

## OBT Highlights: [Job Openings](#)

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**New York at a Glance.** Unemployment in New York City exceeded national unemployment this month.

**Legislative Updates.** Government prioritizes workforce development as a key strategy to ending the recession.

**In the News.** A jump in unemployment also means a jump in food stamp recipients.

**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
August	5.8%	6.1%
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%

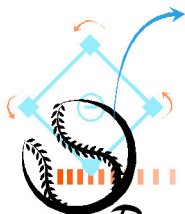
Provided by the New York State Department of Labor

The unemployment rate jumped 9.6%, passing the nationwide unemployment rate for the first time since the recession began ([more](#)). This is the highest unemployment rate since 1992 ([more](#)).

### Legislative Updates

**President's Postsecondary Proposal.** The *Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 (SAFRA)* authorizes two options to adult educators. The first creates workforce programs that provide a sequence of education and occupational training that leads to industry-recognized credentials. The second authorizes funds to build or enhance secondary or adult education programs. [More.](#)

**OTDA invests in the Workforce.** Through a mix of existing grants and federal stimulus money, the New York state legislature is directing \$39 million into new workforce programs. The funding – which channels a significantly greater share of TANF grants to subsidized wage programs, thereby triggering matching federal stimulus funds – will go to three new initiatives, for green jobs, health care jobs and transitional jobs. [More.](#)



**Battle of the Badges**

**OBT Battle of the Badges**  
Charity Event 2009  
Saturday  
**September 26, 2009**  
[Buy Tickets](#)

## In the News

**Jump in Food Stamp Recipients.** The number of food stamp recipients in the city has jumped 25 percent since the beginning of 2008. In June of this year, over 1.5 million New Yorkers received food stamps. It is the highest number in 15 years. The rise is attributed to the economic downturn, coupled with an easier application process. [More.](#)

**Rise in Manufacturing.** In a sign the recession may be losing steam, conditions for manufacturers in New York state improved in early August for the first time in more than a year, according to a monthly survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. [More.](#)

**CUNY Schools Enroll, but Don't Graduate.** In 2008, the six community campuses graduated just 2.3% of the 17,248 students who had enrolled as first-time, full-time freshmen in the fall of 2006, CUNY data show. One reason is the students aren't prepared: nearly 75% require remedial classes. [More.](#) Maybe the \$50 million boost that Bloomberg plans to give community colleges if re-elected will help to boost graduation rates. [More.](#)

**Soap Opera On a Mission.** "We Are New York" is a new television series for and about immigrant New Yorkers, where each episode is a civics and language lesson. The show's website describes the first episode as "a romantic comedy about financial empowerment, saving money and banking in the Big Apple." [More.](#)

**Tallying Stimulus Jobs Not Easy in New York.** Based on the \$3.25 billion already allocated, the city estimates that 30,776 jobs will be created by early 2011, but counting those jobs is proving challenging. [More.](#)

## In the Neighborhood

**Mexican Baby Boom.** In the past year, New York City's Mexican community has seen a 28% increase in births. Sunset Park, where OBT operates, is home to the city's largest Mexican population. [More.](#)

## Newly Released Studies and Reports

**The SAVENYC Account: Innovation in Asset Building. The NYC Office of Financial Empowerment, August 2009.** The report reviews first year results of a pilot program designed to promote savings among low income and very low income New Yorkers. Participants had an average household income of \$15,000, but more than half contributed at least \$500 to the savings account provided through the program, which provided matching funds up to \$250 to participants who left initial deposits in the bank for a full year. For the full report, visit [here.](#)

OBT is currently hiring an Adult Literacy Director, Performance Management Specialist, Job Developer/Corporate Recruiter, Vocational Counselor/Work Readiness Instructor, GED Instructor/Program Associate, and an Assistant Controller. For more information or to apply to these jobs, click [here.](#)

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