

# Campaign Finance Data Research Report

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) provides Bulk data (from [FEC](#)) for itemized individual contributions in the 2020 election cycle contains donations from the beginning of 2019 to the end of August 2020. As defined by the FEC, an individual contribution is itemized if the individual's contribution's election cycle-to-date amount is over \$200 for contributions to candidate committees. ([FEC](#))

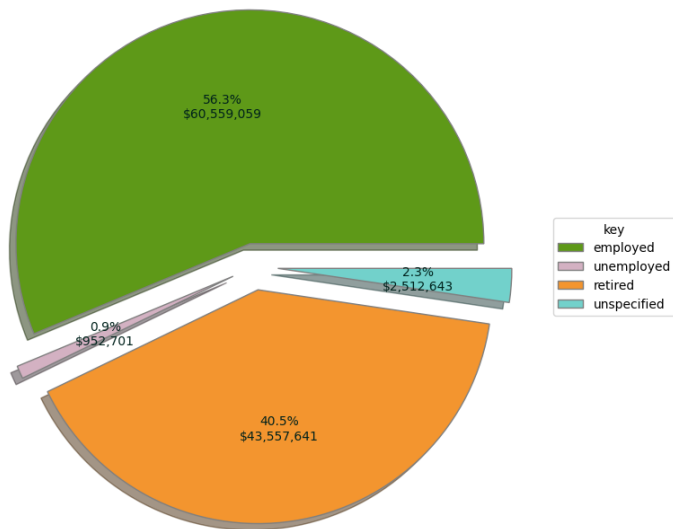
In considering the principle campaign committees of both presidential candidates - "Donald J. Trump for President" (Trump's principal committee) and "Biden for President" (Biden's principal campaign committee), the itemized individual contributions can be extracted from the data. This can be done by looking at either of two columns in the dataset (as defined in the description by [FEC](#)), column at index 0 - that indicates the committee to which the contribution was made - or the column at index 15 - that indicates a candidate's principal committee if a contribution was made through one committee to the candidate's principal committee (such as ActBlue which is an organization that raises money on behalf of candidates).

## Summary totals for each of the 2020 presidential candidates:

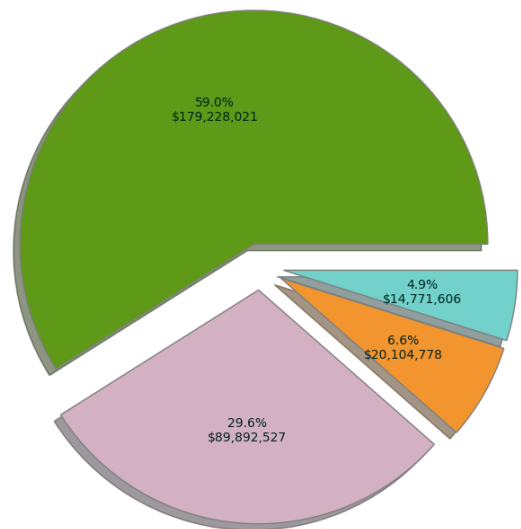
| <a href="#">Aa</a> Candidate | <a href="#">#</a> Total donations | <a href="#">#</a> Number of donations | <a href="#">#</a> Average contribution |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <a href="#">Donald Trump</a> | \$148,694,857.00                  | 1,145,684                             | 119.22                                 |
| <a href="#">Joe Biden</a>    | \$493,255,524.00                  | 4,137,320                             | 129.79                                 |

The dataset also contains each contributor's employment status and employer (if employed). Therefore, one data point is how many donations came from an employed, unemployed or retired share of the candidate's total contribution. Below is the summary of the three populations for each candidate.

DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)



BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT (C00431569)



According to this analysis, Biden has a larger share of donors that are unemployed, 34.0% to Trump's 0.9% while Trump has a larger share of donations from the retired population, 40.8% to Biden's 7.3%.

Perhaps comparing this data to the 2016 election cycle (from the beginning of 2015 to the end of 2016), we have the following results:

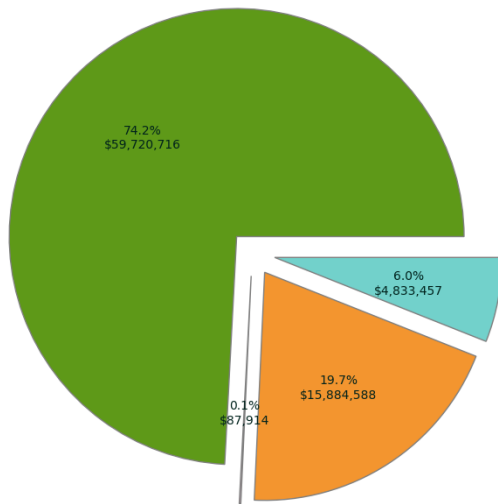
### 2016 Individual donation summary

| <u>Aa</u> Candidate    | <u>#</u> Total donations | <u>#</u> Number of dnations | <u>#</u> Average donation |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Hillary Clinton</u> | \$296,153,783.00         | 2,523,761                   | \$117.35                  |
| <u>Donald Trump</u>    | \$75,711,339.00          | 145,973                     | \$518.67                  |

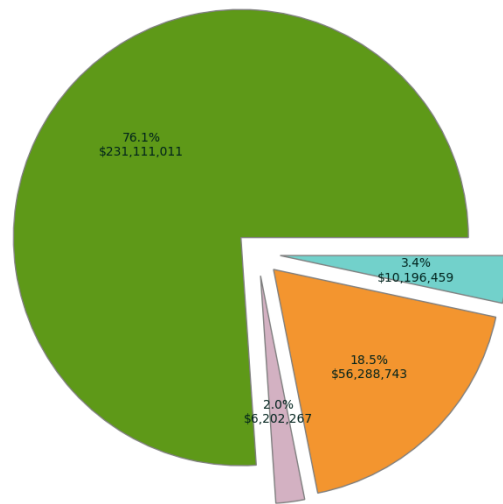
Compared to 2016, there were much more individual contributions for Donald Trump's campaign in 2020 and while the average contribution for the democratic candidate remained the same, there were much more donors for the democratic candidate in the 2020 election cycle.

Taking a look into the employment statistics as shown below:

DONALD J. TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT, INC. (C00580100)



HILLARY CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT (C00431569)



the proportion of voters who were unemployed took up a smaller percentage of the contributions towards the democratic candidate (Hillary) - 2% to Trump's 0.1% while the share of retired voters in terms of the total contributions towards each of the candidate committees remained close: Trump's 19.7% to Hillary's 18.5%

Comparing this data point with 2016, the share of retired voters has taken a larger portion of Republican candidate's contribution (19.7% in 2016 to 40.5% in 2020) total while this percentage has reduced for the democratic candidate (18.5% in the 2016 cycle to 6.6% in the 2020 cycle).

Are older voters more likely to vote in the 2020 cycle and have a large say in what happens in the 2016 cycle? It looks like that although unemployment is present in the democratic candidate's block of individual donors, the share of retired contributors over the overall contribution to the republican candidate has increased. Can we then, attribute a possible upset caused by the older and aging population? This remains to be seen on November third.