



May 7, 2021

## Unpacking the April Jobs Report

### *It will take time to gain back the millions of jobs lost during the worst of the pandemic*

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [reported](#) that nonfarm payroll employment increased by 266,000 in April and the unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 6.1%. **The economy has only recovered 63% of the 22 million jobs lost at the peak of the pandemic, with more than 8 million jobs left to go.**

### *More people were looking for jobs in April than the previous month*

**The labor force grew by 430,000 workers in April, showing that Americans want to work.** Additionally, labor participation increased slightly from 61.5% to 61.7%.

### *Leisure and hospitality employment gains largely debunk claims about worker scarcity*

**The leisure and hospitality sector grew by 331,000 jobs—more than half of which were in food services and drinking places.** This largely disproves much of the anecdotal reporting about business owners—many of whom are in the leisure and hospitality sector—who claim they cannot find workers.

### *Black and Hispanic workers continue to be hardest hit by the pandemic*

Unemployment by race remained relatively unchanged from the previous month at 7.9% for Hispanic workers and 9.7% for Black workers—**the unemployment rate for Black workers is still almost double that of white workers (5.3%).**

### *Many women are still on the sidelines*

Almost all of this month's labor gains were realized by men—**women's employment and labor force participation actually fell.** Education and the care economy lag behind the rest of the economy in recovering jobs—reducing opportunities in sectors that employ many women and preventing caregivers from returning to work in other sectors as well.

### *Job growth is held back by the pandemic—not the rescue!*

Research has shown that more generous unemployment insurance didn't reduce labor supply last year—why would it start now? Concerns about the virus and access to child care are holding back the employment recovery—extended and enhanced unemployment insurance protects families and promotes the economic recovery.