



Office of the NEW YORK STATE  
**COMPTROLLER**

## Fiscal Stress Monitoring

### System Enhancements For Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages

The following tables summarize enhancements to the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System. These changes apply to all scores calculated using 2017 fiscal year end data and later (first release in January, 2018). In general, the modifications to the financial indicators are limited in scope. The environmental indicator enhancements are more extensive, improving the accessibility of this data for the public while preserving the original concepts.

Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages (CCTV) Financial Indicators For Fiscal Stress Scoring	
Critical Area	Description of Change
Fund Balance	<b>Indicator 1:</b> Remove the combined funds points for assigned and unassigned fund balance, and instead allot points when a CCTV has less than or equal to 0% assigned and unassigned fund balance in its general fund. <b>Indicator 2:</b> Remove the combined funds points for total fund balance, and instead allot points when a CCTV has less than or equal to 0% total fund balance in its general fund.
Operating Deficit	<b>Indicator 3:</b> Remove the points for a single large deficit in the current fiscal year.
Short-Term Cash Flow Borrowing	<b>Indicator 7:</b> Remove the points for issuance of a budget note in the current fiscal year.

For more details about the System, see the Fiscal Stress Monitoring System webpage.

[www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm)

## Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages (CCTV) Environmental Indicators For Environmental Stress Scoring

Concept	Original System	Enhanced System	Reason for Change
<b>Population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in Population, 1990 to 2010</li> <li>Stress Condition: Persistent population decline—occurring for two consecutive decades, or if population declined in most recent decade</li> <li>Source: Decennial Census</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage Change in Population (5-year change)</li> <li>Stress Condition: Population is declining</li> <li>Source: Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shifted to current trend to be more leading/predictive</li> <li>Population Estimates are available annually.</li> <li>The Census Population Estimates Program is the official source for years between censuses.</li> </ul>
<b>Poverty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Poverty Rate 2010</li> <li>Change in Child Poverty Rate, 2000 to 2010</li> <li>Stress Condition: The rate of poverty is above statewide average or has increased.</li> <li>Source: Decennial Census and American Community Survey (ACS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of Households with Public Assistance</li> <li>Stress Condition: Number of households receiving public assistance is greater than 20 percent</li> <li>Source: ACS, U.S. Census Bureau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACS estimates are available annually.</li> <li>Percentage of public assistance households is more indicative of fiscal stress than child poverty rate.</li> <li>Focus on current poverty rates, not on trends</li> </ul>
<b>Age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in Median Age of Population, 2000 to 2010</li> <li>Median Age of Population, 2010</li> <li>Stress Condition: Median age is increasing by more than 15 percent, or median age is greater than or equal to 50</li> <li>Source: Decennial Census</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of Population Under 18 and 65 Years and Over</li> <li>Stress Condition: Population that is not of working age is greater than 45 percent</li> <li>Source: ACS, U.S. Census Bureau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACS estimates are available annually.</li> <li>Percentage captures the underlying concept better than a median</li> </ul>
<b>Tax Base</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage Change in Full Value (Average of Year-over-Year Change)</li> <li>Stress Condition: Property values declining by 1 percent or more over time</li> <li>Source: OSC, Constitutional Tax Limit (CTL) filings and Tax Data Verification forms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage Change in Median Home Value (5-Year change)</li> <li>Stress Condition: Median home value declining or growing slower than inflation</li> <li>Source: ACS, U.S. Census Bureau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACS estimates are available for most municipalities.</li> <li>Eliminates problems with missing data</li> </ul>
<b>Ability to Pay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property Value per Capita</li> <li>Stress Condition: Property value per capita is less than or equal to \$30,000</li> <li>Source: OSC, CTL filings and Tax Data Verification forms; U.S. Census Bureau - Decennial Census</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Median Household Income</li> <li>Stress Condition: Income is low relative to the Federal Poverty Line</li> <li>Source: ACS, U.S. Census Bureau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACS estimates are available for most municipalities.</li> <li>Self-reported data, income may be more accurate than home value</li> </ul>

## Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages (CCTV) Environmental Indicators For Environmental Stress Scoring

Concept	Original System	Enhanced System	Reason for Change
<b>Labor Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment Rate</li> <li>Change in Unemployment Rate</li> <li>Change in Total Jobs in County</li> <li>Stress Condition: Above average or increasing unemployment, or declining jobs</li> <li>Source: New York State Department of Labor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment Rate</li> <li>Stress Condition: Unemployment rate is greater than 8 percent</li> <li>Source: ACS, U.S. Census Bureau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACS estimates are available for most municipalities.</li> </ul>
<b>State and Federal Revenue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and Federal Aid as a Percentage of Total Revenue (4-Year Average)</li> <li>Change in State and Federal Aid (Over Prior Year)</li> <li>Stress Condition: Heavy reliance on State and Federal Aid, or decrease in the amount of State and Federal Aid</li> <li>Source: OSC, Annual Financial Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and Federal Aid as a Percentage of Total Revenue (3-Year Average)</li> <li>Stress Condition: State and Federal Aid exceeds 15 percent of revenue</li> <li>Source: OSC, Annual Financial Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-year period more consistent with fiscal scoring</li> <li>New threshold captures the stress condition more accurately</li> </ul>
<b>CCTV Environmental Indicators Removed</b>			
<b>Constitutional Tax Limit (CTL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of Tax Limit Exhausted in Latest Year</li> <li>Stress Condition: Close proximity to the tax limit</li> <li>Source: OSC, (CTL) filings</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not apply to all local governments</li> <li>Localities that are approaching their limit are monitored and highlighted as part of our CTL process.</li> <li>If a local government does not file the CTL form, the value is missing.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic – Change in Sales Tax Receipts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage Change in Sales Tax Collections (Over Prior Year)</li> <li>Stress Condition: Sales tax revenue growth is below Consumer Price Index or declining</li> <li>Source: New York State Department of Taxation and Finance</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only applies to counties</li> <li>OSC monitors sales tax and reports on this separately.</li> </ul>



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