



NEWS RELEASE: Nonprofit Job Recovery Rate Drops to 1.9% in November, Could Take 2.3 Years to Fully Recover

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As 2020 draws to a close, we have analyzed data from the [latest BLS Employment Situation Report](#) to estimate nonprofit job losses through November, [continuing our effort](#) to track the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on nonprofit employment. We then looked at month-over-month trends to see how the overall recovery of early nonprofit jobs losses is proceeding and what that may mean for the long-term recovery of sector employment into 2021 and beyond.

PART 1: NONPROFIT JOB LOSSES AS OF NOVEMBER 2020

As of November 2020, the nonprofit workforce remained down by nearly 878,000 jobs compared to February 2020, representing a 7% decline from its pre-pandemic level, as shown in **Figure 1**. These lost jobs include over a quarter million workers in nonprofit educational organizations; nearly a quarter million workers in health care institutions; over 135,000 workers in social assistance organizations; and more than 115,000 workers in nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

FIGURE 1 • Estimated nonprofit job losses, November vs. February 2020, by field

	Estimated number of jobs as of February ^o	Estimated number of jobs lost as of November [^]	Estimated percent of jobs lost as of November
Educational services	2,003,634	-258,504	-12.9%
Health care	6,777,730	-223,385	-3.3%
Social assistance	1,528,920	-135,659	-8.9%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	355,965	-115,075	-32.3%
Religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, & similar	818,562	-70,437	-8.6%
Other fields*	555,421	-31,921	-5.7%
TOTAL, ALL FIELDS	12,482,741	-877,802	-7.0%

^o Based on 2017 BLS data, latest year available.

[^] Reflects BLS adjustments totaling +11,000 jobs in September and October.

* Includes: Construction; Manufacturing; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Information; Finance and Insurance; and Accommodation and food services. Totals ~4.4% of total nonprofit employment.

As shown in **Figure 2**, the month of November saw just a 3.4% recovery of nonprofit jobs compared to the level in the previous month of October.¹ November also saw a continuation of losses in the key field of education, with nonprofit educational institutions shedding an additional 4,000 jobs during this period on the heels of over 15,000 losses during October. In addition, the field encompassing religious institutions, foundations, and associations recovered only 120 jobs in November, representing a 0.2% recovery—a precipitous drop from the October recovery rate of 1.7% in this field.

FIGURE 2 • Change in lost nonprofit jobs, November vs. October 2020

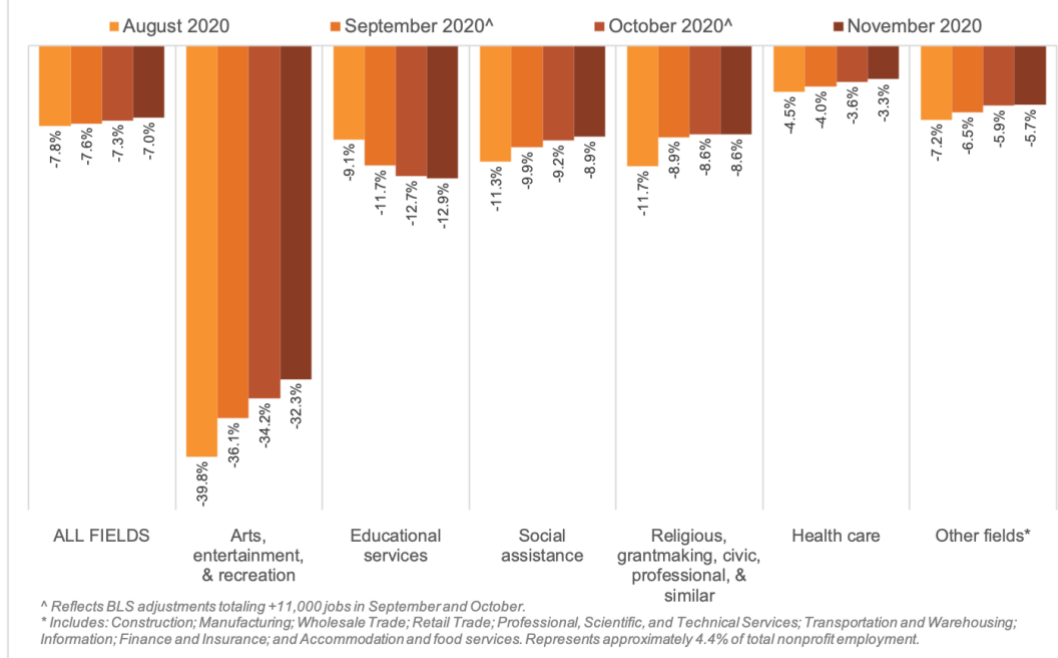
	Nonprofit jobs lost as of October [^]	Change in nonprofit jobs in November	Percent change in nonprofit jobs in November
Educational services	-254,460	-4,044	-1.6%
Health care	-243,367	19,982	8.2%
Social assistance	-141,248	5,590	4.0%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	-121,763	6,688	5.5%
Religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, & similar	-70,557	120	0.2%
Other fields*	-32,497	1,196	3.7%
TOTAL, ALL FIELDS	-907,917	30,735	3.4%

[^] Reflects BLS adjustments totaling +11,000 jobs in September and October. Losses are calculated against February estimated based on 2017 BLS data.

* Includes: Construction; Manufacturing; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Transportation and Warehousing; Information; Finance and Insurance; and Accommodation and food services. Totals ~4.4% of total nonprofit employment.

More generally, the month-to-month improvement in the nonprofit job picture has been modest at best, with the past 4 months seeing only an overall recovery of .8% of nonprofit jobs, as shown in **Figure 3**.

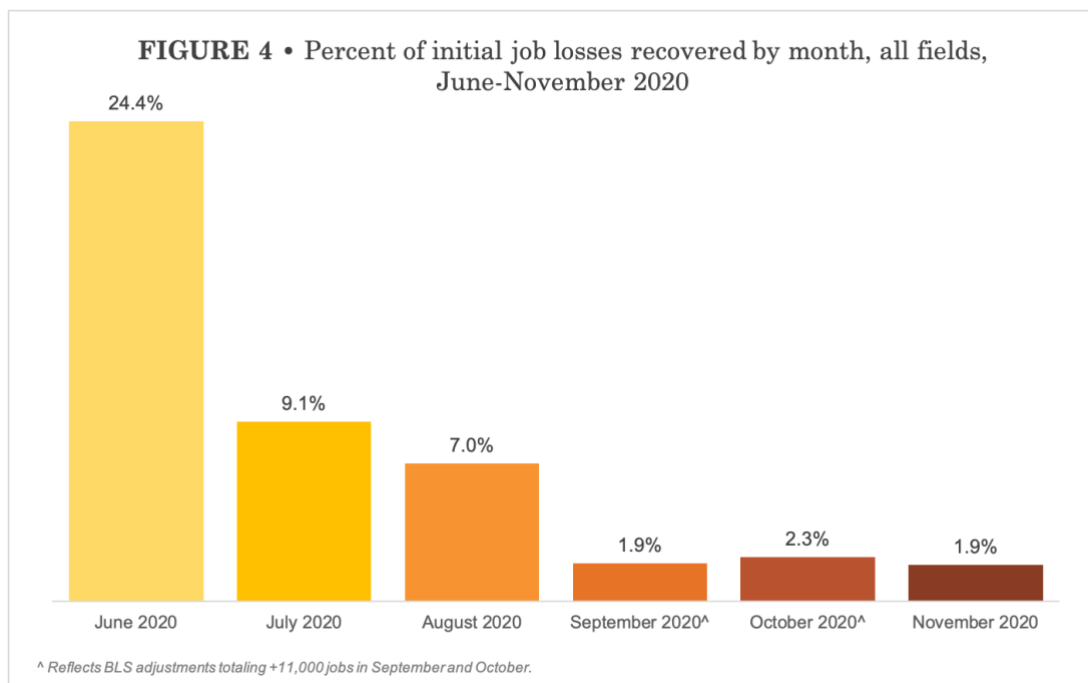
FIGURE 3 • Percent of nonprofit jobs still lost in key fields, July-November 2020 vs. February 2020



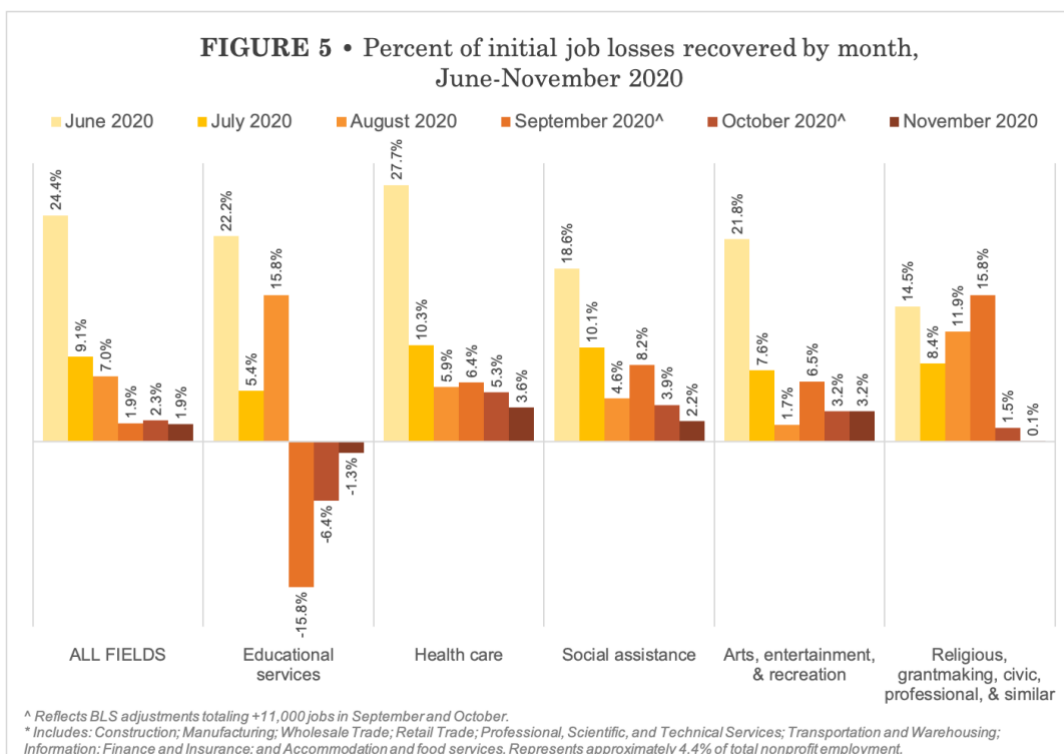
¹ Our [October update](#) found that, as of October, nonprofit job losses stood at an estimated 949,048. However, BLS revisions for September and October resulted in this new estimate for October. BLS monthly revisions result from additional reports received from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors. For more information, see: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics November Employment Situation Report \(12/4/2020\)](#).

PART 2: TRACKING THE RECOVERY—JUNE THROUGH NOVEMBER

This troublingly slow improvement in the share of nonprofit jobs missing over the past four months reflects the stubborn impact of the pandemic on employment, especially in fields where nonprofits are present. Thus, November's 30,735 recovered jobs represented a recovery rate of just 1.9% of the estimated 1.64 million initial job losses from the first 3 months of the pandemic (i.e., March, April, and May) as reported in our [2020 Nonprofit Employment Report](#). This represents a reversal of the small upward bump in job recoveries achieved in October, as shown in **Figure 4**.



What is more, this pattern of declining recovery rates was evident in every field, as shown in **Figure 5**. Of continuing concern is the education field, where losses in the months of September and October continued into November, albeit at a slower rate.



PART 3: YEARS TO RECOVERY AT RECENT RATES

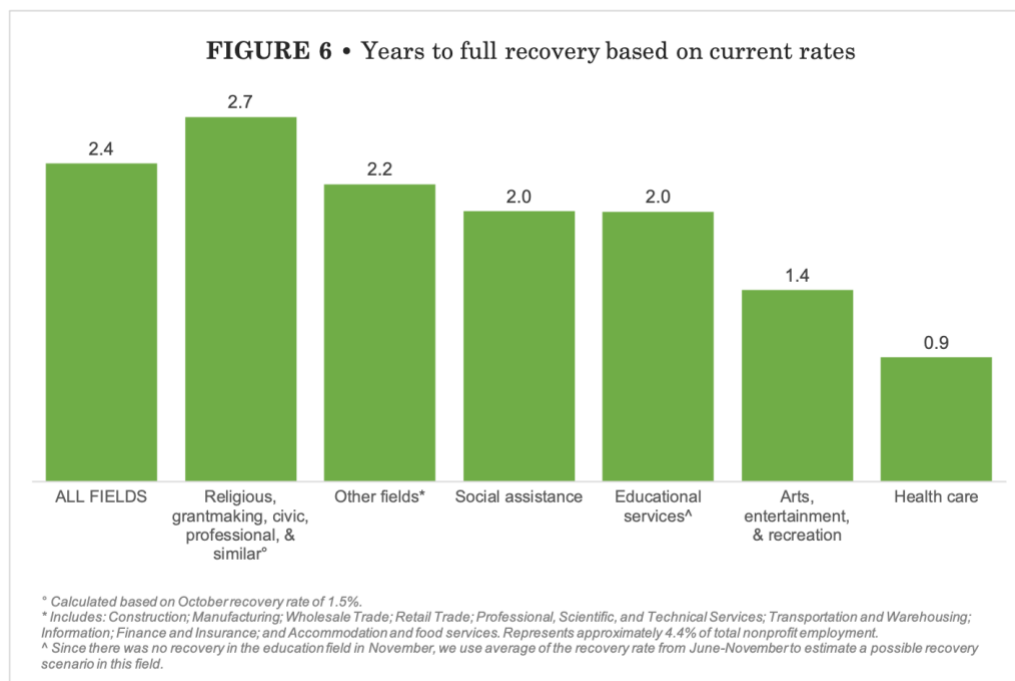
If the rate of nonprofit job growth evident in November persists, it would take the nonprofit sector **2.4 years** to dig its way out of the 877,802 job losses that remained as of November,² as shown in Figure 6.

CONCLUSION

Given the dramatic recent surges in new COVID-19 infections and deaths, the [increasing restrictions](#) being instituted around the country in an attempt to stem the tide, the [looming expiration of existing policy interventions](#), and the likelihood

that [vaccinations](#) will not be available to the majority of the population until at least the second quarter of 2021, it seems likely that the recent slowing of nonprofit job recovery will persist, or perhaps even intensify in the coming months. This will put added strain on institutions that are especially critical to managing this crisis.

Luckily, the nonprofit sector has a constellation of strong advocates [working to ensure](#) that these critical organizations are included in the next rounds of support legislation when and if they arrive. The ability of the country to recover from its current crisis may well depend on it. As we head into the new year it will therefore be especially important to continue to track the impact of the evolving situation on this critical sector and its workforce.



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The Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies is a leading source of ground-breaking research and knowledge about the nonprofit sector, social investing, and the tools of government. Working in collaboration with governments, international organizations, investment innovators, and colleagues around the world, the Center encourages the use of this knowledge to strengthen and mobilize the capabilities and resources of the public, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors to address the complex problems that face the world today. The Center conducts research and educational programs that seek to improve current understanding, analyze emerging trends, and promote promising innovations in the ways that government, civil society, and business can collaborate to address social and environmental challenges.

About the Johns Hopkins Nonprofit Economic Data Project (NED) | [link](#)

Nonprofit organizations are facing increased pressures in states and localities throughout the United States, but the nonprofit sector's ability to respond to these pressures has been limited by a lack of timely information about how prevailing economic realities are affecting the sector. The Johns Hopkins Nonprofit Economic Data Project (NED) is helping to tackle this problem by charting economic trends in the nonprofit sector including how employment, wages, and finances have changed over time and in relation to other industries. Moreover, the project is able to analyze these data at the national, regional, state, and local levels, and to focus on particular subsectors—such as nursing homes, hospitals, home health centers, education, social services, and the arts. A collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, state employment security agencies, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state nonprofit associations, the NED Project has thus far produced almost 50 state, county, and regional [Nonprofit Economic Data Bulletins](#) since its founding in 2001, yielding a vital resource for understanding the nonprofit sector.

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² 877,802 jobs ÷ 30,735 jobs per month = 28.5 months