FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2020

State Labor Department Releases Preliminary
January 2020 Area Unemployment Rates

The New York State Department of Labor today released preliminary local area unemployment rates for January 2020. Rates are calculated using methods prescribed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The State's area unemployment rates rely in part on the results of the Current Population Survey, which contacts approximately 3,100 households in New York State each month.

From January 2019 to January 2020, the State's private sector employment count increased by 83,300. In January 2020, the number of private sector jobs in the state was 8,354,100. The State's private sector job count is based on a payroll survey of 18,000 New York employers, which is conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 3.9% to 3.8%, in January 2020.

Local Area Unemployment Rates* (%)
January 2019 and January 2020
(not seasonally adjusted)

	January 2020*	January 2019
Metro Areas	4.0	4.7
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	4.0	4.3
Binghamton	5.6	5.6
Buffalo-Niagara Falls	5.2	5.2
Dutchess-Putnam	4.0	4.0
Elmira	5.0	4.7
Glens Falls	5.5	5.8
Ithaca	3.8	4.0
Kingston	4.2	4.4
Nassau-Suffolk	3.9	4.1
New York City	3.6	4.9
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	4.0	4.0
Rochester	4.7	4.7
Syracuse	4.9	5.0
Utica-Rome	5.2	5.4
Watertown-Fort Drum	7.5	7.1
Non-metro counties	5.8	5.8

*Data are preliminary and subject to change.

The data in the preceding table are not seasonally adjusted, which means they reflect seasonal influences (e.g., holiday and summer hires). Therefore, the most valid comparisons with this type of data are year-to-year comparisons of the same month, for example, January 2019 versus January 2020.

Unemployment Rate Highlights in January 2020 (not seasonally adjusted):

- The counties in New York State with the *lowest* unemployment rates in January 2020 include:
    - Queens County (3.1%)
    - New York County (3.2%)
    - Richmond County (3.5%)
    - Kings County (3.6%)
    - Nassau County (3.6%)
    - Rockland County (3.7%)
    - Columbia County (3.8%)
    - Saratoga County (3.8%)
    - Tompkins County (3.8%)
    - Albany County (3.9%)

See County Unemployment Rates for current unemployment rates for all 62 counties in New York State.

Labor force data for the current month are preliminary and subject to revision as more information becomes available the following month. Revised estimates for prior months are available at: labor.ny.gov/stats/LSLAUS.shtm.

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. These are the most up-to-date estimates of persons employed and unemployed by place of residence. Estimates are available for New York State, labor market regions, metropolitan areas, counties and municipalities with population of at least 25,000.

See State and Area Unemployment Rates

See Unemployment Rate Map

See Jobs and Unemployment Fact Sheet

Rate of Unemployment By County of Residence
New York State, January 2020
(Not seasonally adjusted)

COUNTY	RATE	COUNTY	RATE
Albany	3.9%	Niagara	6.1%
Allegany	6.8%	Oneida	4.9%
Bronx	4.9%	Onondaga	4.4%
Broome	5.7%	Ontario	4.7%
Cattaraugus	6.5%	Orange	4.1%
Cayuga	5.3%	Orleans	5.8%
Chautauqua	5.9%	Oswego	6.7%
Chemung	5.0%	Otsego	5.6%
Chenango	5.6%	Putnam	4.1%
Clinton	5.6%	Queens	3.1%
Columbia	3.8%	Rensselaer	4.3%
Cortland	6.6%	Richmond	3.5%
Delaware	5.6%	Rockland	3.7%
Dutchess	4.0%	St. Lawrence	6.6%
Erie	4.9%	Saratoga	3.8%
Essex	6.0%	Schenectady	4.2%
Franklin	5.9%	Schoharie	6.2%
Fulton	5.9%	Schuyler	6.7%
Genesee	5.1%	Seneca	4.9%
Greene	5.1%	Steuben	5.6%
Hamilton	8.8%	Suffolk	4.2%
Herkimer	6.2%	Sullivan	4.7%
Jefferson	7.5%	Tioga	5.2%
Kings	3.6%	Tompkins	3.8%
Lewis	7.6%	Ulster	4.2%
Livingston	5.2%	Warren	5.9%
Madison	5.5%	Washington	5.1%
Monroe	4.6%	Wayne	5.1%
Montgomery	6.3%	Westchester	4.0%
Nassau	3.6%	Wyoming	6.3%
New York	3.2%	Yates	4.9%

Employed, Unemployed, and Rate of Unemployment
By Place of Residence
For New York State and Major Labor Areas, January 2020
(Numbers in thousands, not seasonally adjusted)

AREA/COUNTY	EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)		
	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Net Change	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Net Change	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Net Change
United States	156,994	154,964	+2,030	6,504	7,140	-636	4.0	4.4	-0.4
New York State	9,136.8	9,062.8	+74.0	393.0	452.7	-59.8	4.1	4.8	-0.7
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	437.6	427.5	+10.1	18.4	19.1	-0.7	4.0	4.3	-0.3
Albany	153.8	150.0	+3.7	6.2	6.4	-0.2	3.9	4.1	-0.2
Rensselaer	79.1	77.3	+1.8	3.5	3.6	-0.1	4.3	4.4	-0.1
Saratoga	116.5	113.9	+2.6	4.6	4.8	-0.2	3.8	4.0	-0.2
Schenectady	74.1	72.3	+1.8	3.2	3.3	-0.1	4.2	4.4	-0.2
Schoharie	14.2	14.0	+0.2	0.9	1.0	-0.1	6.2	6.6	-0.4
Binghamton	101.0	100.0	+1.1	6.0	6.0	0.0	5.6	5.6	0.0
Broome	79.3	78.4	+0.9	4.8	4.8	0.0	5.7	5.8	-0.1
Tioga	21.7	21.5	+0.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	5.2	5.0	+0.2
Buffalo-Niagara Falls	516.8	511.9	+4.9	28.1	28.2	-0.1	5.2	5.2	0.0
Erie	422.8	418.6	+4.2	22.0	22.0	0.0	4.9	5.0	-0.1
Niagara	94.0	93.3	+0.7	6.1	6.2	-0.1	6.1	6.2	-0.1
Dutchess-Putnam	189.2	186.2	+3.0	7.9	7.8	+0.2	4.0	4.0	0.0
Dutchess	139.6	137.5	+2.2	5.8	5.7	+0.1	4.0	4.0	0.0
Putnam	49.6	48.7	+0.9	2.1	2.0	+0.1	4.1	4.0	+0.1
Elmira (Chemung)	33.9	33.7	+0.2	1.8	1.7	+0.1	5.0	4.7	+0.3
Glens Falls	56.0	55.0	+1.0	3.3	3.4	-0.1	5.5	5.8	-0.3
Warren	29.5	28.8	+0.7	1.8	1.9	-0.1	5.9	6.2	-0.3
Washington	26.5	26.2	+0.3	1.4	1.5	0.0	5.1	5.3	-0.2
Ithaca (Tompkins)	47.0	46.7	+0.3	1.9	1.9	-0.1	3.8	4.0	-0.2
Kingston (Ulster)	84.6	83.1	+1.5	3.7	3.8	-0.1	4.2	4.4	-0.2
Nassau-Suffolk	1,443.2	1,409.9	+33.3	59.2	59.9	-0.7	3.9	4.1	-0.2
Nassau	688.5	672.3	+16.2	26.1	26.1	0.0	3.6	3.7	-0.1
Suffolk	754.7	737.6	+17.1	33.1	33.8	-0.7	4.2	4.4	-0.2
New York City	3,885.5	3,891.6	-6.1	143.6	202.6	-59.0	3.6	4.9	-1.3
Bronx	562.4	563.5	-1.1	29.1	40.7	-11.6	4.9	6.7	-1.8
Kings	1,142.7	1,144.4	-1.7	43.1	60.8	-17.7	3.6	5.0	-1.4
New York	874.4	875.7	-1.2	28.6	40.5	-11.8	3.2	4.4	-1.2
Queens	1,093.6	1,095.4	-1.8	35.2	49.8	-14.6	3.1	4.4	-1.3
Richmond	212.5	212.7	-0.2	7.6	10.9	-3.2	3.5	4.9	-1.4
Orange-Rockland-Westchester	794.8	783.8	+11.0	33.1	32.8	+0.3	4.0	4.0	0.0
Orange	178.2	176.3	+2.0	7.7	7.5	+0.2	4.1	4.1	0.0
Rockland	149.9	147.7	+2.2	5.8	5.9	-0.1	3.7	3.8	-0.1
Westchester	466.7	459.8	+6.8	19.6	19.5	+0.1	4.0	4.1	-0.1
Rochester	501.0	495.8	+5.2	24.8	24.5	+0.3	4.7	4.7	0.0
Livingston	29.6	29.5	+0.1	1.6	1.6	0.0	5.2	5.2	0.0
Monroe	347.3	342.4	+4.9	16.6	16.5	+0.1	4.6	4.6	0.0
Ontario	53.4	53.0	+0.4	2.6	2.6	0.0	4.7	4.7	0.0
Orleans	16.9	16.9	-0.1	1.0	1.0	0.0	5.8	5.6	+0.2
Wayne	42.3	42.2	+0.1	2.3	2.1	+0.1	5.1	4.8	+0.3
Yates	11.5	11.7	-0.2	0.6	0.6	0.0	4.9	4.6	+0.3
Syracuse	295.4	290.0	+5.5	15.3	15.4	-0.1	4.9	5.0	-0.1
Madison	31.6	31.3	+0.3	1.8	1.9	-0.1	5.5	5.8	-0.3
Onondaga	213.4	209.1	+4.3	9.8	9.8	0.0	4.4	4.5	-0.1
Oswego	50.5	49.6	+0.9	3.6	3.7	0.0	6.7	6.9	-0.2
Utica-Rome	123.0	122.9	+0.1	6.7	7.0	-0.2	5.2	5.4	-0.2
Herkimer	26.5	26.6	-0.1	1.7	1.7	0.0	6.2	6.2	0.0
Oneida	96.5	96.3	+0.2	5.0	5.2	-0.2	4.9	5.1	-0.2
Watertown-Fort Drum (Jefferson)	40.8	40.7	+0.2	3.3	3.1	+0.2	7.5	7.1	+0.4

Note: Data are subject to revision. Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.
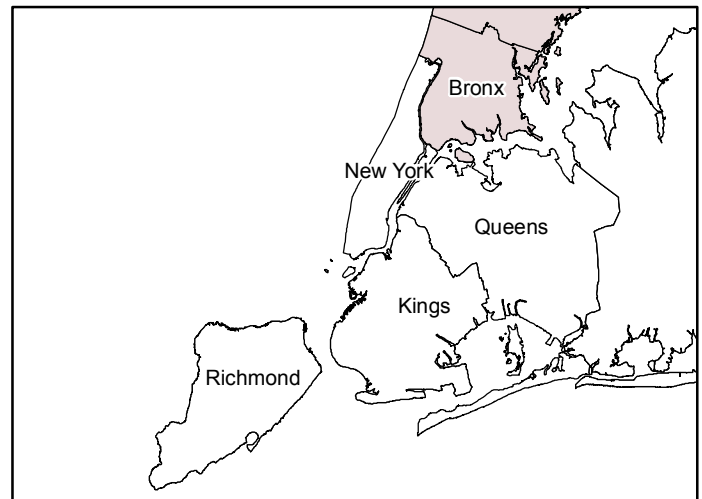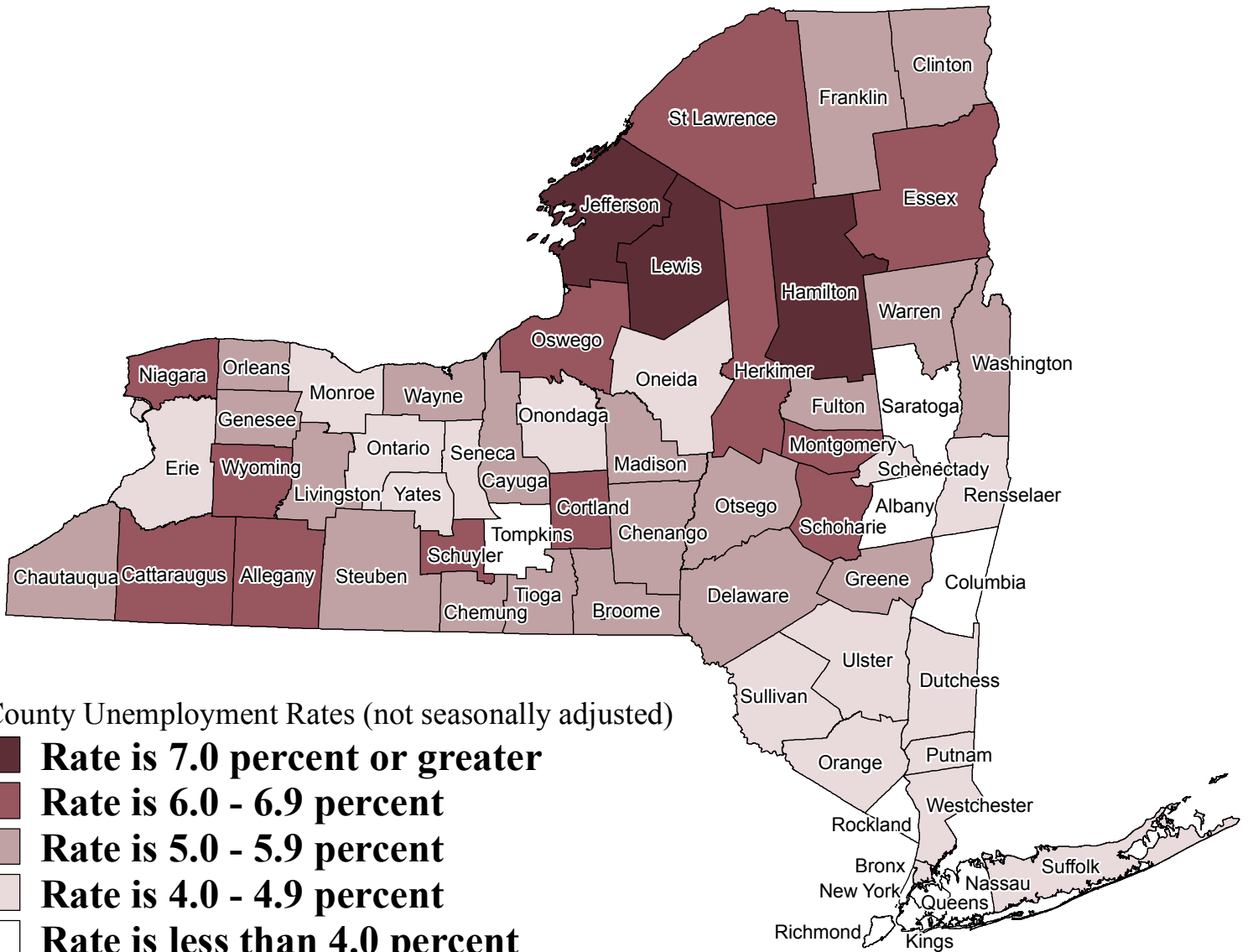Source: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, 518-457-3800.

Employed, Unemployed, and Rate of Unemployment
By Place of Residence
For Counties Not Within Major Labor Areas, January 2020
(Numbers in thousands, not seasonally adjusted)

AREA/COUNTY	EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)		
	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Net Change	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Net Change	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Net Change
Allegany	18.4	18.1	+0.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	6.8	7.0	-0.2
Cattaraugus	32.9	32.6	+0.3	2.3	2.2	+0.1	6.5	6.3	+0.2
Cayuga	34.2	34.6	-0.4	1.9	1.9	0.0	5.3	5.3	0.0
Chautauqua	51.4	51.5	0.0	3.2	3.1	+0.1	5.9	5.7	+0.2
Chenango	21.2	21.3	-0.1	1.2	1.3	-0.1	5.6	5.8	-0.2
Clinton	34.7	34.6	+0.1	2.1	1.9	+0.2	5.6	5.3	+0.3
Columbia	30.0	30.1	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	3.8	3.9	-0.1
Cortland	21.6	21.7	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	6.6	6.6	0.0
Delaware	18.1	18.1	0.0	1.1	1.1	-0.1	5.6	5.9	-0.3
Essex	16.6	16.5	+0.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	6.0	6.1	-0.1
Franklin	18.7	18.6	+0.1	1.2	1.2	0.0	5.9	6.1	-0.2
Fulton	21.7	21.4	+0.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	5.9	6.1	-0.2
Genesee	28.4	28.5	-0.1	1.5	1.6	0.0	5.1	5.2	-0.1
Greene	20.2	19.7	+0.6	1.1	1.1	0.0	5.1	5.2	-0.1
Hamilton	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	8.8	8.9	-0.1
Lewis	11.2	11.2	+0.1	0.9	0.9	0.0	7.6	7.5	+0.1
Montgomery	21.4	21.3	+0.1	1.4	1.4	0.0	6.3	6.2	+0.1
Otsego	26.4	26.2	+0.2	1.6	1.6	0.0	5.6	5.7	-0.1
St. Lawrence	40.8	40.5	+0.3	2.9	2.9	0.0	6.6	6.7	-0.1
Schuyler	7.5	7.6	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	6.7	6.5	+0.2
Seneca	15.7	15.3	+0.4	0.8	0.8	0.0	4.9	4.8	+0.1
Steuben	40.8	40.9	0.0	2.4	2.5	-0.1	5.6	5.8	-0.2
Sullivan	35.4	34.3	+1.1	1.7	1.7	+0.1	4.7	4.7	0.0
Wyoming	17.3	17.6	-0.3	1.2	1.2	0.0	6.3	6.2	+0.1

Note: Data are subject to revision. Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.
Source: New York State Department of Labor, Division of Research and Statistics, 518-457-3800.

Unemployment Rates by County,
New York State,
January 2020

County Unemployment Rates (not seasonally adjusted)

- **Rate is 7.0 percent or greater**
- **Rate is 6.0 - 6.9 percent**
- **Rate is 5.0 - 5.9 percent**
- **Rate is 4.0 - 4.9 percent**
- **Rate is less than 4.0 percent**

New York State rate = 4.1 percent

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.