

At a Glance | Aug 26, 2021

# How the Pandemic Altered the U.S. Labor Force

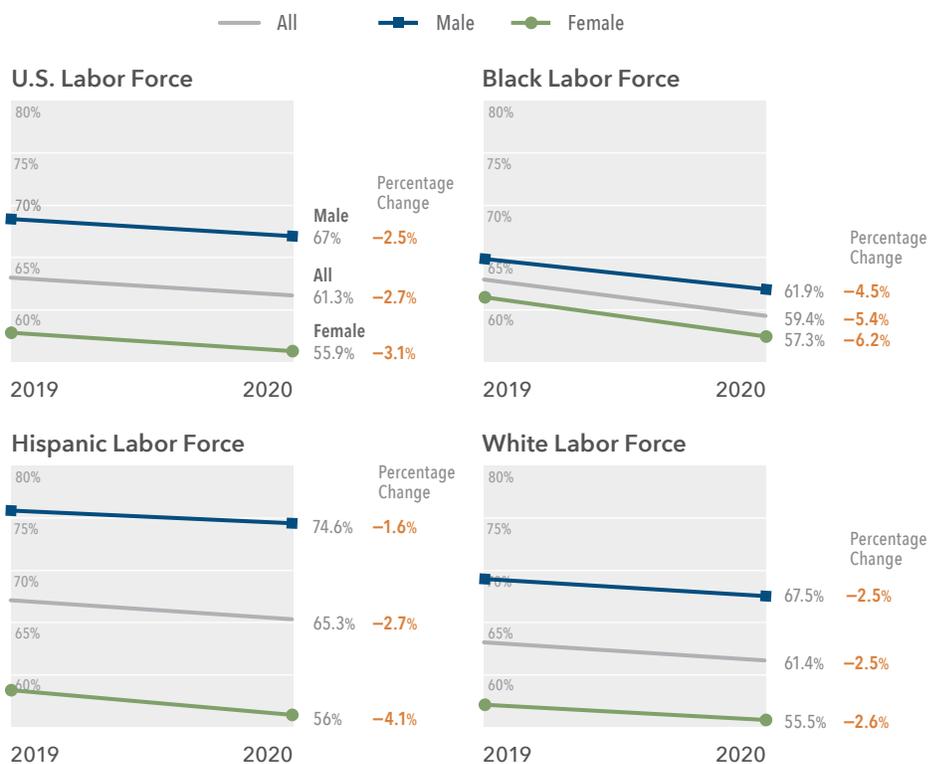
Reviewing the U.S. labor force<sup>1</sup> from 2019 to 2020, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.

## PARTICIPATION

In general, women lost more ground in the labor force than men did during the pandemic.

However, the pandemic hit Black Americans of both genders the hardest. Hispanic females were also disproportionately affected by losses in the labor force.

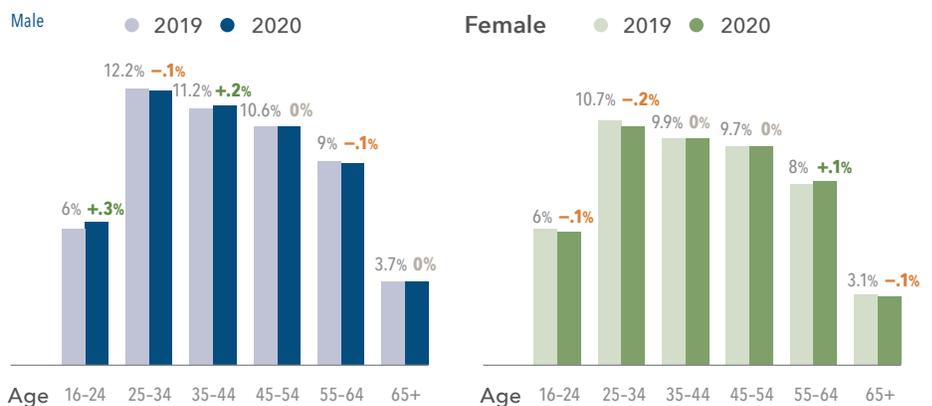
### Change in Labor Force Participation Rates From 2019 to 2020



## DISTRIBUTION OF LABOR FORCE

The share of women in the labor force decreased for the youngest and oldest age cohorts. In contrast, younger males made up a larger share of the labor force after the pandemic.

### Distribution by Age and Gender, 2019-2020



<sup>1</sup> The U.S. labor force in this study consists of the civilian U.S. noninstitutionalized population for those ages 16 or older. The noninstitutionalized population excludes Americans in the military or institutions such as prisons or those for health care needs like nursing homes, mental institutions, etc.

**SOURCE:** Copeland, Craig, "Labor Force Participation and the Pandemic: Making Sense of the Changes," *EBRI Issue Brief*, no. 532 (Employee Benefit Research Institute, July 8, 2021).