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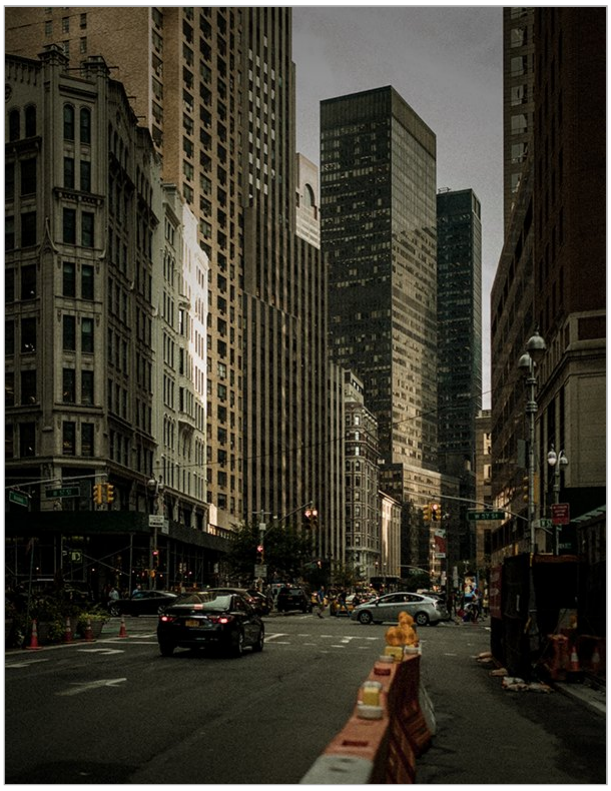

Report - July 2020

Recovery Signs, New Lows: NYC Employment by Industry Since the Outbreak of Coronavirus

While the coronavirus pandemic has affected nearly every part of New York City's economy, new research and analysis shows that the toll has differed strikingly by industry.

by Jonathan Bowles with Otto Moran

New York City has lost more than 777,000 jobs since February, affecting nearly every part of the city's economy. But the toll taken by the coronavirus pandemic has differed strikingly by industry. This new analysis reveals that while a half-dozen industries shed at least 50 percent of their job totals between February and June, 20 other sectors have managed to keep job losses under 8 percent. At the same time, more than a dozen industries have already recovered at least a third of the jobs lost in the early months of the pandemic, while roughly the same number of sectors have recaptured fewer than 10 percent and a handful of industries have yet to bring back any jobs.[1]

Major findings of our analysis include:

- The 20 industries with comparatively minimal employment declines (under 8 percent) between February and June are largely concentrated in a handful of sectors: 1) professional services, especially creative industries, finance and insurance, the tech sector, and legal services; 2) hospitals and other parts of the healthcare sector; 3) utilities and telecommunications; and 4) grocery stores and other food-related retail.
    - Creative Industries: cable & other subscription programming (+2.6 percent increase in jobs), publishing (+0.9%), radio and television broadcasting (-2.3%), architecture, engineering & related services (-3.7%), advertising (-5.5%). By comparison, the motion picture & sound recording industry has seen somewhat steeper losses (-11.6%).
    - Finance & Insurance: Insurance carrier & related activities (-1.5%), securities, commodity contracts, and other financial investments and related activities (-3.2%), credit intermediation and related activities (-3.4%)
    - Tech: Scientific research & development services (-1.6%), computer systems design (-5.9%)

- Other Professional Services: Legal services (-7.8%)
- Healthcare: Hospitals (-1.1% decline in jobs), nursing care facilities (-4.9%), home health care (-7.4%)
- Utilities & Telecommunications: Telecommunications (-0.1%), utilities (-3.9%)
- Food Retail: Grocery stores (-5.5%), food and beverage stores (-6.6%)

- In six industries, employment totals have fallen by 50 percent or more since February. Eleven other industries suffered losses between 20 and 50 percent. These hard-hit industries include many face-to-face service sectors and industries reliant on tourism, although other industries have been badly hurt as well. This includes restaurants, accommodations, arts and entertainment, retail, transportation, personal care and laundry services, child day care services, administrative and support services, construction, and manufacturing. While many professional business services industries have held up relatively well in this pandemic, one of the most accessible parts of the professional business services category—administrative and support services (which includes janitors, security guards, landscapers, pest control workers, office clerks, and office temp workers)—has seen significant employment declines.
  - Arts & Entertainment: Performing arts, spectator sports and related industries (-69.2%), museums, historical sites & similar institutions (-33.9%)
  - Restaurants: Full-service restaurants (-68.3%), limited-service eating places (-32.2%)
  - Retail: Clothing stores (-66.3%), furniture and home furnishings stores (-46.7%), department stores (-21.5%)
  - Personal and laundry services (-57.8%)
  - Traveler accommodation (-49.9%)
  - Transportation: Transit and ground passenger transportation (-45.5%), support activities for air transportation (-43.9%), air transportation (-30.2%)
  - Manufacturing: Apparel manufacturing (-37.9%), manufacturing, total (-20.6%)
  - Administrative & support services: Services to buildings and dwellings (-39.7%), employment services (-22.4%), investigation & security services (-20%)
  - Construction: Building equipment contractors (-26.1%), specialty trade contractors (-23.9%)
  - Child care services (-24.8%)

- Several industries have recovered a significant chunk of the jobs lost in the early months of the pandemic, but many other sectors have made far less progress and some fields are still shedding jobs.
  - As of June, just 3.7 percent of the jobs lost at clothing stores (1,300 out of 34,900 positions lost) have come back. A similarly small share of jobs have returned in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector (5.0 percent of those lost), child day care services (7.5 percent), air transportation (7.5 percent), and social assistance (9.7 percent).
  - In contrast, 53.7 percent of the jobs lost at hospitals across the city have returned, as have 48.5 percent of jobs at grocery stores, 86.4 percent at health and personal care stores, and 59.5 percent at sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores. Meanwhile, several segments of the construction industry have recaptured a comparatively large share of jobs, including building finishing contractors (61.8 percent of jobs have returned), specialty trade contractors (57.2 percent), and building equipment contractors (50.9 percent).
  - While the majority of the city's industries hit a low point for employment in April or May and have since begun a recovery, a small group of industries continued to lose jobs through June. For instance, performing arts, spectator sports and related industries lost another 3,000 jobs between April and June after earlier losing 27,600 from February to April. Employment in the transit and ground passenger transportation sector declined by 3,200 since April, after suffering 13,100 in job losses from February to April. Employment in colleges and universities declined by 19,100 since April, after only experiencing 3,500 job losses from February to April. Apparel manufacturing, museums, education services, investigation & security services, and real estate rentals

& leasing all hit new lows for total employment in June.

- 10 industries have either returned to or surpassed their jobs total from February, including publishing, and couriers & messengers. The 10 sectors are:
    - State government education (0%)
    - Community food and housing, and emergency and other relief services (0%)
    - Local elementary & secondary schools (+0.3%)
    - Publishing industries (+0.9%)
    - Nondepository credit intermediation (+1.6%)
    - State government (+1.6%)
    - State government hospitals (+2.1%)
    - Cable & other subscription programming (+2.6%)
    - Couriers and messengers (+4.7%)
    - Other residential care facilities (+7%)
- Only one industry didn't lose any jobs since February (state government education)

Industries that have lost a comparatively small share of their jobs between February and June

Industry	% of Total Jobs Lost/Gained Since February	Number of Jobs Lost/Gained Since February
Telecommunications	-0.6%	-100
Federal Government	-0.6%	-300
Broadcasting	-1.0%	-300
Hospitals	-1.1%	-1,900
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	-1.5%	-900
Scientific Research & Development Services	-1.6%	-300
Health and Personal Care Stores	-1.7%	-800
Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities	-3.2%	-5,700
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	-3.4%	-3,600
Architecture, Engineering & Related Services	-3.7%	-1,400
Utilities	-3.9%	-600
Local Government	-4.4%	-21,000
Nursing Care Facilities	-4.9%	-2,000
Advertising	-5.5%	-4,000
Grocery Stores	-5.5%	-3,500
Computer Systems Design	-5.9%	-4,300
Food and Beverage Stores	-6.6%	-5,400
Elementary and Secondary Schools	-6.6%	-3,800
Home Health Care	-7.4%	-16,400
Legal Services	-7.8%	-6,400

Industries that have lost a large share of their jobs between February and June

Industry	% of Total Jobs Lost Since February	Number of Jobs Lost Since February
Full Service Restaurants	-68.3%	-112,800
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports and Related Industries	-69.2%	-30,600
Clothing Stores	-66.3%	-33,600
Personal and Laundry Services	-57.8%	-36,900
Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions	-33.9%	-4,200
Limited-Service Eating Places	-32.2%	-34,800
Traveler Accommodation	-49.9%	-25,100
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	-46.7%	-4,900
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	-45.5%	-16,300
Support Activities for Air Transportation	-43.9%	-4,700
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	-39.7%	-16,400
Apparel Manufacturing	-37.9%	-3,600
Air Transportation	-30.2%	-9,800
Building Equipment Contractors	-26.1%	-16,400
Administrative and Support Services	-26.0%	-73,000
Child Day Care Services	-24.8%	-9,900
Specialty Trade Contractors	-23.9%	-23,900
Employment Services	-22.4%	-28,800
Department Stores	-21.5%	-6,200
Construction of Buildings	-21.3%	-10,100
Manufacturing	-20.6%	-13,800

Industries that lost a moderate share of their jobs between February and June

Industry	% of Total Jobs Lost Since February	Number of Jobs Lost Since February
Motion Picture & Sound Recording Industries	-11.6%	-5,200
Grocery and Related Product Merchants	-12.1%	-2,900
Real Estate	-12.2%	-15,000
Individual & Family Services	-13.4%	-22,700
Colleges, universities & professional schools	-13.6%	-22,600
Wholesale Trade	-13.7%	-18,900
Social Assistance	-14.5%	-33,600
Accounting, tax prep, bookkeeping & Payroll Services	-15.3%	-9,000
General Merchandise Stores	-16.4%	-6,800
Offices of Physicians	-17.4%	-10,400
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations	-17.8%	-21,600
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	-18.7%	-1,700

Industries that have had a net gain in jobs between February and June

Industry	% of Total Jobs Gained Since February	Number of Jobs Gained Since February
Couriers & Messengers	4.7%	900
State Government	1.6%	700
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	0.9%	400
Local Elementary & Secondary Schools	0.3%	500

By June, the following industries had recaptured less than 10 percent of the jobs lost between February and the trough reached in either April or May:[2]

Industry	% of Lost Jobs That Have Returned	Number of Lost Jobs That Have Returned
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, & Similar Organizations	0.5%	100 out of 21,700
Government	1.8%	400 out of 22,100
Finance & Insurance	2.9%	300 out of 10,500
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	3.3%	200 out of 6,100
Administrative and Support Services	3.4%	2,600 out of 75,600
Clothing Stores	3.7%	1,300 out of 34,900
Transportation and Warehousing	4.6%	2,000 out of 43,300
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5.0%	2,800 out of 55,800
Professional and Business Services	5.3%	6,600 out of 123,500
Merchant Wholesalers, Non-durable Goods	6.5%	1,000 out of 15,500
Child Day Care Services	7.5%	800 out of 10,700
Air Transportation	7.5%	800 out of 10,600
Individual and Family Services	7.7%	1,900 out of 24,600
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	7.9%	1,400 out of 17,800
Investigation and Security Services	8.4%	1,100 out of 13,100
Personal and Laundry Services	8.7%	3,500 out of 40,400
Employment Services	8.9%	2,800 out of 31,600
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	9.2%	3,300 out of 35,900
Social Assistance	9.7%	3,600 out of 37,200

In contrast, more than 30 percent of lost jobs have returned in the following industries:

Industry	% of Lost Jobs That Have Returned	Number of Lost Jobs That Have Returned
Health and Personal Care Stores	86.4%	5,100 out of 5,900
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	84.0%	2,100 out of 2,500
Building Finishing Contractors	61.8%	5,500 out of 8,900
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	60.3%	3,500 out of 5,800
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores	59.5%	2,500 out of 4,200
Specialty Trade Contractors	57.2%	31,900 out of 55,800
Hospitals	53.7%	2,200 out of 4,100
Building Equipment Contractors	50.9%	17,000 out of 33,400
Grocery Stores	48.5%	3,300 out of 6,800
Construction of Buildings	47.9%	9,300 out of 19,400
Food and Beverage Stores	41.3%	3,800 out of 9,200
General Merchandise Stores	39.3%	4,400 out of 11,200
Information	36.9%	4,500 out of 12,200
Home Health Care Services	36.2%	9,300 out of 25,700
Department Stores	35.4%	3,400 out of 9,600
Limited-Service Eating Places	34.5%	18,300 out of 53,100
Retail Trade	32.0%	29,700 out of 92,700
Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	31.0%	2,200 out of 7,100
Manufacturing	30.7%	6,100 out of 19,900

Notes

1. This report analyzes data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly Current Employment Survey, as tabulated by the New York State Department of Labor.

2. Only includes industries with 2,500 or more job losses between February and either April or May.

General operating support for the Center for an Urban Future has been provided by **The Clark Foundation** and the **Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation**. CUF is also grateful for support from **Fisher Brothers** for the **Middle Class Jobs Project**.

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