Pandemic left Georgia’s young adults particularly economically vulnerable.

Youth (16-24) unemployment in Georgia elevates and outpaces national rates during recessions with slow recovery.
BEFORE COVID-19
A FRAYED SAFETY NET IN GEORGIA

• Georgia’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or Food Stamps) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs suffered from police changes that make it more difficult to access

• Child care for young parents extremely limited

• Inadequate funding for youth and young adults who could benefit from education and training for meaningful careers.

• Exclusion from key benefits (i.e. state or federal EITC)
BEFORE COVID-19
A CHALLENGED UI SYSTEM

Just before the virus struck, Georgia’s UI system was incredibly weakened by policy choices made before, during, and after the Great Recession.
GEORGIA’S CURRENT STATUS
UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND AND STATE POLICY RESPONSES
STATE POLICY RESPONSES: SNAP (formerly food stamps)

✓ Increased SNAP benefits to the maximum for all households
✓ Extended renewals for SNAP by 6 months
✓ Suspended all work reporting requirements for SNAP participants

More information: www.gateway.ga.gov
STATE POLICY RESPONSES: CAPS (child care assistance)

✓ Suspended work reporting requirements for CAPS families
✓ Established a hotline to connect the essential workforce to child care options
✓ Expanded eligibility for subsidies by adding ‘essential workers’ as a priority group

More information: www.qualityrated.org
✓ Mandated employers file UI claims on behalf of workers that they anticipate laying off, which helps workers access assistance quicker and does not claims to be filed in-person

✓ Suspended job search requirements for claims filed on or after March 14, 2020

✓ Extended eligibility to workers with reduced hours or leaving work temporarily due to illness, to care for a family member who is ill, or does not have child care as a result of their provider or school being closed during the pandemic; and

✓ Extended the duration of state UI payments from 14 weeks to 26 weeks

More information: dol.Georgia.gov
CARES ACT IN GEORGIA

- Recovery rebates
- PUA, PEUC, and PUC
- Dislocated Worker National Reserve (DWNR) Funds - $12,000,000 for Georgia
- Increased funding for supportive services, including childcare (about $143M)
2,467,469 Georgians have filed an unemployment insurance claim since March.
UI Filing Trends from March 2020 to April 2020 Across Race/Ethnicity

- Accommodation/Food Services: 224 (3/31/2020), 139,920 (4/30/2020)
- Health Care/Social Assistance: 1,147 (3/31/2020), 106,100 (4/30/2020)
- Retail Trade: 1,737 (3/31/2020), 64,598 (4/30/2020)
- Manufacturing: 1,757 (3/31/2020), 97,972 (4/30/2020)

Source: US DOL Employment & Training Administration.
## Demographics of Georgia's UI Claimers in March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ethnicity</th>
<th>Share of UI Claimers</th>
<th>Share of Labor Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Share of UI Claimers</th>
<th>Share of Labor Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Historic insights on unemployment insurance denials suggest higher rates of denials during downturns.
INSIGHTS SINCE ‘REOPENING’ IN GEORGIA
### Change in Respondents Reporting Lost Employment Since ‘Reopening’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Week 5: Out of work</th>
<th>Week 1: Out of work</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,601,100</td>
<td>3,849,663</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 24</td>
<td>411,322</td>
<td>265,022</td>
<td>+55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 39</td>
<td>668,655</td>
<td>1,028,369</td>
<td>-35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 - 54</td>
<td>668,831</td>
<td>763,491</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 - 64</td>
<td>662,752</td>
<td>590,196</td>
<td>+12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and above</td>
<td>1,189,540</td>
<td>1,202,586</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education of adults not working at time of survey:
Week 1

- Less than high school: 11,933
- Some high school: 327,477
- High school or equivalent: 368,833
- Some college, but degree not received or is in progress: 32,431
- Associate’s degree: 848,233
- Bachelor’s degree: 452,108
- Graduate degree: 349,599

Education of adults not working at time of survey:
Week 5

- Less than high school: 75,280
- Some high school: 306,333
- High school or equivalent: 1,440,725
- Some college, but degree not received or is in progress: 747,476
- Associate’s degree: 296,458
- Bachelor’s degree: 412,171
- Graduate degree: 322,656
**BIGGER CHALLENGES AHEAD**

- Uncertainty with "reopening"
- Rapidly depleting Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund
- Temporary vs. permanent rule changes
- Reemployment/retraining services and opportunities
- Staff capacity constraints and state budget cuts
NEXT STEPS

• Reject state budget cuts (state level)
• Enact extended unemployment benefits for additional weeks (state level)
• Make some “emergency” changes permanent (i.e. duration of benefits) (state level)
• Clarify UI eligibility rules (state level)
• Expand eligibility for younger adults in the next round of stimulus payments, EITC (federal level)
• Raise investments in state and local relief to address shortfalls (federal level)
QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Contact Me:
Alex Camardelle, Senior Policy Analyst
acamardelle@gbpi.org
Twitter: Akcamardelle

Other resources:
Georgia Budget & Policy Institute COVID-19 Policy Response Page:
https://gbpi.org/covid-19-georgia