

UNEMPLOYMENT

FACT SHEET

Modest Recovery Beginning for Women

(Updated May 2012)¹

The deep recession that began in December 2007 cost workers nearly 7.5 million jobs before it officially ended in June 2009. Between June 2009 and April 2012, the economy added almost 2.5 million net jobs.² Women were largely left behind during the first two and a half years into the recovery, but they are finally showing net job gains and adult women's unemployment rate has been slightly below their 7.6 percent unemployment rate at the start of the recovery in June 2009 for the last two months.³

KEY FACTS

- **During the recovery, women gained just 16.1 percent of the almost 2.5 million net jobs added to the economy.**
- **Since the start of the recovery, adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 7.4 percent and adult men's dropped from 9.9 percent to 7.5 percent.**
- **Women's small net job gain in the recovery has been driven by the loss of public sector jobs – for every two jobs women gained in the private sector during the recovery, they lost one job in the public sector.**

Women made small job gains over the course of the recovery.

- Men fared worse in the recession (December 2007 – June 2009), suffering more than 70 percent of the job loss. However, the recovery has been tougher on women – between June 2009 and April 2012, women gained just 16.1 percent of the jobs added. As a

result, during the recovery, women have regained only 18.8 percent of the jobs they lost during the recession while men have regained 39.0 percent of the jobs they lost during the recession.⁴

- Heavy job losses in public sector employment have disproportionately affected women and contributed to the dismal employment picture for women throughout the recovery. While women represented just over half (57.2 percent) of the public workforce at the end of the recession, they lost a disproportionate share (66.6 percent) of the 601,000 jobs cut in this sector between June 2009 and April 2012.⁵
- Women's job gains in the private sector have been modest. While the private sector picked up nearly 3.1 million jobs over the course of the recovery, women gained 25.9 percent of those jobs (800,000).⁶

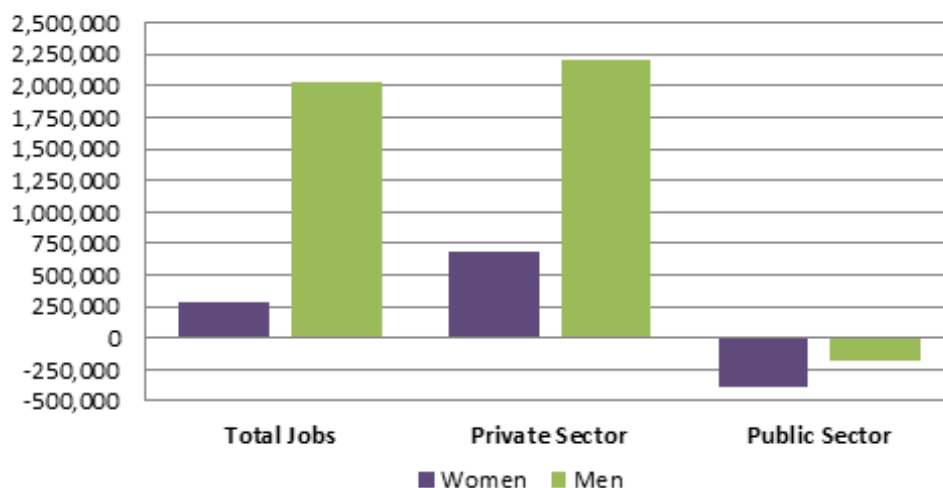
Women's unemployment declined slightly since the start of the recovery while men's dropped dramatically.

- Between June 2009 and April 2012, adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 7.4 percent and adult men's overall unemployment rate dropped from 9.9 percent to 7.5 percent.⁷

Unemployment for many vulnerable groups remained high during the recovery.

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

Job change in the recovery (June 2009 - April 2012)



Source: Current Employment Statistics survey, excludes farm jobs.

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- Unemployment rates declined during the recovery for single mothers (11.7 percent to 10.2 percent), adult black men (16.3 percent to 13.6 percent), adult black women (11.6 percent to 10.8 percent), adult Hispanic men (10.7 percent to 8.6 percent), and adult Hispanic women (11.5 percent to 9.6 percent).⁸

unemployment increased substantially since the start of the recovery in June 2009, to 45.2 percent for adult women in April 2012, a 15.9 percentage point increase, and to 47.4 percent for adult men in April 2012, a 16.7 percentage point increase.⁹

- In April, almost 5.1 million Americans were still looking for work after more than six months.¹⁰

Long-term unemployment is 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

The economy still has a long way to go to achieve a full 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 April 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, Table B-5: Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, available at <http://bls.gov/ces/cesbtabs.htm> (last visited May 4, 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/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited May 4, 2012). All adult unemployment rates are for individuals 20 and older.

4 *Supra* note 2.

5 *Ibid.*

6 *Ibid.*

7 *Supra* note 3.

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 May 4, 2012). Rates for single mothers and Hispanic adults 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/> (last visited May 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/empsit/cpseea36.htm> (last visited May 4, 2012).

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 May 4, 2012). Figure includes all individuals 16 and older and is seasonally adjusted.