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Unemployment is up, and job losses are trickling down from Wall Street into securities and employment services jobs.

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A crisis is a terrible thing to waste. The economic downturn has inspired some legislators to put a renewed focus on funding workforce development: particularly sector-based strategies, youth, and dislocated workers.

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New studies show we are an uneducated society in the midst of a crumbling economy. No wonder the youth employment rates are the lowest in six decades.

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The new website *Work Wonk* gets us in touch with our inner workforce development nerd (like we needed more encouraging).

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Reports. Cliff notes on the reports that shape us.

New York at a Glance

Unemployment Rate In New York City

The unemployment rate is determined by the number of individuals *actively* seeking work. Here are the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for 2007—2008:

Month 2007— 2008	NYC	US
June	5.3%	4.5%
July	5.7%	4.6%
August	5.7%	4.6%
September	5.1%	4.7%
October	5.3%	4.7%
November	5.1%	4.7%
December	5.1%	5.0%
January (2008)	5.7%	4.9%
February (2008)	4.1%	4.8%
March (2008)	4.5%	5.1%
April (2008)	4.7%	5.0%
May (2008)	5.2%	5.5%
June (2008)	5.4%	5.5%

Sectors Losing Jobs in New York City

With layoffs mounting on Wall Street, it is no surprise that the securities industry recorded the largest job losses in the city during the first half of the year, according to Eastern Consolidated.

Sector	Jobs Lost during First Half of 2008
Securities and Related	-6,900
Employment Services	-2,700
Federal Government	-2,100
Apparel Manufacturing	-1,800
Management Consulting	-1,200
Local Government	-800
Publishing	-400
Telecommunications	-300

Legislative Updates

Paterson Sees Fiscal Crisis. Sounding the alarm over the state's worsening fiscal situation, Gov. David Paterson last night gave a brief -- and unusual -- television address to announce that he would call the legislature back to Albany on August 19 to deal with the budget crunch. To confront the crunch, he said, the government must do "more with less" and said he would look at austerity measures such as reductions in the state workforce and spending cuts. [More.](#)

Legislative Updates

Weiner Releases Manifesto for Middle Class. The games have begun, with Weiner recently releasing his manifesto for “Keeping New York the Capital of the Middle Class.” The gesture sounds great, but with no mention of training or workforce development in any of the documents 19 pages, advocates fear for the road ahead. [More.](#)

Councilmember DeBlasio Introduces Resolution to improve upon ACS’ Project Full Enrollment. The resolution calls for ACS to develop (i) a written procedure to be followed before closing centers; (ii) a searchable database for locating centers on ACS’s website; (iii) a centralized city waiting list; (iv) a system for reevaluating enrollment and capacity numbers; and (v) a report detailing monthly attendance and enrollment figures citywide for subsidized childcare for the last two calendar years. *Welfare Reform Network Newsletter.*

Governor’s Economic Security Cabinet Concludes Tour. The Cabinet under Paterson has been charged with two focus areas: strengthening the workforce development system, and streamlining access to and coordination of benefits programs. The Town Hall meetings were designed to give advocates and practitioners an opportunity to share their ideas about how the state can meet these two goals. [More.](#) OBT testified at the Brooklyn town hall and encouraged the state to develop a state-funded Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP). To read OBT’s testimony, click [here.](#)

Senator Byrd Includes \$500 million training in Second Stimulus Package. Half of the funding would be designated for disconnected youth, the other half would be designated for dislocated workers. Funding for youth employment services has been cut by an astounding 33 percent (\$454 million) since 2001. This funding signifies that finally, federal legislators have woken up and smelled the recession’s impact on youth. If the stimulus package passes, it won’t happen until September when legislators return to the hill.

SECTORS Act Prepares Middle-skill Workers for High Demand Jobs. If passed, the SECTORS Act will help prepare workers for middle-skill jobs by providing grants for sector partnerships that create customized solutions for specific high-demand industries at the regional level. The Act would represent the first Congressionally authorized investment in sector partnerships and would create new, unique capacity within the federal workforce development system (through the Workforce Investment Act). [More](#), [more](#), and [more.](#)

In the News

Alleviating Poverty doesn’t have to be Expensive. David R. Jones, president of the Community Service Society, talks about cheap ways that government can cut poor folks some slack, even in these times of economic crisis. [More.](#)

Foreclosures on the Rise. Foreclosures in the city were up 67 percent in July compared to the same month last year as me loans and a cooling economy scalded homeowners. In Brooklyn, they are up 63% for the same time period. While these numbers are dangerously high for New York, they are little compared to what the rest of the country is going through. [More.](#) To combat foreclosure, Paterson recently signed a bill that allows homeowners an additional 90 days to save their homes from foreclosure. [More.](#)

Skills Gap gets Wider as Population is less Educated. The NYTimes Op-Ed discusses how educational attainments have been stagnant in the US since 1975, and how the widening gap between the high and low skilled workers is threatening our nation’s future. [More.](#)

Black Male Graduation Rates are Terribly Low. According to a recent study, just 32 percent of black males graduated on time from New York city high schools in 2006 - compared to 57 percent of the city’s white students - ranking the city 54th of the 63 large school districts surveyed. [More.](#)

Jobless Rate for Youths Is Highest In Six Decades. Seriously, six *decades.* Young adults seeking low-skill service jobs for the summer must contend with older, laid-off workers, illegal immigrants and college graduates who cannot find work in their fields, as well as with cuts in federal summer jobs programs. [More.](#)

On-line Resources

Work Wonk. Work Wonk is a news and information aggregator, presenting stories from across the country and the world on best practices, challenges, and trends in workforce development. [More.](#)

Jobs to Build On Web Portal. Jobs to Build On, a project of the Consortium for Worker Education, released its new web portal. [More.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Debt is Up, Gap Widens. Though this year's budget was successfully balanced, a new report by Comptroller William Thompson warns of burgeoning debt and large budget gaps in the coming years. Gaps as large as approximately \$5.7 billion could arrive by 2010. To address this, the report recommends the city establish a rainy day fund to address unexpected costs. [More.](#)

Opportunity Costs. Center for an Urban Future, July 2008. The report outlines the impact that cuts to the Immigrant Opportunity Initiative will have on the city. [More.](#)

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