





September 2023



# Steady September for labor market

No big post-summer surprises

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

September 2023



#### Mid-month shift growth

-0.2% April 1.0% May 0.4% June -0.7% July -0.8% August 0.1% September



#### Shift growth by company size

-0.1% <100 -0.4% 101-500 0.1% 501-1,000 0.5% 1,001-2,500 1.7% 2,501-5,000 0.2% >5,000





### Labor market remains remarkably consistent



96.4 April 99.1 May 99.5 June 98.4 July 99.2 August 100.6 September



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

0.4% Healthcare 0.4% Manufacturing 0.9% Services & distribution Retail, food service, -1.9% & hospitality

September was another steady month for the labor market, with no real surprises. Labor strikes in multiple industries represent just a tiny sliver of an overall strong market. With continued uncertainty regarding a recession, no news remains good news for employees and the job market.



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





Workforce activity increased 0.1% in September

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)



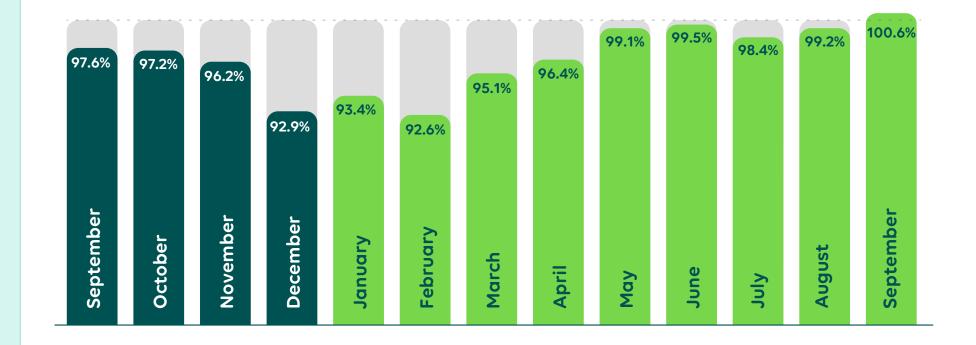
The UKG Workforce Recovery Index for September is 100.6



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**





Retail, food service, and hospitality decreased for third 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

Larger companies (2,500+ employees) remain strong

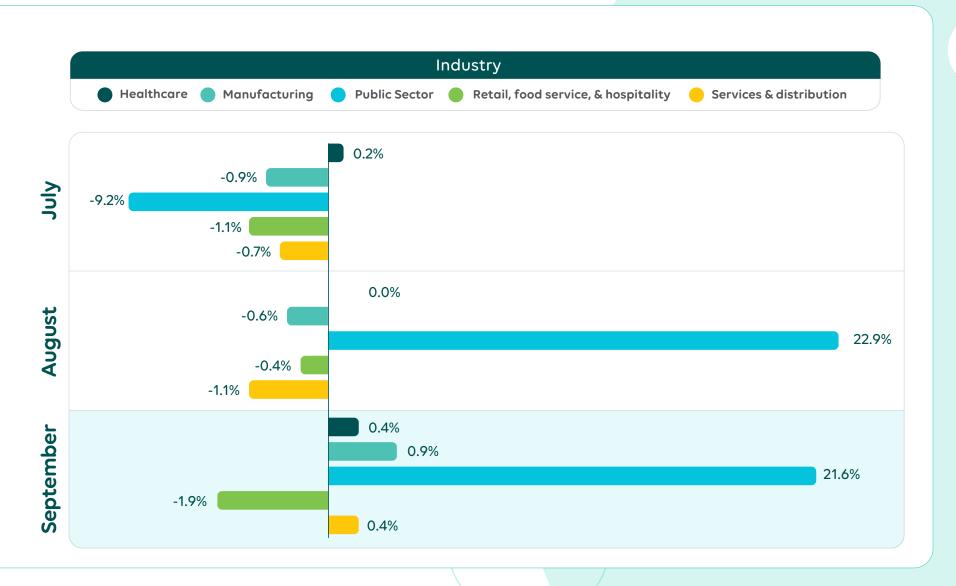


This data reflects monthover-month shift growth by company size as measured by time punches.





#### **Shift recovery: Industry**





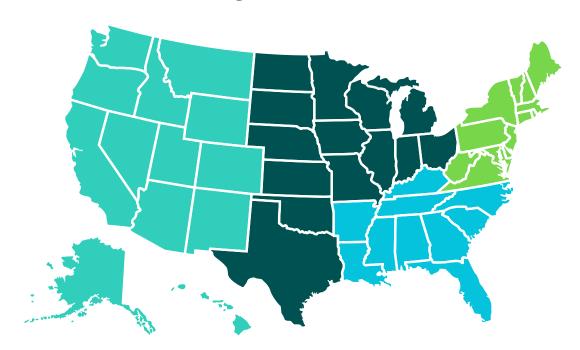
Manufacturing increases after summer slowdown

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

**July:** -1.1%

**August:** 0.4%

September: -0.1%

Southeast

**July:** -0.5%

**August:** -0.7%

September: -0.2%

Midwest

**July:** -1.2%

**August:** -0.8%

September: 0.7%

West

July: 0.9%

**August:** -1.2%

September: -0.1%

#### **Upcoming Reports**



Oct. 6: Employment
Situation Report



Oct. 12: Consumer Price Index, Real Earnings Report



Nov. 1: 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 to September annually.

## For more information please contact:

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