The economy shed a record-breaking 20.5 million jobs in the month of April 2020 (+1.2 M in March 2020).

With the closure of many food service, personal care, medical care (e.g., dentists), offices, and schools, more than 2 million jobs were lost in each of the industries of leisure and hospitality (-7.6 M), education and health (-2.5 M), professional and business services (-2.2 M), and retail trade (-2.1 M).

All states suffered job losses, with over 1 million jobs lost in April alone in the largest states: California (-2.3 M); New York (-1.8 M), Texas (-1.3 M); Florida (-1.1 M), Michigan (-1.0 M), and Pennsylvania (-1.0 M).

Compared to one year ago, the states with the largest rates of decline were Michigan (-23%), Vermont (-22%), New York (-19%), Rhode Island (-19%), and Hawaii (-19%).

Job losses in the leisure and hospitality sector (composed of food services and accommodation; arts, entertainment, and recreation) were deep, with job losses in the range of about 34% (Arkansas) to 68% (New York) on a year-over-year basis.

All states lost retail trade jobs, with the steepest annual declines in Vermont (-28%), New York (-25%), Michigan (-24%), Connecticut (-24%), Nevada (-21%), New Hampshire (-21%), and Pennsylvania (-21%).

All states lost professional and business services jobs, with the largest declines in Michigan (-22%), Nevada (-18%), Vermont (-18%), Rhode Island (-16%), New York (-14%), and New Jersey (-14%).

Only a few states saw an increase in construction jobs in April 2020 compared one year ago: South Dakota (10%), Utah (3.2%), New Mexico (0.4%), and Nevada (0.1%). Gaining back the lost jobs lost will be essential in increasing housing supply to meet demand.
No data for New Mexico, South Dakota, and Rhode Island.
Average weekly wages rose 7.3% in April 2020 as low-wage, part-time workers lost jobs

- Average weekly wages among those employed in private industry “surprisingly” rose 7.2% in April 2020 from one year ago. Wages in Other Services rose 10.2% and wages in the retail trade sector rose 8.5%. Offhand, this seems odd given that the unemployment rate has surged to 15%. The reason is that a higher fraction of lost jobs were part-time jobs, as shown by the higher share of full-time workers in April which rose to 86% from 82% in March. (So those who were surveyed in the Current Establishment Survey were full-time, higher-wage workers, and likely white-collar workers.) So for now, the surge in unemployment has not yet depressed wages. An indicator that economy is falling deeper into long-run sustained unemployment will be if wages will start falling.

- Wage rose in all states except in Wyoming (-1.8%), Virginia (-1.2%), and North Dakota (-0.4%). On a year-over-year basis, wages rose the highest in New Hampshire (+15%), Massachusetts (11%), South Dakota (10%), Nevada (10%), and New York (9%).
Wisconsin and U.S. Job Growth

Michigan and U.S. Job Growth

Minnesota and U.S. Job Growth

North Dakota and U.S. Job Growth

South Dakota and U.S. Job Growth

Nebraska and U.S. Job Growth