

# WE ARE YOUR DOL



**Contact:** Press Office  
Phone: 518-457-5519  
[www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 26, 2021**

## **State Labor Department Releases Preliminary December 2020 Area Unemployment Rates**

The New York State Department of Labor today released preliminary local area unemployment rates for December 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. To recap last week's statewide press release, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 8.4% in November to 8.2% in December 2020.

### **Local Area Unemployment Rates\* (%)** **December 2019 and December 2020** (not seasonally adjusted)

|                             | <b>December<br/>2020*</b> | <b>December<br/>2019</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Metro Areas                 | 8.3                       | 3.6                      |
| Albany-Schenectady-Troy     | 5.3                       | 3.7                      |
| Binghamton                  | 6.2                       | 4.9                      |
| Buffalo-Niagara Falls       | 7.5                       | 4.7                      |
| Dutchess-Putnam             | 5.3                       | 3.7                      |
| Elmira                      | 6.7                       | 4.5                      |
| Glens Falls                 | 5.9                       | 5.1                      |
| Ithaca                      | 4.3                       | 3.3                      |
| Kingston                    | 5.4                       | 3.8                      |
| Nassau-Suffolk              | 5.5                       | 3.6                      |
| New York City               | 11.0                      | 3.1                      |
| Orange-Rockland-Westchester | 5.9                       | 3.8                      |
| Rochester                   | 6.5                       | 4.4                      |
| Syracuse                    | 6.4                       | 4.5                      |
| Utica-Rome                  | 6.4                       | 4.7                      |
| Watertown-Fort Drum         | 6.3                       | 6.9                      |
| Non-metro counties          | 6.1                       | 5.1                      |

\*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, December 2019 versus December 2020.*

See [County Unemployment Rates](#) (opens in new window) 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](http://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](#) (opens in new window)

See [Unemployment Rate Map](#) (opens in new window)

See [Jobs and Unemployment Fact Sheet](#) (opens in new window)