Pandemic Employment: Winners and Losers

Groups that have usually fared better in the workforce or are more established in their careers weathered closures earlier this year better than those that have traditionally lagged in employment.

**Change in employment since December**

- Workers with at least a bachelor’s degree saw a smaller employment contraction and have largely rebounded.
- Well-established cohorts, like those aged 25 to 54 or white workers, fared better than average.
- Hispanic workers took an especially hard hit, but also have seen a quicker jobs recovery than many other groups. Jobs have returned more slowly for Black workers.
- Young workers were especially quick to lose jobs, but have recovered some ground with employment among workers ages 16 to 24 sliding 30%, since last year, but regaining almost a third of those losses.
- In contrast to college-educated workers, those without a high school diploma have suffered some of the worst job losses and have seen little recovery so far.

**Where in the economy the jobs left**

- The bulk of jobs lost were in service industries.
- Goods-producing jobs were hit hard early on, but losses in government jobs have overtaken them.
- Retail jobs fell quickly, with the exception of grocery stores. Warehouse workers, who in part help deliver goods ordered online, were largely spared.
- The health-care sector dipped during the crisis. Job losses were largely outside hospitals. Many doctors’ and dentists’ offices closed, while hospital job losses were milder.
- Hospitality was by far the hardest. Bar and restaurant jobs fell quickly but have partly returned. Accommodations, such as hotels and resorts, have rebounded more slowly.

Note: Seasonally adjusted
Source: WSJ analyses of Labor Department data

Danny Dougherty and Eric Morath/The Wall Street Journal