

## Inside this Issue

**New York at a Glance.** Unemployment in New York catapulted up to 8.1% this month, matching the nation's unemployment rate. The city's unemployment rate is almost double what it was last February.

**Legislative Updates.** Localities are in a mad rush to spend stimulus funds. Meanwhile, Obama challenges nation to secure post-secondary education.

**In the News.** As the recession sinks in, the news shifts from job losses and closing business to the core question: What does this mean for our nation's future?

**In the Neighborhood.** The news from our communities: Sunset Park and Bushwick/Bed-Stuy.

**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 2007-2008	NYC	US
<b>February</b>	4.1%	4.8%
<b>March</b>	4.5%	5.1%
<b>April</b>	4.7%	5.0%
<b>May</b>	5.2%	5.5%
<b>June</b>	5.4%	5.5%
<b>July</b>	5.0%	5.7%
<b>August</b>	5.8%	6.1%
<b>September</b>	5.8%	6.1%
<b>October</b>	5.7%	6.5%
<b>November</b>	6.3%	6.8%
<b>December</b>	7.4%	7.2%
<b>January (2009)</b>	6.9%	7.6%
<b>February (2009)</b>	8.1%	8.1%

### Winners, Losers, and (Dim) Prospects

#### Industries that Lost Jobs

(in New York between Dec. 2007 and Dec. 2008)

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-34,600
Professional & Business Services	-32,100
Manufacturing	-20,300
Financial Activities	-19,800
Construction	-16,300
Information	-5,600
Leisure and Hospitality	-4,400

#### Industries with Job Gains

(in New York between Dec. 2007 and Dec. 2008)

Educational and Health Services	+9,300
Other Services	+1,800
Government	+800

#### Employment Prospects in the Current Job Market

Unemployed	650,000
Job Openings	80,000

This means that 4 out of 5 jobseekers won't find work.

*Provided by the New York State Department of Labor*

## Legislative Updates

**Obama Calls for Skills Commitment.** In his first joint address to Congress, President Obama re-emphasized that economy recovery is not just about creating jobs, it is about investing in the people who will do these jobs. He said, "I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training. This can be community college or a four-year school; vocational training or an apprenticeship. But whatever the training may be, every American will need to get more than a high school diploma." [More.](#)

**Recovery.** The feds launch a website to track the progress of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and its ability to bring our ailing economy back to life. It seems that the ARRA is not just trying to recover the American economy, it is trying to recover America's belief in government. [More.](#)

## In the News

**Young v. Old.** As the job market tightens, the young and the old are left competing for the same jobs. [More.](#)

**New York State Labor Commish Tapped for Top Obama Post.** Commissioner M. Patricia Smith was tapped to be solicitor under new U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis. No one has been tapped yet to replace Smith. [More.](#)

**Stimulus Jobs Require College.** Of the 3.7 million jobs expected to be created by the new economic stimulus package, 54% will require some type of post-secondary education or training. [More.](#)

**With Construction Down, is the WTC a Bright Spot?** The owners of One World Trade Center think so. Their recent report projects more than 26,000 jobs and \$3.7 billion in income by 2016 from work building office towers, a Sept. 11 memorial, and transit at the 16-acre site. [More.](#)

**Youth Challenge.** The NYTimes profiles Youth Challenge, an employment program run by the National Guard. OBT's executive director spoke at their staff conference in Texas in January. [More.](#)

**Not All Jobs Are Coming Back.** Some companies are abandoning whole areas of business meaning fewer stores, fewer factories, and fewer financial services operations. To prepare for these shifts, some economists suggest the nation needs a greater emphasis on retraining workers for other careers. [More.](#)

**Pharmacists, engineers and nurses.** While the rest of the jobs wither away, these industries are still hiring. [More.](#)

**Bias Revealed in Top Restaurants.** Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York—will issue a study entitled Discrimination in Manhattan's Top Restaurants Deny People of Color and Women Equal Access to Employment Opportunities. Unlike its two previous studies, which looked at wage and discrimination issues in all types of restaurants, the upcoming report focuses on fine dining restaurants exclusively. [More.](#)

**English Classes At Risk.** The New York state proposed budget would cut three programs three programs that contain an English Language component from nearly \$13 million down to \$8.6 million, a cut of about 33 percent. At the city level, Mayor Michael Bloomberg's budget proposal doesn't include two City Council streams totaling almost \$7 million that support teaching English. [More.](#)

## In the Neighborhood

**Retail Stores Hit Hard in Brooklyn.** As of this month, the vacancy rate in Brooklyn stood at 14.1% among locally-owned stores, well above the city average of 12.1%, according to the study conducted by Rep. Anthony Weiner's office. [More.](#)

## Newly Released Studies and Reports

**Target Practice: Lesson for Poverty Reduction. CLASP.** The report is a resource tool for poverty advocates and policy makers who are considering or who have established a target to reduce poverty. Eight states have set a poverty target. Some reduce overall poverty and others focus on child poverty or extreme poverty. Most seek to cut poverty in half in a decade. While poverty targets are relatively new, did you know that targets are already widely used in a variety of other arenas? This report takes a look at existing policy targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as targets to reduce homelessness and draws from this practice with targets a set of lessons for poverty reduction. [More.](#)

**Gauging Employment Prospects in NYC, 2009. NYCLMIS. February 2009.** The report examines the largest employment industries according to five criteria relevant to placing jobseekers – employment trends, wage level trends, access for people with less than a four-year college degree, performance during previous recessions, and exposure to the financial services industries. Findings are presented for each set of assessment measures, and then in combination, to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of key industry groups. While there are no promising sectors in a severe recession, the report identifies home health care, individual and family services, colleges and universities, doctor's offices, and grocery stores as the most all-around resilient industry groups in the short-term. [More.](#)

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