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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
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%
November (2009)	10%	10%
December (2009)	10.6%	10%

Provided by the New York State Department of Labor

Legislative Updates

Bloomberg's Budget. Mayor Michael Bloomberg unveiled plans on Thursday to close an impending \$4.9 billion budget gap. The grim plan would cut \$1.6 billion from city agencies and reduces the city's workforce by 5,177 over two fiscal years--mostly by attrition. Almost \$7 million dollars will be cut from Adult Literacy programming across the city. Bloomberg warned the cuts could get worse if Albany follows through in a plan to completely cut aid to the city. For more, see the [NY Times article](#) or the [Crain's NY article](#).

Paterson's Budget. The Governor's proposed Executive Budget contains a broad range of cuts including major cuts to TANF funding initiatives and a \$19.5 million dollar cut to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The budget also proposes \$1 billion in Medicaid cuts and a \$1.1 billion reduction in school aid. The Governor contends his budget proposal is needed to close a \$7.4 billion budget gap this year and cut the out-year budget gaps in half. For more information, read the Human Service Coalition's [budget summary](#).

Obama's Budget. On Monday, President Obama transmitted his \$3.8 trillion Fiscal Year 2011 budget request to Congress, which includes \$321 million in new "workforce innovation" grants to be administered by the Departments of Labor and Education, additional funding to build on Recovery Act grants for green jobs and health care sector training, and a 5% increase in funding for WIA Youth. For more information, read National Skills Coalition's [preliminary summary](#) of key proposals that impact the nation's job training and education policies.

In the News

Dream Jobs for Teens. In a new study, 90 percent of teens said they were confident they will one day have their ideal job. Surprisingly though, an overwhelming majority of teens--84 percent--said they'd forego getting that perfect job for the opportunity to make a difference in the world. When asked to identify which factors would motivate them to sacrifice getting the ideal job, more teens chose "having a positive impact on society" than "being well paid," "having decision-making responsibilities," having a job that was "extremely challenging," and a job that provided "publicity and recognition." [More.](#)

Record Number of Young People are Jobless. Overall, 26 percent of American teenagers aged 16 to 19 had jobs in late 2009, a record low since statistics began to be kept in 1948. [More.](#)

Paterson's Plan for CUNY. The governor wants to give city and state universities more autonomy. School officials like the idea, but some politicians say it could hurt low-income students. [More.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Working Without Laws: A Survey of Employment and Labor Law Violations in New York City. National Employment Law Project, January 2010. The report exposes systematic and routine violations of employment and labor laws in core sectors of the economy in New York City. Every week, more than 300,000 low-wage workers in the five boroughs are subject to some sort of wage theft from employers. These violations add up to a loss of \$18.4 million in wages every week, vital earnings that are robbed from working families, local communities and the city's economy. Click [here](#) to download the report.

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