



STATE OF NEW YORK

GEORGE E. PATAKI
GOVERNOR

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Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to welcome all to the 31st edition the *New York State Statistical Yearbook*, and to congratulate everyone involved in the production of this excellent reference book.

Many individuals working in the public and private sectors rely on accurate data about our State to perform their jobs well. Changing demographics influence the dynamics of life in communities across the Empire State and it is important to follow these trends as many areas experience new growth and development.

An efficient system of government and public services also continues to meet the needs of our large and diverse population, and ensures future improvements in the quality of life. While the search for regional information can be time consuming and difficult, the *New York State Statistical Yearbook* provides a reliable source of facts and figures listed according to borough, county and local municipality. Much of the same information for other states allows for a comparison of New York to the rest of the nation.

For more than three decades, this valuable compendium of current statistics has been made available through the cooperative work of State agencies and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, with each yearly edition reflecting shifts in population and changes in economy, employment, education and other areas. Such a useful research tool not only remains a standard among working professionals, but also among students preparing to enter the job market who want to be fully informed and educated about our State and its population.

I have had the privilege of serving as Governor of this wonderful State for the past 12 years, and I applaud all who work in the field of government and public service, and who furthermore take an interest in maintaining those resources that help others perform their important work on behalf of the greater New York public.

Best wishes for continued success to all of the readers and contributors to the Yearbook.

Very truly yours,

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