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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NYS ECONOMY LOSES MORE THAN 1.7 MILLION PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS IN APRIL 2020**

Statewide Unemployment Rate Rises to 14.5% in April 2020

According to the preliminary results from the U.S. Department of Labor's business and household surveys for April 2020, the number of private sector jobs in New York State decreased over the month by 1,764,600, or 21.4 percent, to 6,467,600. This was the state's largest monthly employment drop on record. Just under one-third of the monthly jobs decline occurred in leisure and hospitality (-577,700), mostly in accommodation and food services (-471,400).

In April 2020, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 14.5%. This change (+10.4 percentage points) was the state's largest recorded monthly increase since current record keeping began in 1976. In addition, the number of unemployed New York State residents increased by 931,600, while the labor force dropped by 307,600 – 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, April 2019 versus April 2020.*

## United States and New York State: March – April 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  
March – April 2020**

	Change in Total Nonfarm Jobs: (private sector + government)		Change in Private Sector Jobs:	
	Net	%	Net	%
United States	-20,537,000	-13.5%	-19,557,000	-15.2%
New York State	-1,827,300	-18.8%	-1,764,600	-21.4%

### 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 April 2020, the statewide unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 14.5%. New York City's unemployment rate increased over the month from 4.1% to 14.2%. Outside of New York City, the unemployment rate increased from 4.2% to 14.7%. 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 931,600 over the month, from 388,700 in March to 1,320,300 in April 2020, representing the largest monthly uptick on record.

**Unemployment Rates (%)\***

	April 2020*	March 2020	April 2019
United States	<b>14.7</b>	4.4	3.6
New York State	<b>14.5</b>	4.1	4.0
New York City	<b>14.2</b>	4.1	4.2
NYS, outside NYC	<b>14.7</b>	4.2	3.9

\*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: April 2019 – April 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 April 2019 and April 2020.

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

	Change in Total Nonfarm Jobs: (private sector + government)		Change in Private Sector Jobs:	
	Net	%	Net	%
<b>United States</b>	-19,359,000	-12.9%	-18,526,000	-14.5%
<b>New York State</b>	-1,895,100	-19.4%	-1,834,800	-22.1%
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	-74,300	-15.7%	-71,800	-19.4%
Binghamton	-14,600	-14.0%	-13,500	-16.6%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls	-114,800	-20.3%	-110,500	-23.3%
Dutchess-Putnam	-21,900	-14.7%	-21,000	-17.1%
Elmira	-4,800	-13.0%	-4,700	-15.6%
Glens Falls	-9,300	-17.5%	-8,800	-20.8%
Ithaca	-9,500	-14.4%	-9,200	-16.2%
Kingston	-7,400	-11.9%	-6,800	-14.3%
Nassau-Suffolk	-292,200	-21.7%	-281,900	-24.5%
New York City	-891,800	-19.2%	-885,000	-21.8%
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	-161,700	-22.0%	-153,300	-24.6%
Rochester	-103,800	-19.1%	-98,200	-21.3%
Syracuse	-60,000	-18.7%	-57,500	-22.0%
Utica-Rome	-22,300	-17.3%	-20,200	-20.9%
Watertown-Fort Drum	-6,300	-15.4%	-5,600	-19.4%
Non-metro counties	-65,800	-12.9%	-60,700	-16.2%

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 April 2019:*

- All fifteen metro areas in New York State lost private sector jobs since April 2019. The following areas lost at least 20% of their private sector jobs over the past year:
  - Orange-Rockland-Westchester (-24.6%)
  - Nassau-Suffolk (-24.5%)
  - Buffalo-Niagara Falls (-23.3%)
  - Syracuse (-22.0%)
  - New York City (-21.8%)
  - Rochester (-21.3%)
  - Utica-Rome (-20.9%)
  - Glens Falls (-20.8%)

- Non-metro counties in New York State lost 60,700 private sector jobs over the past year.

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

**Change in Jobs by Major Industry Sector\*  
April 2019 – April 2020**

<b>Sectors with Job Losses:</b>	
Leisure & Hospitality	-638,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-357,300
Educational & Health Services*	-227,200
Professional & Business Services	-190,500
Construction	-167,700
Other Services	-124,300
Manufacturing	-84,100
Government*	-60,300
Financial Activities	-35,800
Information	-9,500
Natural Resources & Mining	-400

\*\*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 April 2019:*

- The industry sector experiencing the largest over-the-year decline in employment was leisure and hospitality (-638,000). Within this sector, job losses were greatest in accommodation and food services (-533,500), especially food services and drinking places (-469,900).
- Trade, transportation and utilities (-357,300) had the second largest over-the-year job loss. Sector job losses were focused in retail trade (-229,000), especially clothing and accessories stores (-65,800).
- Over the past year, the third largest employment drop was in educational and health services (-227,200). Within the sector, most job losses occurred in health care and social assistance (-151,300), especially ambulatory health care (-87,400).

*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	April 2020	April 2019 ( R )	Change to April 2020 from:	
			April 2019	
			Net	%
New York State	7,889.4	9,784.5	-1895.1	-19.4%
<b>Metropolitan Areas</b>				
Albany-Schenectady-Troy Metro Area	398.8	473.1	-74.3	-15.7%
Binghamton Metro Area	89.5	104.1	-14.6	-14.0%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area	450.8	565.6	-114.8	-20.3%
Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division	127.3	149.2	-21.9	-14.7%
Elmira Metro Area	32.1	36.9	-4.8	-13.0%
Glens Falls Metro Area	43.7	53.0	-9.3	-17.5%
Ithaca Metro Area	56.3	65.8	-9.5	-14.4%
Kingston Metro Area	54.9	62.3	-7.4	-11.9%
Nassau-Suffolk Metropolitan Division	1,056.6	1,348.8	-292.2	-21.7%
New York City	3,756.9	4,648.7	-891.8	-19.2%
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	571.7	733.4	-161.7	-22.0%
Rochester Metro Area	439.1	542.9	-103.8	-19.1%
Syracuse Metro Area	261.1	321.1	-60.0	-18.7%
Utica-Rome Metro Area	106.7	129.0	-22.3	-17.3%
Watertown-Fort Drum Metro Area	34.6	40.9	-6.3	-15.4%
<b>Counties Outside Metropolitan Areas</b>				
Allegany	13.4	15.2	-1.8	-11.8%
Cattaraugus	27.3	30.2	-2.9	-9.6%
Cayuga	21.7	25.5	-3.8	-14.9%
Chautauqua	44.1	51.0	-6.9	-13.5%
Chenango	15.6	17.7	-2.1	-11.9%
Clinton	30.8	35.2	-4.4	-12.5%
Columbia	19.0	21.8	-2.8	-12.8%
Cortland	16.7	19.6	-2.9	-14.8%
Delaware	13.3	15.3	-2.0	-13.1%
Essex	11.7	13.4	-1.7	-12.7%
Franklin	16.7	18.6	-1.9	-10.2%
Fulton	14.5	17.2	-2.7	-15.7%
Genesee	19.8	22.8	-3.0	-13.2%
Greene	12.8	13.9	-1.1	-7.9%
Hamilton	1.5	1.7	-0.2	-11.8%
Lewis	5.5	6.4	-0.9	-14.1%
Montgomery	16.1	19.6	-3.5	-17.9%
Otsego	21.3	25.9	-4.6	-17.8%
St. Lawrence	35.2	39.4	-4.2	-10.7%
Schuyler	4.0	4.9	-0.9	-18.4%
Seneca	10.6	12.5	-1.9	-15.2%
Steuben	33.1	38.3	-5.2	-13.6%
Sullivan	26.3	28.8	-2.5	-8.7%
Wyoming	11.4	13.3	-1.9	-14.3%

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.

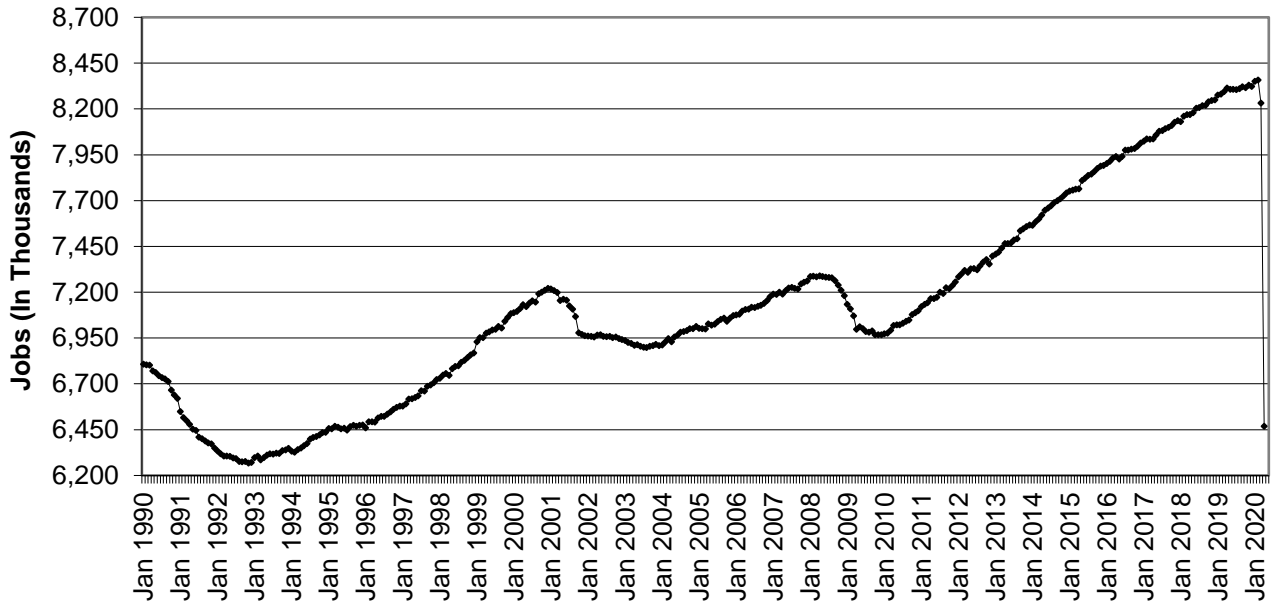
**Table 2. Number of Nonfarm Jobs By Industry  
New York State  
(In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

Industry	April 2020	April 2019 ( R )	Change to April 2020 from:	
			April 2019	
			Net	%
Total Nonfarm	7,889.4	9,784.5	-1895.1	-19.4%
Total Private	6,450.5	8,285.3	-1834.8	-22.1%
Goods Producing	594.2	846.4	-252.2	-29.8%
Natural Resources & Mining	4.8	5.2	-0.4	-7.7%
Construction	234.1	401.8	-167.7	-41.7%
Manufacturing	355.3	439.4	-84.1	-19.1%
Durable Goods	209.5	255.5	-46.0	-18.0%
Non-Durable Goods	145.8	183.9	-38.1	-20.7%
Service-Providing	7,295.2	8,938.1	-1642.9	-18.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,181.5	1,538.8	-357.3	-23.2%
Wholesale Trade	270.9	326.6	-55.7	-17.1%
Retail Trade	677.4	906.4	-229.0	-25.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilitie	233.2	305.8	-72.6	-23.7%
Information	267.5	277.0	-9.5	-3.4%
Financial Activities	685.6	721.4	-35.8	-5.0%
Professional and Business Services	1,178.3	1,368.8	-190.5	-13.9%
Education and Health Services	1,944.9	2,172.1	-227.2	-10.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	307.4	945.4	-638.0	-67.5%
Other Services	291.1	415.4	-124.3	-29.9%
Government	1,438.9	1,499.2	-60.3	-4.0%

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.

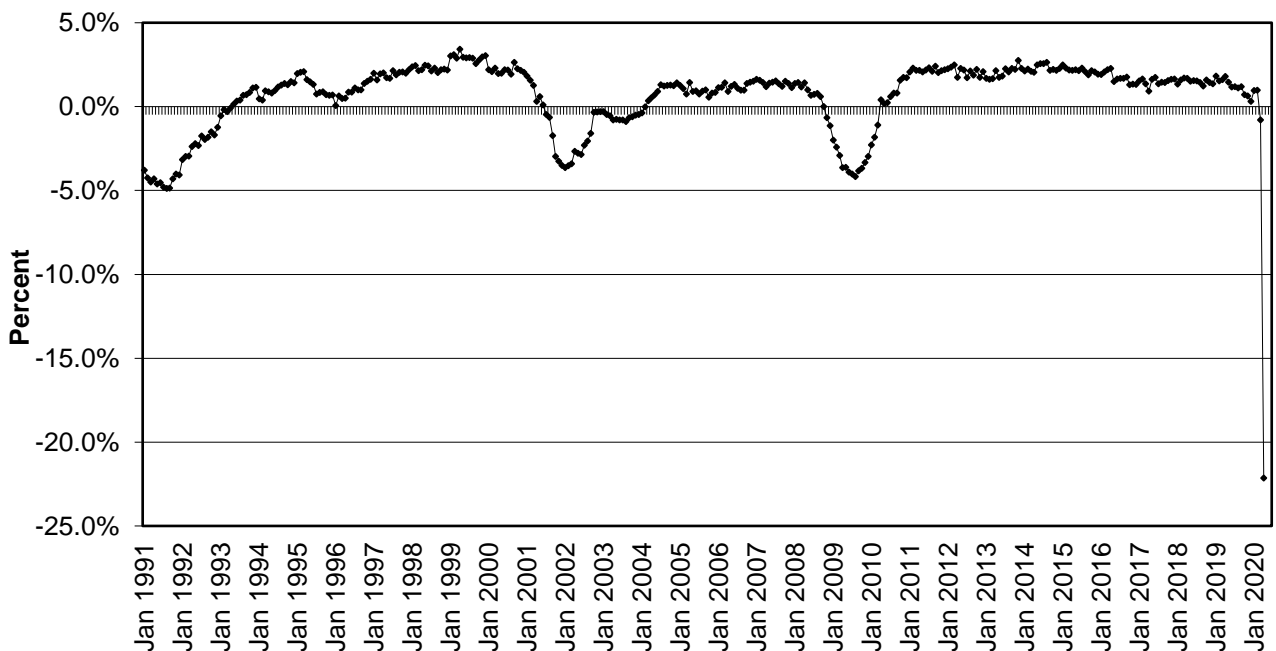
### CHART 1: PRIVATE SECTOR JOB COUNT

(Seasonally Adjusted)  
NEW YORK STATE  
JANUARY 1990 - APRIL 2020



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

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



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

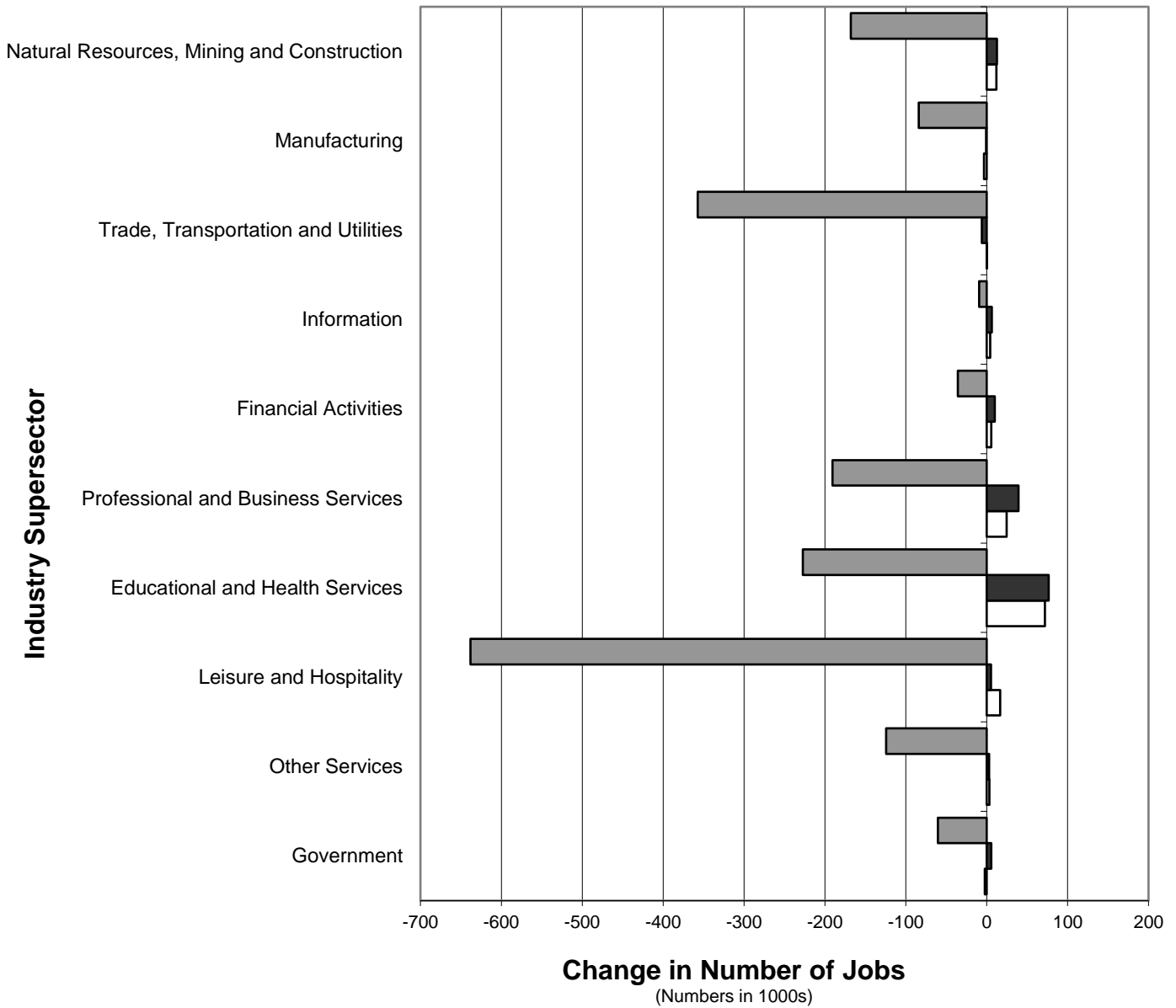


**CHART 3: OVER-THE-YEAR CHANGE IN NONFARM JOBS BY SUPERSECTOR**

**NEW YORK STATE**

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

APRIL 2017-APRIL 2018, APRIL 2018-APRIL 2019, APRIL 2019-APRIL 2020

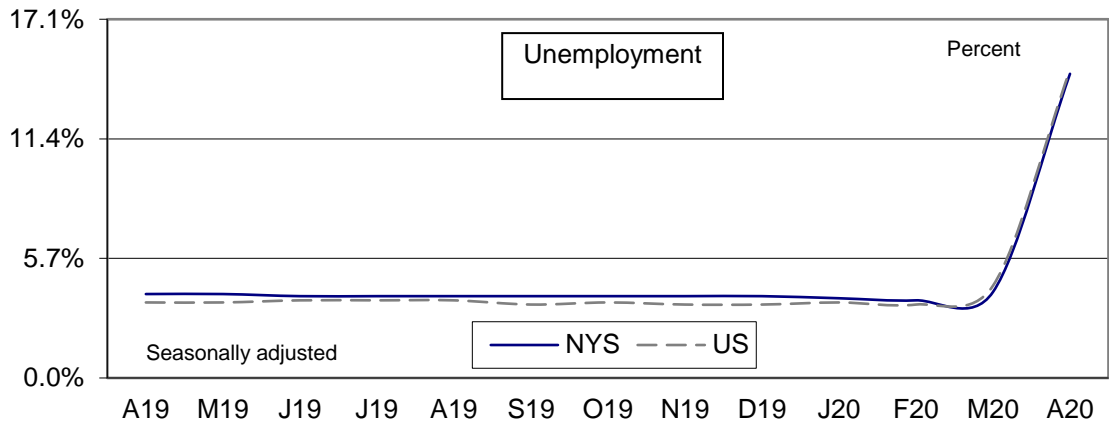


■ APR 2019-APR 2020   ■ APR 2018-APR 2019   □ APR 2017-APR 2018

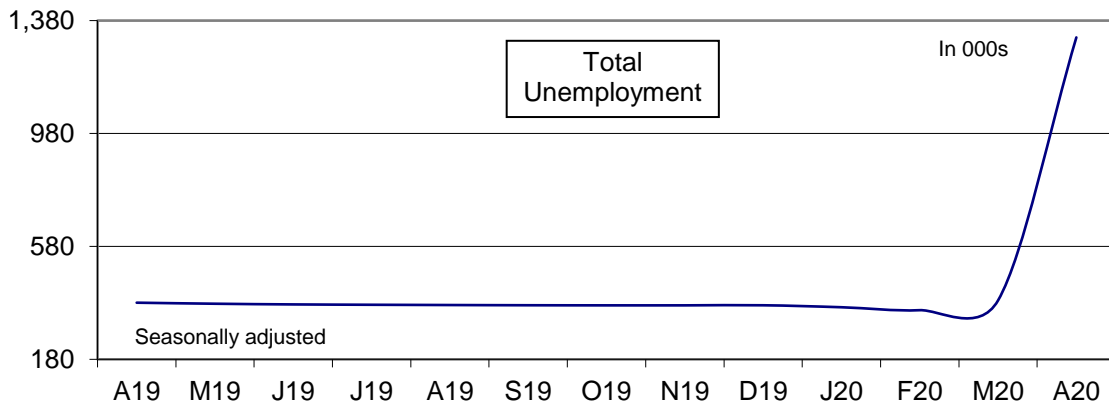
## CHART 4: LABOR FORCE STATISTICS IN APRIL 2020

In April...

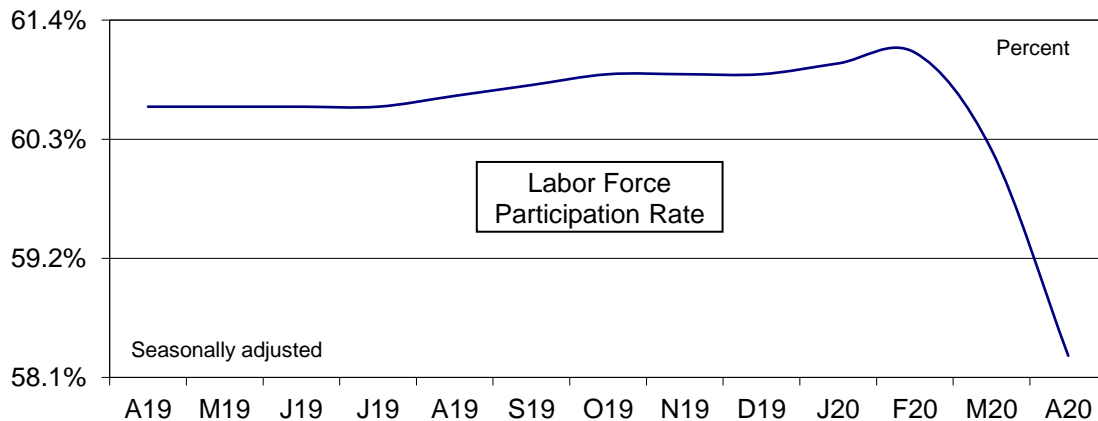
...NYS unemployment rate increased



...NYS total unemployment increased



...NYS labor force participation rate decreased



## **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.