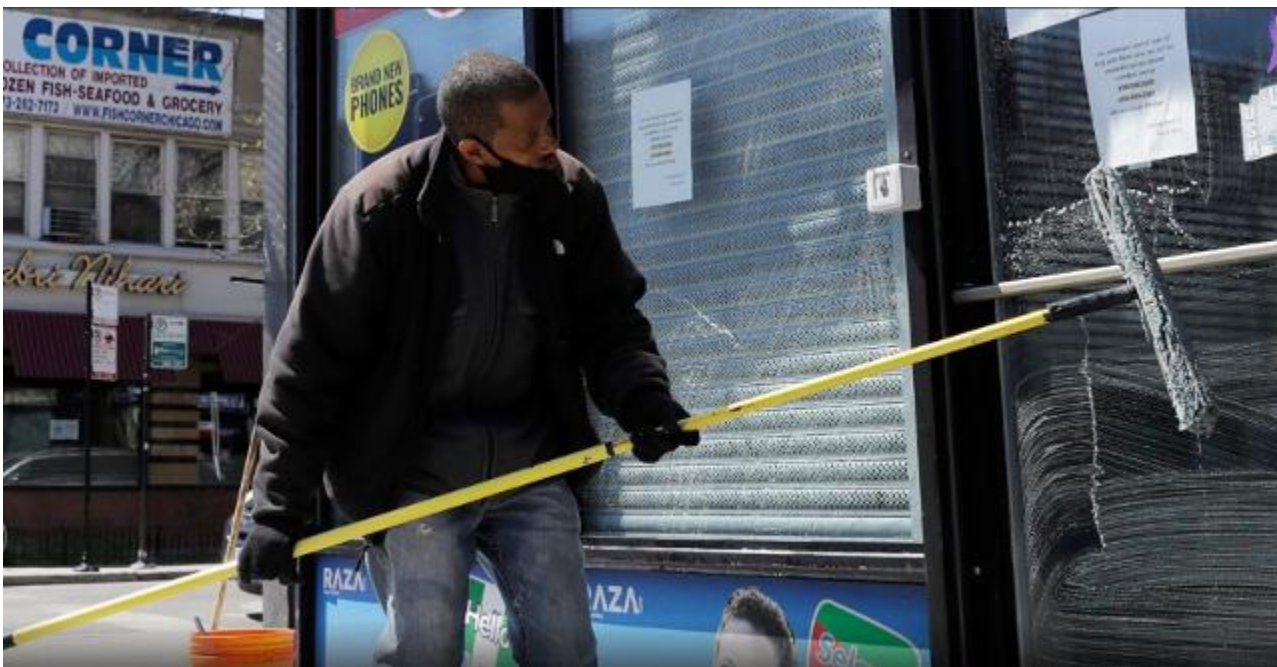


# Black Workers Suffer Most From Illinois' Slow Recovery From COVID-19

September 12 2021 7:15 AM



SPRINGFIELD - Some parts of Illinois' job markets are recovering, but not for Black Illinoisans. Many jobs are still missing from before COVID-19, including over one-third of the leisure and hospitality jobs.

Over 406,700 workers are still missing from Illinois' COVID-19 economic recovery, but the impacts are worse for Black Illinoisans.

More than 300,000 prime working-age Illinoisans are estimated to still be out of work because of COVID-19. Employment of white, prime working-age Illinoisans is 7.4% lower because of the effects of COVID-19 on the state's economy.

For Black Illinoisans of prime working age, the negative impact on employment has been far greater. Of these workers, 11.3% are not working thanks to COVID-19.

### Illinois workforce still missing 307,946 people in their prime

Black workers suffered the biggest decline among the 307,946 prime working-age individuals missing from Illinois' workforce.

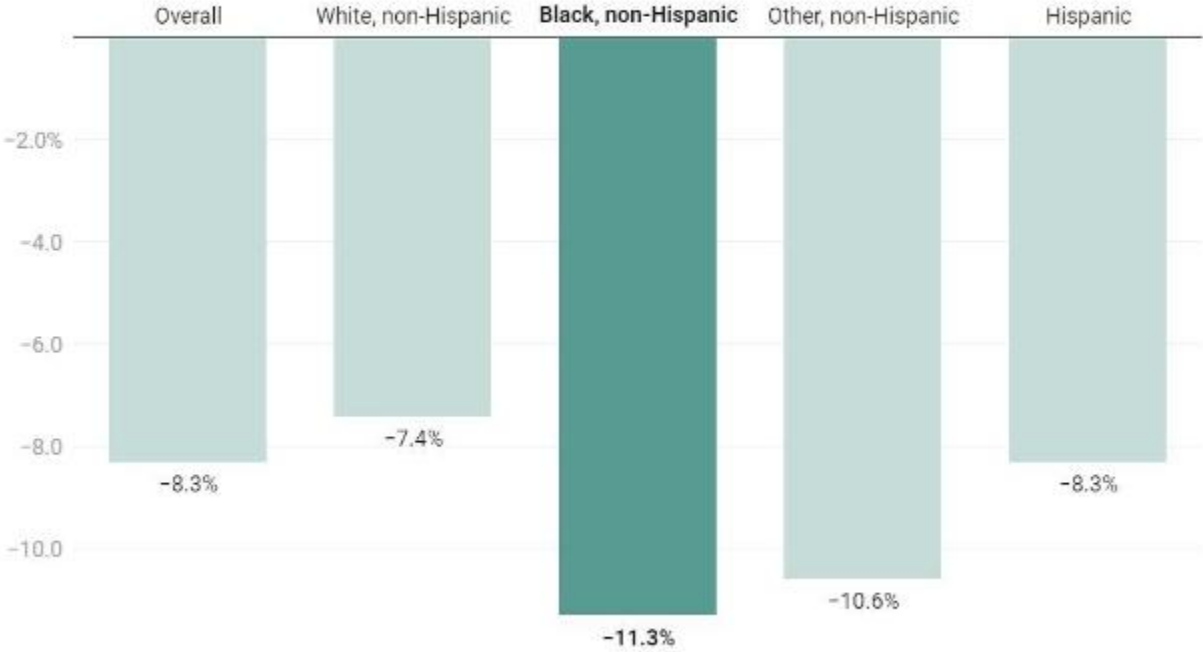


Chart: @illinoispolicy • Source: IPUMS CPS, author's calculations • Created with Datawrapper

Not only have Black Illinoisans been the most hurt by the economic downturn, they have been wholly left out of the recovery. While almost every group saw a year-over-year increase in employment, the employment rate of Black, non-Hispanic Illinoisans fell by 5.4 percentage points according to data from the monthly Current Population Survey.

## Black Illinoisans being left out of jobs recovery

Difference between employment rates in June 2020 and June 2021 by race, ethnicity of workers.

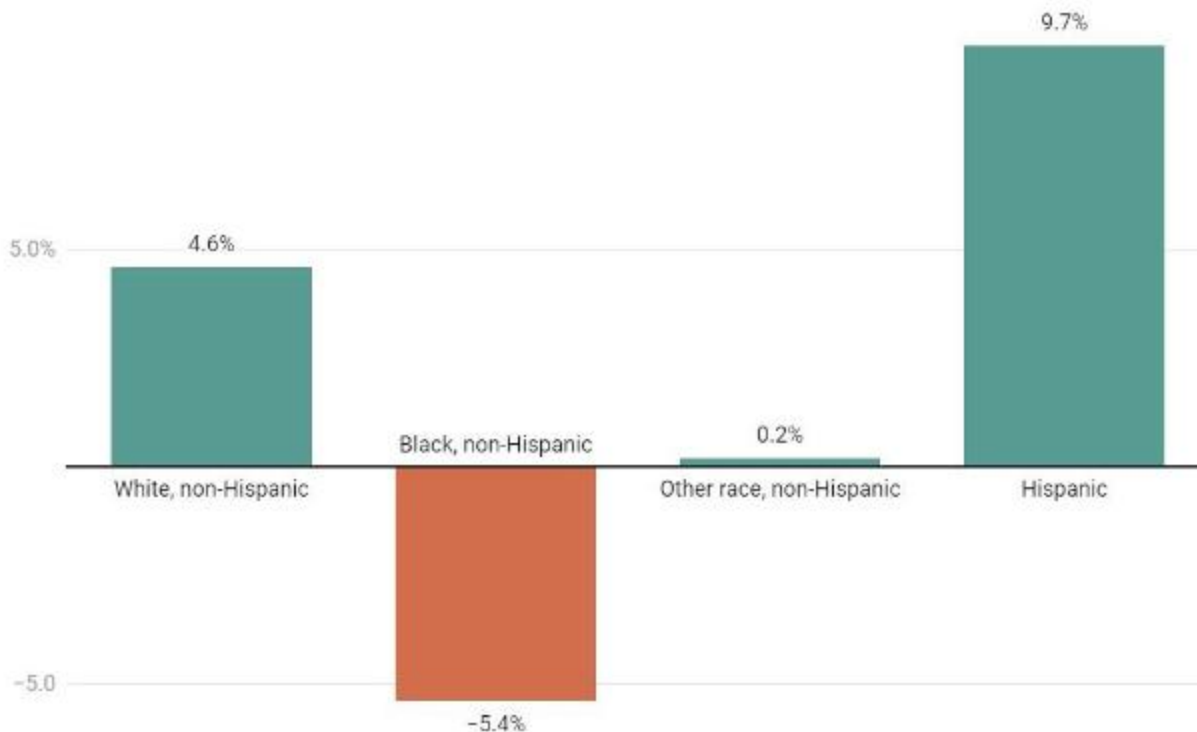


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Hispanic Illinoisans' employment rates increased by 9.7 percentage points from June 2020 to June 2021. The employment rate of white, non-Hispanic Illinoisans increased by 4.6 percentage points.

Illinois added 12,500 new jobs in June, according to new [data](#) released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The big winners were in the leisure and hospitality sector (+10,700); trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,400); construction (+2,100); financial activities (+100), and other service industries (+800).

Employment fell in mining (-100), manufacturing (-2,500), information (-200), and professional and business services (-3,700).

## Illinois lost manufacturing, professional service jobs in June

Change in total non-farm payrolls and changes by job sector, mid-May to mid-June, 2021, seasonally adjusted

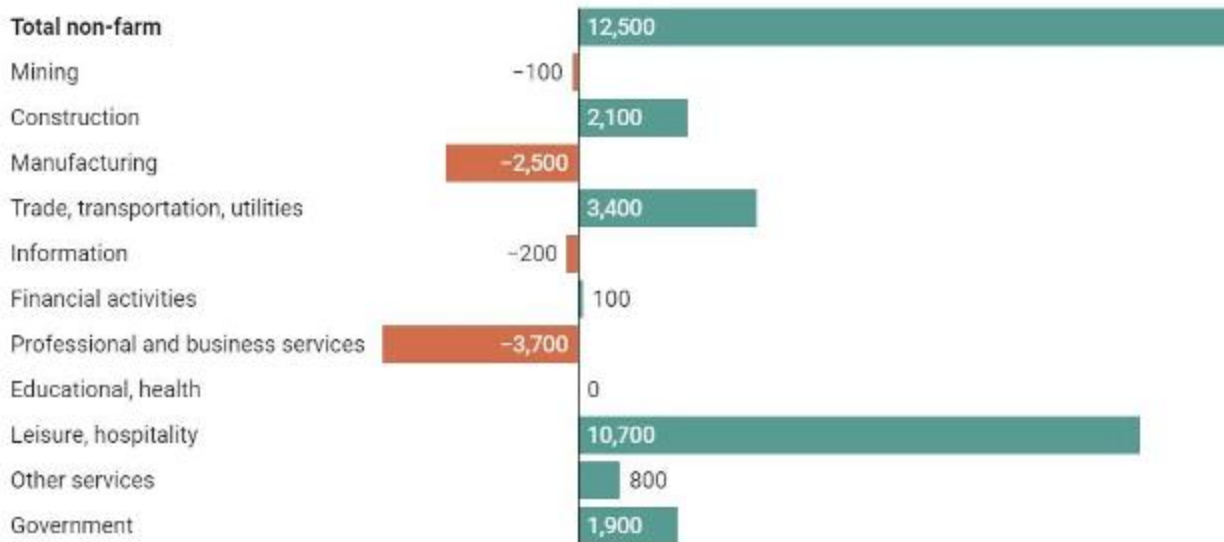


Chart: @illinoispolicy • Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics • Created with Datawrapper

Illinois' jobs growth has now accelerated for the second month in a row after May figures were revised to show jobs growth rather than the decline originally estimated. Despite this move in the right direction, 443,500 Illinoisans remained [unemployed](#) and the state's unemployment rate continued to creep higher in June, now 7.2% – 44th in the nation.

Illinois is still missing roughly half of the jobs that were lost during the COVID-19 induced downturn. The leisure and hospitality sector remains the industry most affected, missing 143,300 jobs: 35% of the total jobs compared to before the pandemic.

## Illinois is missing 406,700 jobs since COVID-19 downturn

Mining, information, financial activities, and government sectors still employ fewer workers than in the worst month of the COVID-19 downturn.

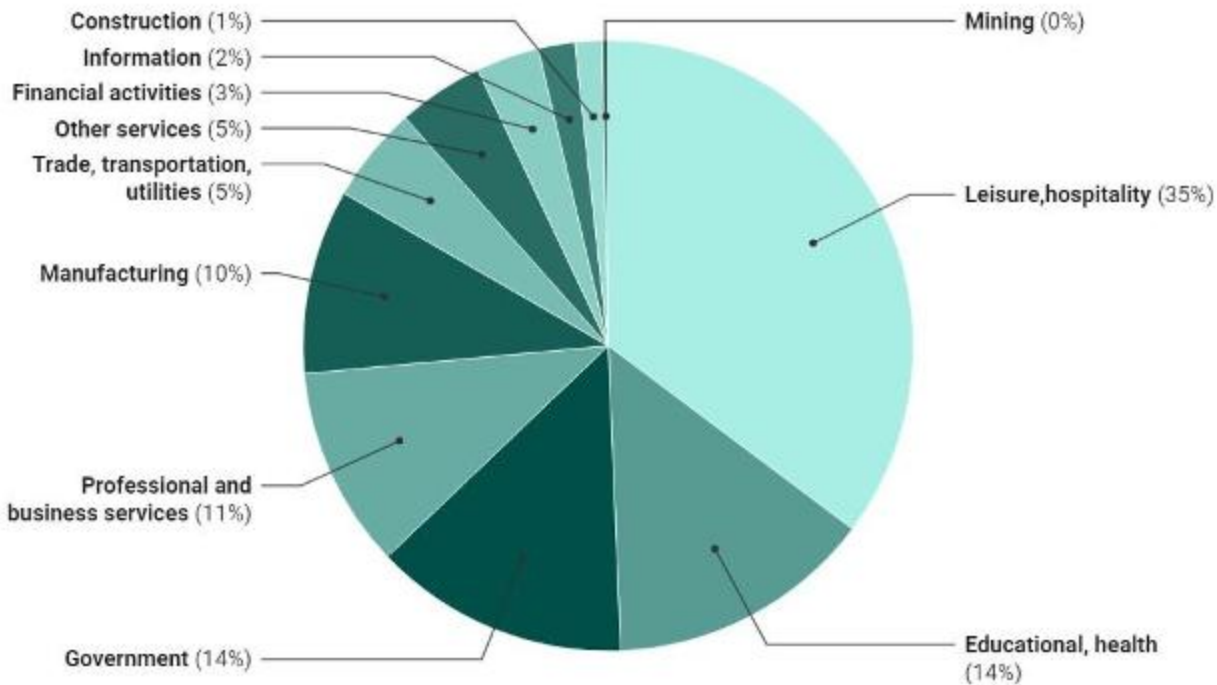


Chart: @illinoispolicy • Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, author's calculations • Created with Datawrapper

While most of the hardest-hit industries saw a quick rebound in employment, many remain far below their pre-pandemic levels. For some, the recovery is missing altogether. The financial sector continued to shed another 2,500 jobs since April 2020; state and local government jobs continued to decline by another 1,200 jobs, Information services remain down 500 jobs, and mining also continued struggling with another 400 workers lost.

Unfortunately, the [disparate effects](#) of the COVID-19 economic downturn across industries and demographic groups have persisted during the state's labor market recovery. Making matters worse for those Illinoisans still out of work, Illinois lawmakers passed a [\\$42.3 billion](#) budget that was [unbalanced](#) for the 21st year in a row.

It also contains \$655 million in tax hikes that specifically strike at job creation and will hinder the economy as it attempts to continue its recovery.

Ignoring public policy's impacts on a fragile recovery will only lengthen and deepen Illinois' struggles. It appears minority workers will face the greatest threat from state leaders' missteps.