

We at OBT would like to wish you a happy holiday season!

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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 2008-2009:

Month 2008-2009	NYC	US
October	5.7%	6.5%
November	6.3%	6.8%
December	7.4%	7.2%
January (2009)	6.9%	7.6%
February (2009)	8.1%	8.1%
March (2009)	8.1%	8.5%
April (2009)	8.0%	8.9%
May (2009)	8.9%	9.4%
June (2009)	9.5%	9.5%
July (2009)	9.6%	9.4%
August (2009)	10.2%	9.7%
September (2009)	10.3%	9.8%
October (2009)	10.3%	10.2%

Provided by the New York State Department of Labor

Although the city's unemployment rate stayed stable this month at 10.3%, the state unemployment rate inched up to 9%. State labor department officials say that's the highest level since April 1983. [More.](#)

## Legislative Updates

**Federal Youth and Job Funds Increase Slightly.** Additional funds were added to Career and Adult Education, YouthBuild, and Job Corps. New funding streams include the Career Pathways Innovation Fund (\$125m), Emerging Green Industries Training (\$50m), and Transitional Jobs Funding (\$30m).

## In the News

**Children Who Use Technology are More Confident Writers.** Children who blog, text or use social networking websites are more confident about their writing skills, according to the National Literacy Trust. A survey of 3,001 children found that 24% had their own blog and 82% sent text messages at least once a month. Of the children who did neither, 47% rated their writing as "good" or "very good", while 61% of the bloggers and 56% of the social networkers said the same. [More.](#)

**Demand for Emergency Food Increases Sharply.** The report from the office of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand shows a dramatic 55% rise in the need for emergency food relief statewide, and a 75% increase in New York City overall. The Bronx has seen a staggering 110% spike in the number of emergency meals provided to hungry residents in the past two years—the highest increase in the city—according to a recent report on hunger. [More.](#)

**US-born Hispanics: More Education and Job Advancement, but also more Social Problems.** The survey found the high school dropout rate among all Hispanic youths ages 16-24 was 17 percent, roughly three times higher than white youths and close to double the rate for black youths. But when looking only at second-generation Hispanics born in the U.S., the dropout rate falls to 8.5 percent, roughly the same as youths of all races. [More.](#)

## In the News

**Youth Prisons in Crisis.** According to a report from the state, New York's system of juvenile prisons is broken, with young people battling mental illness or addiction held alongside violent offenders in abysmal facilities where they receive little counseling, can be physically abused and rarely get even a basic education. [More.](#)

## In the Neighborhood

**Broadway Triangle One Step Closer.** The controversial rezoning plan for the Broadway Triangle moved another step closer to final approval with a 12-6 vote in its favor by the City Council Land Use Committee. [More.](#)

## Newly Released Studies and Reports

**A Close Look at the Dropout Crisis: Examining Black and Latino Males in New York City. NYU Steinhart, August 2009.** The report reveals startling statistics about drop-out rates among Black and Latino adolescents in New York City. Only roughly 44 percent of Black and Latino students in the city graduate after six years. Nearly one in five Latino males of the 2006-2007 graduating cohort of public school students dropped out, while approximately one in seven Black students dropped out. [More.](#)

**A Tale of Two Recessions. Fiscal Policy Institute, November 2009.** This report is an examination of the impact of the country's "Great Recession" on the New York City economy. The data show the shallowness of the previous expansion from 2003 to 2007 before the onset of the Great Recession, and recession-related job losses and rising economic insecurities. The report also explores in detail the character and extent of unemployment in New York City and finds that despite Wall Street's faster-than-expected recovery, the city's Main Street economy continues to struggle with high unemployment and widespread economic insecurity. [More.](#)

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