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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
November (2007)	5.1%	4.7%
December (2007)	5.1%	5.0%
January	5.7%	4.9%
February	4.1%	4.8%
March	4.5%	5.1%
April	4.7%	5.0%
May	5.2%	5.5%
June	5.4%	5.5%
July	5.0%	5.7%
August	5.8%	6.1%
September	5.8%	6.1%
October	5.7%	6.5%
November	6.3%	6.8%

As the economy deteriorates, New York is catching up to the rest of the nation in job losses: the city's private sector employment fell by 17,000 over the last 12 months. [More.](#)

Legislative Updates

Obama Taps California Congresswoman Solis to Head Labor. Barack Obama has selected Los Angeles congresswoman Hilda Solis to run his Labor Department. Solis has pushed in Congress for more training for so-called green-collar jobs -- jobs that advance industries toward greater energy officials. In the California state Senate, she successfully advocated in 1996 to increase the state's minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.75 an hour. [More.](#)

Governor's Budget Proposes \$15 billion in Cuts, Taxes and Fees. Governor David Paterson today proposed a series of spending cuts and new fees and taxes to close a total \$15 billion gap in the State's budget this year and next. Human services programs were targeted for \$385 million in cuts while mental hygiene services will be cut by \$425 million. Proposals to increase revenues by \$3.1 billion focused on fees and sales tax increases in areas of excess such as sugary soft drinks, furs and boats to close the budget gap. [More](#) on the Gov's budget and [more](#) on the sales tax increases.

Mayor Calls for More Cuts. With the comptroller predicting a larger budget hold than initially expected and the state slashing city aid, Mayor Michael Bloomberg is ordering all city agencies to cut their budgets by an additional 7 percent for next year. The latest call for suggested reductions comes on top of a 2.5 percent cut this year and a 5 percent reduction previously ordered for next. Click [here](#) to see the comptroller's report, [here](#) to read about the state's cuts, and [here](#) to read about Bloomberg's cuts.

In the News

G.E.D. is only a Start. The New York Times profiles how the G.E.D. is becoming a gateway to college and other post-secondary pursuits. [More.](#)

In the News

Budget Cuts Spell Trouble for New York City Literacy Groups. Skyrocketing unemployment has city high school dropouts scrambling to get diplomas - only to find massive waiting lists for classes and cuts to vital literacy programs. About 28% of city residents who are 25 years and older don't have high school diplomas, Census data show, and they are among the most vulnerable victims of the economic meltdown.

[More.](#)

More New Yorkers join ranks of unemployed. In October, 70,000 New Yorkers were collecting unemployment benefits, a 37% increase from a year ago, the sharpest year-over-year increase since May 2002. [More.](#)

Those Who Lend a Hand Up Wouldn't Mind A Handout. In needy times, social services nonprofit leaders strategize about how to do even more with even less. [More.](#)

Jobs Up for Grabs. Sheila Maguire from Public Private Ventures argues that the skills mismatch require new investment in sector-based training. [More.](#)

Job Centers See Crush of People in Need. As the bottom falls out of the economy, the nation's lowest paid most unskilled workers are left scrambling. [More.](#)

Economy Claims Another Victim: Student Internships. If college students are having trouble securing internships, it's double trouble for disconnected youth. Luckily, programs like the Young Adult Internship Program help connect students with meaningful internships, even in this economic storm. As an added bonus businesses benefit too from the free labor. [More.](#)

New York State's Jobless Funds Are Drying Up. With unemployment claims reaching their highest levels in decades, states are running out of money to pay benefits, and some are turning to the federal government for loans or increasing taxes on businesses to make the payments. [More.](#)

Undocumented Worker: Embraced and Hunted. Although Bloomberg says our economy would collapse with them, undocumented workers are staying deeper and deeper under the radar in what used to be a sanctuary city. [More.](#)

In the Neighborhood

Best Western Comes to Sunset Park. One thing is sure, with OBT right across the street they won't have to worry about staffing. [More.](#)

The Mortgage Crisis Hits Hard in Bushwick. Boarded up houses signify high foreclosure rates. In 2006, they were 3.6%. Now experts project they have jumped even higher. [More.](#)

Gas in Greenpoint. In Greenpoint, toxic gases may be rising into their homes from below, the legacy of dry-cleaning plants, foundries and other manufacturers that once operated in this hub, which has long been home to immigrants and, more recently, artists and young professionals. [More.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Confronting the Housing Squeeze: Challenges Facing Immigrant Tenants, and What New York Can Do. Pratt Center for Community Development, with the New York Immigrant Housing Collaborative, December 2008. Immigrants living in New York City are faced with more housing problems than natives in most every respect, according to a new report by the Pratt Center for Community Development and the New York Immigrant Housing Collaborative. They put more of their income towards rent, are more likely to live in overcrowded and illegal dwellings, and have less access to affordable housing. Click [here](#) for the report and [here](#) to see an article about the report in Crain's.

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Measuring Up 2008. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The rest of the world may be bypassing the United States when it comes to postsecondary education, particularly when it comes to access and completion for low-income students and underrepresented minorities. These fast-growing populations will dominate a U.S. workforce that must compete in a global economy as better educated workers retire. The report says data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, comprising the world's most developed countries, show that between 2003 and 2006, the U.S. slipped from fifth to seventh in the percentage of adults ages 18–24 enrolled in college, and from seventh to 10th in the percentage of adults 25–34 holding an associate degree or higher. The report also offers [state-by-state report cards](#) on six key measures of educational performance: preparation for college, participation, affordability, completion, benefits and learning. For the full report, click [here](#).

New York City Unemployment in 2009: The Emerging Crisis. Fiscal Policy Institute. December 2008. As the national economy entered the downturn, New York City indicators held steady, but a new report indicates that the recession is clearly here in full force and labor market conditions are likely to deteriorate rapidly in the months ahead. The number of unemployed New York City residents could rise by 120,000 over the next year, escalating the hardships felt by tens of thousands of New York families and straining the social safety net. For the full report, visit [here](#).

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