

## TRUMP TAX RETURNS

# What Court's Rulings Mean

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## CORONAVIRUS | TRACKING LI'S RECOVERY

EXCLUSIVE

# HOW LI HALTED VIRUS

- Former hot spot has one of lowest infection rates in U.S.
- Experts warn drop in precautions could cause future outbreak

A2-5 | VIDEO, UPDATES AT [NEWSDAY.COM](https://www.newsday.com)



HOWARD SCHNAPP

Widespread testing at sites like this one in Westbury in May helped in the fight, experts say.

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 INSIDE TODAY'S NEWSDAY

**CORONAVIRUS | TRACKING LI'S RECOVERY**
**WATCHDOG**

# NEW REPORT: LI WILL LOSE 28% OF JOBS

Net loss of up to 375G positions by end of year

BY JAMES T. MADORE  
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Long Island could lose up to 28% of its jobs by Dec. 31 because of the coronavirus and subsequent economic shutdown, according to a report released Thursday.

The estimated net loss of up to 375,000 jobs stems from businesses never reopening, and from many of those that do reopen not being able to recall all the workers who were laid off or furloughed. The state Department of Labor reports that the Island had about 1.3 million non-farm jobs last year.

About 270,000 people were laid off in Nassau and Suffolk

counties in March and April, the height of the pandemic; only 48,000 jobs were recouped in May. The pink slips were most prevalent among low-wage employees, those with a high school diploma or less, and Hispanics — because those groups are represented in the hardest-hit industries: restaurants/hotels, health care/social services and retail, the report states.

The coronavirus employment losses will mean less economic activity on Long Island — down an estimated \$61 billion this year, the report projects. That would represent about 38% of the gross domestic product, the sum of all goods and services produced.

Consumer spending accounted for about 70% of Long Island's 2018 GDP of \$162.4 billion, according to the most recent data from the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis.

"Earnings and spending losses may be even greater in

## Long Islanders filed 700 fewer

BY VICTOR OCASIO  
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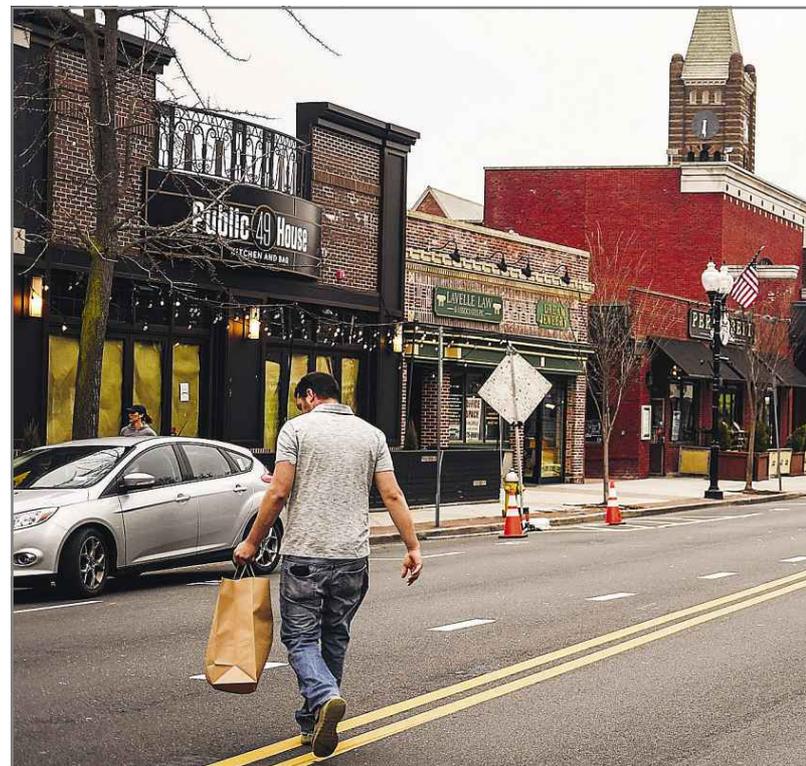
More than 10,500 Long Islanders filed jobless claims last week, a decrease of more than 700 claims from the week prior, state data released Thursday shows.

Since the start of the health crisis, more than 407,000 Islanders have made initial unemployment claims, according to Labor Department reporting. Statewide, more than 3 million New Yorkers have sought jobless aid since the week ended

March 14.

John A. Rizzo, chief economist for the Long Island Association business group, said the new numbers show "a flattening" in the number of new initial claims, and he said he is hopeful that as the region's reopening continues, fewer claims will be made weekly.

During the most recent week, 10,562 Islanders filed for unemployment, compared with 11,276 the week ended June 27; 10,873 the week ended June 20; and 11,742 claims the week ended June 13.



A desolate Main Street in Patchogue as the virus forced numerous

2021 owing to prolonged recovery within some sectors coupled with expiring unemployment benefits," said the report's author, HR & A Advisors, an economic development consulting firm in Manhattan.

The leader of the HIA-LI, one of Long Island's largest business organizations, agreed, saying business owners are reluctant to invest in buildings, equipment and people until a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available.

"The report's numbers are spot on," said Joe Campolo, a business law attorney and chairman of the group formerly called the Hauppauge Industrial Association. "Right now, businesses don't know if they're going to make it. Until there's a vaccine,

**U.S. unemployment claims fall, but concerns linger** A29

we're going to be hurting," he said on Thursday.

The counties commissioned the 99-page report in April to bolster their lobbying for additional federal and state aid. HR & A consultants estimated the 2020 revenue loss for Nassau is \$360 million and for Suffolk, \$325 million. Both are expected to see big drops in sales-tax collections.

"With the fastest rise of unemployment on record leading to a complete fall off of economic activity, this report further outlines the stark reality of our local economy," Nassau County Executive

The region hit the peak of unemployment claims the week ended April 11, with 59,526 claims.

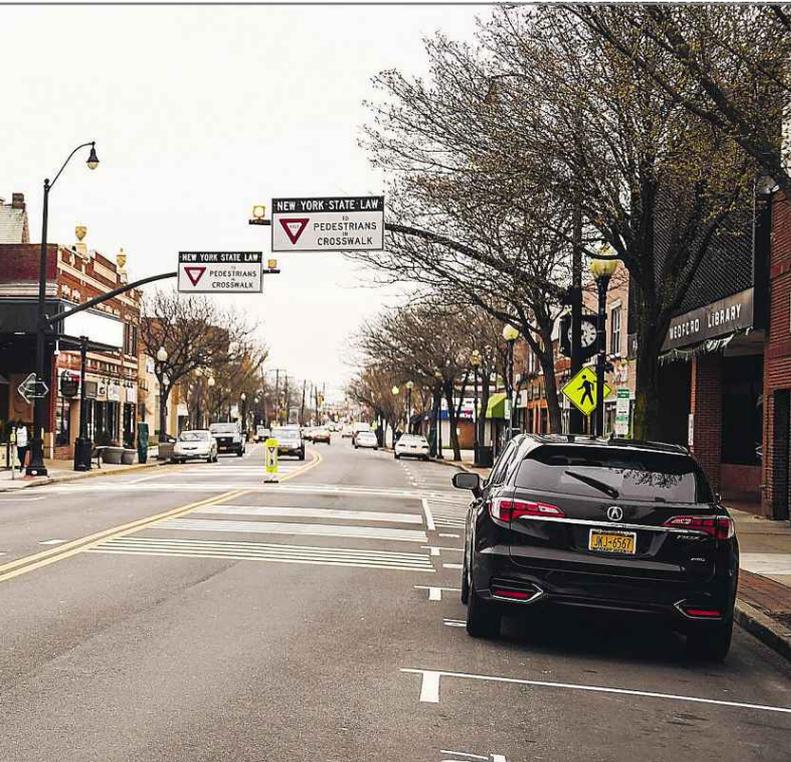
"As we continue to reopen, these numbers should be getting better," Rizzo said. "We're just starting Phase 4. I would think that next week and the week after we could maybe expect some small improvements."

In Nassau County, 5,208 Islanders filed unemployment claims last week, down from the 5,531 county residents who filed a week before. Claims in

Suffolk also saw a week-to-week decline, dropping to 5,354 claims last week from 5,745 claims the previous week.

While Rizzo said he believes the Island's phased reopening is being handled correctly, he said it's hard to say whether the progress can be maintained long-term without a vaccine.

"It remains to be seen if we can stay in Phase 4," he said. "Even if we're doing OK with Phase 4, we probably won't be able to be completely open and confident until we have some



NEWSDAY / STEVE PROST

## JOB LOSSES

The consulting firm HR & A Advisors in Manhattan, in a report for Long Island's county governments, estimated a net loss of **375,000** jobs this year due to the coronavirus pandemic and economic shutdown. That's **28%** of all nonfarm jobs in the region.

## PERMANENT LOSSES:

- **5%** of jobs in finance, insurance, professional and technical services, government and information.
- **15%** of jobs in real estate, retail, waste services, agriculture, construction, utilities, education, health care and social services, manufacturing, trade and other services.
- **25%** of jobs in hotels and motels, restaurants and other food service, transportation, warehouses, arts, entertainment and recreation.

SOURCES: "NASSAU + SUFFOLK COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT" REPORT BY HR & A ADVISORS

businesses to close in late March. ■ Video: [newsday.com/business](https://www.newsday.com/business)

## Joe Biden unveils comprehensive economic plan **A34**

Laura Curran said in releasing the report with Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. "We cannot recover from this devastating crisis alone — Washington needs to step in now with support," she said.

Curran and others pointed to the report's finding that Hispanics experienced a disproportionate share of layoffs because of their strong representation on the payrolls of tourism and hospitality businesses.

For example, restaurants, hotels and other hospitality businesses shed about 65,000 jobs in

the pandemic's first two months, or two thirds of the sector's total work force. And Hispanics make up 27% of the sector's work force, the report states.

"This pandemic has caused hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders to lose their jobs, shuttered businesses, and turned our local economy upside down," Bellone said. "This economic devastation will be extended for more than a decade if the federal government doesn't provide disaster aid to our region."

The report predicts it will take two years for restaurants, hotels, tourist attractions, warehouses, recreation businesses and arts organizations to rebound, and even then they will

have 25% fewer employees than before the virus struck.

Faring somewhat better, with a recovery period of one year, is a group that includes real estate agents, retail stores, farms, construction, utilities, health care, education, manufacturing and trade companies. Still, 15% of those jobs will be permanently lost, the report states.

The quickest recovery — six months — will occur in the sector that includes finance, insurance, information, professional and technical services, and government, with only a 5% reduction in total employment.

The report, costing up to \$130,000, was paid for by the counties' industrial development agencies using fees collected from developers.

# jobless claims last week

kind of a vaccine or better therapies."

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the region's recovery, Rob Basso, chief executive of Associated Human Capital Management in Plainview, which handles payroll and HR functions for about 1,000 small and mid-size firms, said he has reasons to be optimistic.

"I do not think that the picture is doom and gloom," Basso said.

Looking at payroll data compiled from his primarily tristate

business clients, Basso said that his average client printed 21 paychecks in January, and that after the COVID-19 outbreak in the state, the average number of checks dropped by almost 15%, to 18, as companies began furloughing and laying off workers.

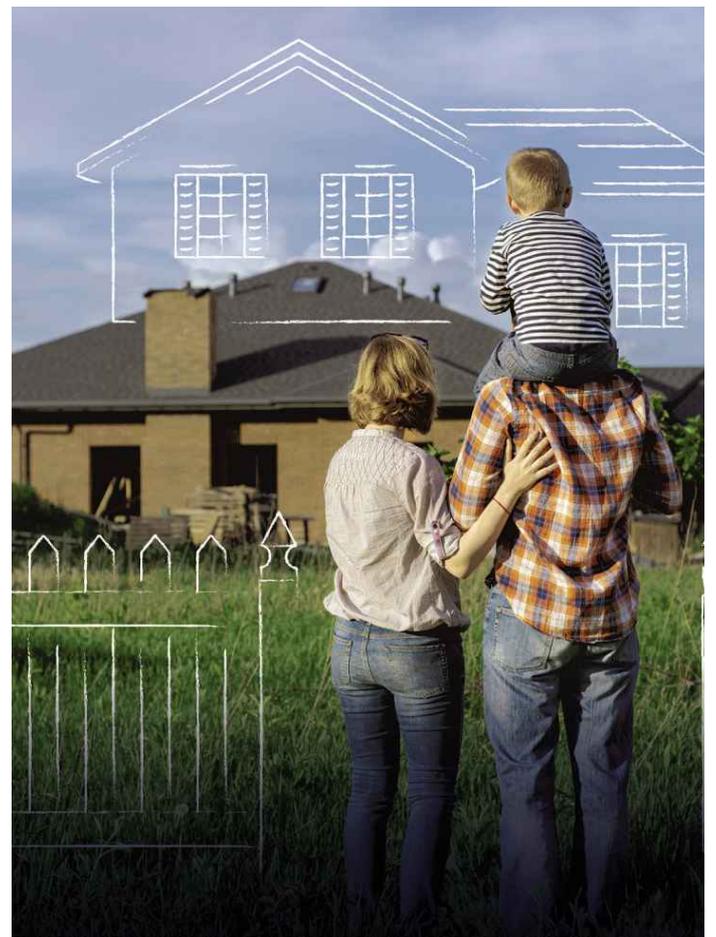
In the last month-and-a-half, coinciding with local reopening efforts, the average number of payroll checks is up to 19, he said.

"That means that 5% has been gained back," Basso said. "I think that the unemployment

numbers don't show the absolute true story, not to take away from the people who are hurting. . . . I think the fall is going to get even better."

Additionally, Basso said, of the roughly 15% of his clients who shut down business operations earlier in the pandemic, only 5% remain unopened, largely represented by "ultra-small" firms in industries like hospitality.

"Entrepreneurs will survive," he said. "We're on the mend, at least in the New York area."



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