

# Pandemic Accelerates Jobs Lost to Automation

Workforce Outlook, SREB Region May 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated automation adoption by 5 years

That means 15% of work activities — the equivalent of

18.5 million

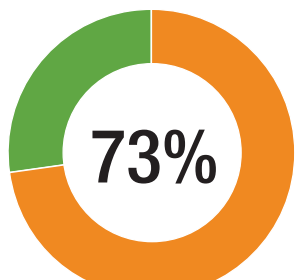
full-time positions — could be automated by 2025

24.6 million workers — 47% of the workforce — are at risk for unemployment, reduced hours and exiting the labor force due to COVID.

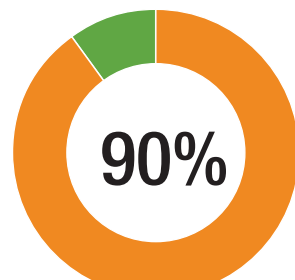
In the top 5 industries, the potential for automating work activities is often greater.



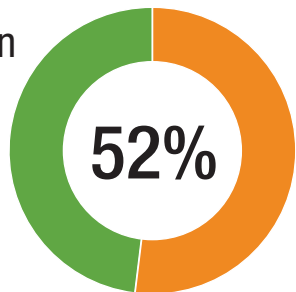
Food Preparation & Serving



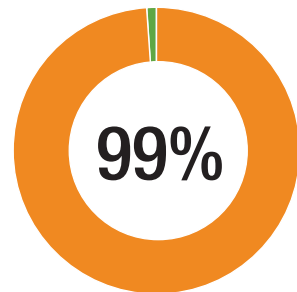
Sales and Related



Production

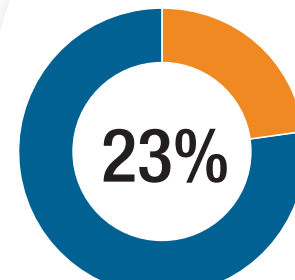


Transportation

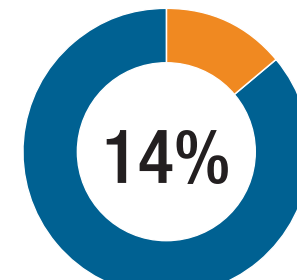


Installation and Maintenance

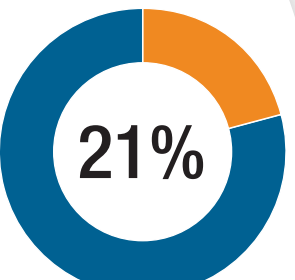
Percentage of vulnerable workers in each industry



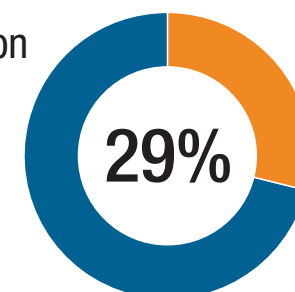
Food Preparation & Serving



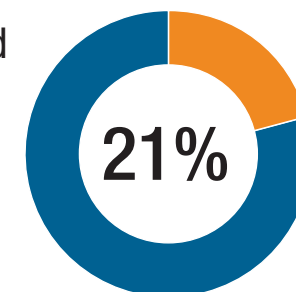
Sales and Related



Office and Administration



Production



Transportation

The top 5 industries employ the most people

17% of workers are considered essential

32% of workers can work from home

Based on employment in May 2019

In May 2020, 6.9 million workers were officially unemployed while 3.3 million more were likely furloughed, had lost work hours, or left the labor force.

Of these, 5.5 million are highly unlikely to be called back to work.

64% of workers had a high school diploma or less

25% of workers had a bachelor's degree or more

Based on employment in May 2019

Those with the greatest risk are often the most vulnerable to automation:

Those with the lowest levels of education

Women and people of color



Workers ages 16-23 and 56-74

