

## Inside this Issue

### Welcome.

#### New York at a Glance.

Unemployment rate continues to improve in NYC while National Average in November increased.

#### Legislative Updates.

President Obama signs \$858 million tax bill aimed to benefit families of all income levels.

**In the News.** Mayor Bloomberg looking to reform Juvenile Justice System and grant alternatives to incarceration.

#### In the Neighborhood.

Former OBT trainee featured in The New York Times Neediest Cases.

#### Newly Released

**Reports.** Report brings back the focus on disconnected youth and the societal impact of the issue if it is not addressed.

## Welcome

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! This year at OBT we are looking forward to continue serving you and the community. We thank you for your ongoing support and feedback and strongly encourage you to continue aiding us on our mission *in helping disadvantaged youth and adults recognize their own self-worth, and advance towards self-sufficiency and financial security through job training, academic reinforcement, improved life skills, job placement, and support services.*

Yours in Service,

Evelyn Ortiz  
Director of Public Relations & Strategic Partnerships

## New York at a Glance

Month 2009-2010	NYC %	US %
<b>November</b>	9.0	9.8
<b>October</b>	9.1	9.6
<b>September</b>	9.3	9.6
<b>August</b>	9.5	9.6
<b>July</b>	9.6	9.5
<b>June</b>	9.5	9.5
<b>May</b>	9.3	9.7
<b>April</b>	9.4	9.9
<b>March</b>	9.9	9.7
<b>February</b>	10.2	9.7
<b>January</b>	10.5	9.7
<b>December (2009)</b>	10.4	10.0
<b>November (2009)</b>	10.2	10.0
<b>October (2009)</b>	10.4	10.2

## 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 2009-2010:

*Provided by the New York State Department of Labor*

## Legislative Updates

**Wow, just looked at my paycheck and there's an increase! Did I get a raise!?** No, but President Obama recently signed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 which will cut Social Security taxes by nearly a third, going from 6.2 % to 4.2%. Learn more about how this new legislation will provide opportunities for families at every income level [here](#)

**"Highest Percentage of Turnaround Federal Funds Are Going to High Schools"**. The U.S. Department of Education announced that of the more than 700 schools receiving School Improvement Grants (SIG) to implement one of the four turnaround models this year, 48 percent are high schools. Find out more [here](#)

**New Opportunities Headed Our Way.** Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, United States Education Secretary Arne Duncan and New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein announced a pilot program in the Department of Education's District 79 schools to develop an accelerated learning program that will prepare future GED candidates for careers and college. Find out more [here](#)

## In the News

**Number of People Applying for Unemployment Drops.** The U.S. Labor Department states that unemployment applications dropped by 34,000 to 388,000, the lowest number since the week of July 12, 2008. Find out more [here](#)

**The Harsh Realities of Being a Professional Working Mom.** Among highly educated women who take time off from their careers to raise their children, women with M.B.A.'s suffer the most. The study found that female M.B.A.'s who have taken off 18 months from their career to raise children suffered a severe income penalty, leaving them earning 41 percent less on average than male M.B.A.'s. Find out more [here](#)

**“Mayor Touts NYC Job Growth as Model for U.S”** Mayor Bloomberg states that his administration's job-creation strategies have led NYC to recover from the downturn more quickly than the state and nation. While skeptics believe that Mayor Bloomberg is really just preparing his platform to run in the next - Presidential election. Find out more [here](#)

**Find out what are the 13 best careers for recent college graduates** [here](#)

**NYC Looking to Take Control of Juvenile Prison System.** Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg is requesting that New York State turn over control of prisons and services for juvenile offenders to local governments. A move that he said would end the failed and costly practice of shipping troubled young people from New York City to upstate facilities far from their families. Just last year the City of New York was billed nearly \$62 billion dollars by the state for all incarcerated youth within the local area. Find out what the Mayor's plans are [here](#)

## In the Neighborhood

**Former OBT trainee, Jessica Torres of the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) featured in the New York Times Neediest Cases.** While Jessica was in the program she demonstrated an immeasurable ability to strive for a better life while overcoming the challenges and obstacles that she encountered throughout her journey. Read all about Jessica's path to success [here](#)

**What Happened to all the Latinos in Williamsburg?** According to the Census bureau, Williamsburg lost one-quarter of its Latino population while the number of white residents steadily increased. Find out more [here](#)

## Newly Released Studies and Reports

**A Profile of Disconnected Young Adults in 2010. December 2010.** Study shows that young adults disconnected for three or more years are about 14 times more likely to be poor and earn about two and one half times less in earnings and are about two to three times less likely to be employed full-time than young adults who have never been disconnected. Find out more [here](#)

**Unemployment in New York City During The Recession And Early Recovery: Young Black Men Hit the Hardest. December 2010.** Report finds that only one in four young black men in New York City has a job. More information [here](#)

**Closing the Skills Gap. December 2010.** Report analyzes what are the current and long-term skills needs of the city's business community, and which sectors are experiencing worker shortages. It also considers the readiness of New York City's workforce in addressing the significant skill gaps that exist among the city's working-age population. More information [here](#)

**Brooklyn Labor Market Review. Winter 2011 Edition.** Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce released report stating that Brooklyn led all boroughs with a 1.7 percent increase of 7,600 private jobs. NYC on the other hand had a 1.7 percent job *decline* over this period, with 50,300 fewer jobs. By far the biggest contributor to Brooklyn's job growth was home health care, which grew by 20 percent over the year, an increase of 4,400 jobs. Learn more [here](#)

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