



News from the Fiscal Policy Institute

For immediate release, September 20, 2010

Contact:

James Parrott, Ph.D., Deputy Director and Chief Economist
212-721-5624 (office)
parrott@fiscalpolicy.org

Statement from the Fiscal Policy Institute

“The overwhelming majority of New York’s workers remain mired in a high unemployment, unacceptably slow recovery despite today’s announcement by the National Bureau of Economic Research that the national recession bottomed out in June 2009, 15 months ago,” stated James Parrott, Chief Economist of the Fiscal Policy Institute. Even by the most optimistic projections, it will take another three to four years of faster job growth than we have seen to bring the unemployment rate back down to the five percent level that existed prior to the onset of the recession.

The customary unemployment measure pegs New York State’s unemployment at 8.3 percent in August and 9.4 percent for New York City. But the “underemployment rate,” which includes discouraged workers and those who are working part-time but need full-time jobs, is 16 percent for both New York City and New York State. Parrott called on elected officials at all levels to redouble efforts to promote immediate job creation and a faster recovery.

Parrott stated, “The economic and human consequences of prolonged, high unemployment are too damaging to our social fabric for officials to sit by as they appear to be doing. Unless more forceful economic stimulus measures are applied, this Great Recession will before long turn into another Great Depression, a Great Depression of living standards, opportunities and human potential.”

The NBER’s statement is available at <http://www.nber.org/cycles/sept2010.html>.

The Fiscal Policy Institute (www.fiscalpolicy.org) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization committed to improving policies and practices that better the economic and social conditions of all New Yorkers.