Resilience After Recession: The Emerging Landscape for American Workers and Families

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have consequences for the U.S. economy and has exacerbated economic disparities facing American women, people of color, and low-wage workers. Although the recovery is narrowing those disparities, many challenges threaten to have longer-term effects: persistent inequities in labor market outcomes, greater housing insecurity, reduced access to childcare, and widened disparities in educational attainment. Now is an opportune moment to assess where there have been positive developments and where new policies are needed to ensure long-term stability and opportunity for families and workers.

ESSAY
Women, Work, and Families: Recovering from the Pandemic-Induced Recession
Betsey Stevenson (University of Michigan)

More than a year and a half after the arrival of the coronavirus in the United States brought the economy to a crashing halt, the employment landscape remains in flux. The labor market recovery for different groups has varied by gender and other demographics such as race, ethnicity, education level, and parental status. The resulting reallocation of workers and businesses has changed both who is working and in which industries and occupations. In this essay, Betsey Stevenson of the University of Michigan revisits her previous work for The Hamilton Project, and examines the effects of an uneven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESSAY
Bradley Hardy (Georgetown University) and Trevon Logan (The Ohio State University)

The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent economic downturn affected Americans from every socioeconomic background. A year and a half later, mortality rates and slowed labor market recovery have differed starkly among racial and ethnic groups. Those who were the most disadvantaged at the start of the pandemic are still struggling to recover. In this essay, Bradley Hardy, Georgetown University, and Trevon Logan, The Ohio State University,
revisit their previous work for Hamilton Project and assess the economic recovery of Black Americans throughout the pandemic.

ECONOMIC FACTS
11 Facts about the Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic
Mitchell Barnes (The Hamilton Project), Lauren Bauer (The Hamilton Project), and Wendy Edelberg (The Hamilton Project)

The pace of US economic recovery from the depths of last year’s COVID-19 shutdown has generally surpassed consensus expectations, with households and businesses maintaining a surprising amount of economic activity, due in part to substantial fiscal support. But despite the official conclusion of the pandemic recession listed as April 2020, it’s clear that the economic dynamics since that time have not followed typical recession recoveries; nor have some of the worst fears of protracted economic damage been realized. In these Economic Facts, the Hamilton Project reviews recent economic data to provide context for assessing the state of the economic recovery and highlight areas that remain short of a return to normal.