



NEWS RELEASE: Nonprofit Jobs Rebound Slightly in October, but Remain Down by Over 900,000 Compared to Pre-COVID Levels

November 16, 2020
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In our [continuing 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 October 2020. We then looked at month-over-month trends to see how the overall recovery of early nonprofit jobs losses is proceeding.

PART 1: NONPROFIT JOB LOSSES AS OF OCTOBER 2020

As of October 2020, the nonprofit workforce remained down by over 900,000 jobs compared to its February 2020 level, representing a 7.3% decline from its pre-pandemic level, as shown in **Figure 1**. These missing jobs include over a quarter million workers in health care institutions; nearly a quarter million workers in nonprofit educational organizations; over 145,000 workers in social assistance organizations, and more than 120,000 workers in nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

FIGURE 1 • Estimated nonprofit jobs missing, October vs. February 2020

	Nonprofit jobs lost, Oct [^] vs. Feb 2020	Percent of nonprofit jobs lost as of October
Education	-247,154	-12.3%
Health care	-250,491	-3.7%
Social assistance	-145,318	-9.5%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	-121,608	-34.2%
Religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, & similar	-72,171	-8.8%
Other fields*	-32,266	-5.8%
TOTAL, ALL FIELDS	-910,850	-7.3%

* 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.

[^] Reflects BLS adjustments for August and September.

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As shown in **Figure 2**, the month of October saw a modest 4% recovery of nonprofit jobs compared to the level in the previous month of September. While this was improvement over the situation we reported in September, only in the health field did the improvement approach 10% of the remaining losses reported in September.¹ And in the key field of education, October continued a troubling trend of losses totaling an additional 15,000 jobs—a drop of 6.6% from the already depressed September employment level in this field.

FIGURE 2 • Change in nonprofit jobs, October vs. September[^] 2020

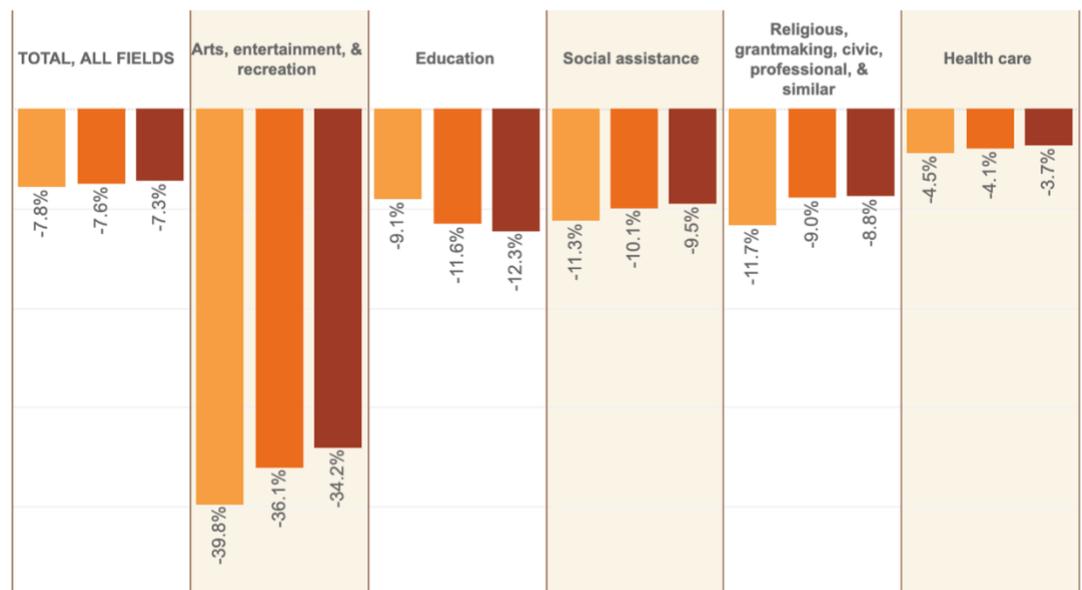
Field	Nonprofit jobs lost, Sept vs. Feb 2020	Change in nonprofit jobs, Oct vs. Sept 2020	Percent change in nonprofit jobs, Oct vs. Sept 2020
Education	-231,902	-15,252	-6.6%
Health care	-275,816	25,325	9.2%
Social assistance	-153,826	8,508	5.5%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation	-128,436	6,828	5.3%
Religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, & similar	-73,426	1,255	1.7%
Other fields*	-36,177	3,911	10.8%
TOTAL, ALL FIELDS	-949,048	38,198	4.0%

* 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.

[^] Reflects BLS adjustments for August and September.

More generally, the month-to-month improvement in the nonprofit job picture has been modest at best in most fields, and has noticeably worsened in the field of education, as shown in **Figure 3**.

FIGURE 3 • Percent of nonprofit jobs still missing in key fields as of August, September, & October 2020 vs. February 2020



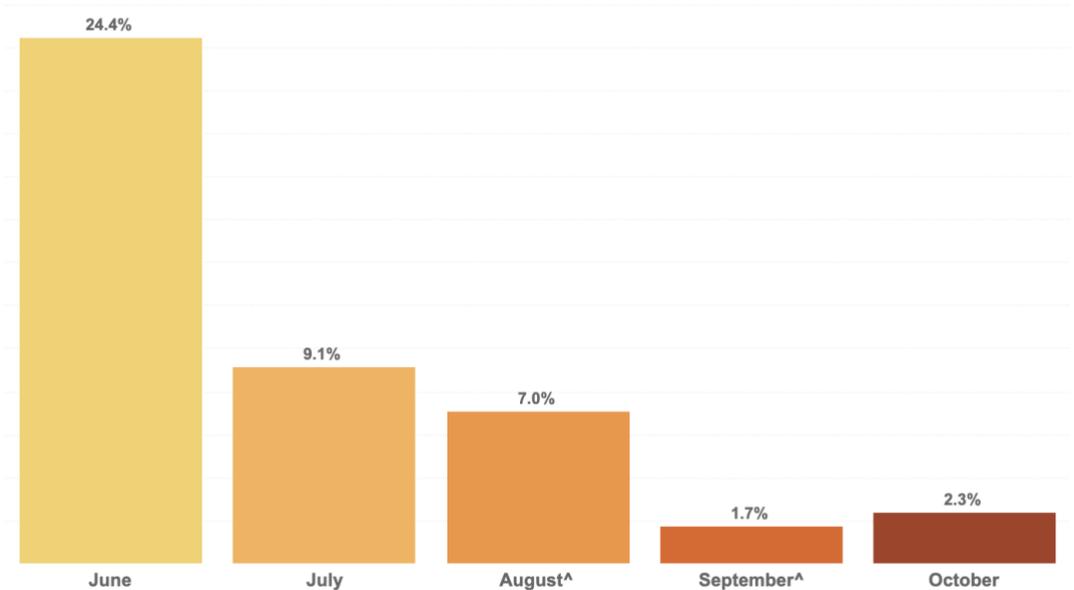
[^] Reflects BLS adjustments for August and September.

¹ Our [September update](#) found that, as of September, nonprofit job losses stood at an estimated 973,352. However, BLS revisions for August and September resulted in this new estimate for September. 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 October Employment Situation Report \(11/6/2020\)](#).

PART 2: A STALLING RECOVERY—JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER

This anemic improvement in the share of nonprofit jobs missing over the past three months reflects the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on jobs, especially in fields in which nonprofits operate. Thus, as shown in **Figure 4**, while during the month of June nonprofits recovered a robust 24% of the estimated 1.6 million nonprofit jobs missing as of May,² by October that recovery rate had dropped to a mere 2.3%. At October’s recovery rate, it would take an additional **two years** for the nonprofit sector to return to pre-pandemic employment levels.

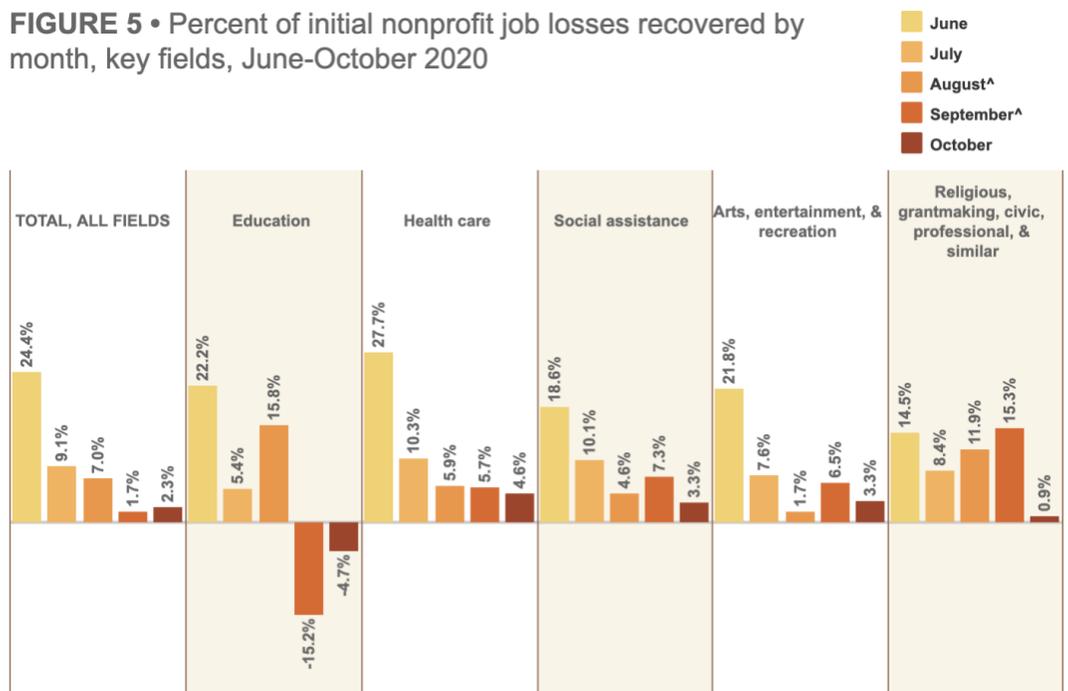
FIGURE 4 • Percent of initial nonprofit job losses recovered by month, all fields, June-October 2020



[^] Reflects BLS adjustments for August and September.

As shown in **Figure 5**, this pattern of progressively slower recovery of overall jobs lost at the onset of the pandemic was evident in almost every field. Of particular note is the education field, where losses in the months of September and October effectively wiped out all of the gains seen in July and August. Another point of concern is the dramatic drop-off seen in October in religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, and similar organizations—which had previously defied this downward trend, but saw less than a 1% recovery in October.

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



[^] Reflects BLS adjustments for August and September.

² See: Salamon & Newhouse, [Johns Hopkins 2020 Nonprofit Employment Report](#), (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies), June 2020.

CONCLUSION

With the onset of the recent spike in daily COVID-19 infections and deaths and the resulting re-institutions of restrictions aimed at curbing these new trends, it seems quite possible that even the recent slow recovery in nonprofit jobs evident in recent months will not be sustained in November and possibly beyond. While hope may be on the horizon in the form of promising treatments, vaccines, and the potential for more proactive government intervention, it will therefore be crucial to continue to monitor the impact of the current COVID surge on the nonprofit workforce, which remains a crucial lifeline to the delivery of services vital to the health and safety, as well as the economic recovery, of the nation.

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 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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