Unemployed and Underemployed Workforce Data
18.7m
workers
hit by the COVID downturn
(July 2021)

- 2.6 million Employed but experiencing cut in pay and hours
- 3.1 million Unemployed but misclassified as employed or not in the labor force
- 4.3 million Dropped out of labor force
- 8.7 million Officially unemployed

Note: The number of officially unemployed includes the 5.7 million baseline unemployment level prior to COVID. The number of unemployed but misclassified includes the 2.7 million estimated undercount of the unemployed prior to the start of COVID based on Ahn and Hamilton (2021). The 5.7 million and the 2.7 million are included in the calculation of those hit by COVID because job search was made much more difficult by the labor market impacts of the recession. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source: EPI analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey public data series. Adapted from Figure A in The economy President-elect Biden is inheriting (Shierholz 2021).
COVID-19 impacts varied significantly based on gender and race

Unemployment rates for select workers by race/ethnicity and gender

Notes: Data are for workers ages 20 and older. Racial and ethnic categories are not mutually exclusive; white and Black data do not exclude Latinx workers of each race. Unemployment levels are labeled for February, November, and the peak in between.

Many Georgia communities have recovered to pre-pandemic unemployment rates.

State Average 4.4%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 4%</td>
<td>57 Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6%</td>
<td>17 counties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted low wage jobs in Georgia and this continues to linger.

Percent Change in Employment in Georgia
(January 2020 - June 2021)

- High Wage (> $65k): +13.2%
- Middle Wage ($27k - $65k): +2.6%
- Low Wage (<$27k): -15.6%

Source: Track the Recovery
Georgia’s labor force participation rate has nearly recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

Labor Force Participation Rate for Georgia (Jan 2019 - July 2021)

Nearly 2.2M Georgians were not working for a reason other than retirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Reason for not working, besides retired (July 21- Aug 2, 2021)</th>
<th>Percent of survey responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other reason</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was sick (not coronavirus related) or disabled</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was caring for children not in school or daycare</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was laid off or furloughed due to coronavirus pandemic</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not want to be employed</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was concerned about getting or spreading the coronavirus</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not report reason</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My employer went out of business due to the coronavirus pandemic</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was caring for an elderly person</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My employer closed temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was caring for someone or sick myself with coronavirus symptoms</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not have transportation to work</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau; Household Pulse Survey
**Underemployment** is the share of the labor force that either

1) unemployed

2) “involuntary” part time
   - working part time but wants and is available to work full time

3) “marginally attached”
   - wants and is available to work and has looked for work in the last year but has given up actively seeking work in the last four weeks

Source: Economic Policy Institute
Underemployment increased for all levels of education during the pandemic

National Underemployment during COVID-19 Pandemic
(Jan 2020 – July 2021)

Historically those with higher levels of education have experienced lower levels of underemployment.
In June 2021 there were 1M more job openings than unemployed people in the US.

Source: EPI analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey and Current Population Survey. Unemployment levels represent the average of the unemployment level for the current month and the subsequent month to better line up with the job openings data.
There are currently 2.7 job postings per 1 unemployed Georgian.