

**OBT Highlights: [Job Openings](#)****Inside this Issue**

**New York at a Glance.** Unemployment in New York City jumps into the double digits.

**Legislative Updates.** Community College Plan inches along in Washington.

**In the News.** The recession is not over yet for low-income New Yorkers.

**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 2008-2009	NYC	US
September	5.8%	6.1%
October	5.7%	6.5%
November	6.3%	6.8%
December	7.4%	7.2%
January (2009)	6.9%	7.6%
February (2009)	8.1%	8.1%
March (2009)	8.1%	8.5%
April (2009)	8.0%	8.9%
May (2009)	8.9%	9.4%
June (2009)	9.5%	9.5%
July (2009)	9.6%	9.4%
August (2009)	10.2%	9.7%
September (2009)	10.3%	9.8%

*Provided by the New York State Department of Labor*

The unemployment rate jumped ahead of the nationwide unemployment rate, into the double digits. [More.](#)

**Legislative Updates**

**House Moves President's Community College Plan.** The House Committee on Education & Labor approved the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, redirecting part of the estimated \$87B in savings to support the President's community college initiative. An amendment by Rep. Loebsack (D-IA) and Rep. Fudge (D-OH) encourages linkages between community colleges and sector partnerships. One introduced by Rep. Woolsey (D-CA) gives priority to community college reform grants for projects serving, low-income, underrepresented, and nontraditional students. [More.](#)

**Paterson signs Green Jobs/Green New York Act.** The act establishes a program that will create green jobs and stimulate investment in weatherization and energy efficiency improvements for residential and commercial buildings. The Governor also announced a new website -- [www.greencareersny.com](http://www.greencareersny.com) -- to assist those seeking to enter the sector. [More.](#)

**In the News**

**Brooklyn Fairs Better in a Rough Economy.** Unemployment in Brooklyn is up and personal income is down, but the borough has not been battered by the recession as hard as the rest of the city has, a new report commissioned by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce shows. [More.](#)

**Recovery in New York, New Jersey Likely to Lag.** New York Federal Reserve Bank economists said that while the worst of the recession in New York and New Jersey may be over, a recovery in the region's economy will probably lag the national trend. [More.](#)

## In the News

**Uninsured NYers on the Rise.** The proportion of uninsured New Yorkers skyrocketed by 2 percentage points in 2008. Of adults aged 19 – 64, 19% are uninsured. [More.](#)

**Census Data Reveals Deep New York City Poverty.** The 2008 poverty rate is 18.2%, but poverty varies drastically across the five boroughs. Nationwide, the Bronx is the poorest county and Manhattan has the highest income pay gap. The median income among those in the top 5 percent was \$857,000, and that group collected nearly twice the total income of those in the bottom 60 percent. [More.](#) NY1 reports that the worsening Census data is reflected in a rise in visits to city food pantries. [More.](#)

**GED's ® 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Placed On Hold For GED 20/20.** The General Education Development Testing Service (GEDTS) announced that it will not introduce GED ®'s 5<sup>th</sup> edition, which had been slated for January 2012. Officials plan instead to move from the current GED directly to what they term "a new comprehensive assessment program," GED 20/20. Some elements of GED 20/20 are expected to be introduced as early as 2010, GED officials say. [More.](#)

**Jobs for Less Educated Adults May Not Come Back.** Jobs held by low-skilled adults may not be coming back, said Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce. The current recession has accelerated the shift in America's economy toward selecting workers based on broad skills gained from postsecondary education, Carnevale said. To hear the podcast, click [here.](#)

## In the Neighborhood

**Bushwick Under Bloomberg.** The reporter looks at Bushwick as a microcosm for how the city has changed under Mayor Bloomberg. [More.](#)

**Sunset Park Best Western Slated for Spring.** Despite a partial Stop Work Order that's been in place since December, the Best Western at the corner of 26th Street and 4th Avenue has risen to six out of an ultimate ten stories. The project is slated for Spring. [More.](#)

**Council Passes Sunset Park Rezoning Plan.** This week City Council passed the long-discussed [rezoning proposal](#) for Sunset Park, a plan that attempts to promote new development, affordable housing, and new businesses, while maintaining the character of the neighborhood. The proposal includes changes for about 128 blocks within Community Board 7's district. [More.](#)

**Bush Terminal Gets a Boost.** The Bush Terminal, a 130,000-square-foot site in Sunset Park, is slated to receive a \$10 million grant for redevelopment from the [Restore New York](#) initiative. The city will use the new funds for demolition, asbestos removal, utility upgrades, and new construction at the Bush Terminal. [More.](#)

## Newly Released Studies and Reports

**From Basic Skills to Better Futures: Generating Economic Dividends for New York City. Community Service Society (CSS), October 2009.** The reports shows that New York State has one of the lowest GED pass rates in the country (48<sup>th</sup> out of 50), with New York City performing even worse, and that the programs that prepare students to take the GED test are not supported appropriately. Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow's executive director Randy Peers is quoted. To read the full report, click [here.](#) To read the coverage in the New York Times, click [here.](#)

**Are New York City's Public Schools Preparing Students for Success in College? Annenberg Institute, September 2009.** Only 7.5% of grads take all the high school courses necessary for college preparation and 70% of students entering the CUNY system had to take remedial courses. For students who entered a two-year degree program in fall 2001 and didn't need remedial classes, only 34% of the students graduated by 2007. For the full report, click [here.](#) Coverage is also available from [NY1](#) and the [Daily News.](#)

**Time to Act: An Agenda for Advancing Adolescent Literacy for College and Career Readiness. Carnegie Corporation of New York, September 2009.** The report offers recommendations on how to advance adolescent literacy and learning. It is the capstone report of Carnegie Council for Advancing Adolescent Literacy, chaired by Catherine Snow, professor in the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The report is based on ideas from experts nationwide. To read the full report, click [here.](#)

## Newly Released Studies and Reports

**The Unheard Third. Community Service Society (CSS), 2009.** The survey defines low-income New Yorkers as those earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level, or less than \$36,000 for a family of three. It presents a stark picture of how hard life can be for poor people in New York, many of whom have lost jobs, hours worked or employee benefits. To read the full report, click [here](#). To read the coverage in Crain's New York, click [here](#).

**Sick in the City: What the Lack of Paid Leave Means for Working New Yorkers. A Better Balance and the Community Service Society, October 2009.** The study shows 48% of New Yorkers do not have paid sick time. Furthermore, between 1.65 million and 1.85 million do not have paid sick time, while between 1.3 million and 1.5 million have no paid time off at all. Meanwhile, two-thirds of low income New Yorkers have no paid sick leave. For the full report, visit [here](#).

**Employers, Low-Income Young Adults and Postsecondary Credentials. Workforce Strategy, 2009.** The report highlights programs in 14 communities that are successfully addressing the challenge of providing disadvantaged young adults with the technical and postsecondary education that may qualify them for skilled positions. For the full report, visit [here](#).

**Recession Sees Surge in GED Test-Taking. GED Testing Service's (GEDTS), September 2009.** A recent report reveals that 2008 registered both the highest number of test-takers and the highest passing rate since the new GED series was introduced in 2002. Even more encouraging than the 6.6% surge in the number of adults who took the GED tests that year was an increase in the passing rate to 73% program-wide. [More](#).

**NYC Homeless Shelter Population Reaches All-Time High. Coalition for the Homeless, October 2009.** More than 39,000 homeless New Yorkers sleep in the city's shelters each night, according to a recent study by the Coalition for the Homeless. This year is the worst for homelessness since the Great Depression, the study says. For the full report, visit [here](#). To read the AMNY article, click [here](#).

**The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School: Joblessness and Jailing for High School Dropouts and the High Cost for Taxpayers. Andrew Sum et al. October 2009.** The report shows how dropping out of high school dramatically increases the rate of incarceration. Among black men, there is a 22% daily jailing rate for those that drop out of high school. To read the full report, click [here](#). To read the New York Times coverage, click [here](#).

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

[www.obtjobs.org](http://www.obtjobs.org)

[Contact us](#)

[Subscribe](#)