

Inside this Issue**New York at a**

Glance. Unemployment improves slightly, signaling the worst may be over.

Legislative Updates.

GED classes and testing are under fire, just when New Yorkers need them most.

In the News. One in five NYC workers don't have a GED.

In the Neighborhood. Former OBT trainee makes history.

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 2009-2010:

Month 2009-2010	NYC	US
February	8.1%	8.1%
March	8.1	8.5
April	8.0	8.9
May	8.9	9.4
June	9.5	9.5
July	9.6	9.4
August	10.2	9.7
September	10.3	9.8
October	10.3	10.2
November	10.0	10.0
December	10.5	10
January (2010)	10.4	9.7
February (2010)	10.2	9.7

Provided by the New York State Department of Labor

Legislative Updates

Positive Movement on Summer Jobs. After the US Senate's refusal earlier this month to consider an amendment that would have added over \$1B for summer youth programs, the House is poised to take action to support these critically important programs. Earlier this week, Chairman David Obey (D-WI) introduced [H.R. 4899](#), *Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act of 2010*. This measure would provide \$600 million for summer youth programs.

GED Under Fire. The state Board of Regents proposed this week to shrink New York's GED budget to \$2.4 million in 2010-2011 -- a 40 percent cut in funding from 2008-2009. Much of the \$300,000 in newly proposed savings would come from eliminating a \$20 reimbursement per test-taker given to groups that administer the exams. This includes funding for 22 testing sites in New York City -- where program operators said they'd be forced to test fewer people. [More](#) From the New York Post and even [more](#) from the Daily News.

In the News

A need for the GED. The op-eds calls for GED reform in New York, citing statistics that at least one in five workers does not have a GED. [More.](#)

Recovery Maybe, but the Picture is Still Bleak. The local jobs picture remains bleak -- with just 21,500 city jobs in the state Labor Department's Jobs Bank for the 425,000 unemployed to fight over. That works out to 20 people vying for every position. [More.](#)

Nonprofits on the Up and Up. Despite the lingering effects of the recession, New York charities believe the worst of the economic downturn is over and are getting ready to start hiring again. Roughly 60% of the nonprofits said they plan to hire staffers in 2010, and more than half expected salaries to increase. [More.](#)

Crain's Crystal Ball. Prediction: Losses will end this quarter, with modest growth of 14,000 positions in 2010, and employment could return to pre-recession peak of 3.8 million by mid-2013. [More.](#)

If you can't measure it, you can't manage it. Using Bloomberg's mantra, the city is calculating poverty on its own terms and finding a much different picture than the feds. [More.](#)

What is a college degree really worth? Most researchers agree that college graduates, even in rough economies, generally fare better than individuals with only high-school diplomas. But with skyrocketing tuition costs, just how much better is where the math gets fuzzy. [More.](#)

'Millennials' an always on, texting generation. "Millennials," the generation born after 1980, bring their cell phones to bed with them, admit to texting while driving and are almost certain to have a profile on social networking sites, according to a new Pew Research Center study. [More.](#)

In the Neighborhood

New Tenant Association Prez at Atlantic Terminal. Emmanuel Lopez, a self-proclaimed "independent thinker," is the first Hispanic and the youngest Tenants Association president that Atlantic Terminal has ever seen. He is also a recent OBT graduate. [More.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Building a Learning Agenda Around Disconnected Youth. MDRC, March 2010. The goal of the paper's recommendations is to develop a menu of approaches for the heterogeneous population of disconnected youth — analogous in some ways to the multiple pathways that are being developed for high school students. The recommendations fall into two broad categories: building knowledge about mature, existing programs (to better understand whether they work, for whom, and why) and investment in developing and/or scaling up new programs that address areas of unmet need. For the full report, click [here.](#)

Graduation Outcomes (2005-2009), Department of Education, March 2010. The city announced that graduation rates had hit an all-time high with almost 63 percent of students who should have graduated in 2009 meeting that goal. The city has compiled a number of reports and statistics on graduation and drop-out rate. For the full report, click [here.](#)

Action Agenda for ESOL. Center for an Urban Future, March 2010. The action agenda, which was endorsed by an unusual coalition of the state's leading business groups, immigrant advocates, literacy providers and workforce training professionals, calls on New York policymakers to guarantee level funding for state-run ESOL programs even in this difficult fiscal environment. It argues that supporting ESOL programs is increasingly important to New York's economic competitiveness since immigrants represent the fastest-growing part of the workforce in nearly every corner of the state. For the full report, click [here.](#)

Have Recent Rezoning Affected the City's Ability to Grow? Furman Center, March 2010. The report find that the 76 rezonings initiated by the city Between 2003 and 2007 created 100 million new square feet of residential capacity in mixed use areas, but questions likelihood that new capacity will be built out for residential use. The report also found that lower-income minority neighborhoods were more likely to gain capacity than more affluent, white neighborhoods. For the full report, click [here.](#) For the New York Times article, click [here.](#)