

At a Glance | November 19, 2020

Loss of Jobs With Health Coverage During the Pandemic Reveals Significant Industry Differences

JOB LOSS = COVERAGE LOSS

The strong link between employment and health insurance coverage has important implications for Americans' insurance coverage and access to health care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, most states issued lockdown orders, closing many workplaces. The resulting job losses left millions of workers – as well as their dependents – without employer health coverage.

Pandemic Job Losses Have Left Millions of Americans and Their Dependents Without Employer-Sponsored Insurance (ESI)

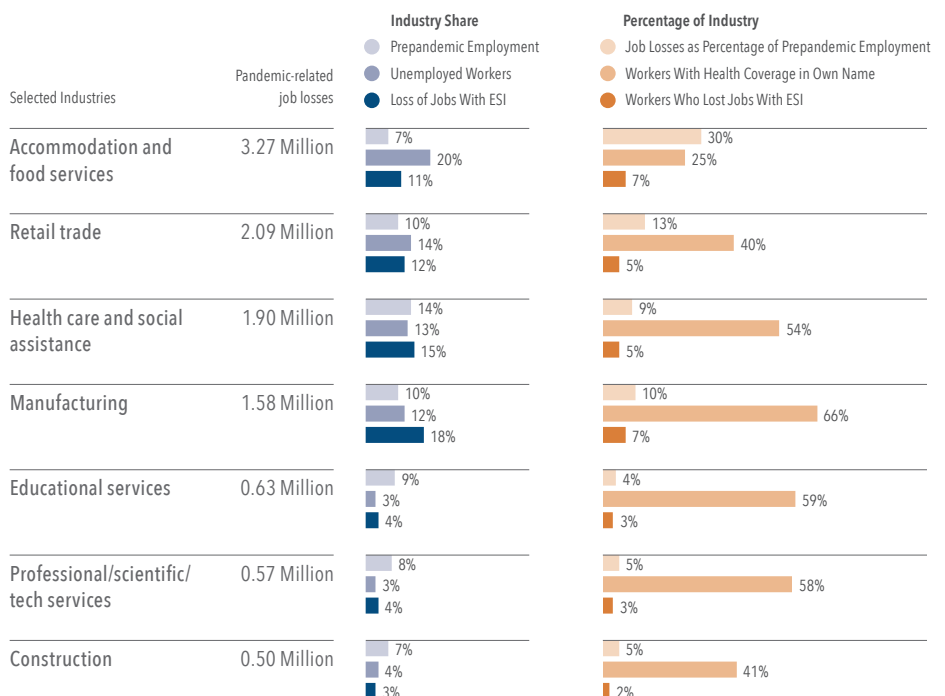


Total number of workers employed pre-pandemic	151.7 Million
<i>Feb-Jun 2020 average</i>	
Workers who lost jobs with ESI	7.7 Million
Dependents covered by lost jobs with ESI	+6.9 Million
Total affected by jobs lost with ESI	14.6 Million

IMPACT BY INDUSTRY

Seven industries accounted for two-thirds of pre-pandemic employment. Manufacturing workers were most affected by loss of jobs with employer health insurance because manufacturing has one of the highest rates of ESI coverage (66 percent). In contrast, retail trade accounted for 10 percent of pre-pandemic employment and 14 percent of unemployed workers in June. But because only 40 percent of workers in retail had ESI pre-pandemic, these workers accounted for 12 percent of lost jobs with ESI.

Disparities by Industry in Total Job Loss vs. Loss of Jobs With Employer-Sponsored Insurance (ESI) Are Striking



SOURCE: Paul Fronstin and Stephen A. Woodbury, "How Many Americans Have Lost Jobs with Employer Health Coverage During the Pandemic?" October 2020.

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