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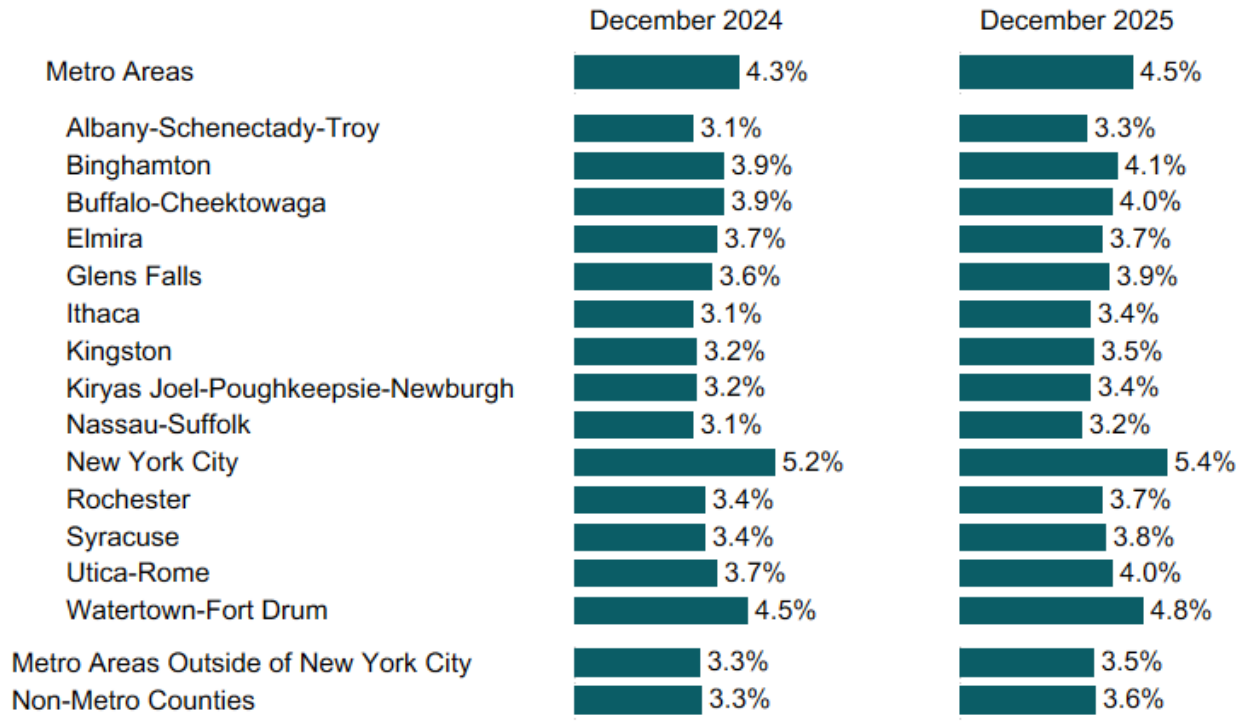
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2026

State Labor Department Releases Preliminary December 2025 Area Unemployment Rates

The New York State Department of Labor today released preliminary local area unemployment rates for December 2025. 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 2,800 households in New York State each month. To recap last week's statewide press release, New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 4.5% in November to 4.6% in December 2025.

Local Area Unemployment Rates* (%)
December 2024 and December 2025
(not seasonally adjusted)



*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 2024 versus December 2025. 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: https://dol.ny.gov/local-area-unemployment-statistics

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.

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Rate of Unemployment by County of Residence
New York State, December 2025
(Not seasonally adjusted)

COUNTY	RATE
Albany	3.3%
Allegany	4.9%
Bronx	7.4%
Broome	4.2%
Cattaraugus	4.5%
Cayuga	3.6%
Chautauqua	4.7%
Chemung	3.7%
Chenango	3.8%
Clinton	3.8%
Columbia	3.2%
Cortland	4.8%
Delaware	4.3%
Dutchess	3.2%
Erie	3.9%
Essex	4.0%
Franklin	4.2%
Fulton	4.3%
Genesee	3.5%
Greene	3.7%
Hamilton	6.6%
Herkimer	4.4%
Jefferson	4.8%
Kings	5.5%
Lewis	4.8%
Livingston	3.9%
Madison	4.1%
Monroe	3.7%
Montgomery	4.5%
Nassau	3.1%
New York	4.9%

COUNTY	RATE
Niagara	4.4%
Oneida	3.8%
Onondaga	3.5%
Ontario	3.5%
Orange	3.6%
Orleans	4.3%
Oswego	4.5%
Otsego	4.6%
Putnam	2.8%
Queens	4.9%
Rensselaer	3.5%
Richmond	4.8%
Rockland	3.0%
St. Lawrence	4.8%
Saratoga	2.9%
Schenectady	3.7%
Schoharie	4.3%
Schuyler	4.8%
Seneca	3.9%
Steuben	4.3%
Suffolk	3.4%
Sullivan	3.6%
Tioga	3.7%
Tompkins	3.4%
Ulster	3.5%
Warren	4.2%
Washington	3.6%
Wayne	3.6%
Westchester	3.1%
Wyoming	4.3%
Yates	3.9%

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Employed, Unemployed, and Rate of Unemployment by Place of Residence For New York State and Major Labor Areas, December 2025

(Numbers in thousands, not seasonally adjusted)

AREA/COUNTY	EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)		
	Dec. 2025	Dec. 2024	Net Change	Dec. 2025	Dec. 2024	Net Change	Dec. 2025	Dec. 2024	Net Change
United States	163,720	161,294	+2,426	7,003	6,452	+551	4.1	3.8	+0.3
New York State	9,543.4	9,353.5	+189.9	435.4	407.7	+27.7	4.4	4.2	+0.2
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	447.2	435.1	+12.0	15.2	13.9	+1.3	3.3	3.1	+0.2
Albany	158.0	153.8	+4.3	5.4	4.8	+0.5	3.3	3.1	+0.2
Rensselaer	78.3	76.2	+2.1	2.8	2.5	+0.3	3.5	3.2	+0.3
Saratoga	122.4	119.2	+3.2	3.6	3.4	+0.2	2.9	2.8	+0.1
Schenectady	74.8	72.7	+2.1	2.8	2.6	+0.2	3.7	3.5	+0.2
Schoharie	13.6	13.2	+0.4	0.6	0.5	+0.1	4.3	3.9	+0.4
Binghamton	103.8	101.0	+2.7	4.5	4.1	+0.4	4.1	3.9	+0.2
Broome	82.5	80.4	+2.2	3.6	3.3	+0.3	4.2	3.9	+0.3
Tioga	21.3	20.7	+0.6	0.8	0.8	+0.1	3.7	3.5	+0.2
Buffalo-Cheektowaga	543.3	528.7	+14.6	22.6	21.4	+1.2	4.0	3.9	+0.1
Erie	447.4	435.4	+12.0	18.2	17.3	+0.9	3.9	3.8	+0.1
Niagara	95.9	93.2	+2.6	4.4	4.2	+0.3	4.4	4.3	+0.1
Elmira (Chemung)	34.0	33.4	+0.7	1.3	1.3	+0.1	3.7	3.7	0.0
Glens Falls	56.4	55.4	+0.9	2.3	2.1	+0.2	3.9	3.6	+0.3
Warren	30.0	29.5	+0.5	1.3	1.2	+0.1	4.2	3.9	+0.3
Washington	26.4	25.9	+0.5	1.0	0.9	+0.1	3.6	3.2	+0.4
Ithaca (Tompkins)	47.6	46.5	+1.1	1.7	1.5	+0.2	3.4	3.1	+0.3
Kingston (Ulster)	84.6	83.3	+1.3	3.1	2.8	+0.3	3.5	3.2	+0.3
Kiryas Joel-Poughkeepsie-Newburgh	331.6	325.4	+6.2	11.7	10.8	+1.0	3.4	3.2	+0.2
Dutchess	148.1	145.4	+2.7	4.8	4.4	+0.4	3.2	3.0	+0.2
Orange	183.5	180.0	+3.4	6.9	6.3	+0.6	3.6	3.4	+0.2
Nassau-Suffolk	1,456.6	1,427.8	+28.8	48.8	45.8	+2.9	3.2	3.1	+0.1
Nassau	685.1	671.7	+13.5	21.8	20.5	+1.3	3.1	3.0	+0.1
Suffolk	771.5	756.1	+15.4	26.9	25.3	+1.6	3.4	3.2	+0.2
New York City	4,137.3	4,065.3	+72.0	236.8	224.5	+12.3	5.4	5.2	+0.2
Bronx	576.4	566.0	+10.4	46.0	42.4	+3.6	7.4	7.0	+0.4
Kings	1,269.3	1,247.2	+22.0	73.9	70.8	+3.1	5.5	5.4	+0.1
New York	907.7	892.2	+15.4	46.4	44.5	+1.9	4.9	4.7	+0.2
Queens	1,146.8	1,127.1	+19.7	58.7	55.6	+3.0	4.9	4.7	+0.2
Richmond	237.1	232.7	+4.4	11.9	11.2	+0.6	4.8	4.6	+0.2
Rochester	498.3	488.9	+9.4	19.2	17.4	+1.8	3.7	3.4	+0.3
Livingston	28.1	27.5	+0.6	1.1	1.1	+0.1	3.9	3.7	+0.2
Monroe	357.2	350.7	+6.5	13.8	12.5	+1.3	3.7	3.4	+0.3
Ontario	53.0	52.0	+1.0	1.9	1.7	+0.2	3.5	3.2	+0.3
Orleans	17.3	16.9	+0.4	0.8	0.7	+0.1	4.3	3.9	+0.4
Wayne	42.7	41.8	+0.9	1.6	1.5	+0.1	3.6	3.4	+0.2
Syracuse	306.2	299.1	+7.1	12.0	10.6	+1.3	3.8	3.4	+0.4
Madison	30.5	29.7	+0.8	1.3	1.1	+0.2	4.1	3.7	+0.4
Onondaga	222.6	217.4	+5.1	8.2	7.3	+0.9	3.5	3.2	+0.3
Oswego	53.1	51.9	+1.2	2.5	2.2	+0.3	4.5	4.1	+0.4
Utica-Rome	123.3	119.8	+3.4	5.1	4.6	+0.5	4.0	3.7	+0.3
Herkimer	26.6	25.8	+0.8	1.2	1.1	+0.2	4.4	4.0	+0.4
Oneida	96.7	94.0	+2.7	3.8	3.5	+0.3	3.8	3.6	+0.2
Watertown-Fort Drum (Jefferson)	42.9	41.9	+1.0	2.2	2.0	+0.2	4.8	4.5	+0.3

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.

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Employed, Unemployed, and Rate of Unemployment by Place of Residence For Counties Not Within Major Labor Areas, December 2025

(Numbers in thousands, not seasonally adjusted)

AREA/COUNTY	EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)		
	Dec. 2025	Dec. 2024	Net Change	Dec. 2025	Dec. 2024	Net Change	Dec. 2025	Dec. 2024	Net Change
Allegany	18.7	18.1	+0.7	1.0	0.8	+0.1	4.9	4.3	+0.6
Cattaraugus	31.7	30.8	+0.9	1.5	1.3	+0.2	4.5	4.1	+0.4
Cayuga	33.5	32.6	+0.9	1.3	1.2	0.0	3.6	3.6	0.0
Chautauqua	50.5	50.0	+0.4	2.5	2.2	+0.3	4.7	4.2	+0.5
Chenango	20.6	19.9	+0.7	0.8	0.7	+0.1	3.8	3.5	+0.3
Clinton	32.9	32.4	+0.5	1.3	1.3	0.0	3.8	3.7	+0.1
Columbia	28.4	27.7	+0.7	0.9	0.8	+0.1	3.2	2.9	+0.3
Cortland	21.1	20.3	+0.7	1.1	0.9	+0.1	4.8	4.3	+0.5
Delaware	17.8	17.7	+0.2	0.8	0.7	+0.1	4.3	3.9	+0.4
Essex	16.9	16.3	+0.6	0.7	0.6	+0.1	4.0	3.5	+0.5
Franklin	17.4	17.2	+0.2	0.8	0.7	+0.1	4.2	3.7	+0.5
Fulton	23.3	22.9	+0.4	1.0	0.9	+0.1	4.3	3.9	+0.4
Genesee	28.6	27.9	+0.8	1.1	1.0	+0.1	3.5	3.4	+0.1
Greene	20.7	20.3	+0.5	0.8	0.7	+0.1	3.7	3.4	+0.3
Hamilton	1.8	1.9	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	6.6	6.1	+0.5
Lewis	11.9	11.6	+0.3	0.6	0.5	+0.1	4.8	4.3	+0.5
Montgomery	21.6	21.2	+0.4	1.0	0.9	+0.1	4.5	4.1	+0.4
Otsego	25.4	24.7	+0.7	1.2	1.0	+0.2	4.6	4.1	+0.5
Putnam	54.1	52.9	+1.2	1.6	1.5	+0.1	2.8	2.8	0.0
Rockland	160.9	157.3	+3.6	4.9	4.6	+0.3	3.0	2.8	+0.2
St. Lawrence	39.6	39.1	+0.5	2.0	1.8	+0.2	4.8	4.5	+0.3
Schuyler	7.7	7.5	+0.2	0.4	0.4	0.0	4.8	4.7	+0.1
Seneca	13.3	13.0	+0.2	0.5	0.5	0.0	3.9	3.7	+0.2
Steuben	37.4	37.2	+0.2	1.7	1.5	+0.1	4.3	3.9	+0.4
Sullivan	36.6	34.9	+1.7	1.4	1.2	+0.2	3.6	3.3	+0.3
Westchester	530.6	518.8	+11.8	16.9	15.8	+1.1	3.1	3.0	+0.1
Wyoming	17.4	16.9	+0.5	0.8	0.7	+0.1	4.3	4.1	+0.2
Yates	10.1	10.9	-0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0	3.9	3.4	+0.5

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.

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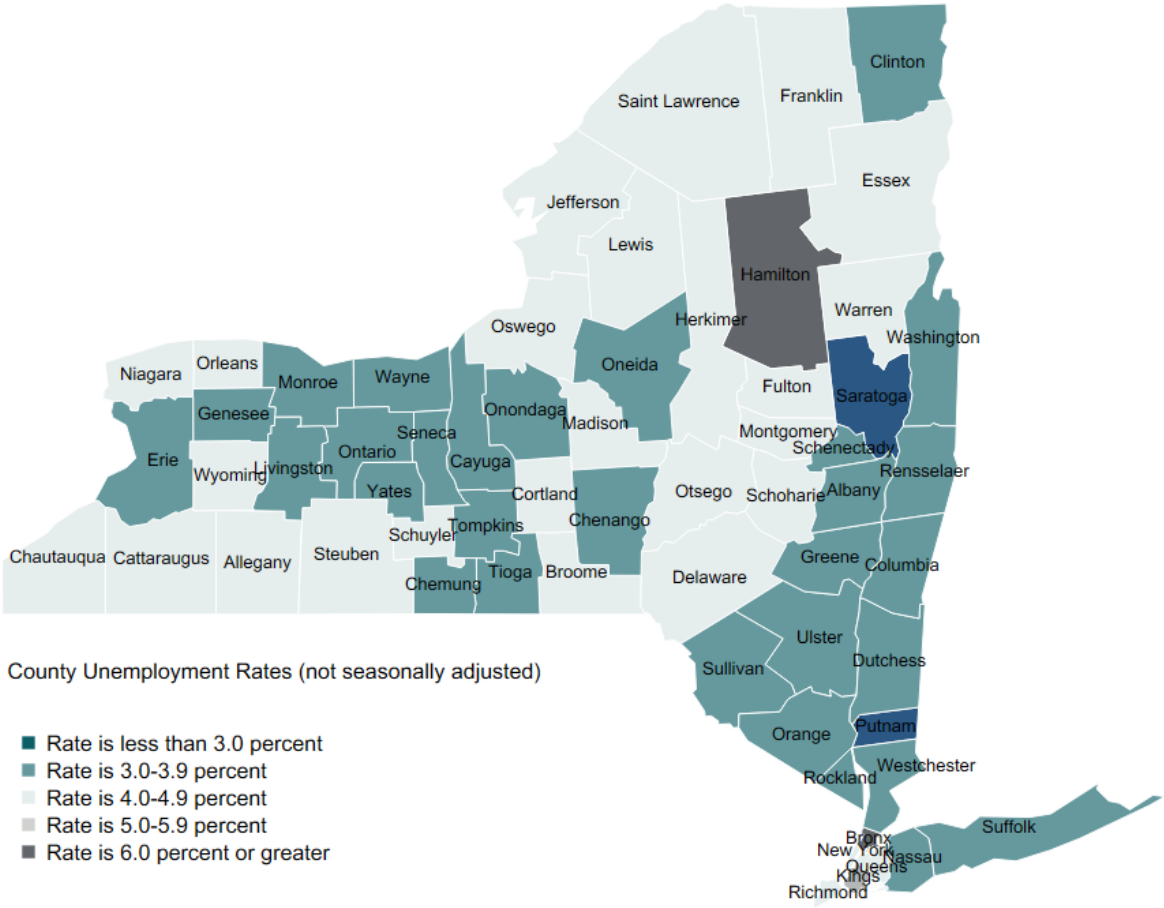
Unemployment Rates by County, New York State, December 2025



New York State's unemployment rate is 4.4%

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Jobs and Unemployment 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 substate 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, samples 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.