

Inside this Issue

New York at a

Glance. New York City's unemployment rate is still looking better than the rest of the country's, despite Wall Street's woes.

Legislative Updates.

Hello Career Pathways, goodbye 5,600 slots for the Summer Youth Employment Program. The budget shake up offers some good and bad news to the workforce development field.

In the News.

Economists are still predicting this is the calm before the storm, but for the city's most needy, the storm has always been underway.

In the Neighborhood.

The news from our communities: Sunset Park and Bushwick/Bed-Stuy.

On-line Resources.

Campaign for Tomorrow's workforce gets plugged into tomorrow's technology.

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 2007—2008:

Month 2007— 2008	NYC	US
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%
February (2008)	4.1%	4.8%
March (2008)	4.5%	5.1%

In New York City, the number of residents with jobs fell last month by 21,700 to 3.66 million, the adjusted figures show. That total was the lowest in seven months, the data show, and may indicate the reversal of a steady climb in employment that began nearly five years ago. Even so, the unemployment rate in New York City still beats the unemployment rate nationwide.

Brooklyn has Lowest Weekly Wage of All the Boroughs

Borough	Number of Jobs	Average Weekly Wage	One Year % Change in Weekly Wage
Brooklyn	472,400	\$714	+3.8%
Staten Island	93,800	\$734	+3.7%
Bronx	224,400	\$805	+5.6%
Queens	501,200	\$886	+12.7%
Manhattan	2,363,800	\$1,540	+6.4%

Source: Crain's, April 21-27, 2008.

Legislative Updates

Bloomberg's Budget Puts the Brakes on Spending in '09 City Budget Proposal. Among the individual agency budget cuts highlighted in the Mayor's Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) were the reduction of 5,600 summer youth employment slots for a savings of \$8 million. [More.](#)

State Budget Passed, but on Unsure Footing. State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli warned that the new state budget contains "unsustainable" spending, "risky" revenue projections, and huge amounts of new debt. Governor Patterson contends that they knew about the \$3.6 billion deficit, but that the nation's failing economy may lead to a growing deficit and mid-year budget cuts. [More](#) on the comptroller and [More](#) on the mid-year cuts.

New Career Pathways Program made the Cut. This year's state budget includes a new program that will help low-income New Yorkers – 60 percent of whom are young adults aged 18-24 – access education and job training services linked to careers in high-growth sectors of the economy. OBT applauds the work of advocates and legislators who got this initiative through during such a tough budget year. [More.](#)

Council's Phantom Funds Mess Holds Up Real Services. A city council boo-boo turned into a full blown fiasco when Speaker Quinn suggested that mayoral agencies disperse the \$20 million in city council discretionary funding. Now, already-late nonprofit funds are under investigation, despite the fact that many nonprofits have already spent the money on services. [More.](#)

In the News

New York's Wallets Aren't Feeling the Pitch Just Yet. According to the latest tax data, paychecks of city residents have held steady, along with consumer spending. Experts look back to the 1987 stock market crash and note that the economy "kept clicking" until 1989 as cuts slowly trickled down. [More.](#) But don't worry, say state experts, a deep recession is well on its way. [More.](#)

The City's Fight Against Poverty. The Bloomberg plan is arguably the most serious mayoral anti-poverty effort in the 42 years since John Lindsay took office promising to improve the way the city distributed federal War on Poverty funds. Two years after it was announced, Bloomberg's battle is tangible and underway. [More.](#)

The State of Workforce Development Today. Gotham Gazette profiles where workforce development is, where it was, and where it's got to go if the city's most vulnerable workers are going to survive this economic downturn. [More.](#)

Summer Youth Employment Program Serves only Half of those who Apply. The program provided jobs to 41,804 youths last year, about a 20 percent decrease from the 50,499 who had jobs in 1999. Another 2,100 jobs are on the chopping block this year due to budget cuts. [More.](#)

Immigrants and the Dropping Dollar. People residing in the U.S. sent a total of \$42 billion to their homes around the globe in 2006, according to the World Bank – but the falling worth of the dollar is making it harder to provide for loved ones. [More.](#)

More Homeless Youth. In the first new estimate in two decades, a recent reports shows that on any given day there are more than 3,800 young people under the age of 24 living without a home and up to 13,400 or more over the course of a year. [More.](#)

High School Dropout Rate gets Standardized. By the 2012-13 school year, states will no longer be able to write off students who dropped out in grades 9, 10 or 11, a practice that allowed some states to report a bogus graduation rate based on the number of graduates who began the year in the senior class. States will also no longer be able to include G.E.D. recipients, who were actually dropouts and should have been counted as such. [More.](#)

Pace of Layoff Picks Up on Wall Street. The City Budget Office expects 20,000 jobs will be lost by the end of 2009. Already, Merrill Lynch is letting go another 3,000 on top of the 1,100 it already laid off, and Citigroup recently disclosed it would eliminate another 9,000 jobs. J.P. Morgan Chase projects about half of Bear Stearns 14,000 employees will be laid off when the company swallows their firm at the end of June. *Crain's, April 21-27.*

In the Neighborhood

From Dock to Desk. A ferry service that goes from the Far Rockaways through Sunset Park's Brooklyn Army Terminal and ends at Wall Street will launch on May 12th. The service is expected to cost \$6 a ride and be used by 250 passengers per week. [More.](#)

Miss Brooklyn Gets a Downgrade. A new timeline and design for the signature office tower in Atlantic Yards has been released, which slices 100 feet off the Miss Brooklyn skyscraper and gives it the much less illustrious name: Building One. The entire project is projected to be completed by 2018, but opponents say a decade won't be long enough. [More.](#)

First, Red Hook Works. Now, Red Hook Bikes. Community Board 6 is looking at designs that will add new bike lanes and even a bike garage to Red Hook, a neighborhood that's infamous for its poor transportation. [More.](#)

Red Hook's Little Stockholm. The Swedish company Ikea is scheduled to open on June 18th!

Prospect Park Lakeside Center Revealed. The Center will replace Wollman Rink and will include a two level 36,000 square foot building and two ice skating rinks. OBT recently brought 40 youth volunteers to Prospect Park as part of our new service learning initiative. [More.](#)

On-line Resources

[Campaign for Tomorrow's Workforce.](#) The site includes information on the campaign as well as a blog. Sixteen to twenty four year olds city-wide agree: you can't get much more 2008 than that.

[Lesson Writer.](#) Creates comprehensive ESOL lessons from any content you choose. The site includes a [2 minute instructional video](#) that explains how it works.

Newly Released Studies and Reports

How Will the Economic Downturn Affect New York City's Nonprofit Sector? The Fiscal Policy Institute. This presentation looks at how the economic downturn could affect local nonprofits and offers suggestions for organizations. Some suggestions for navigating the future include: carefully managing costs, maintaining a skilled, dedicated and productive workforce, diversifying funding, and developing a vision of the respective roles of government and the nonprofit sector. [More](#)

Mapping Poverty in New York City. Community Service Society and the United Way. The report shows that half the city's 1.4 million poor people live in neighborhoods where the poverty rate is at least 24.8 percent (compared to a citywide rate of 19.2 percent), and one quarter live in neighborhoods -- all in Upper Manhattan, the South Bronx and Central Brooklyn -- where more than a third of the households have incomes below the poverty level. Using maps, the report looks at how poverty rates correlate with other factors, such as rent costs and educational attainment. [More](#).

New York City Foreclosures in 2007. New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. The analysis finds that a majority of the nearly 15,000 mortgage-related foreclosure filings in New York City in 2007 were on multi-family buildings, and only about 40 percent were on condominiums or single-family homes. The analysis shows that over 30,000 households (or about 76,000 New Yorkers) are living in properties that entered the foreclosure process in 2007. The Center estimates that more than 15,000 of these households (or some 38,000 New Yorkers) were living in rental units. Most tenants living in buildings going through foreclosure face eviction if the property is sold at auction. However, tenants protected by New York State's rent regulation laws, which apply to many units in larger buildings, are not at risk. [More](#).

Ohio Stackable Certificates: Models for Success. Community Research Partners. The report responds to recent legislation mandating the development of a statewide system of stackable certificates, capable of engaging low-skilled adults in postsecondary education and training. The report provides context, barriers, best practices and a step-by-step framework for developing and implementing stackable certificates. [More](#).

The National Fund for Workforce Solutions: A History of Collaboration. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. The report traces the development of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, a \$50 million effort to strengthen and expand high-impact workforce development initiatives across the country. [More](#).

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

www.obtjobs.org

[Contact us](#)

[Subscribe](#)