

Study Shows Jobless Rate Varies Widely Across City

Problem Most Severe In a Part of Brooklyn

By PATRICK MCGEEHAN

The unemployment rate for New York City has risen to 10 percent and above in recent months, but a new study shows that joblessness ranges from nearly twice that figure in some neighborhoods to only half as much in others.

The situation is worst in the East New York section of Brooklyn, where the unemployment rate for the third quarter of this year was 19.2 percent, according to the study, by the [Fiscal Policy Institute](#). That means that almost one-fifth of the adults living in

In three boroughs, unemployment among black residents exceeded 15 percent.

East New York could not find jobs; it does not account for those unemployed residents who did not bother seeking employment.

At the other end of the spectrum, not surprisingly, were the neighborhoods that flank Central Park. On the Upper East Side and Upper West Side, near the depths of the recession last quarter, the unemployment rate was just 5.1 percent.

Manhattan's most populous section, Harlem and Washington Heights, had by far the borough's highest rate of unemployment, at 13.6 percent. In the Bronx, only the southern and central section was worse off, with a rate of 15.7 percent, according to the report.

James Parrott, the chief econo-

mist for the Fiscal Policy Institute, a liberal research group, said that racial disparities also were striking.

In three of the five boroughs — the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan — unemployment among blacks exceeded 15 percent. Unemployment among Hispanics was 15 percent or higher in five neighborhoods. But white unemployment exceeded 15 percent in only one neighborhood — East New York, where, at 25 percent, it exceeded the rates for blacks and Hispanics.

The disparity appeared to be most pronounced in the neighborhoods of western Brooklyn, including Brooklyn Heights, Fort

Greene, Park Slope and Carroll Gardens. Nearly half the black men living in that section — 46 percent — were out of work, compared with just 3 percent of white men and 7 percent of Hispanic men, according to the study. But among women in western Brooklyn, Hispanics had the highest rate of unemployment, 23 percent, compared with 14 percent for black women and 4 percent for white women.

Citywide, the unemployment rate for black men was 19.9 percent, compared with 11.9 percent for Hispanic men and 7.6 percent for white men. For black women, the citywide rate was 12.1 percent, compared with 11.6 percent for Hispanic women and just 7.1 percent for white women.

The city's jobless rate dropped to 10 percent in November, down from 10.3 percent the month before.

Uneven Unemployment

The unemployment rate for different parts of the city varied from about half the citywide average to almost double the rate. For a more complete breakdown, go to the interactive graphic at [nytimes.com/cityroom](#).

Unemployment rate for each area, June-Sept. 2009

