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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 unemployment rates for 2007:

Month 2007	NYC	US
January	4.9%	4.6%
February	5.0%	4.6%
March	4.3%	4.4%
April	4.4%	4.5%
May	4.9%	4.5%
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	5.4%	5.0%

Borough by Borough Unemployment Breakdown for December 2007

	Labor Force (000's)	Employed (000's)	Unemployed (000's)	Unemployment Rate
New York City	3,849.0	3,650.7	198.4	5.4%
Bronx County	513.3	477.8	35.5	6.9%
Kings County	1,083.3	1,023.0	60.2	5.6%
New York County	914.8	873.6	41.2	4.5%
Queens County	1103.3	1052.7	50.6	4.6%
Richmond County	234.4	223.5	10.9	4.6%

The unemployment rate in Brooklyn was 5.6% in December 2007, up from 4.4% in December 2006. This is primarily due to a growth in the number of Brooklynites seeking employment. Over the past year, 900 Brooklynites have lost their jobs, but 13,200 have started looking. For more information, click [here](#).

The Bottom Line on New York City Jobs in 2007

Biggest Gainers

Occupation	Jobs Gained
Health Services	+8,200
Local Government	+8,000
Securities and Related	+6,300
Construction	+5,800
Retail Trade	+5,100
Computer Systems Design	+4,200
Food and Drinking places	+3,600
Advertising and Related	+3,300
Transportation and Utilities	+3,100
Insurance	+3,100

Biggest Losers

Occupation	Jobs Lost
Manufacturing	- 6,000
Educational Services	- 3,100
Wholesale	-2,000
Employment Services	- 1,500
Banking	- 800
Broadcasting	- 500
Publishing	- 300
Federal Government	- 200
State Government	- 100

Source: NYS Department of Labor, Economist Barbara Byrne Denham

Legislative Updates

New Year's Resolutions. This month, Mayor Bloomberg delivers his [State of the City](#), Governor Spitzer deliver's his [State of the State](#), and President Bush deliver's his [State of the Union](#). While drastically different in style and vision, the three speeches unite in their concern for the state of the economy.

Federal Budget Proposal Released; Cuts to 151 Education and Training Program Proposed. If enacted, the budget would eliminate funding for more than 10,000 job training recipients in New York State alone. The lame duck budget is not expected to be approved by Congress. [More.](#)

State Budget Proposal Released; No New Money for Job Training and Education. The FY'09 Executive Budget included no new funds for adult literacy or workforce development. Advocates are hoping to inspire lawmakers to invest more during the economic downturn as a measure to stimulate the economy. [More.](#)

City Budget Proposal Released; Across the Board Cuts to Agencies. In the face of a slowing economy, Mayor Michael Bloomberg presented a \$58.5 billion [budget proposal](#). Efforts to reduce spending included a 2.5% budget cut this year and a 4.3% cut next year. [More.](#)

Bush Creates Financial Literacy Council. President Bush signed [Executive Order 13455](#) on January 22nd establishing the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy in the Department of the Treasury to assist the American people in understanding and addressing financial matters. The council is expected to improve financial education efforts for youth in school and adults in the workplace.

Summer Jobs Program Was Not Included in Economic Stimulus Package. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee proposed a \$1 billion summer jobs program through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to states for youth activities. The proposal did not make it through, but is still on the table for a second stimulus package that lawmakers are hoping to push through within the next few months. [More.](#)

In the News

Job Growth, Holding Steady so far in this Rocky Economy, Slides. The US economy lost 17,000 jobs in January, the Labor Department reported on Friday, the first decline in four years and the most striking evidence yet that the United States may be slipping into a recession. [More.](#)

Blue-collar Jobs Harder to Fill as Boomers Age. A good medical assistant, carpenters, fork lift driver, and pest control worker is hard to find these days, as the pool of middle-skilled workers thins out and the demand increases. Crain's 1/28—2/3.

TANF Recipients Can Receive up to One Year of College. In a regulation change, welfare recipients are now allowed have up to one year at college count as a work requirement. [More.](#)

In the Neighborhood

Sub prime Foreclosures Rampant in Brooklyn. Recently released data shows Williamsburg, Bushwick, and BedStuy getting hit particularly hard, with 24 of the 193 sub-prime loans in OBT North's 11206 zip code in foreclosure. [More.](#)

Sunset Park's Federal Building #2 Moves Ahead. The building, which is expected to create 1,285 full time jobs and include a 10,000 square foot affordable child care center, is expected to move into the ULURP process soon. Construction is not expected for at least another year. [More.](#)

Domino Sugar Factory Proposed Addition Revealed. The big-picture plan for the building includes 30,000 square feet of retail on the ground floor, community use space on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors, and residential from the 5th floor up. The project is expected to include 2,200 residential units and 1,550 underground parking spaces. [More](#) from Brownstoner and even [more](#) from the NYTimes.

On-line Resources

O*NET Career Exploration Tools. The O*NET team has designed a set of self-directed career exploration/assessment tools to help workers consider and plan career options, preparation, and transitions more effectively. They also are designed for use by students who are exploring the school-to-work transition. [Link.](#)

Low Literacy Levels Among Immigrants. This YouTube video highlights the need for Basic Education in Spanish. Statistics show that low levels of literacy make it difficult for students to learn English. [Link.](#)

Outreach and Technical Assistance Network for Adult Educators. The network provides curriculum resources, including 71 different resources for teaching office skills to adults. [Link.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Higher Education: Tuition Continues to Rise, but Patterns Vary by Institution Type, Enrollment, and Educational Expenditures. Government Accountability Office, November 2007.

Nearly 60 percent of Hispanics, 50 percent of African-Americans, and 43 percent of white students who enroll in postsecondary education attend community colleges. College enrollment among Hispanic students grew the fastest, by 25 percent between 2000-01 and 2006-07. Among African-American students, it grew by 15 percent; among Asian-American/Pacific-Islander students, it grew by 15 percent; and among white students, it grew by just 3 percent in the same period. [More.](#)

Most Food Stamp Recipients Also No Longer on Welfare. IBO, January 2008. After falling to just under 800,000 in 2001, the number of city residents now receiving food stamps totals more than 1.1 million. but hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers are legible for but do not receive food stamps. Enrolling them may prove more difficult than in the past since most food stamp recipients are no longer also welfare recipients, meaning many of the eligible city residents have few links to the social welfare system. [More.](#)

America's Forgotten Middle Skill Jobs. Skills2 Compete, November 2007. The report argues that the demand for workers to fill jobs in the middle of the labor market – those that require more than high-school, but less than a four year degree – will likely remain quite robust relative to its supply. Skills2Compete is a national campaign that advocates for every American to have access to at least two years of post-secondary education. [More.](#)

Growing Green Collar Jobs: Energy Efficiency. New York City Apollo Alliance, December 2007. Growing Green Collar Jobs is a series of reports that explore how sustainability can be an economic engine for New York City. The report explores the opportunities for creating new green-collar jobs, the importance of retooling existing jobs to incorporate environmental practices, and the barriers to green-collar job creation. [More.](#)

Strategy and Implementation Report. Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO). December 2007. The report outlines the work of the CEO since its creation one year ago. Highlights include an overview of CEO's 41 new initiatives (including the Young Adult Internship Program) and their federal and local policy initiatives. [More.](#)

The Horizon Report. The New Media Consortium and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative. 2007 Edition. The report identifies and describes emerging technologies likely to have a large impact on teaching, learning, or creative expression within higher education. The report highlights six emerging areas: user-created content, social networking, mobile phones, virtual worlds, emerging forms of publication and multi-player educational gaming. [More.](#)

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