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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—2008:

Month 2007— 2008	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	5.1%	5.0%
January (2008)	5.7%	4.9%

In light of the fact that these numbers are seasonally adjusted, a .6% jump in unemployment over the past month is sharp. More folks in the labor market pool means that it will be increasingly hard for those at the bottom of the career ladder to get employed. The economic downturn which was little more than an educated projection last month, appears to have officially begun.

Nationwide Decline in Teen Employment

The teen employment rate last year was only 34.8%, the lowest annual employment rate for teens ever recorded since the end of World War II. Deteriorating teen employment rates during a growing national labor market is unprecedented. As the labor market takes a dive, the news is likely to get even worse for teens.

Year	Teens (16-19) Employed
1989	47.5%
2000	45.2%
2001	42.3%
2002	36.6%
2003	36.4%
2004	36.5%
2005	36.9%
2006	36.9%
2007	34.8%

This is particularly troubling because statistically the more teens work as teens, the more likely they are to work as adults. Presently, those teens who do work are more likely to be from higher-income white families.

Race and Household Income	Teens (16-18) Employed
Black, Under \$20K	18.9%
Black, \$20K - \$40K	21.5%
Black, \$40K - \$60K	25.5%
Black, \$75K - \$100K	28.7%
White, Under \$20K	36.1%
White, \$40 - \$60K	44.6%
White, \$60K – \$75K	45.8%

Source: "The Collapse of the National Teen Job Market and the Case for an Immediate Youth Jobs Creation Program." Prepared by: Andrew Sum, Ishwar Khatiwada, Joseph McLaughlin and Shelia Palma. February 2008.

Legislative Updates

Bloomberg Makes Deeper Cuts. The Bloomberg administration is directing all city agencies to cut their budgets an additional 3% for fiscal year 2009, which could cut spending by \$500 million. Mayor Bloomberg blamed the nation's struggling economy and budget cutbacks from Albany. The budget cuts came after nearly 3% was cut from this year's budget and more than 4% was slashed from the upcoming fiscal year. [More.](#)

Affordable Child Care Takes a Hit, Child Care Tax Credit Ad Campaign Launches. The city is restructuring the way affordable child care centers are funded and is taking away funding from centers with unused slots. The shift is a response to child care centers city-wide being only 85% enrolled despite a high demand for services ([More](#)). Meanwhile, Bloomberg launched an ad campaign to let the public know about the child care tax credit which was signed into law last summer ([More](#)).

President Issues Yet Another Executive Order. President Bush created an Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs this month. The group plans to engage key government and private or non-profit organizations to improve the coordination and effectiveness of programs that serve youths. It also will develop a new federal Web site on youth issues with the next year. [More.](#)

In the News

Training and Support Are Key to Weathering the Economic Storm. As economic uncertainty takes hold nationwide, for workers, the difference between a downturn and a recession is the unemployment line. OBT's executive Randy Peers examines what a rise in unemployment means for the future of workforce development. [More.](#)

Consumers Lose Confidence. A survey released Wednesday showed that New York consumer confidence fell 2.5 points last month to an index value of 62.4, well below the national rate of 83.8. Oddly enough, the drop is attributed to youngsters who are hesitant to part with their hard-earned cash. Have our youth outsmarted consumer culture? [More.](#)

Job Growth was Stellar in 2007, Despite Gloomy 2008 Projections. Is the job heyday over? The average annual employment of 2007, 3,745,000, was the highest it's been since 1970. Nevertheless, jumps in the citywide unemployment rate and continuing lay-offs on Wall Street have New Yorkers braced for disaster. [More.](#)

Banks put on Brakes in Manhattan. Market saturation and the credit crunch led to a halt in the Manhattan bank branch explosion. Brooklyn, however, is apparently still fertile ground for expansion. (see "New Business Moves into Williamsburg" below). *Crain's March 3-9 2008.*

In the Neighborhood

Red Hook Works, Still Working. OBT's Red Hook works continues to attract Red Hook Residents who need assistance getting back into the labor market. [More.](#)

McCarren Park Pool Designs are Released. The most notable aspect of the design is a large jetty jutting out into the middle of the pool that in the winter would double as an ice skating rink. Hipsters wonder: where will all the concerts go? [More.](#)

Domino Sugar Factory goes Back to the Drawing Board. Landmarks Preservation Initiative members told developers that the five story glass structure add-on was a no-go. [More.](#)

New Business Moves into Williamsburg. Commerce and Concoran are both moving to Bedford street this month. [More](#) on Commerce and [More](#) on Concoran.

YMCA to run Park Slope Armory Rec Center. The formerly underutilized armory drill floor has been transformed into a multipurpose athletic and educational center to serve the local Park Slope community. *(New York Nonprofit Press)*

On-line Resources

A Vision of Students Today. This YouTube video highlights how young adults learning habits are changing with the influence of technology and contemporary culture. [Link.](#)

Cornell University's E-Clips. This university website provides clips of wisdom from the journeys of entrepreneurs and other business leaders and experts on a number of topics. [Link.](#)

Hot Shot Business. This site, run by Disney, tries to attract young people into being entrepreneurs by letting them set up their own virtual businesses online. [Link.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Economic Mobility in America. Pew Charitable Trusts. The study shows that Americans born into a family in the lowest fifth of U.S. earners and who graduate from college have a 19% chance of joining the highest fifth of earners in adulthood. Researchers found a disturbing trend as well: Hispanic and black Americans were falling behind whites and Asians in earning college degrees, making it harder for them to enter the middle class or higher. The study warns that widening gaps in postsecondary education between rich and poor, and whites and minorities could lead to a downturn in opportunities for the poorest families. [More.](#)

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