

# UNEMPLOYMENT

## FACT SHEET

### Modest Recovery Reaching Women

(Updated October 2012)<sup>1</sup>

*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 September 2012, the economy added almost 3.0 million net jobs.<sup>2</sup> Women were largely left behind for more than two years of the recovery; the pace of the recovery has picked up for women since then, but continues to be slower for women than men, largely because of women's heavier public sector job losses.*

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

- 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 September 2012, women gained just 22.9 percent of the jobs added. As a result, during the recovery, women regained only 32.3 percent of the jobs they lost during the recession while men regained 43.2 percent.<sup>3</sup>
- Heavy job losses in public sector employment have contributed to the weaker employment picture for women throughout the recovery. Women lost 383,000 public sector jobs during the recovery – offsetting their private sector job gains by 35.9 percent.<sup>4</sup>
- The private sector picked up almost 3.6 million jobs over the course of the recovery; women gained 29.9 percent of those jobs (1,068,000).<sup>5</sup>

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

- Between June 2009 and September 2012, 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 7.3 percent.<sup>6</sup>

## KEY FACTS

- **In the recovery, women gained back only 32 percent of the jobs they lost in the recession, men gained back 43 percent.**
- **Since the start of the recovery, adult women's overall unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 percent to 7.0 percent and adult men's dropped from 9.9 percent to 7.3 percent.**
- **Women's public sector job losses wiped out 36 percent of their private sector job gains since the start of the recovery.**

## Job change in the recovery (June 2009 - September 2012)



Source: Current Employment Statistics survey, excludes farm jobs.

www.nwlc.org



### 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 declined during the recovery for adult black men (16.3 percent to 14.2 percent), adult black women (11.6 percent to 10.9 percent), adult Hispanic men (10.7 percent to 7.6 percent), adult Hispanic women (11.5 percent to 9.8 percent), and single mothers (11.7 percent to 11.3 percent).<sup>7</sup>

### 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 43.1 percent for adult women in September 2012, an increase of 13.8 percentage points, and to 45.2 percent for adult men in September 2012, an increase of 14.5 percentage points.<sup>8</sup>
- In September, over 4.8 million Americans were still looking for work after more than six months.<sup>9</sup>

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 August 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 Oct. 5, 2012).

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 Oct. 5, 2012). 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, 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 Oct. 5, 2012). Rates for Hispanic adults and single mothers are not seasonally adjusted.

8 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 Oct. 5, 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 Oct. 5, 2012).

9 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 Oct. 5, 2012). Figure includes all individuals 16 and older and is seasonally adjusted.