 2018

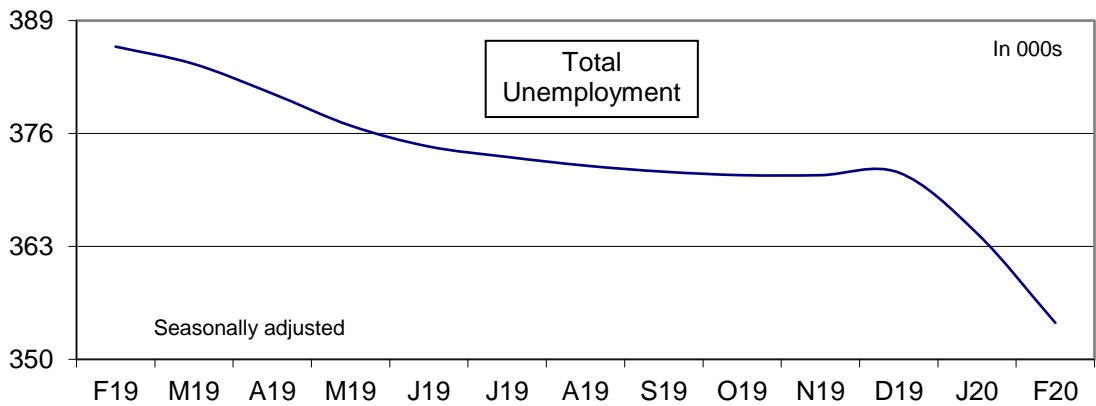
CHART 4: LABOR FORCE STATISTICS IN FEBRUARY 2020

In February...

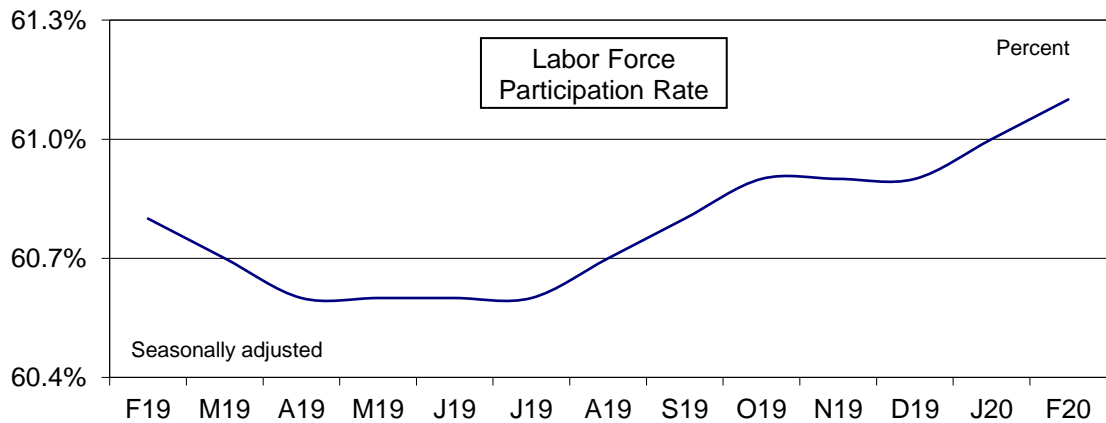
...NYS unemployment rate decreased



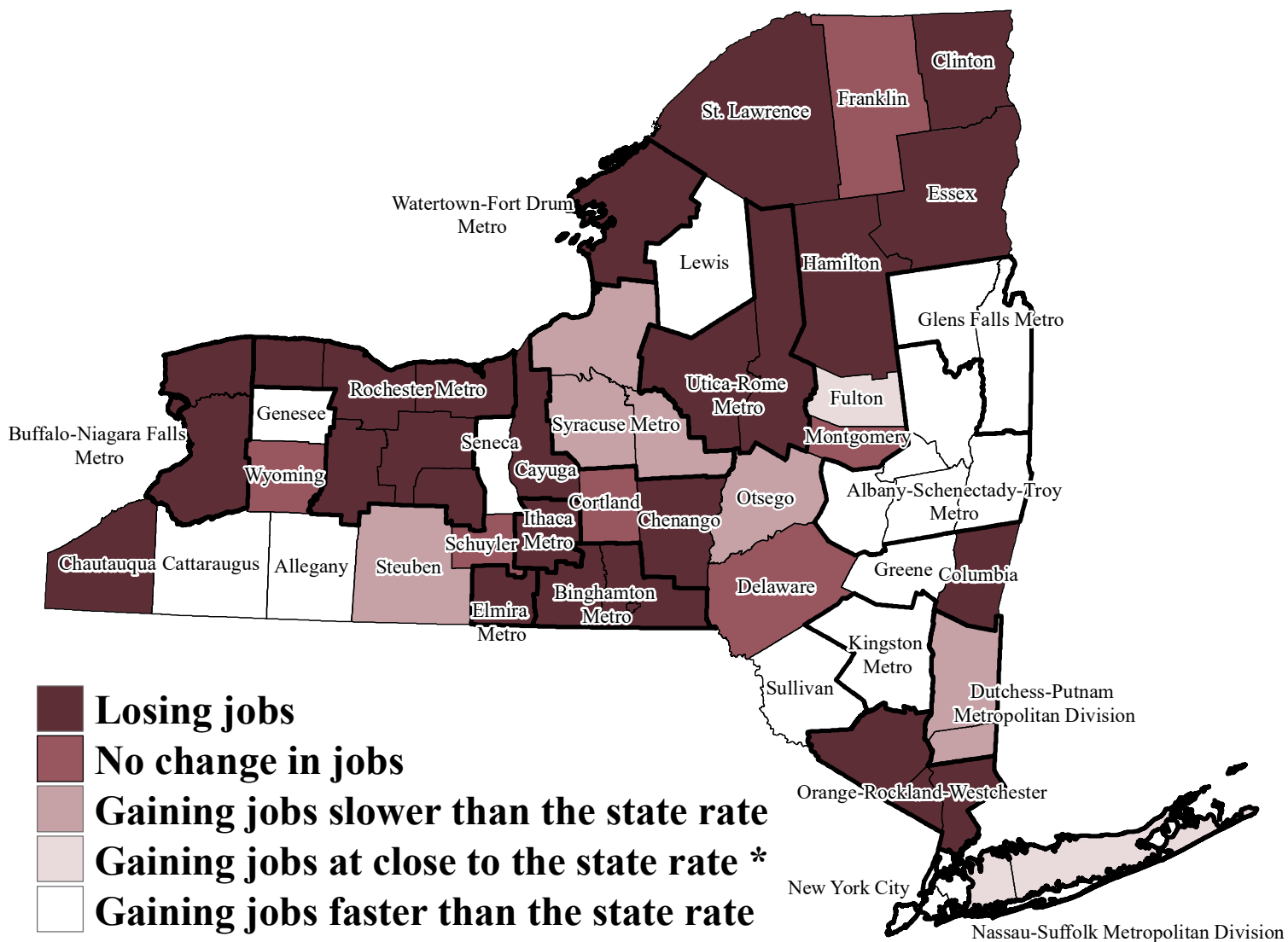
...NYS total unemployment decreased



...NYS labor force participation rate increased



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



* Represents job gain of between 0.7% and 1.1% from February 2019 to February 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.