

Check out the winter edition of OBT's "Lines of Opportunity" newsletter [here!](#)

Inside this Issue

New York at a

Glance. City unemployment exceeds the nation's.

Legislative Updates.

All eyes are on jobs as the great recession persists nationwide.

In the News. The city releases its top 60 in-demand jobs.

In the Neighborhood. It's one step forward, two steps back, for Williamsburg's Broadway Triangle.

Newly Released

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 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

City's Jobless Rate Exceeds Nation's. The unemployment rate in New York City grew to 10.6 percent in December. The rate is higher than the national average and is the highest rate of unemployment the city has seen in over 17 years. The city lost over 9,000 jobs last month. Most of those jobs were lost in accounting, restaurants and retail. [More.](#)

Legislative Updates

Bloomberg's State of the City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg yesterday delivered his first State of the City address of his third term. It was considered decidedly low-key compared to his previous speeches. One of his major announcements was a plan to allow youths who commit crimes but are not considered dangerous easier access to at-home alternatives to jail time. [More.](#) The Mayor also vowed to expand job-preparation classes in English-as-a-second-language for an additional 5,000 students. To read the whole speech, click [here.](#)

Jobs for Main Street Act Passed in House. In addition to infrastructure investments and funding to prevent education and public safety layoffs, the bill included \$750 million in competitive grants for job training in high-growth and emerging fields, and \$500 million for summer youth employment programs. [More.](#)

In the News

SBS Releases Top 60 in Demand Jobs. The list includes four sectors that OBT trains for: Customer Service Representatives, Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Legal Secretaries, and Office Clerks. To see the full list, click [here](#).

Best and Worst Jobs of 2009. The findings were based on five criteria: environment, income, employment outlook, physical demands and stress. To read about the study, click [here](#). For a searchable list, click [here](#).

Jobless Overwhelm Retraining Programs Nationwide. The crowds of unemployed people trying to get retraining have so swamped long-underfunded community colleges and other job skills programs that many communities now have waiting lists of six months or more despite significant federal investments. President Obama has said he wants "to fundamentally change our approach to unemployment in this country, so that it's no longer just a time to look for a new job, but is also a time to prepare yourself for a better job." [More.](#)

The Skills Recession. Julian Alssid argues that long after the jobs recession ends, the skills recession will persist. In a survey of recruiters by the Human Capital Institute, more than half of the respondents said that their greatest challenges include "quality of candidates" or "availability of candidates" when it comes to filling their employment rolls. [More.](#)

In the Neighborhood

Broadway Triangle Development on Hold. A judge has ordered the city to temporarily halt the rezoning and development of a 31-acre site in Brooklyn called the Broadway Triangle. [More.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Closing the Skills Gap: A Blueprint for Preparing New York City's Workforce to Meet the Evolving Needs of Employers. Center for an Urban Future and the Community Service Society, January 2010. A new report found many New Yorkers lack the skills and education to compete in today's economy. It found more than a quarter of adult New Yorkers -- other than on Staten Island -- are functionally illiterate. The report offers a blueprint for the administration and the City Council to boost the city's "human capital," including focusing on skill sets instead of job placement in low wage positions. For the full report, click [here](#).

New York City in the Great Recession: Divergent Fates by Neighborhood and Race and Ethnicity. Fiscal Policy Institute, December 2009. A new report found the unemployment rate in New York City varies greatly from neighborhood to neighborhood. For example, the unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in the third quarter of 2009 on the Upper East and West Sides of Manhattan, but it was 15.7 percent in the South and Central Bronx and 19.2 percent in East New York in Brooklyn. Citywide it was just over 10 percent. For the full report, visit [here](#).

Evidence of Organizational Change. Metis Associates, 2009. The report is an assessment of the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity's impact on New York City agencies and provider organizations. Based on insight gained from interviews with agency staff, service providers, and key stakeholders, the report documents how CEO's cross-agency approach and focus on accountability has influenced practice and collaboration, and identifies ways that CEO programs have been replicated. The report also addresses some implementation successes and challenges. For the full report, click [here](#).

Questions or comments please contact us at: info@obtjobs.org or call 718-369-0303 x 19

www.obtjobs.org

[Contact us](#)

[Subscribe](#)