



STATE OF NEW YORK

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GOVERNOR

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Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to the readership of the 2003 New York State Statistical Yearbook.

The Empire State has one of the world's most extensive systems of government and public services that meets the needs of a large and diverse population. Changing demographics continue to influence growth patterns in communities across this State and it is important to monitor these dynamics.

Through the cooperative work of State agencies and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, information contained in the Statistical Yearbook reflects shifts in population, and trends related to the economy, employment, education and other areas. This annual publication is a valuable research tool used by individuals working in the public and private sectors who rely on accurate data about our State. For comparative purposes, many facts and figures are listed according to borough, county and local municipality, and data for all 50 states allows for a comparison of New York to the rest of the nation.

The Yearbook also provides a comprehensive guide to programs and services of State agencies and remains a standard among professionals and students of government. I would like to thank all those involved in the production of this excellent reference book.

Very truly yours,

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