

UNEMPLOYMENT

Stronger Recovery Reaching Women

(Updated November 2012)

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 October 2012, the economy added almost 3.3 million net jobs. 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, the overall recovery continues to be slower for women than men because of women's heavier public sector job losses.

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

- The recovery has moved more slowly for women: women regained only 38.7 percent of the jobs they lost during the recession while men regained 45.4 percent.
- Heavy job losses in public sector employment are a major factor in the weaker employment picture for women throughout the recovery. Women lost 351,000 public sector jobs over the course of the recovery – offsetting their private sector job gains by 29.9 percent. Men also have lost public sector jobs, but those losses have offset just 7.9 percent of their private sector job gains over the course of the recovery.
- The private sector picked up over 3.8 million jobs over the course of the recovery; women gained 1,174,000 of those jobs. Women have now gained back 51.5 percent of the private sector jobs they lost in the recession, while men have gained back 48.9 percent.

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

- Between June 2009 and October 2012, adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 7.2 percent and adult men's overall unemployment rate dropped from 9.9 percent to 7.3 percent.

KEY FACTS

- **In the recovery, women gained back 39 percent of the jobs they lost in the recession, men gained back 45 percent.**
- **Since the start of the recovery, adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 7.2 percent and adult men's dropped from 9.9 percent to 7.3 percent.**
- **Women's public sector job losses wiped out 30 percent of their private sector job gains since the start of the recovery.**

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 adult women or men overall throughout the recession and recovery.
- Unemployment rates increased over the recovery for adult black women (11.6 percent to 12.4 percent).
- Unemployment rates declined during the recovery for adult black men (16.3 percent to 14.1 percent), adult Hispanic men (10.7 percent to 8.3 percent), adult Hispanic women (11.5 percent to 9.5 percent), and single mothers (11.7 percent to 11.5 percent).

Job change in the recession and recovery

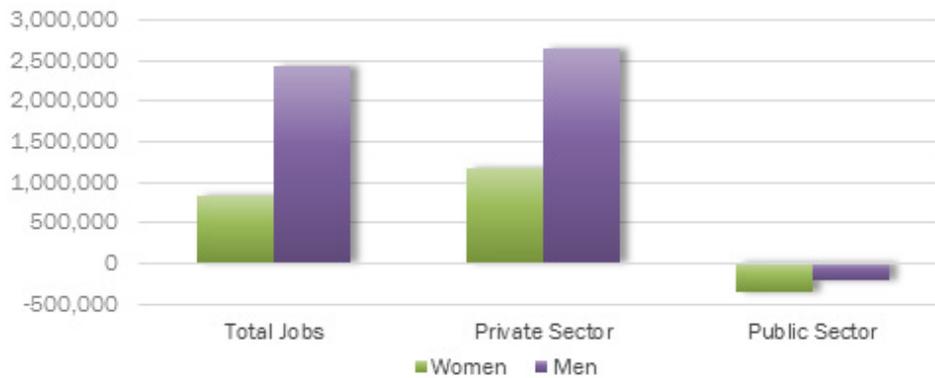


Source: Current Employment Statistics survey, excludes farm jobs.

www.nwlc.org



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



Source: Current Employment Statistics survey, excludes farm jobs.

www.nwlc.org



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 in June 2009, to 42.7 percent for adult women in October 2012, an increase of 13.4 percentage points, and to 46.4 percent for adult men in October 2012, an increase of 15.7 percentage points.

- In October, over 5.0 million Americans were still looking for work after more than six months.

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, to extend emergency unemployment benefits for long-term jobless workers, 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.

NWLC calculations from U.S. Dep't of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Employment Statistics Survey and the Current Population Survey, available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Nov. 2, 2012). Revisions to the October 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. All adult unemployment rates are for individuals 20 and older. Rates for Hispanic adults and single mothers are not seasonally adjusted.