Welcome to the second edition of the Work Train Syracuse MSA Workforce Data Report.

We created this report last year, to help Work Train partners better understand the effects of the COVID-19 economic crisis. We know that leaders of Central New York community organizations, workforce training providers, employers, funders and the public sector all need reliable, local labor market data to develop both short-term responses and long-term strategies.

This edition provides an update on how Syracuse area jobseekers, workers and companies are doing; which sectors are still struggling; and which workers are being left behind – over a year into the pandemic.
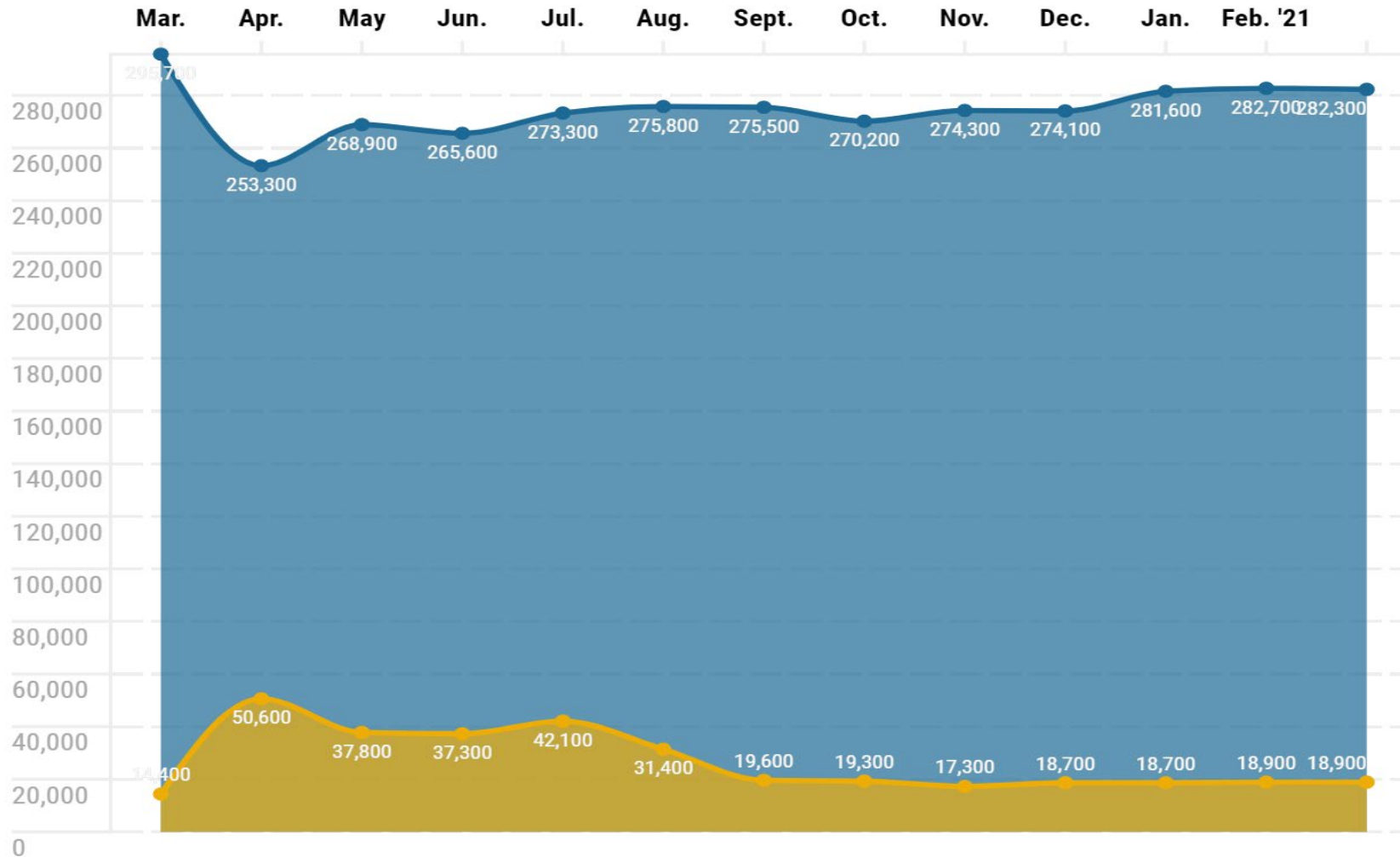
If you have additional workforce data questions, please let us know. We look forward to deepening our partnership with you to rebuild the local economy, and connect more Syracuse residents to training, employment and career pathways.

Labor Force Data

Syracuse MSA, March 2020 - 2021

■ Employed ■ Unemployed

Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. '21

295,700
253,300
268,900
265,600
273,300
275,800
275,500
270,200
274,300
274,100
281,600
282,700
282,300

280,000
260,000
240,000
220,000
200,000
180,000
160,000
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0

14,400
50,600
37,800
37,300
42,100
31,400
19,600
19,300
17,300
18,700
18,700
18,900
18,900

12,500

Jobs were added in the Syracuse MSA since October 2020.

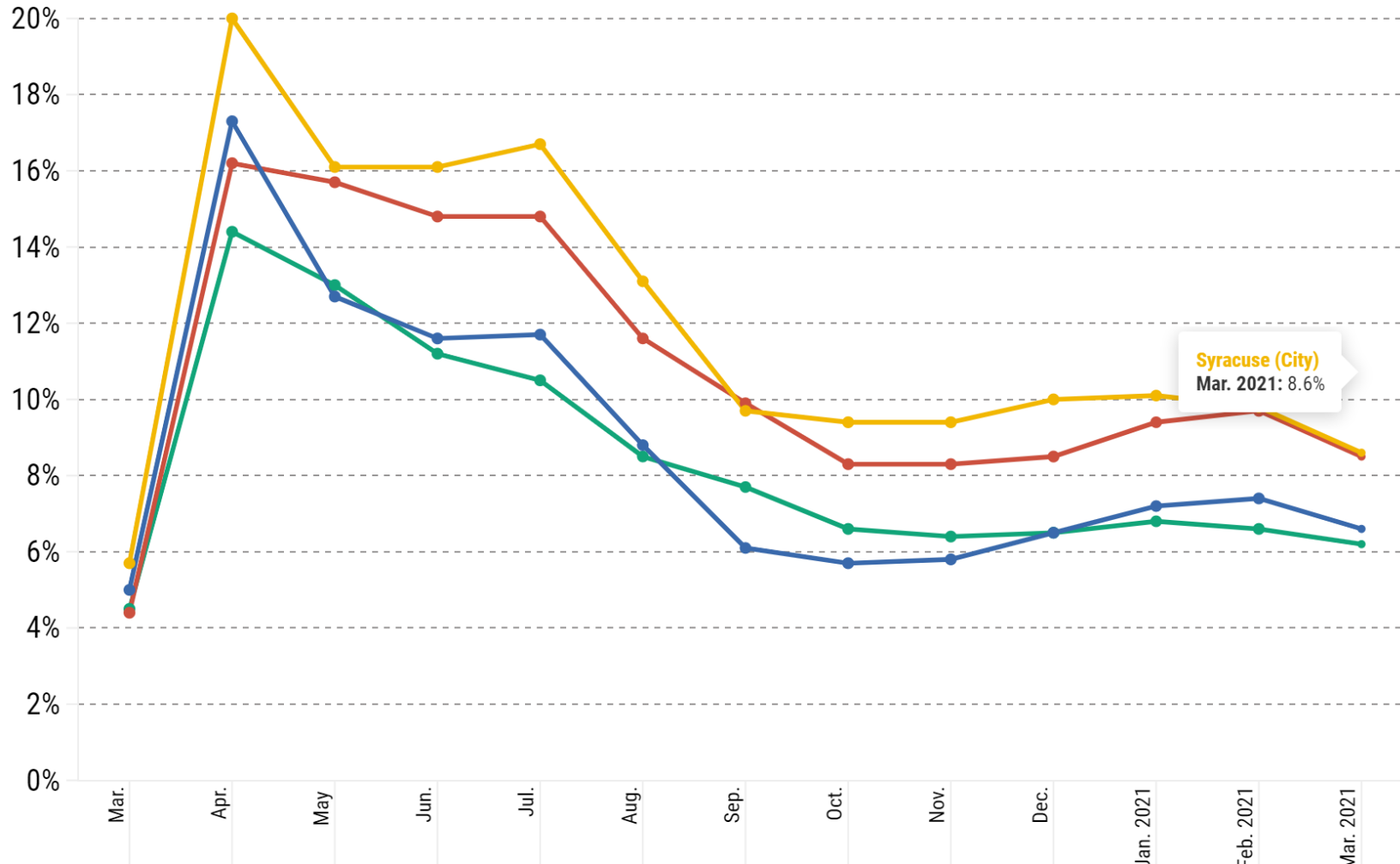However, employment still fell slightly with

400

fewer people employed in March than in February 2021.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

3

Unemployment Rate

Unadjusted unemployment rate, March 2020 - 2021

■ USA ■ NY State ■ Syracuse MSA ■ Syracuse (City)

Syracuse (City)
Mar. 2021: 8.6%

The City of Syracuse unemployment rate of

8.6%

is at its lowest since the start of the pandemic.

However, unemployment in Syracuse is still

2

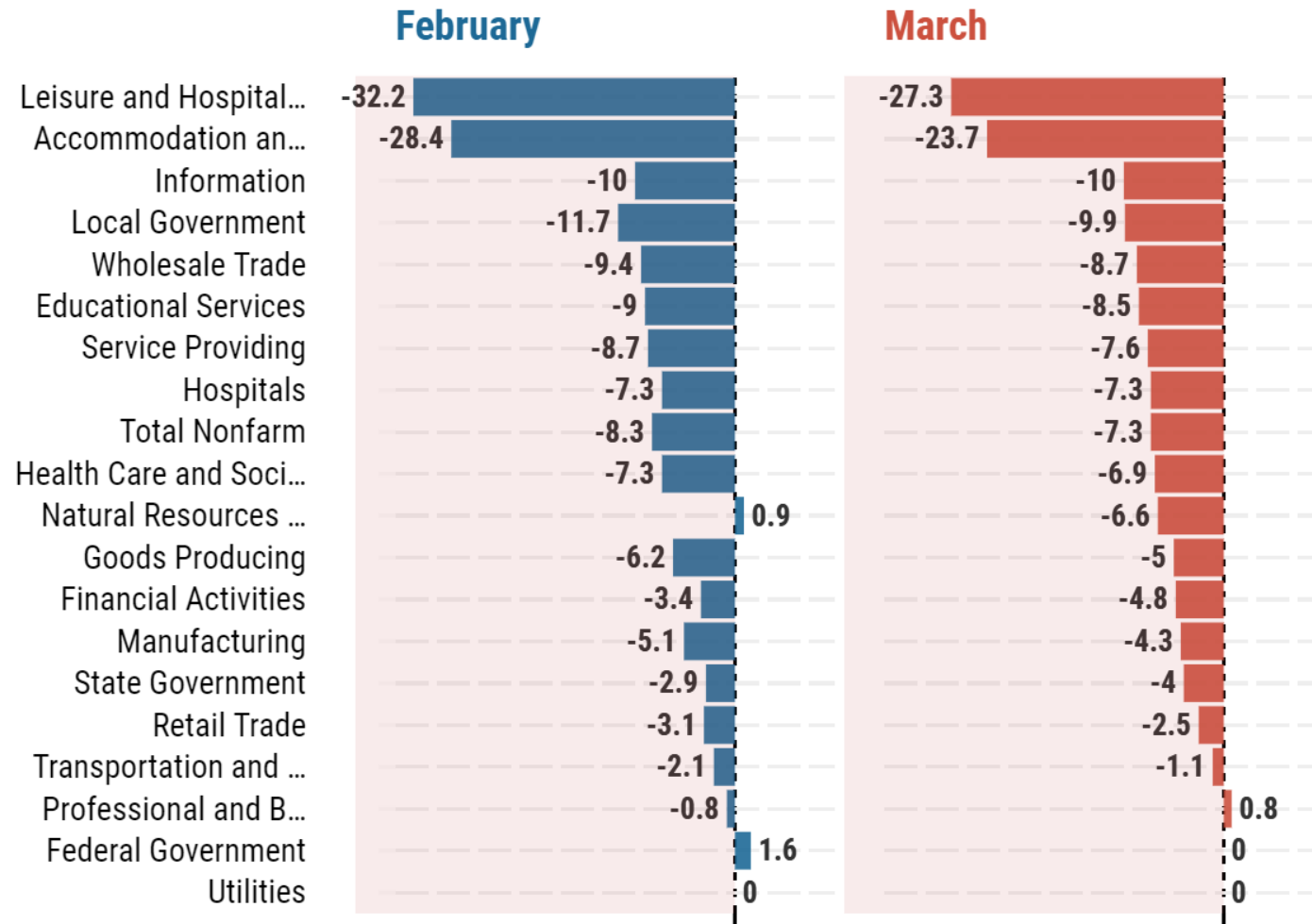**percentage points higher** than the larger Syracuse MSA.

18,900

people are still unemployed in the Syracuse MSA

As most sectors recover, Hospitality & Food Services employment are still far behind 2020 levels

- Total (nonfarm) employment is 7.3% lower than 12 months ago.

- Hospitality and food service industries lost employment at more than three times the rate of overall job loss.

- Local government jobs are improving, this accounts for more than 15% of jobs in the Syracuse MSA.

Percent Change in employment, February & March 2020-2021

Syracuse MSA, 12-month % change in employment

	February	March
Leisure and Hospital...	-32.2	-27.3
Accommodation an...	-28.4	-23.7
Information	-10	-10
Local Government	-11.7	-9.9
Wholesale Trade	-9.4	-8.7
Educational Services	-9	-8.5
Service Providing	-8.7	-7.6
Hospitals	-7.3	-7.3
Total Nonfarm	-8.3	-7.3
Health Care and Soci...	-7.3	-6.9
Natural Resources ...	0.9	-6.6
Goods Producing	-6.2	-5
Financial Activities	-3.4	-4.8
Manufacturing	-5.1	-4.3
State Government	-2.9	-4
Retail Trade	-3.1	-2.5
Transportation and ...	-2.1	-1.1
Professional and B...	-0.8	0.8
Federal Government	1.6	0
Utilities	0	0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

5

Job openings are plentiful, but employers are having difficulty filling jobs at all skill levels.

■ Entry Level ■ Mid Level ■ Senor Level
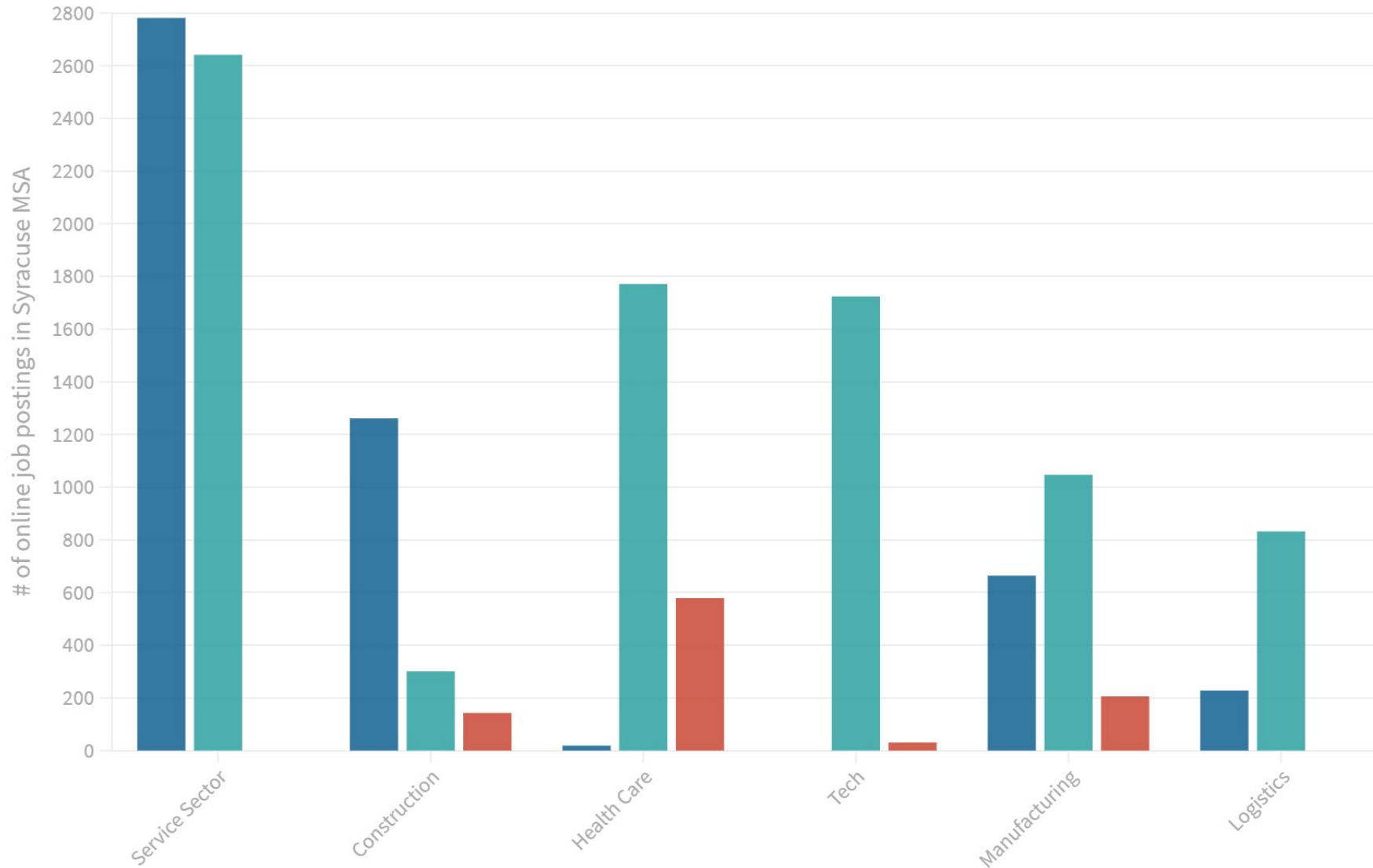
Source: JobsEQ®, Data reflect online job postings for the 30 day period ending 4/25/2021. Note: Data are subject to revision. Time series data can be volatile with trends unrelated to actual changes in demand; use with caution.

Connecting the Dots on Gender, Race & Returning to Work

Data shows that women—particularly women of color—are paying very real and damaging costs of the COVID-19 recession. Because women are more likely to be caregivers of children, with the rise of remote schooling and childcare shortage, it's no surprise that nationally, **over 2.3 million women have left the labor force completely**. And without work, it's much harder to make ends meet—about one in five Black and Latina women report **not having enough to eat**; and about one-third of Black and Latina women reported being **behind on their rent**.*

At the same time, employers—especially in the service sector —are having difficulty filling open jobs. The challenges are complex, and undoubtedly include COVID-19 fears, burnout, trauma and unemployment insurance payments. But there are gender-specific aspects, because so many jobs in restaurants and hotels are more likely to be filled by women. **Without adequate childcare, reliable housing, transportation and safe in-person schooling,** these workers face huge systemic barriers to returning to work.

Source: NWLC https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final_NWLC_Press_CovidStats.pdf

25%

of **women** said their family's financial situation is worse today than in March 2020, compared to 18% of men

27%

of **people of color** said their family's financial situation is worse today than in March 2020, compared to **18%** of whites

4.2 million

people nationwide have been out of work for at least 6 months

This accounts for

43%

of unemployed workers nationally

Work Train's Strategic Approach

Work Train fosters shared prosperity in Central New York by creating career opportunities for individuals who are unemployed and underemployed, while helping companies build strong workforces. We serve as a workforce intermediary and strategist, convening partnerships that drive solutions to persistent workforce problems. We focus on diversity, equity and inclusion as core principles to build career pathways into high-growth, high-wage occupations.

- **CONSTRUCTION:** In June, we'll launch Pathways to Apprenticeship, a Syracuse Build training program co-designed with union apprenticeship programs to prepare Syracuse residents, particularly women and people of color, to enter and succeed in union construction careers.

- **TECH:** As part of Syracuse Surge, Work Train has collaborated with employers and partners to expand training in digital customer service, coding, computer science and cybersecurity; we're hiring a Career Navigator to connect employers to diverse jobseekers.

- **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING:** We're working to create access for Syracuse residents to work at the new JMA Wireless facility, as well as expand training capacity for in-demand Electrical Maintenance Tech jobs at multiple local manufacturing companies.

- **HEALTH CARE:** We're researching ways for health care employers to upskill frontline workers in digital skills, as well as build the pipeline from Certified Nursing Assistant to Licensed Practical Nurse.

Partnership is the Key to Success

For more information or to get involved, please contact the Work Train team:

Aimee Durfee, Director of Workforce Innovation | adurfee@centerstateceo.com

Meghan Durso, Sr. Manager of Industry Partnerships | mdurso@centerstateceo.com

Laiza Semidey, Syracuse Surge Workforce Manager | lsemidey@centerstateceo.com

Alissa Tubbs, Strategic Operations Manager | atubbs@centerstateceo.com

Jared Shepard, Research & Policy Analyst | jshepard@centerstateceo.com

www.centerstateceo.com