

EMPLOYMENT

FACT SHEET

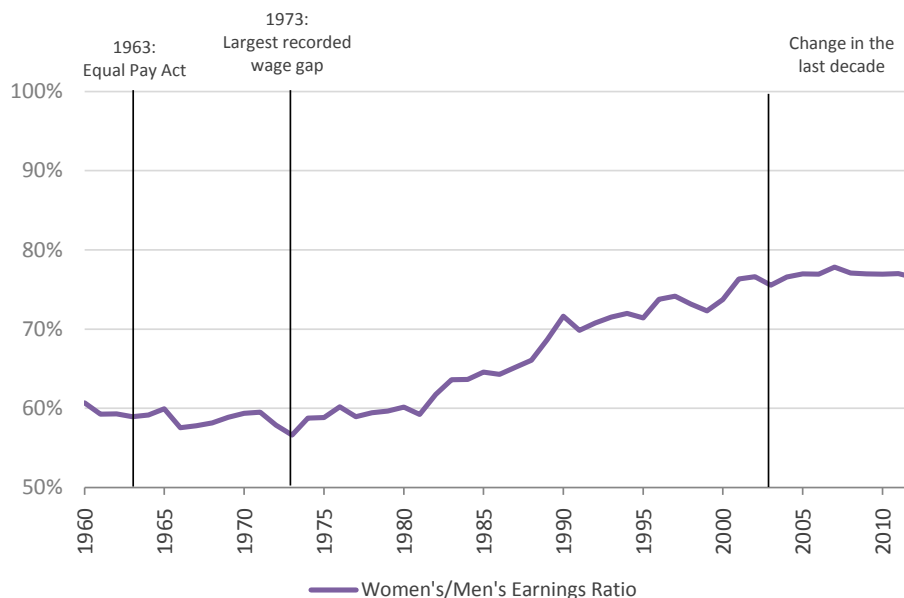
The Wage Gap Over Time

October 2013

American women who work full time, year round are typically paid only 77 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts. This past June marked 50 years since the passage of the Equal Pay Act and in that time we've seen women make huge strides forward in the labor force. Yet, 50 years later, the wage gap still persists. Since the passage of this landmark legislation, how much progress have women made?

In 1963, a woman working full time, year round typically made just 59 cents for every dollar paid to her male counterpart. The wage gap was 41 cents. In 2012, the most recent year for which data are available, a woman working full time, year round typically made just 77 cents for every dollar paid to her male counterpart. The wage gap was 23 cents – just 18 cents smaller than when the Equal Pay Act became law. It's been stuck at 77 cents for the last decade.

The Wage Gap Over Time
Ratio of Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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The Overall Wage Gap Over Time

Year	Women's Earnings	Men's Earnings	Gap in Earnings	Women's/Men's Earnings Ratio	Wage Gap
2012	\$37,791	\$49,398	\$11,607	76.5%	23.5%
2011	\$37,893	\$49,209	\$11,316	77.0%	23.0%
2010	\$38,846	\$50,497	\$11,650	76.9%	23.1%
2009	\$38,835	\$50,448	\$11,614	77.0%	23.0%
2008	\$38,119	\$49,446	\$11,327	77.1%	22.9%
2007	\$38,872	\$49,958	\$11,086	77.8%	22.2%
2006	\$37,028	\$48,127	\$11,099	76.9%	23.1%
2005	\$37,470	\$48,676	\$11,206	77.0%	23.0%
2004	\$37,975	\$49,591	\$11,616	76.6%	23.4%
2003	\$38,357	\$50,771	\$12,414	75.5%	24.5%
2002	\$38,548	\$50,323	\$11,775	76.6%	23.4%
2001	\$37,890	\$49,640	\$11,750	76.3%	23.7%
2000	\$36,616	\$49,669	\$13,053	73.7%	26.3%
1999	\$36,264	\$50,147	\$13,883	72.3%	27.7%
1998	\$36,382	\$49,722	\$13,340	73.2%	26.8%
1997	\$35,621	\$48,032	\$12,411	74.2%	25.8%
1996	\$34,551	\$46,841	\$12,290	73.8%	26.2%
1995	\$33,656	\$47,118	\$13,463	71.4%	28.6%
1994	\$34,019	\$47,269	\$13,251	72.0%	28.0%
1993	\$34,028	\$47,579	\$13,551	71.5%	28.5%
1992	\$34,273	\$48,419	\$14,145	70.8%	29.2%
1991	\$33,791	\$48,370	\$14,580	69.9%	30.1%
1990	\$33,757	\$47,136	\$13,379	71.6%	28.4%
1989	\$33,557	\$48,865	\$15,308	68.7%	31.3%
1988	\$32,836	\$49,715	\$16,879	66.0%	34.0%
1987	\$32,697	\$50,166	\$17,469	65.2%	34.8%
1986	\$32,445	\$50,482	\$18,037	64.3%	35.7%
1985	\$31,795	\$49,237	\$17,442	64.6%	35.4%
1984	\$31,110	\$48,871	\$17,761	63.7%	36.3%
1983	\$30,488	\$47,942	\$17,454	63.6%	36.4%
1982	\$29,731	\$48,152	\$18,420	61.7%	38.3%
1981	\$29,071	\$49,078	\$20,007	59.2%	40.8%
1980	\$29,706	\$49,378	\$19,672	60.2%	39.8%
1979	\$29,921	\$50,150	\$20,229	59.7%	40.3%
1978	\$30,199	\$50,806	\$20,607	59.4%	40.6%
1977	\$29,744	\$50,480	\$20,736	58.9%	41.1%
1976	\$29,717	\$49,369	\$19,652	60.2%	39.8%
1975	\$29,118	\$49,505	\$20,387	58.8%	41.2%
1974	\$29,269	\$49,816	\$20,547	58.8%	41.2%
1973	\$29,262	\$51,670	\$22,408	56.6%	43.4%
1972	\$28,974	\$50,074	\$21,101	57.9%	42.1%
1971	\$28,275	\$47,516	\$19,241	59.5%	40.5%
1970	\$28,089	\$47,314	\$19,224	59.4%	40.6%
1969	\$27,557	\$46,815	\$19,257	58.9%	41.1%
1968	\$25,779	\$44,328	\$18,549	58.2%	41.8%
1967	\$24,944	\$43,169	\$18,224	57.8%	42.2%
1966	\$24,459	\$42,497	\$18,038	57.6%	42.4%
1965	\$24,401	\$40,719	\$16,318	59.9%	40.1%
1964	\$23,746	\$40,147	\$16,400	59.1%	40.9%
1963	\$23,125	\$39,231	\$16,106	58.9%	41.1%
1962	\$22,693	\$38,269	\$15,576	59.3%	40.7%
1961	\$22,267	\$37,582	\$15,315	59.2%	40.8%
1960	\$22,098	\$36,420	\$14,323	60.7%	39.3%

Source: National Women's Law Center calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Historical Data, Table P-38: Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Median Earnings and Sex, available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/people/>. Median earnings are in 2012 dollars. Figures may differ from those in other reports due to rounding.