
Introduction

This is the 33rd edition of the *New York State Statistical Yearbook*, which the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government publishes annually in cooperation with the Office of the Governor and the Division of the Budget.

In times of fiscal difficulty, citizens and public officials may wish more than ever to understand clearly the economic and social environment in which state government operates, and the nature of the government itself. Leaders in New York and elsewhere are increasingly using statistics such as those in this book to assess their challenges and performance in areas such as the economy, education, health, transportation, public protection, and environmental conservation.

Online search tools bring a world of data to the desktop, but may not help users make sense of all the numbers. Many citizens, students of government, and public officials find a compendium such as this an essential research assistant and the best, quickest way to update a particular fact or trend noted in previous editions. Each table and figure provides a source — most often, a New York State agency — which can lead the reader to further sources of valuable information online. Users may direct any questions regarding information contained in the tables to the contact person at the source agency. These individuals are listed in the directory of state agencies in the Appendix.

Similar to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, this *Yearbook* is organized into chapters focusing on specific topics or governmental functions. Where possible, the tables

provide data for each of the state's 62 counties, including the five boroughs of New York City. Standard abbreviations and symbols used throughout the book are explained on page vii. Specialized terms and abbreviations are contained in the glossaries found at the end of most sections.

The *Yearbook* is published in hard copy for subscribers, libraries, state officials, and select friends of the Rockefeller Institute. To view the *Yearbook* contents online or learn about other Institute activities, visit our website at www.rockinst.org.

The *New York State Statistical Yearbook* is made possible through the highly professional work of experts in dozens of state agencies who prepare and share key data, work with Institute staff, and answer our questions in preparation for publication. Special recognition is due to Michael Cooper, the Rockefeller Institute's Director of Publications, as well as Michele Charbonneau and Irene Pavone, all of whom spent many hours developing and producing this edition of the *Yearbook*.

We invite users to suggest additions and modifications at any time by contacting Michael Cooper at cooperm@rockinst.org. We hope you enjoy using this edition of the *New York State Statistical Yearbook*.

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