





August 2023



# As summer ends, labor market steams ahead

Slight decline in workforce activity mirrors August 2022

By analyzing weekly employee shift work trends across 35,000 U.S. businesses and 4.3 million employees, this index provides directional insight into the health of the frontline working economy.

See all historical weekly reports at <a href="https://www.ukg.com/WorkforceActivityReport.">UKG.com/WorkforceActivityReport.</a>





# Executive summary

August 2023



#### Mid-month shift growth

-1.6% March -0.2% April 1.0% May 0.4% June -0.7% July -0.8% August



#### Shift growth by company size

-1.0% <100 -0.6% 101-500 -0.7% 501-1,000 -0.6% 1,001-2,500 -0.3% 2,501-5,000 0.1% >5,000





"Pleasantly boring" month for labor market



#### Workforce **Recovery Index**

95.1 March 96.4 April 99.1 May 99.5 June 98.4 July 99.2 August



#### Shift growth by industry<sup>1</sup>

Healthcare 0.0% -1.1% Services & distribution -0.6% Manufacturing Retail, food service, -0.4% & hospitality

August can be best described as a "pleasantly boring" month for the labor market, with the biggest surprise being that UKG does not expect any surprises for the month's labor data. The market is expected to remain consistent, with the sought-after "soft landing" still intact.



# Workforce activity and job creation: Tracking shift levels during the mid-month week





Workforce activity decreased -0.8% in August

High-frequency UKG® shift data correlates each month with new employment gains reported by the U.S. Department of Labor — providing an indication of the direction of jobs recovery. The UKG data often comes into even closer alignment following ensuing Department of Labor revisions.

- UKG Shifts Worked
- BLS New Employment (in thousands)



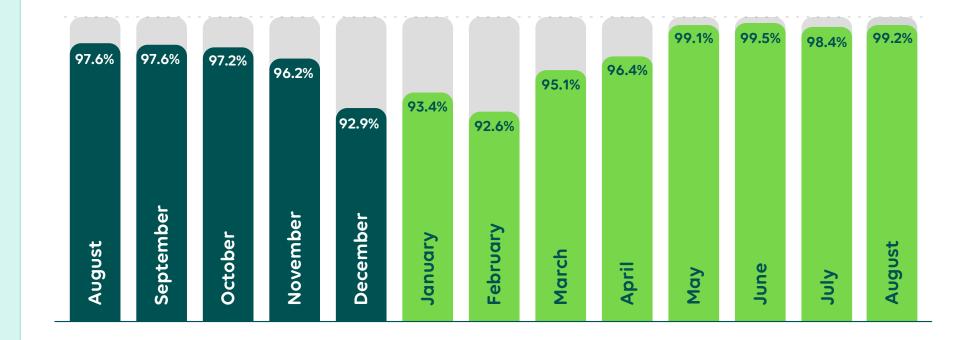
## The UKG Workforce Recovery Index for August is 99.2



The UKG Workforce Recovery Index is a rolling 12-month scale that measures workforce activity levels at U.S. businesses. The index is the level of workforce activity relative to the same month one year ago and provides a directional indicator for anticipated changes in the labor participation rate.

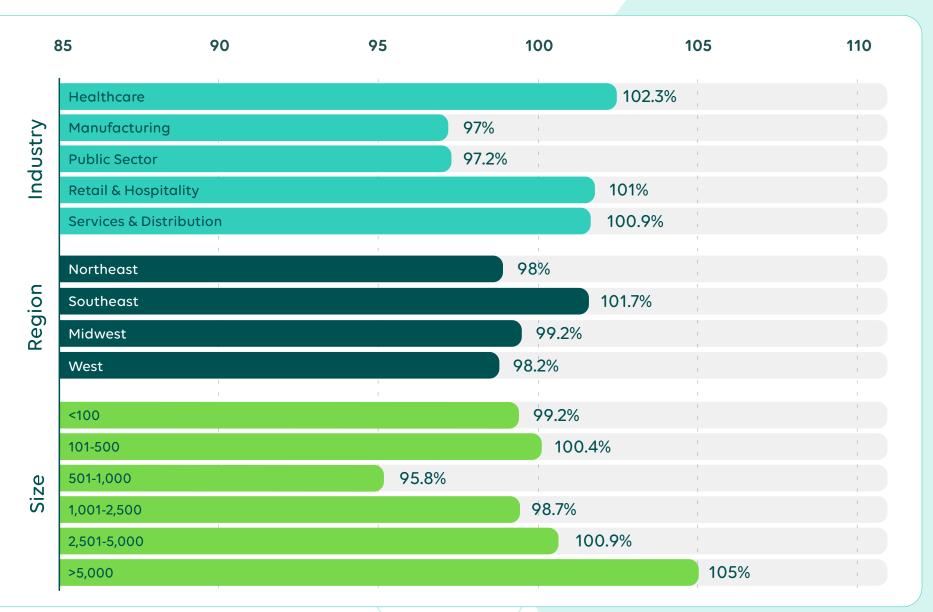
## **UKG Workforce Recovery Scale**

**2022 2023** 





## **UKG Workforce Recovery Index**





Healthcare remains steady for fifth consecutive month

Examining the Workforce Recovery Index scale across industries, regions, or business size can provide a more detailed look at the often unequal distribution of economic momentum. The index is the level of workforce activity relative to the same month one year ago and provides a directional indicator for anticipated changes in the labor participation rate.

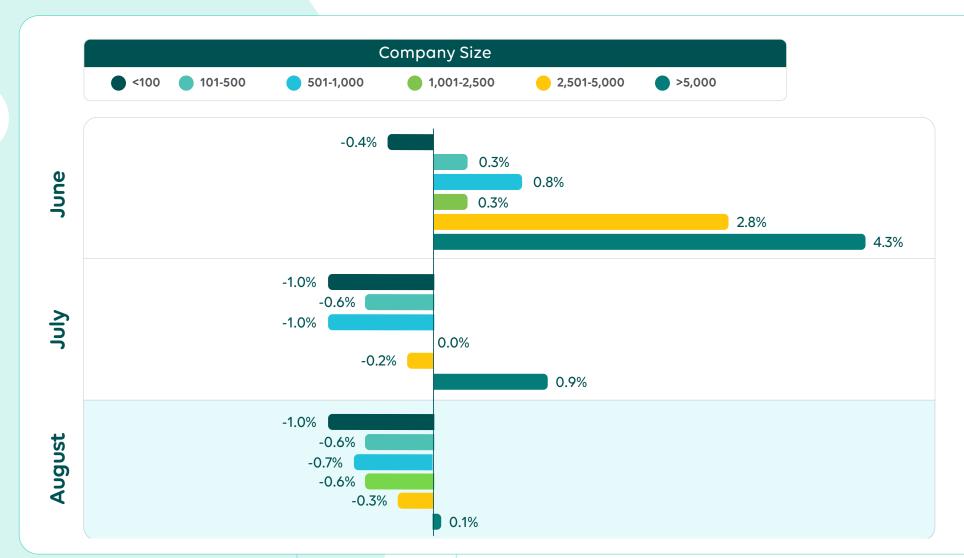


# **Shift recovery: Company size**

Smaller companies see continued declines



This data reflects monthover-month shift growth by company size as measured by time punches.





# **Shift recovery: Industry**





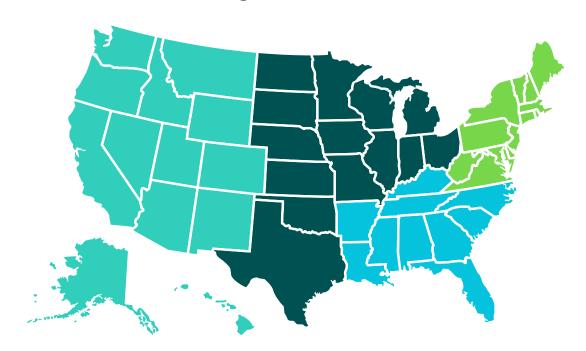
Services & distribution sees largest decline since Dec. 2022

This data reflects monthover-month shift growth by industry as measured by time punches.



## Shift recovery: U.S. landscape

While the COVID-19 pandemic created regional inconsistencies in workforce activity from 2020-2022, large variations in regional changes today can often be attributed to localized events such as extreme weather emergencies.



#### Northeast

June: 0.8%

**July:** -1.1%

August: 0.4%

#### Southeast

June: 0.2%

**July:** -0.5%

**August:** -0.7%

#### Midwest

June: 0.8%

**July:** -1.2%

**August:** -0.8%

#### West

**June:** 0.4%

July: 0.9%

**August:** -1.2%

# **Upcoming Reports**



**Sept. 1:** Employment Situation Report



Sept. 13: Consumer Price Index, Real Earnings Report



Oct. 3: Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey



Register to attend our monthly labor market briefing at 10:00 a.m. ET each month on the Tuesday prior to the BLS employment report publication by visiting

UKG.com/WorkforceActivityReport.





# Methodology

The Workforce Activity Report by UKG is an index that measures weekby-week metrics including employee shifts worked and pay statements from 4.3 million employees across more than 35,000 U.S. businesses.

"Shifts worked" is a total derived from aggregated employee time and attendance data and reflects the number of times that employees — especially those who are paid hourly or must be physically present at a workplace to perform their jobs — "clock in" and "clock out" via a time clock, mobile app, computer, or other device at the beginning and end of each shift.

<sup>1</sup>Public Sector data, which includes K-12 education, is adjusted out of the report from June-September annually.

# For more information please contact:

Dan Gouthro +1 978 947 7310 daniel.gouthro@ukg.com



Register to attend our monthly labor market briefing at 10:00 a.m. ET each month on the Tuesday prior to the BLS employment report publication by visiting: <a href="https://www.uksgruenes.com/WorkforceActivityReport">UKG.com/WorkforceActivityReport</a>.

© 2023 UKG Inc. All rights reserved. For a full list of UKG trademarks, please visit ukg.com/trademarks. All other trademarks, if any, are property of their respective owners. All specifications are subject to change.

