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HEADLINE: The Changing Face Of Work in New York

To the Editor:

Re "Fast Growth in Economy After 9/11" (news article, July 13):

New York City's economy has undergone a major transformation in recent years, as self-employment and small businesses have expanded. But that transformation is simply not reflected when looking at unemployment through the limited lens of the payroll data.

From 2000 to 2004, self-employment in New York City rose from 554,204 to 719,986, an increase of 30 percent.

Advances in technology have facilitated self-employment across all sectors of the economy: financial advisers, physical therapists, accountants, graphic designers, private car services, immigrant entrepreneurs.

We would argue that New York is not in a jobless recovery, but that New Yorkers are increasingly deriving their income from a variety of sources.

If one simply considers the strength of the cash-based underground economy, which is evident on every street corner in our city, and the enormous growth of the self-employed, many of whom understand that long-term job security is no longer provided by large employers, then the city surely has more people working today than in 2001.

Mitchell L. Moss  
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New York, July 14, 2006

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