

Inside this Issue

New York at a Glance. Youth have no trouble connecting through technology, despite a misconnect for many in New York City from school and work.

Legislative Updates. With the election over, legislators are back to work and slashing human service budgets to make way for the recession.

In the News. Growing economic crisis tops the headlines this month, with everything from childcare to youth unemployment to small businesses in turmoil.

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

On-line Resources. Taking a page from Obama's change.gov, Paterson launches reducegovernment spending.org in hopes of educating the public about the importance of the upcoming budget cuts.

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
October (2007)	5.3%	4.7%
November (2007)	5.1%	4.7%
December (2007)	5.1%	5.0%
January	5.7%	4.9%
February	4.1%	4.8%
March	4.5%	5.1%
April	4.7%	5.0%
May	5.2%	5.5%
June	5.4%	5.5%
July	5.0%	5.7%
August	5.8%	6.1%
September	5.8%	6.1%
October	5.7%	6.5%

The unemployment rate for New York City still looks unimposing, but the reality is that in October, 70,000 New Yorkers were collecting unemployment benefits, a 37% increase from a year ago, the sharpest year-over-year increase since May 2002. [More.](#)

Young Adults are Connected, After All.

As advocates we talk about the crisis of “disconnected youth” - 16 to 24, not in school and not in work. But with studies like this, it appears our youth are anything but “disconnected.” Misconnected perhaps, but between email, instant messages, text messages, and social networking sites, we have more avenues than ever to reconnect today's youth to education and work opportunities.

Select Online and Mobile Activities of US Internet Users*, by Age, February 2008 (% of respondents in each group)

	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Send or read e-mail	94%	99%	98%	99%	98%	100%	100%
Send or receive instant messages	77%	68%	57%	53%	43%	32%	28%
Send or receive text messages with mobile phone	70%	67%	57%	53%	40%	25%	8%
Participate in social networking Website (e.g., Facebook, MySpace or LinkedIn)	76%	75%	57%	38%	29%	13%	4%
Subscribe to RSS feeds	9%	8%	9%	11%	6%	8%	2%

Note: *who own a mobile phone
Source: ExactTarget, "2008 Channel Preference Survey," May 23, 2008

095278 www.eMarketer.com

Legislative Updates

Democrats Take Control of the State and the Nation. In addition to Obama's stunning win and the democrats taking over the US Senate, Democrats in New York have taken over the state Senate for the first time since the New Deal. [More.](#)

Governor Proposes \$5.2 Billion in Budget Cuts. Paterson's two-year \$5.2 billion deficit reduction plan targets human services for a total of \$95 million in savings. The largest proportion of proposed savings (57%) came in the areas of health care (\$1.8 billion) and school aid (\$1.4 billion). In a last minute move, the Senate decided to hold the vote on the plan. [More.](#)

Mayor Lays Out Cuts and Taxes To Deal with City Deficits. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg outlined plans to balance the current FY2009 through a combination of 2.2% reductions in City agency expenditures and approximately \$1 billion in additional revenues. Among the other human services related actions readily apparent from budget documents were plans to: increase in co-pays for parents with children in ACS-funded child care programs; a 10% reduction in ACS payments for institutional care; reductions in the number of Out of School Time (OST) program slots funded by DYCD; reduced hours for SYEP program participants; and reduced funding for HRA specialized substance abuse case management contracts. [More.](#)

In the News

15 Hot Jobs in a (Gulp) Depression. As our economy continues to slide and on-line job listings continue to drop ([more](#)) the question "Are we heading for a recession?" is quickly headed towards, "Are we headed for a depression?" During the last depression in 1933, the unemployment rate shot up to 25%. For those 75% still lucky enough to be employed, here are the sectors most likely to survive the storm. [More.](#)

Project Full Enrollment Cuts Funds to Affordable Childcare Centers. The city will reduce funds for 21 day care sites in January as part of efforts to close a budget deficit. While officials made it clear that the sites would not be closed, critics charged that the reductions would have the same effect, by destabilizing the centers to the point that they would be forced to shut down. [More.](#) This comes at a time when affordable childcare is in high demand. [More.](#)

Youth Hit Especially Hard by Economic Crisis. We all know that the employment situation is bad and getting worse. But as a recent *New York Times* article detailed, the groups already feeling the squeeze, and most likely to be disproportionately hit as conditions worsen, are working poor and younger job seekers—who were already at the margins of the labor market. [More](#) from the *New York Times* and [more](#) from *ChamberPost*.

Impact Unknown. At a recent the first hearing on the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), the administration's message was: ask again later. OBT's executive director Randolph Peers and trainee were there to testify in favor of the city's young adult internship program. [More.](#)

Less Loans, Less Growth for Small Businesses. Spurred on by tightening credit by commercial lenders, declining creditworthiness and reduced demand for loans, loan volume to small businesses in New York State plummeted 35% in 2008. [More.](#)

Nonprofits Hit Hard by Crisis. It is projected that 100,000 nonprofits nationwide will be forced to shut their doors due to losses in funding. [More](#) from *Crain's* and [more](#) from *CityLimits*.

Study finally shows who is LinkedIn. Turns out that 21%, like our clients, are there to explore their career options. [More.](#)

In the Neighborhood

BioBAT: An anecdote to an over dependency on Wall Street? So far, the city has invested more than \$35 million to build or renovate office and lab space for bioscience ventures at the Brooklyn Army Terminal. The state has pledged an additional \$48 million to convert 500,000 square feet of the Brooklyn Army Terminal into space for biotechnology firms. [More.](#)

ReZoning. At a special meeting of Community Board 1, the Department of City Planning presented a proposal to rezone Greenpoint and parts of East Williamsburg. The plan, which aims to change as little in the neighborhood as possible and limit new construction to the existing scale of the neighborhood, was welcomed by politicians but met with skepticism by some neighbors who fear that the new zoning will bring more people to an area that is already too crowded. [More.](#)

Red Hook Pier Plan Sinks. More than two years after the city began soliciting bids for an inactive publicly controlled pier next to the cruise ship terminal, developers were shocked to hear that the Economic Development Corporation put a lid on the operation. The city had been planning a marina, entertainment, and hotels. [More.](#)

On-line Resources

Reduce Government Spending. Governor David Paterson has launched a new website -- www.ReduceNYSpending.gov -- in order to "lead the public in a discussion about how to control unsustainable growth in the size of New York's budget."

NELP launches two Websites. The first, www.unemployedworkers.org, helps jobless activists to tell their stories of struggle in the media and on the steps of Capitol Hill. The second, www.just-pay.org, is a new national clearinghouse with a wealth of materials to support the growing movement of community groups, worker centers, unions, legal advocates and public agencies fighting the erosion of minimum wage and overtime standards.

Employment in New York City's Transportation Sector. The New York City Labor Market Information Service (NYCLMIS) released its first research product focused around transportation. The product is intended to help workforce development managers, account executives, career advisors, and education and training professionals collect and use data in their strategic decision-making and day-to-day work. [More.](#)

Learn English Online! The U.S. Department of Education (ED) launched a free Web site to help immigrants learn English. Users can click on directions in either English or Spanish and choose which English level they need -- beginner, low-intermediate or intermediate. Instruction in the modules is almost exclusively in English. In the beginner course, 20 units are offered in such areas as numbers, the calendar, places to go, families, schools, clothes, money and shopping. [More.](#)

New Naturalization Tests Launched. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security launched its new naturalization test Oct. 1. The test was redesigned to ensure that naturalization applicants have uniform, consistent testing experiences nationwide. Applicants now know exactly how to prepare for the English test using publicly released vocabulary lists, and they receive a new English and civics study booklet when they are finger printed at USCIS application support centers. USCIS trained more than 2,000 educators and service providers and launched new [study materials](#). [Test, vocabulary lists, study booklet, and study materials.](#)

Newly Released Studies and Reports

Demands of the Time. The Comptroller's Office. October 2008. New York City operates more than 30 job training and related employment programs, at an annual cost of more than \$925 million in government funds, but poor coordination of the program "has compromised its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness," said the city comptroller, William C. Thompson Jr. The study finds that job training programs have improved over the last five years, but remain poorly coordinated. Read the entire report here ([PDF](#)) or read the [New York Times summary](#) of the key findings.

Disconnected Young People in New York City: Crisis and Opportunity. Public Private Ventures. September 2008. The report frames the issue of disconnected youth in New York City. [More.](#)

How Community-Based Organizations Can Learn about the Needs and Strengths of Disconnected Young People: Hudson Guild of New York City's Youth Survey Effort. JobsFirstNYC. October 2008. This report is a case study on the client driven survey efforts of the Hudson Guild towards disconnected youth and young adults in their catchment area. The Guild survey is reproduced in the study so that organizations can modify it for their own needs and guidance is offered on potential approaches. [More.](#)

Green Jobs Report. The U.S. Conference of Mayors. October 2008. The report states that the U.S. currently generates more than 750,000 direct and indirect jobs from the green economy and could generate 4.2 million such jobs by 2038. You can view key findings from the report [here.](#)

Uneven Progress: The Employment Pathways of Skilled Immigrants in the United States. By Jeanne Batalova and Michael Fix with Peter A. Creticos. More than 1.3 million college-educated immigrants in the United States are unemployed or working in unskilled jobs because they are unable to make full use of their academic and professional credentials, MPI reports in the first assessment yet of the scope of the "brain waste" problem. The report analyzes and offers possible solutions for the credentialing and language-barrier hurdles that deprive the US economy of a rich source of human capital at a time of increasing competition globally for skilled talent. [More.](#) To read the Washington Post's article on the study, click here. [More.](#)

Our Chance for Change: A Four-year Reform Initiative for GED Testing in New York City. Jaqueline Cook. The report assesses the current General Educational Development (GED) system and offers a plan to improve current outcomes and support individuals seeking a GED diploma. [More.](#)

The Relationship Between Literacy Proficiency And The Digital Divide Among Adults With Low Education Attainment. By Clare Strawn, 2008. Adults who did not finish high school are the demographic group making the most gains as the digital divide closes. [More.](#)

Rebuilding a Good Jobs Economy: A Blueprint for Recovery and Reform. The National Employment Law Project (NELP), 2008. The report presents a concrete and viable agenda on workplace and economic policy for the new administration and Congress. Even before the latest financial crisis set off alarm bells about our economy, America's workers were in deep trouble. This year's surging unemployment is only the latest symptom of a profound deterioration in the labor market over the past thirty years, in which the foundations of opportunity--living wages, job stability and upward mobility--have been dismantled, leaving millions of workers behind. The result has strained our families, our communities, and our nation's economic health. [More.](#)

State's Working Poor Face Low Pay and High Costs. By David Jason Fischer, *City Limits*, 2008. A new report shows trends have not improved for working families. But instituting better ways to increase workers' skills and earn a living wage could help. Though most analysts agree that the crash on Wall Street has yet to be felt fully in the wider economy, a new report by the Working Poor Families Project finds that even before the financial crisis, millions of working families in New York and across the nation fell further behind in recent years. [More.](#)

Declining Credit and Growing Disparities. The Furman Center for Real Estate and Public Policy, 2008. The report found new mortgages for black and Hispanics fell sharply from 2006 to 2007, while the number stayed flat for white borrowers. Asian Americans saw a 6 percent increase in new mortgages. New mortgages for blacks fell 44 percent, and new mortgages dropped by 34 percent for Hispanics. Overall, the number of new mortgages in the city dropped by 14 percent, which was attributed to the freezing of the subprime market. For the full report, visit [here.](#)

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

www.obtjobs.org

[Contact us](#)

[Subscribe](#)