



# NEWS RELEASE: Nonprofit Employment Recovery Slowed Significantly in September, Still Down By Nearly 8%

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As part of our continued effort to track the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on nonprofit employment, we have analyzed data from the latest [BLS Employment Situation Report](#) to estimate nonprofit job losses through September 2020.

## HOW DID NONPROFITS FARE IN SEPTEMBER?

Unfortunately, the month of September showed only a modest 2% recovery of nonprofit jobs compared to the situation [we reported](#) in August.<sup>1</sup> The only major field that enjoyed a rebound of more than 10% overall was social assistance at 12.8%. What is more, September brought significant additional losses in the key field of education totaling nearly 50,000 jobs—a drop of 24% from August employment levels, as shown in **Figure 1**.

**FIGURE 1 • Change in nonprofit jobs, September vs. August 2020**

Field	Nonprofit jobs lost, Aug vs. Feb 2020	Change in nonprofit jobs, Sept vs. Aug 2020	Percent change in nonprofit jobs, Sept vs. Aug 2020
Education	-203,100	-48,594	-23.9%
Health care	-312,938	22,936	7.3%
Social assistance	-176,782	22,565	12.8%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	-133,890	10,397	7.8%
Other services*	-100,300	6,800	6.8%
Other fields**	-46,342	4,800	10.4%
<b>TOTAL, ALL FIELDS</b>	<b>-973,352</b>	<b>18,904</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

\*Includes religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, and similar organizations.

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

<sup>1</sup> August estimates have been adjusted to reflect BLS revisions adding 145,000 more jobs in July and August than previously reported. 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: the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [September Employment Situation Report](#).

As of September 2020, the nonprofit workforce remained down by nearly 1 million jobs compared to its pre-pandemic February levels. Especially still hard hit are nonprofit jobs in many of the key service fields critical to the COVID response, including: nearly **300,000 jobs** lost in health care; over a **quarter million jobs** lost in private education; more than **150,000 jobs** lost in the social services field; and almost **125,000 jobs** lost in the arts, as shown in **Figure 2**.

**FIGURE 2 • Estimated nonprofit jobs lost, March-September 2020**

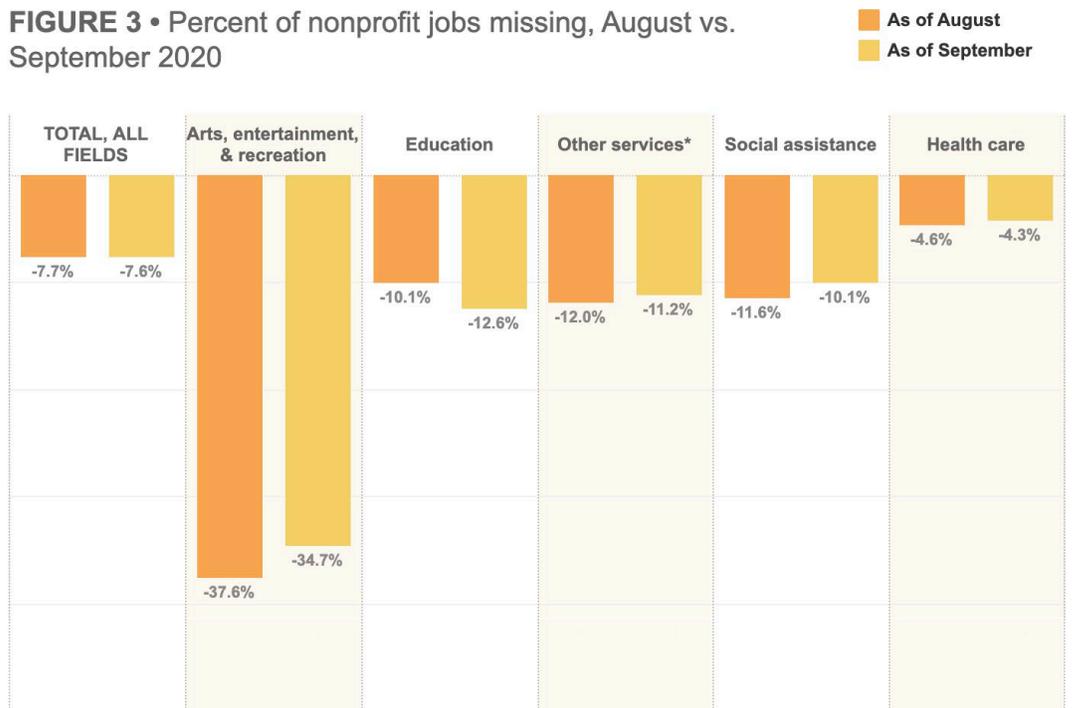
Field	Nonprofit jobs lost, Sept vs. February 2020	Percent of nonprofit jobs lost as of September
Education	-251,694	-12.6%
Health care	-290,002	-4.3%
Social assistance	-154,216	-10.1%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	-123,493	-34.7%
Other services*	-93,500	-11.2%
Other fields**	-41,542	-7.5%
<b>TOTAL, ALL FIELDS</b>	<b>-954,447</b>	<b>-7.6%</b>

\*Includes religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, and similar organizations.

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As a result, as shown in **Figure 3**, the total nonprofit workforce at the end of September 2020 thus remained down by 7.6% from its pre-March 2020 level. Particularly hard-hit were jobs in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-35%); education (-12.6%); other services, which includes foundations and civic, social, and advocacy organizations (-11.2%), and social services (-10%).

**FIGURE 3 • Percent of nonprofit jobs missing, August vs. September 2020**

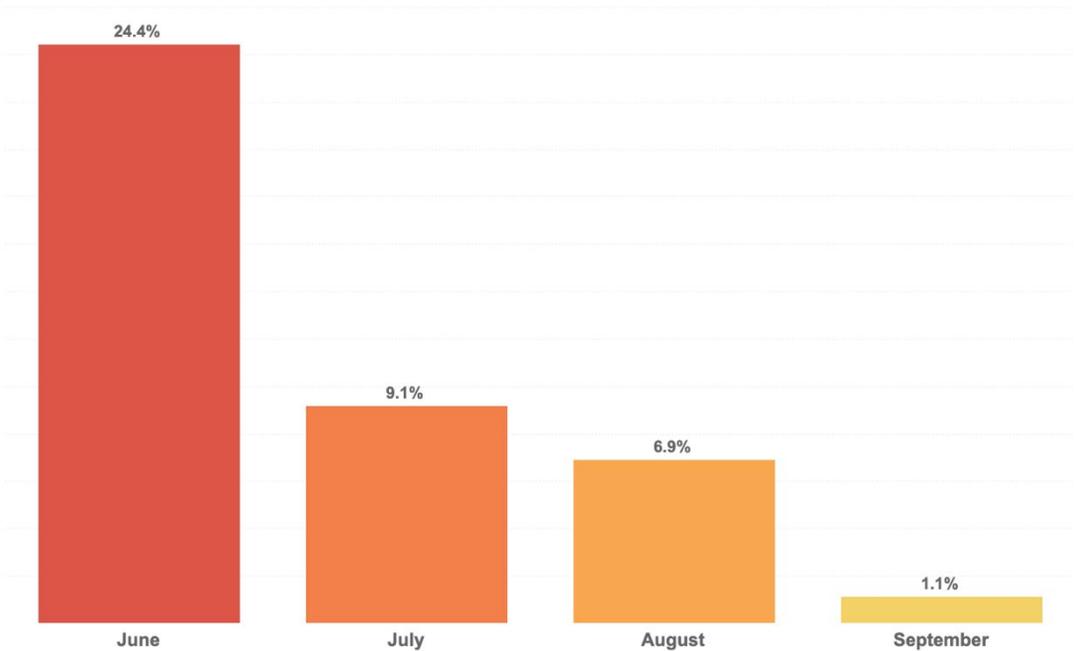


\*Other services includes religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, and similar organizations.

## A STEADILY SLOWING RECOVERY—JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

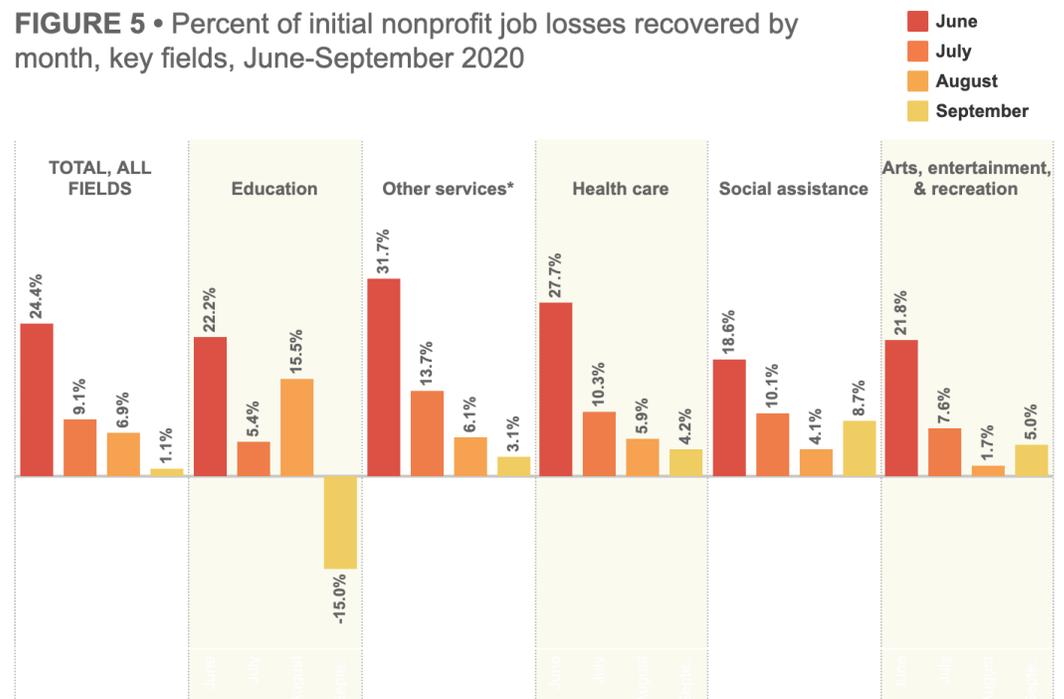
The slowdown in job recovery reflected in the September data is unfortunately not an outlier. To the contrary, it continues a slowdown in the recovery that has been underway for several months, especially in fields in which nonprofits are particularly active. Thus, while over 24% of the estimated 1.6 million total pandemic-related nonprofit job losses<sup>2</sup> were recovered in June, the rate of recovery slipped to 9% in July, to barely 7% in August, and to only 1.1% in September, as shown in **Figure 4**.

**FIGURE 4 • Percent of initial nonprofit job losses recovered by month, June-September 2020**



As shown in **Figure 5**, moreover, this progressive slowdown in the recovery was evident in almost every field.

**FIGURE 5 • Percent of initial nonprofit job losses recovered by month, key fields, June-September 2020**



\*Other services includes religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, and similar organizations.

## CONCLUSION

With discouraging evidence that the COVID virus is far from tamed and impediments to the return to normalcy in fields in which nonprofits are active likely to remain in place, the estimated 1 million nonprofit workers who have lost their jobs since the start of the pandemic may therefore

<sup>2</sup> See: Salamon & Newhouse, *Johns Hopkins 2020 Nonprofit Employment Report*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies), June 2020.

not regain them anytime soon. With Congress and the administration unable to come to agreement on a meaningful new recovery package, it will be up to strained charities to help the nonprofit workforce cope with the pressures its members are under—a challenge that at least some communities have heroically undertaken. In the meantime, we can hope that the imminent election will yield a set of policy measures that can tame the pandemic and thereby open the way to reviving the economy and the workplace for our country's third largest workforce. Beyond that, it will be more vital than ever to keep a close eye on the status of the nonprofit workforce and ensure that these critical organizations and the workers who allow them to operate receive the support they need and deserve.

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**About the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies | [email](#)**

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 over 40 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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