

## **Empire State Development Empire Zones Program**

### **General Description**

Empire State Development compiles data from Empire Zone certified businesses' submission of Business Annual Reports (BAR). Certified businesses must report jobs, investments, tax credits used, and sales tax refunds related to the Empire Zones Program each year in order to remain certified in the Program.

### **Data Collection Methodology**

The dataset includes information statutorily required and submitted to Empire State Development on an annual basis. Each certified business submits the required information which is then reviewed by the local Empire Zone administrator on behalf of the local municipality. Empire State Development maintains a database with this information.

### **Statistical and Analytic Issues**

The dataset is updated annually with the completion of Business Annual Reports. Because businesses submit the data in the year following completion of their tax returns, there is a two year time lag between the report year and the year in which the data is publicly available. For example, businesses complete their tax returns in 2014 for 2013 data. The Business Annual Reports for 2013 are due in 2015.

### **Limitations of Data Use**

The data presented reflects the information provided by Empire Zone certified businesses in their Business Annual Reports based upon their tax return filings and does not account for subsequent Department of Taxation and Finance audits reducing a business' tax credit claims, or amended tax return filings that may occur after the Business Annual Report is submitted. Therefore, the information contained in the dataset may not always reflect the actual tax credits received by a business.