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
Hugh O'Neill
New York, July 14, 2006

The writers are, respectively, a professor of urban policy and planning at New York University and the president of Appleseed, a consulting firm.