

# UNEMPLOYMENT

## Stronger Recovery Reaching Women

(Updated January 2013)

*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 November 2012, the economy added over 3.3 million net jobs.<sup>2</sup> The pace of the recovery has picked up for women in the past year and a half, after largely leaving women behind for the first two years. However, heavier public sector job losses continue to slow the recovery for women.*

### **Women's unemployment declined slightly since the start of the recovery and men's dropped dramatically.**

- Between June 2009 and December 2012, adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 7.3 percent and adult men's overall unemployment rate dropped from 9.9 percent to 7.2 percent.<sup>3</sup>

### **Unemployment for many vulnerable groups remained high during the recovery.**

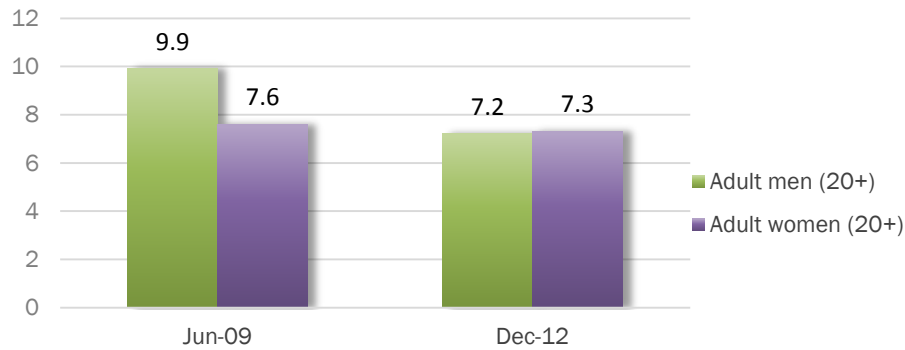
- Unemployment rates for adult African-American women and men, adult Hispanic women and men, and single mothers have been persistently higher than for adult women or men overall throughout the recession and recovery.
- Unemployment rates increased over the recovery for adult African-American women (11.8 percent to 12.2 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Unemployment rates declined during the recovery for adult African-American men (16.3 percent to 14.0 percent), adult Hispanic men (10.7 percent to 8.4 percent), adult Hispanic women (11.5 percent to 9.4 percent), and single mothers (11.7 percent to 11.3 percent).<sup>5</sup>

## KEY FACTS

- **Adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent at the start of the recovery to 7.3 percent in December 2012 and adult men's dropped from 9.9 percent to 7.2 percent.**
- **More than four in ten jobless adult women and men were unable to find work after more than six months of searching in December 2012.**
- **Women gained back 42 percent of the jobs they lost in the recession and men gained back nearly 46 percent, from the start of the recovery to November 2012.**
- **Women's public sector job losses wiped out 30 percent of their private sector job gains since the start of the recovery to November 2012.**

*Technical note: Findings on unemployment are updated for December 2012 based on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released on January 4, 2013. However, the BLS did not release updated data on January 4th on women's jobs in the private sector due to ongoing revisions. The data pertaining to private and total jobs in this fact sheet are current only to the release of the November 2012 data (Dec. 7, 2012). New data are expected in February.*

## Adult unemployment rates in the recovery (June 2009 - December 2012)



Source: Current Population Survey.

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### 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 dramatically since the start of the recovery, to 42.4 percent for adult women in December 2012, an increase of 13.1 percentage points, and to 40.2 percent for adult men in December 2012, an increase of 9.5 percentage points.<sup>6</sup>
- In December, almost 4.8 million Americans were still looking for work after more than six months.<sup>7</sup>

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

- Overall, from the start of the recovery through November 2012, women regained 42.3 percent of the jobs they lost during the recession compared to 45.8 percent for men.<sup>8</sup>

- The private sector picked up almost 4.0 million jobs from the start of the recovery to November 2012; women gained nearly 1.3 million of those jobs. Between June 2009 and November 2012, women gained back 56.4 percent of the private sector jobs they lost in the recession, while men gained back 49.5 percent.<sup>9</sup>
- Heavy job losses in public sector employment have slowed the recovery for women. From the start of the recovery through December 2012, women lost 411,000 public sector jobs. Men lost 234,000 public sector jobs over the same period.<sup>10</sup>

*The economy still has a long way to go. Overall, less than half of the jobs lost during the recession were re-gained during 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 December 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 Dec. 7, 2012).
- 3 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/empst.nr0.htm> (last visited Jan. 4, 2012). All adult unemployment rates are for individuals 20 and older.
- 4 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/empst.nr0.htm> (last visited Jan. 4, 2012).
- 5 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/empst.nr0.htm> (last visited Jan. 4, 2012). Rates for Hispanic adults and single mothers are not seasonally adjusted.
- 6 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 Jan. 4, 2012) 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/empst/cpseea36.htm> (last visited Jan. 4, 2012).
- 7 BLS Current Population Survey, Table A-12: Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment, available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t12.htm> (last visited Jan. 4, 2012). Figure includes all individuals 16 and older and is seasonally adjusted.
- 8 BLS Current Employment Survey, Table 5, *supra* note 2.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid.