

Modest Recovery Largely Leaves Women Behind

(updated November 2011)¹

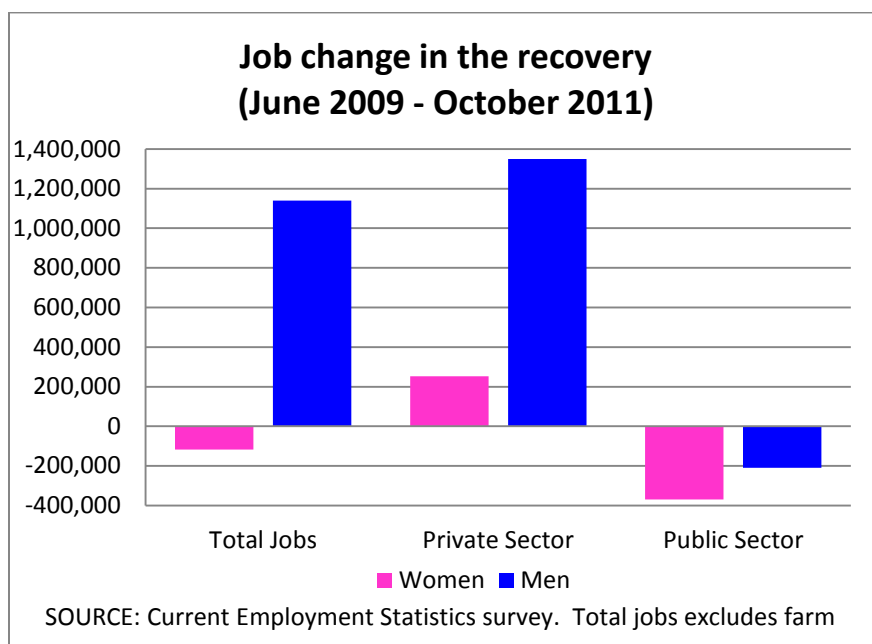
The deep recession that began in December 2007 cost workers nearly 7.5 million jobs before it officially ended in June 2009. Overall job growth during the recovery has been weak; the economy added just over 1.0 million jobs between June 2009 and October 2011.² Although unemployment remains high and job growth unacceptably slow for both men and women, it is striking that women have actually lost jobs during the recovery.

Key Facts

- During the recovery, women lost 117,000 jobs, while men gained more than 1.1 million.
- Over the course of the recovery, women's overall unemployment rate increased from 7.7 percent to 8.0 percent while men's dropped from 9.9 percent to 8.8 percent.
- Women's losses in the recovery have been driven by the loss of public sector jobs – women lost 369,000 public sector jobs during the recovery.

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

- 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 October 2011, women lost 117,000 jobs while men gained 1,140,000.³
- 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 (63.8 percent) of the 578,000 jobs cut in this sector between June 2009 and October 2011.⁴
- The situation was also poor for women in the private sector. While the private sector picked up 1.6 million jobs over the course of the recovery, women gained just over 1 in 7 of those jobs (252,000 jobs).⁵



Women's unemployment rose during the course of the recovery while men's declined.

- Between June 2009 and October 2011, women's overall unemployment rate increased from 7.7 percent to 8.0 percent while men's overall unemployment rate dropped from 9.9 percent to 8.8 percent.⁶

Unemployment for many vulnerable groups remained high during the recovery.

- Between June 2009 and October 2011 unemployment rates increased for black women (11.7 percent to 12.6 percent) and single mothers (11.7 percent to 12.3 percent).⁷
- Both Hispanic men's and women's unemployment rates declined during the recovery from 10.7 percent to 9.8 percent and 11.5 percent to 10.5 percent respectively. Black men's unemployment rate also declined slightly during the recovery from 16.3 percent to 16.2 percent.⁸

Long-term unemployment has grown during the course of the recovery.

- The percent of jobless workers who were still looking for work after more than six months of unemployment increased substantially since the start of the recovery in June 2009, to 46.4 percent for women in October 2011, a 17.1 percentage point increase, and to 46.7 percent for men in October 2011, a 16.0 percentage point increase.⁹
- In October, over 5.7 million Americans were still looking for work after more than six months.¹⁰

The continued grim jobs picture highlights the need for Congress to take action on measures to create jobs for women and men – and to reject further cuts in funding for public services that would mean more jobs losses and increased hardship, especially for women and their families.

¹ Revisions to the January through October versions 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 Nov. 4, 2011).

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, 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 Nov. 4, 2011). (BLS "Current Population Survey")

⁷ 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 Nov. 4, 2011) and Table A-10 Selected Unemployment Indicators, seasonally adjusted, available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Nov. 4, 2011). Data on single mother unemployment is not seasonally adjusted.

⁸ NWLC calculations from BLS "Current Population Survey," 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 Nov. 4, 2011) and 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 Nov. 4, 2011).

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 Nov. 4, 2011) 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 Nov. 4, 2011).

¹⁰ *Ibid.* Includes all individuals 16 and over.