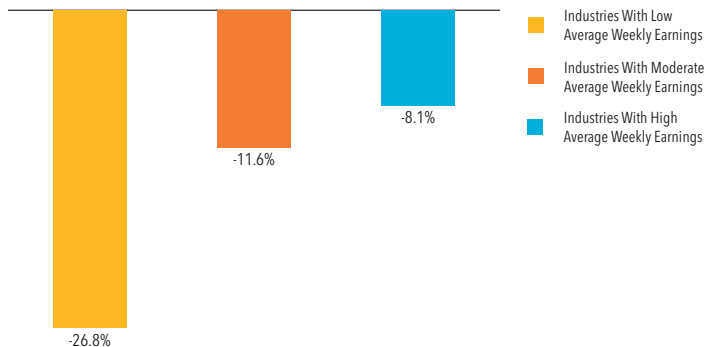




MAY 2020 | BY AUREO MESQUITA AND ALISSA ANDERSON

California Job Losses Are Concentrated in Industries With Low Average Weekly Earnings

Percent Change in Seasonally Adjusted Private-Sector Jobs, February 2020 to April 2020



Note: Includes 99.8% of private-sector jobs because weekly earnings data were not available for the mining and logging industry (0.2% of private-sector jobs). Industries were grouped into thirds based on average weekly earnings.

Source: Budget Center analysis of US Bureau of Labor Statistics data

● **Californians working in low-paying industries were more likely to lose their jobs since the COVID-19 economic crisis began.** Low-paying industries saw a 26.8% decline in jobs from February to April, a loss of over 1.5 million private-sector jobs. This accounts for roughly 62% of private-sector jobs lost.

● **Many workers in industries with the most jobs lost were already struggling before the COVID-19 downturn.** The average weekly earnings for workers in the leisure and hospitality industry – primarily restaurant and hotel workers – in February 2020 was \$548, or about \$28,500 annually, well below the income a family needs to meet basic needs.

● **Unemployment benefits and federal recovery rebates are helping many people who've lost work – but not undocumented Californians.** State leaders can help those left out of federal relief by partially replacing their lost wages and ending their exclusion from state refundable tax credits, which will help many Californians whose earnings declined during the COVID-19 crisis.

CALIFORNIA BUDGET & POLICY CENTER

calbudgetcenter.org