

UNEMPLOYMENT

Stronger Recovery Reaching Women

(Updated April 2013)¹

The deep recession that began in December 2007 cost workers nearly 7.5 million jobs before it officially ended in June 2009. From the start of the recovery in June 2009 to March 2013, the economy added over 4.6 million net jobs.² The pace of the recovery has picked up for women after largely leaving them behind at the outset. However, heavier public sector job losses continue to slow the recovery for women.

Women's job gains over the course of the recovery were held back by public sector losses.

- The economy added over 4.6 million jobs from the start of the recovery to March 2013; women gained nearly 1.5 million of those jobs while men gained over 3.1 million of these jobs. Between June 2009 and March 2013, women gained back 70.0 percent of the jobs they lost in the recession, while men gained back 58.6 percent.³
- The private sector picked up over 5.3 million jobs from the start of the recovery to March 2013; women gained over 1.9 million of those jobs while men gained over 3.4 million of these jobs. Between June 2009 and March 2013, women gained back 84.4 percent of the private sector jobs they lost in the recession, while men gained back 63.3 percent.⁴
- Heavy job losses in public sector employment have slowed the recovery, especially for women. From the start of the recovery through March 2013, women lost 441,000 public sector jobs. Men lost 279,000 public sector jobs over the same period.⁵

Women's and men's unemployment dropped since the start of the recovery – men's dropped dramatically.

- Between June 2009 and March 2013, adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 7.0 percent and adult men's overall unemployment rate dropped from 9.9 percent to 6.9 percent.⁶

KEY FACTS

- **Women gained back 70 percent of the jobs they lost in the recession and men gained back nearly 59 percent, from the start of the recovery to March 2013.**
- **Women's public sector job losses wiped out nearly 23 percent of their private sector job gains from the start of the recovery to March 2013.**
- **Adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent at the start of the recovery to 7.0 percent in March 2013 and adult men's dropped from 9.9 percent to 6.9 percent.**
- **More than four in ten jobless adult women and men were unable to find work after more than six months of searching in March 2013.**

Unemployment for many vulnerable groups remained high during the recovery.

- Unemployment rates for adult African-American women and men, adult Hispanic women and men, and single mothers have been persistently higher than for adult women or men overall throughout the recession and recovery.

Job Change in the Recovery (June 2009 - March 2013)



Source: Current Employment Statistics survey, excludes farm jobs.

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- Unemployment rates increased over the recovery for adult African-American women (11.8 percent to 12.2 percent).⁷
- Unemployment rates declined during the recovery for adult African-American men (16.3 percent to 12.7 percent), adult Hispanic men (10.7 percent to 8.2 percent), adult Hispanic women (11.5 percent to 9.3 percent), and single mothers (11.7 percent to 10.7 percent).⁸

Long-term unemployment is substantially higher than at the start of the recovery.

- The percentage of jobless workers who were still looking for work after more than six months of unemployment increased substantially since the start

of the recovery, to 42.4 percent for adult women in March 2013, an increase of 13.1 percentage points, and to 41.0 percent for adult men in March 2013, an increase of 10.3 percentage points.⁹

- In March, more than 4.6 million Americans were still looking for work after more than six months.¹⁰

The economy still has a long way to go. Overall, only about six in ten of the jobs lost during the recession have been regained in the recovery. The data highlight the need for policy makers to invest in job creation for women and men and to reject further cuts in funding for public services that would mean more job losses and increased hardship, especially for women and their families.

1 Revisions to the March version of this analysis reflect both the incorporation of new data each month, and revisions by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to previously reported data.

2 NWLC calculations from U.S. Dep't of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Employment Statistics Survey (hereinafter "BLS Current Employment Survey"), Table B-5: Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, available at <http://bls.gov/ces/cesbtabs.htm> (last visited Apr. 5, 2013).

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 NWLC calculations from U.S. Dep't of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (hereinafter "BLS Current Population Survey"), Table A-1: Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age, seasonally adjusted, available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Apr. 5, 2013). All adult unemployment rates are for individuals 20 and older.

7 NWLC calculations from BLS Current Population Survey, Table A-2: Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex and age, seasonally adjusted, available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Apr. 5, 2013).

8 NWLC calculations from BLS Current Population Survey, Table A-2: Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex and age, seasonally adjusted, Table A-3: Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age, not seasonally adjusted, and Table A-10: Selected Unemployment Indicators, seasonally adjusted, available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Apr. 5, 2013). Rates for Hispanic adults and single mothers are not seasonally adjusted.

9 NWLC calculations from BLS Current Population Survey, Table A-36: Unemployed persons by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, marital status, and duration of unemployment, not seasonally adjusted, July 2009, available at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/archive.htm> (last visited Apr. 5, 2013) and Table A-36: Unemployed persons by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, marital status, and duration of unemployment, not seasonally adjusted, available at <http://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea36.htm> (last visited Apr. 5, 2013).

10 BLS Current Population Survey, Table A-12: Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment, available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t12.htm> (last visited Apr. 5, 2013). Figure includes all individuals 16 and older and is seasonally adjusted.