

Modest Recovery Largely Leaves Women Behind

Heavy Job Losses in Public Sector Contribute to Dismal Employment Picture for Women
(updated February 2011)¹

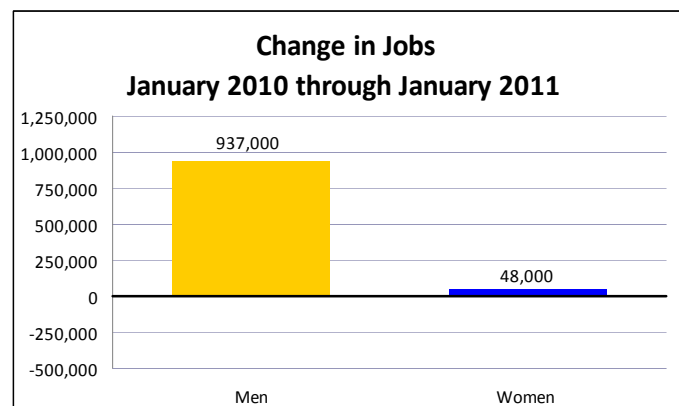
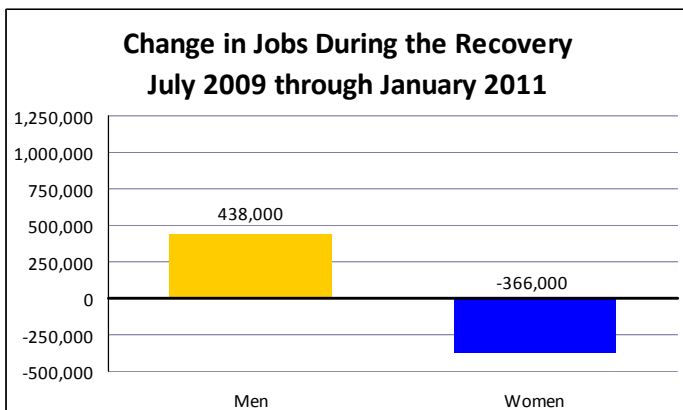
The deep recession that began in December 2007 cost workers nearly 7.5 million jobs before it officially ended in June 2009. Overall job growth during the recovery has been anemic; the economy added only 72,000 jobs between July 2009 and January 2011.² Although unemployment remains high and job growth unacceptably slow for both men and women, it is striking that women have actually lost ground during the recovery.

During the Recovery (July 2009-January 2011):

- Women lost 366,000 jobs, while men gained 438,000, a gap of 804,000 jobs.
- Women's overall unemployment rate increased from 7.7 percent to 7.9 percent while men's dropped from 9.8 percent to 8.8 percent.
- Women lost 84 percent of the 309,000 jobs cut from the public sector.

➤ Women lost jobs over the course of the recovery while men made modest gains.

- Between July 2009 and January 2011, women lost 366,000 jobs while men gained 438,000, a difference of 804,000 jobs.³
- The first six months of the recovery (July – December 2009) saw continued job loss for both men and women, but since the pace of the recovery began to quicken in early 2010, women largely have been left behind. Of the 984,000 jobs added to the economy between January 2010 and January 2011, only 47,000—just 4.8 percent—went to women.⁴
- While women lost three in every ten jobs cut over the course of the recession (December 2007 – June 2009), they have filled only one in every twenty since job growth picked up in 2010.⁵



Source: U.S. Dep't of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

- 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 (57.0 percent) of the public workforce at the end of the recession, they lost the vast majority (83.8 percent) of the 309,000 jobs cut in this sector between July 2009 and January 2011.⁶

- Women lost heavily in the private sector as well. Though women comprised half (48.4 percent) of private sector employees at the end of the recession, they lost 107,000 jobs in this sector between July 2009 and January 2011—a period during which the sector gained 381,000 jobs.⁷
- **Women’s unemployment rose during the course of the recovery while men’s declined.**
 - Between July 2009 and January 2011, women’s overall unemployment rate increased from 7.7 percent to 7.9 percent while men’s overall unemployment rate dropped from 9.8 percent to 8.8 percent.⁸
- **Unemployment for many vulnerable groups increased during the recovery.**
 - Between July 2009 and January 2011 unemployment rates increased for single mothers (from 12.6 percent to 12.7 percent), African-American women (11.8 percent to 12.9 percent), African-American men (16.2 percent to 16.5 percent) and Hispanic men (11.2 percent to 13.0 percent).⁹
 - Hispanic women’s unemployment rate improved during the recovery from 11.8 percent to 11.5 percent, but did not approach the dramatic drop that white men experienced (from 9.1 percent to 7.9 percent).¹⁰
- **Long-term unemployment worsened for women during the recovery.**
 - Between July 2009 and January 2011 the percentage of jobless workers out of work and seeking employment for 27 weeks or more increased from 32.3 percent to 45.0 percent for women (12.7 percentage points), nearly twice as much as the increase for men (6.5 percentage points from 36.9 percent to 43.4 percent).¹¹

Deep cuts in federal and state spending could lead to further job losses, especially for women, and cuts in vital services, as well as jeopardize the fragile recovery.

¹ Revisions to the January version of this analysis reflect both changes in the employment picture between December 2010 and January 2011 as well as revisions by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to employment statistics affecting data from January 2006 forward.

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 Feb. 4, 2011).

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ NWLC calculations from U.S. Dep’t of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the 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 Feb. 4, 2011). (BLS “Current Population Survey”)

⁹ 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 Feb. 4, 2011), Table A-3: Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age, not seasonally adjusted, *available at* <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Feb. 4, 2011), and Table A-10 Selected Unemployment Indicators, seasonally adjusted, *available at* <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Feb. 4, 2011). For white women unemployment increased from 6.9 percent to 7.0 percent between July 2009 and January 2011. Data are unavailable from BLS for other racial or ethnic groups broken by gender.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ 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, August 2009, *available at* <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/> (last visited Feb. 4, 2011) and Table A-36: Unemployed persons by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, marital status, and duration of unemployment, *available at* <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/suppl/empsit.cpseea36.txt> (last visited Feb. 4, 2011). Rates are for persons 20 years old and up.