

Creating an End to the Labor Shortage

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Labor shortages occur when unemployment rates increase over a short period of time. Since around the end of April, unemployment rates have skyrocketed. Due to these labor shortages, there has been a lack of goods being transported, which has caused many businesses to close. Supply chain disruptions and delays in shipments for the United States have continued, but the labor shortage seems to be a bigger problem.

Many different businesses have struggled to hire people, get the supplies they need, or even stay open without financial difficulties. According to Forbes, a manufacturing company owner from Arkansas stated that her company has had trouble hiring unskilled factory workers. The labor shortage has also affected an equipment wholesaler covering the Pacific Northwest market, as he has drivers and warehouse workers all across his locations, but still struggles with back-

orders. A banker from Iowa also reported the most job openings he has ever had at his company. A Washington State credit union president listed hiring as his business' biggest challenge. These people are just a few examples of how the labor shortage has caused difficulty for many businesses all around. Just after the first quarter of 2021, the amount of people quitting or not willing to accept work expanded, especially in the retail and food service. The amount of workers being fired decreased.

Meanwhile, talk about the government paying people who are taking part in unemployment has enraged many. People who oppose the idea of getting paid for not working argue that money should be earned through work and that people who do not work should not be getting more money than them when they earn their pay. They also argue that by doing this, the government is not doing what is good for the economy. Many are mostly angered, because it does not make sense as to how some of these people were willingly employed 15 months ago, but now find it unacceptable to earn money through work.

Madison Central student, Aneta Kukuckova (10),

thinks that nothing can get done due to a mixture of components. "There is a lack of employees and the economy is in really bad shape right now," said Kukuckova. Another student, Holly Weltens (12), said, "It is a big inconvenience and I understand that people were worried about their well-being during the pandemic. However, with vaccines being offered, I do not see the reason for people being out of work." Weltens works at McAlister's and says that it is really hard to get days off, and the food supply is short due to less food truck drivers. Lastly, student Alan Lin (10) says, "I wish more people would get jobs, so there will be less problems."

As labor shortages continue to increase, many business owners seem to see it as a sensitive subject. From having less drivers to transport goods to companies closing because goods are not shipped on time due to lack of staff, widespread unemployment has caused many to panic. There are many different theories on how this can be potentially fixed, but none have seemed to break this problem.

