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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 12, 2020**

## **NYS's Private Sector Jobs Reached an All-Time High and Unemployment Rate Fell to an All-Time Low in 2019**

Newly revised data from the U.S. Department of Labor show that New York's economic expansion continued in 2019. Last year, the state's annual private sector job count reached 8,297,000, a new record high, and the state's unemployment rate fell to 4.0%, a record low. This marked New York's 10th straight year of job growth, the longest stretch on records dating back to 1940.

In January 2020, the private sector job count in New York State grew by 30,500, or 0.4%, to 8,354,100, a new monthly record, according to preliminary job figures. Since the beginning of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's administration, New York State's economy has added 1,256,000 private sector jobs and experienced employment growth in 95 of the past 109 months. In addition, the statewide unemployment rate decreased from 3.9% to 3.8% in January 2020, a new record monthly low.

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 New York State each month.

"In 2019, New York State's economy continued to grow, reaching an all-time high annual private sector job count and a record low annual unemployment rate. This expansion continued in January 2020 with the state reaching 8,351,200 private sector jobs and an unemployment rate of 3.8%, both new monthly records," 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, January 2019 versus January 2020.*

Jobs data are revised at the end of each year for all states and the nation as more complete information becomes available from employers' Unemployment Insurance records. This process is called "benchmarking" and is federally mandated. For more details, see Annual Benchmark Analysis .

Labor force data, including unemployment rates, are also revised at the end of each year, using methods established by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The revised labor force data show that New York State's annual average unemployment rate dipped from 4.1% in 2018 to 4.0% in 2019, its lowest annual average rate on record (current records date back to 1976).

## United States and New York State: December 2019 – January 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  
December 2019 – January 2020**

|                | Change in<br>Total Nonfarm Jobs:<br>(private sector + government) |       | Change in<br>Private Sector Jobs: |       |
|----------------|---|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
|                | Net   | %     | Net                               | %     |
| United States  | +225,000  | +0.1% | +206,000                          | +0.2% |
| New York State | +33,500   | +0.3% | +30,500                           | +0.4% |

### 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 January 2020, the statewide unemployment rate decreased from 3.9% to 3.8%, its lowest rate on records dating back to 1976. New York City's unemployment rate decreased over the month from 3.6% to 3.5% in January 2020, also a new record. Outside of New York City, the unemployment rate decreased from 4.1% to 4.0%.

The number of unemployed New Yorkers decreased, from 371,500 in December 2019 to 364,900 in January 2020.

**Unemployment Rates (%)\***

|                  | January 2020* | December 2019 | January 2019 |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| United States    | <b>3.6</b>    | 3.5           | 4.0          |
| New York State   | <b>3.8</b>    | 3.9           | 4.0          |
| New York City    | <b>3.5</b>    | 3.6           | 4.3          |
| NYS, outside NYC | <b>4.0</b>    | 4.1           | 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: January 2019 – January 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 January 2019 and January 2020.

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

|                             | Change in<br>Total Nonfarm Jobs:<br>(private sector +<br>government) |       | Change in<br>Private Sector Jobs: |       |
|-----------------------------|--|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
|                             | Net  | %     | Net                               | %     |
| <b>United States</b>        | +2,223,000   | +1.5% | +2,056,000                        | +1.6% |
| <b>New York State</b>       | +84,700  | +0.9% | +83,300                           | +1.0% |
| Albany-Schenectady-Troy     | +5,100   | +1.1% | +4,800                            | +1.3% |
| Binghamton                  | -400   | -0.4% | -400                              | -0.5% |
| Buffalo-Niagara Falls       | -3,000   | -0.5% | -3,700                            | -0.8% |
| Dutchess-Putnam             | +700   | +0.5% | +700                              | +0.6% |
| Elmira                      | -500   | -1.4% | -600                              | -2.0% |
| Glens Falls                 | +700   | +1.3% | +400                              | +1.0% |
| Ithaca                      | -200   | -0.3% | -100                              | -0.2% |
| Kingston                    | +500   | +0.8% | +600                              | +1.3% |
| Nassau-Suffolk              | +7,900   | +0.6% | +9,100                            | +0.8% |
| New York City               | +76,700  | +1.7% | +66,800                           | +1.7% |
| Orange-Rockland-Westchester | -5,500   | -0.8% | -3,400                            | -0.6% |
| Rochester                   | -500   | -0.1% | -500                              | -0.1% |
| Syracuse                    | +1,900   | +0.6% | +2,000                            | +0.8% |
| Utica-Rome                  | -1,300   | -1.0% | -1,000                            | -1.1% |
| Watertown-Fort Drum         | -100   | -0.3% | -300                              | -1.0% |
| Non-metro counties          | +1,800   | +0.4% | +1,400                            | +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 January 2019:*

- Seven metro areas in New York State added private sector jobs since January 2019. The most rapid growth was in these metro areas:
  - New York City (+1.7%)
  - Albany-Schenectady-Troy (+1.3%)
  - Kingston (+1.3%)
  - Glens Falls (+1.0%)
  - Nassau-Suffolk (+0.8%)
  - Syracuse (+0.8%)
- Non-metro counties in New York added 1,400 private sector jobs over the past year.

- Over the past year, eight metro areas in the state lost private sector jobs: Elmira (-2.0%), Utica-Rome (-1.1%), Watertown-Fort Drum (-1.0%), Buffalo-Niagara Falls (-0.8%), Orange-Rockland-Westchester (-0.6%), Binghamton (-0.5%), Ithaca (-0.2%) and Rochester (-0.1%).

## Change in jobs by major industry sector: January 2019 – January 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 January 2019 and January 2020.

#### Change in Jobs by Major Industry Sector January 2019 – January 2020

| <b>Sectors with Job Gains:</b>    |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Educational & Health Services*    | +69,500 |
| Professional & Business Services  | +30,000 |
| Other Services                    | +6,000  |
| Government*                       | +1,400  |
| Information                       | +600    |
| <b>Sectors with Job Losses:</b>   |         |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | -14,300 |
| Manufacturing                     | -3,600  |
| Construction                      | -2,500  |
| Leisure & Hospitality             | -2,100  |
| Financial Activities              | -200    |
| Natural Resources & Mining        | -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 January 2019:*

- Private educational and health services added the most jobs (+69,500) of any major industry sector over the past year. Sector job gains were focused in health care and social assistance (+66,200), especially ambulatory health care (+32,100).
- Over the past year, the second largest employment gain was in professional and business services (+30,000). Most sector job gains occurred in administrative and support services (+20,600) and professional, scientific and technical services (+8,300).

#### *Highlights among New York State sectors with job losses since January 2019:*

- In January 2020, the largest decline in jobs occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (-14,300). Sector job losses were greatest in retail trade (-12,700), especially general merchandise stores (-6,800).
- The second largest jobs loss was in manufacturing (-3,600), with losses focused in durable goods (-2,100), especially machinery manufacturing (-1,200).

## **Unemployment Insurance Benefits: January 2020**

### **1) Regular Unemployment Insurance:**

For New York State, during the week that included January 12, 2020, there were 136,333 people (including 125,058 who live in the state) who received benefits under the regular Unemployment Insurance program.

In January 2020, New York State residents who received Unemployment Insurance benefits made up 34% 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                                       | January<br>2020 | January<br>2019<br>( R ) | Change to January 2020 from: |       |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
|  |                 |                          | January 2019                 |       |
|  |                 |                          | Net                          | %     |
| New York State                             | 9,640.9         | 9,556.2                  | 84.7                         | 0.9%  |
| <b>Metropolitan Areas</b>                  |                 |                          |                              |       |
| Albany-Schenectady-Troy Metro Area         | 467.2           | 462.1                    | 5.1                          | 1.1%  |
| Binghamton Metro Area                      | 100.6           | 101.0                    | -0.4                         | -0.4% |
| Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metro Area           | 551.8           | 554.8                    | -3.0                         | -0.5% |
| Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division      | 146.2           | 145.5                    | 0.7                          | 0.5%  |
| Elmira Metro Area                          | 36.3            | 36.8                     | -0.5                         | -1.4% |
| Glens Falls Metro Area                     | 52.6            | 51.9                     | 0.7                          | 1.3%  |
| Ithaca Metro Area                          | 61.6            | 61.8                     | -0.2                         | -0.3% |
| Kingston Metro Area                        | 61.0            | 60.5                     | 0.5                          | 0.8%  |
| Nassau-Suffolk Metropolitan Division       | 1,322.2         | 1,314.3                  | 7.9                          | 0.6%  |
| New York City                              | 4,621.6         | 4,544.9                  | 76.7                         | 1.7%  |
| Orange-Rockland-Westchester                | 708.4           | 713.9                    | -5.5                         | -0.8% |
| Rochester Metro Area                       | 528.3           | 528.8                    | -0.5                         | -0.1% |
| Syracuse Metro Area                        | 315.9           | 314.0                    | 1.9                          | 0.6%  |
| Utica-Rome Metro Area                      | 124.7           | 126.0                    | -1.3                         | -1.0% |
| Watertown-Fort Drum Metro Area             | 39.9            | 40.0                     | -0.1                         | -0.3% |
| <b>Counties Outside Metropolitan Areas</b> |                 |                          |                              |       |
| Allegany                                   | 14.7            | 14.3                     | 0.4                          | 2.8%  |
| Cattaraugus                                | 30.9            | 30.5                     | 0.4                          | 1.3%  |
| Cayuga                                     | 24.5            | 25.1                     | -0.6                         | -2.4% |
| Chautauqua                                 | 49.1            | 49.5                     | -0.4                         | -0.8% |
| Chenango                                   | 17.5            | 17.6                     | -0.1                         | -0.6% |
| Clinton                                    | 34.2            | 34.4                     | -0.2                         | -0.6% |
| Columbia                                   | 20.8            | 21.0                     | -0.2                         | -1.0% |
| Cortland                                   | 18.8            | 18.8                     | 0.0                          | 0.0%  |
| Delaware                                   | 14.8            | 14.8                     | 0.0                          | 0.0%  |
| Essex                                      | 14.9            | 15.0                     | -0.1                         | -0.7% |
| Franklin                                   | 18.4            | 18.3                     | 0.1                          | 0.5%  |
| Fulton                                     | 17.2            | 16.9                     | 0.3                          | 1.8%  |
| Genesee                                    | 22.2            | 22.1                     | 0.1                          | 0.5%  |
| Greene                                     | 15.5            | 15.0                     | 0.5                          | 3.3%  |
| Hamilton                                   | 1.7             | 1.8                      | -0.1                         | -5.6% |
| Lewis                                      | 6.4             | 6.3                      | 0.1                          | 1.6%  |
| Montgomery                                 | 19.2            | 19.4                     | -0.2                         | -1.0% |
| Otsego                                     | 24.8            | 24.6                     | 0.2                          | 0.8%  |
| St. Lawrence                               | 38.1            | 37.9                     | 0.2                          | 0.5%  |
| Schuyler                                   | 4.7             | 4.7                      | 0.0                          | 0.0%  |
| Seneca                                     | 12.7            | 12.3                     | 0.4                          | 3.3%  |
| Steuben                                    | 37.4            | 37.4                     | 0.0                          | 0.0%  |
| Sullivan                                   | 29.1            | 28.1                     | 1.0                          | 3.6%  |
| Wyoming                                    | 12.7            | 12.7                     | 0.0                          | 0.0%  |

Note: Data are subject to revision. R=Revised. Net and % changes based on rounded data.

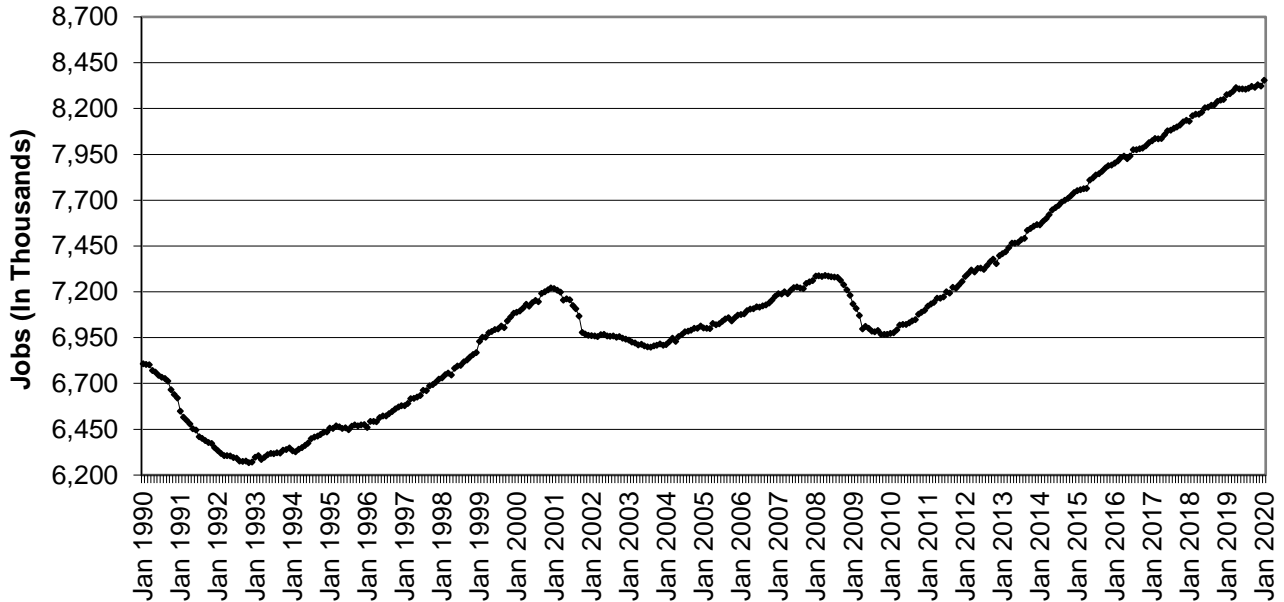
Source: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, 518-457-3800.

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

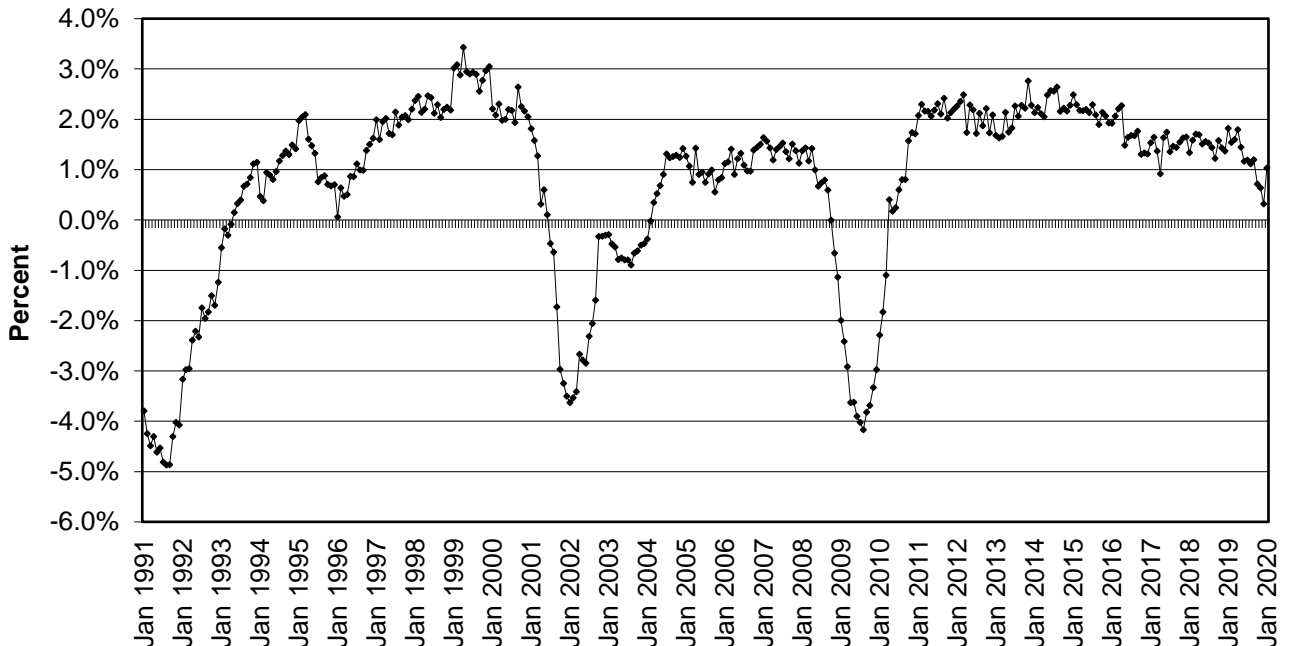
| Industry                                  | January<br>2020 | January<br>2019<br>( R ) | Change to January 2020 from: |       |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
|   |                 |                          | January 2019                 |       |
|   |                 |                          | Net                          | %     |
| Total Nonfarm                             | 9,640.9         | 9,556.2                  | 84.7                         | 0.9%  |
| Total Private                             | 8,177.6         | 8,094.3                  | 83.3                         | 1.0%  |
| Goods Producing                           | 817.5           | 823.7                    | -6.2                         | -0.8% |
| Natural Resources & Mining                | 4.6             | 4.7                      | -0.1                         | -2.1% |
| Construction                              | 378.7           | 381.2                    | -2.5                         | -0.7% |
| Manufacturing                             | 434.2           | 437.8                    | -3.6                         | -0.8% |
| Durable Goods                             | 253.1           | 255.2                    | -2.1                         | -0.8% |
| Non-Durable Goods                         | 181.1           | 182.6                    | -1.5                         | -0.8% |
| Service-Providing                         | 8,823.4         | 8,732.5                  | 90.9                         | 1.0%  |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities      | 1,541.1         | 1,555.4                  | -14.3                        | -0.9% |
| Wholesale Trade                           | 320.6           | 326.1                    | -5.5                         | -1.7% |
| Retail Trade                              | 907.5           | 920.2                    | -12.7                        | -1.4% |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilitie | 313.0           | 309.1                    | 3.9                          | 1.3%  |
| Information                               | 269.4           | 268.8                    | 0.6                          | 0.2%  |
| Financial Activities                      | 718.8           | 719.0                    | -0.2                         | 0.0%  |
| Professional and Business Services        | 1,358.9         | 1,328.9                  | 30.0                         | 2.3%  |
| Education and Health Services             | 2,156.9         | 2,087.4                  | 69.5                         | 3.3%  |
| Leisure and Hospitality                   | 900.7           | 902.8                    | -2.1                         | -0.2% |
| Other Services                            | 414.3           | 408.3                    | 6.0                          | 1.5%  |
| Government                                | 1,463.3         | 1,461.9                  | 1.4                          | 0.1%  |

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 - JANUARY 2020



**CHART 2: OVER-THE-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE IN PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS**  
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)  
**NEW YORK STATE**  
 JANUARY 1991 - JANUARY 2020



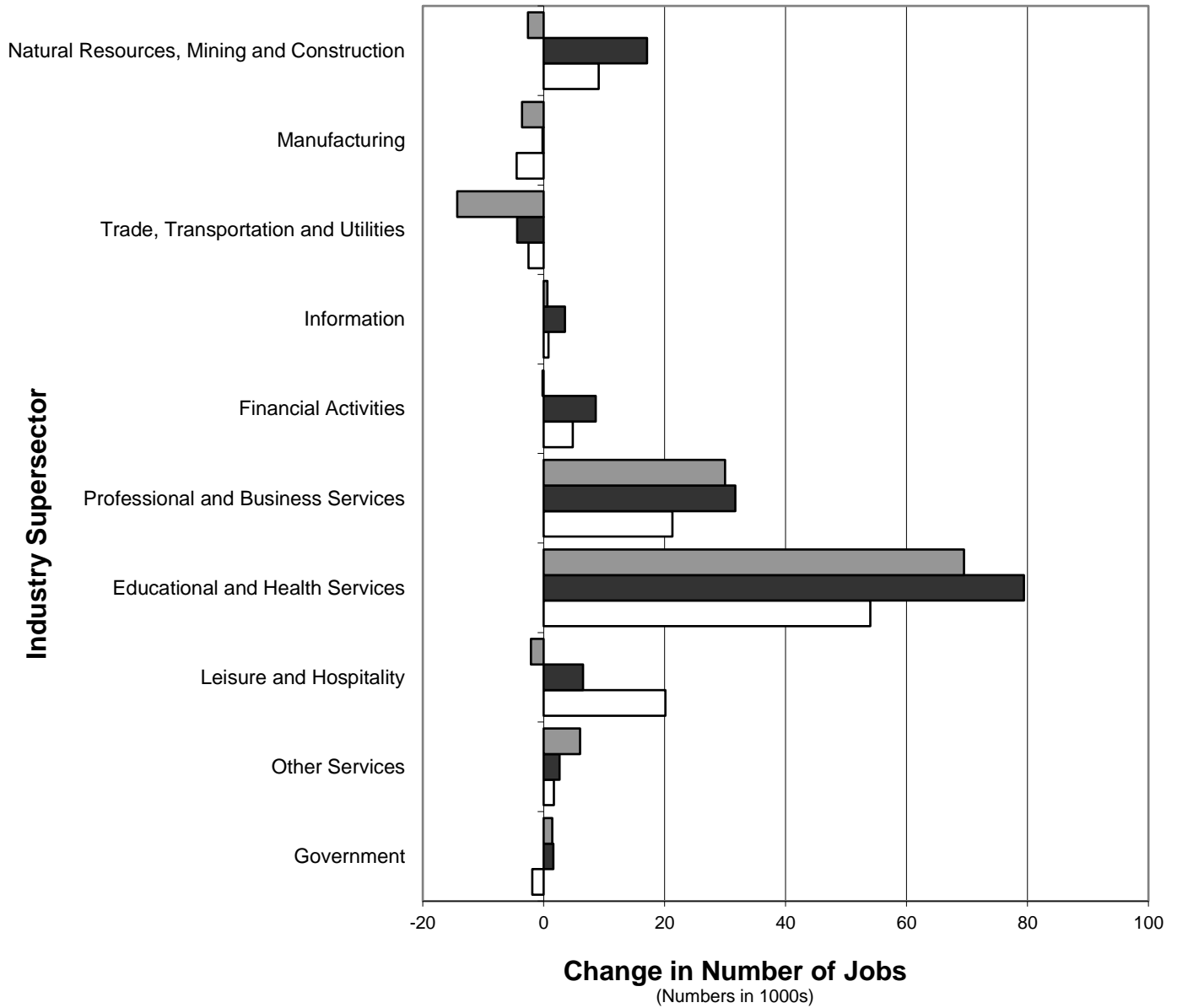
Note: The current private sector jobs series begins in January 1990; thus, over-the-year changes in the series start in January 1991.



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

NEW YORK STATE  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

JANUARY 2017-JANUARY 2018, JANUARY 2018-JANUARY 2019, JANUARY 2019-JANUARY 2020

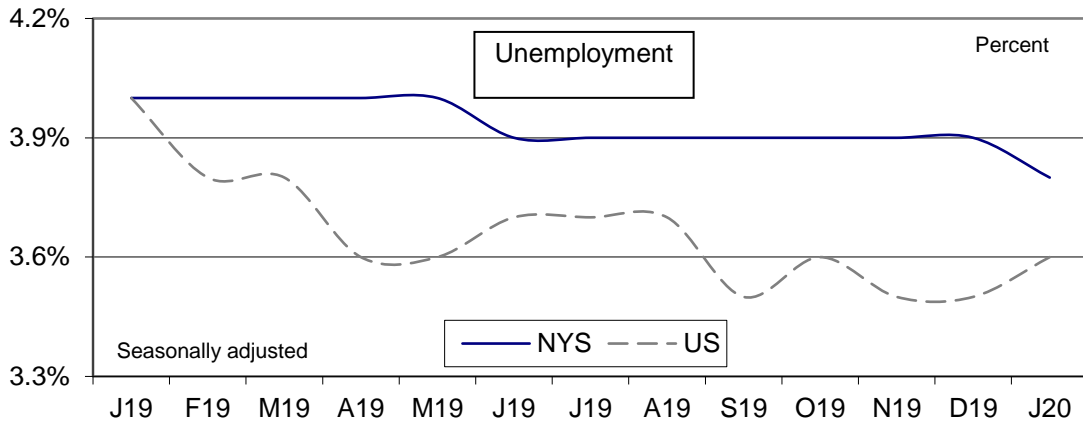


JAN 2019-JAN 2020
  JAN 2018-JAN 2019
  JAN 2017-JAN 2018

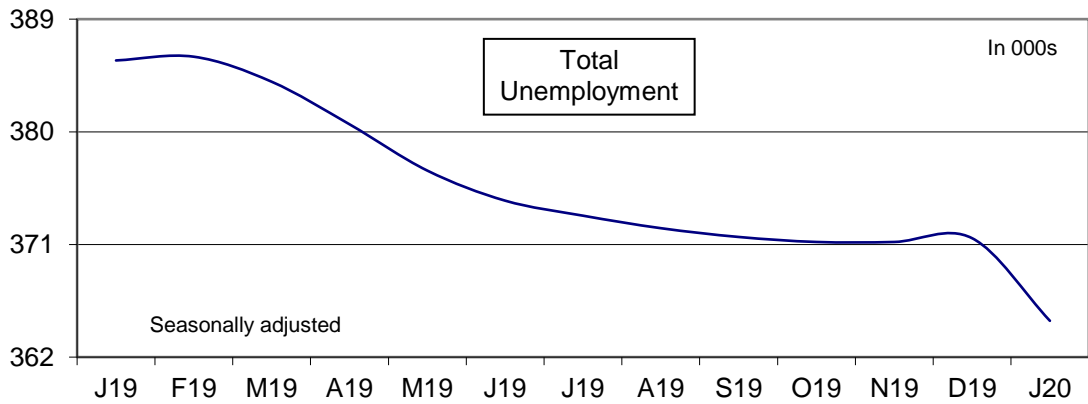
## CHART 4: LABOR FORCE STATISTICS IN JANUARY 2020

In January...

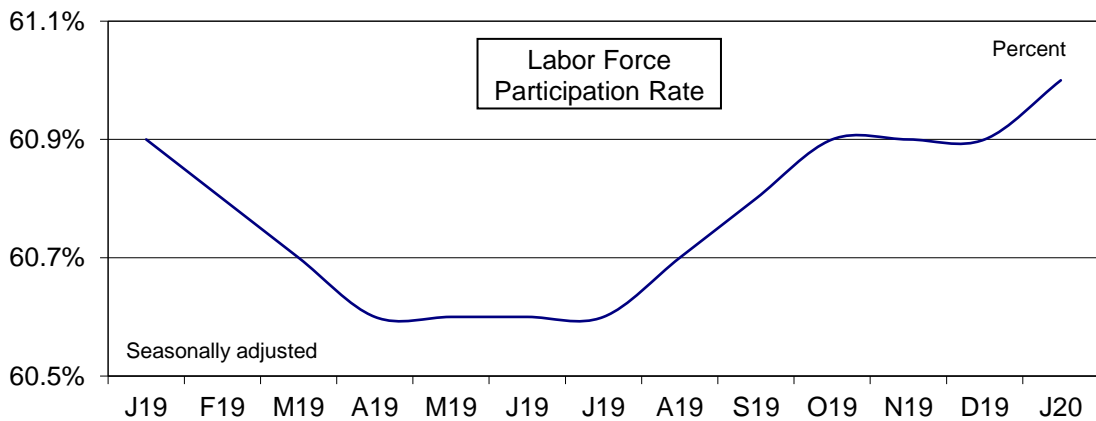
...NYS unemployment rate decreased



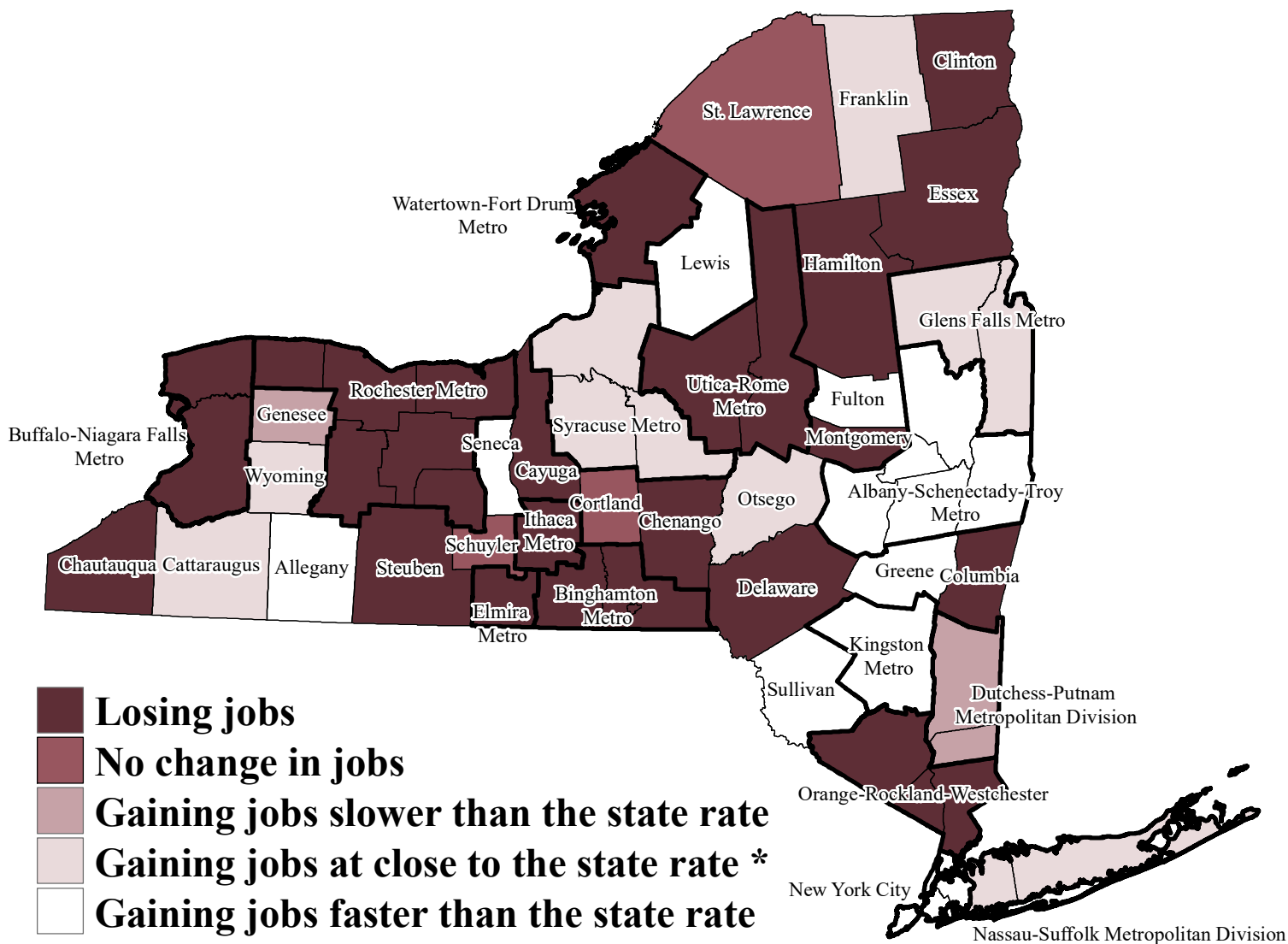
...NYS total unemployment decreased



...NYS labor force participation rate increased



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



\* Represents job gain of between 0.8% and 1.2% from January 2019 to January 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 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.