

Women Gain 65% of Jobs Added in April While 181,000 Women Leave Labor Force

JASMINE TUCKER AND BROOKE LEPAGE¹

The most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data showed a strong jobs report for April, with 428,000 jobs added last month. Women made up 65.0% of these gains, gaining 278,000 jobs.² Even with this progress, the economy is still down nearly 1.2 million net jobs since February 2020, and women are down 829,000 net jobs since February 2020. This means that nearly seven in ten (69.7%) net jobs lost since the start of this crisis were women's jobs.³

At the same time, 181,000 women ages 20 and over left the labor force last month, meaning they are now neither working nor looking for work. This means there were over 1 million fewer women in the labor force in April 2022 than in February 2020. And while 131,000 men ages 20 and over also left the labor force last month, there were still 362,000 more men ages 20 and over in the labor force in April 2022 than in February 2020. As a result, women make up all net labor force leavers since February 2020.⁴

Women gained 278,000 jobs last month but are still short over 829,000 jobs since February 2020.

- Since February 2020, the economy has experienced a net loss of nearly 1.2 million jobs; women account for 69.7% of those losses.
- The leisure and hospitality sector gained 78,000 jobs in April 2022. Women gained 61,000 jobs in this sector, or 78.2% of the jobs added. Women make up 53.1% of the leisure and hospitality workforce.
- The retail trade sector gained 29,200 jobs in April 2022. Women gained 15,200 jobs, or 52.1% of the jobs added. Women make up 48.8% of the retail trade workforce.
- The government sector gained 22,000 jobs in April 2022. Women gained 27,000 jobs while men lost 5,000. Women make up 58.1% of the government workforce.

- The education and health services sector gained 59,000 jobs in April 2022. Women gained 43,000 jobs, or 72.9% of the jobs added. Women make up 76.8% of the education and health services workforce.
- The child care sector gained 2,700 jobs last month. A net 103,800 child care jobs have been lost since February 2020. The child care sector is still missing nearly 1 in 10 jobs (9.8%) lost since the start of the crisis.⁵ Women make up 91.1% of the child care workforce.⁶

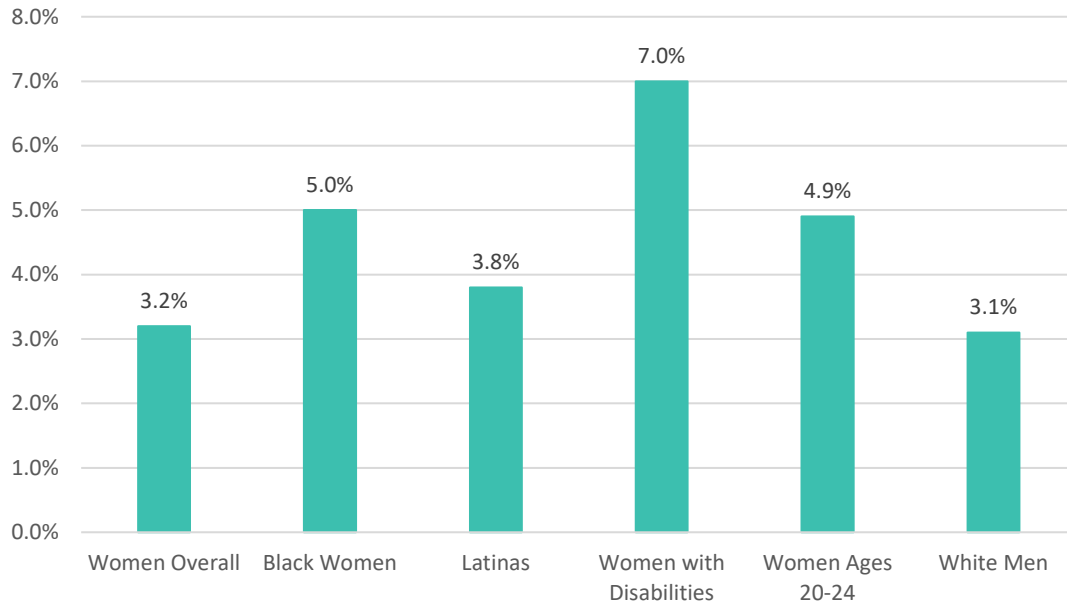
While unemployment rates went down for most demographic groups, the overall unemployment rates masks higher rates for Black women, disabled women, and other groups.

- The unemployment rate for women ages 20 and over dropped from 3.3% in March to 3.2% in April 2022. In comparison, the unemployment rate for men ages 20 and over increased from 3.4% in March to 3.5% in April 2022.⁷
- The unemployment rate for Black women ages 20 and over was 5.0% in April 2022, down from 5.5% in March. The unemployment rate for Black men ages 20 and over increased from 5.6% in March to 6.1% in April 2022.⁸
- The unemployment rate for Latinas ages 20 and over was 3.8% in April 2022, down from 4.2% in March.⁹
- The unemployment rate for Asian women ages 20 and over was 2.4% in April 2022, down from 2.6% in March.¹⁰
- The unemployment rate for women with disabilities ages 16-64 was 7.0% in April 2022, down from 9.7% in March.¹¹
- The unemployment rate for young women ages 20-24 was 4.9% in April 2022, down from 5.9% in March. The unemployment rate for Black women ages 20-24 decreased from 13.1% in March to 10.2% in April 2022,¹² and the rate for Latinas ages 20-24 decreased from 5.8% in March to 4.1% in April 2022.¹³
- By comparison, the unemployment rate for white men ages 20 and over was 3.1% in April 2022, unchanged from March.¹⁴

Many unemployed women have been out of work for 6 months or longer.

In April 2022, nearly 1 in 4 unemployed women ages 20 and over (24.6%) had been out of work for six months or longer. Among unemployed women ages 16 and over, 22.3% had been out of work for six months or longer, including 32.8% of unemployed Asian women, 29.3% of unemployed Black women, and 22.1% of unemployed Latinas.¹⁵ Additionally, in April 2022, nearly 1 in 6 unemployed women ages 16 and over (16.2%) had been out of work for a year or longer.¹⁶

Unemployment Rates for Selected Demographics, April 2022



Source: BLS, Employment Situation Summary Tables A-1, A-2, A-3, A-6, and A-13. Unemployment rates for white men, women overall, Latinas, and Black women are seasonally adjusted and are for people ages 20 and over. The unemployment rate for women with disabilities is not seasonally adjusted and is for women ages 16-64.

Since February 2020, over 1 million women have left the labor force. If they were counted among the unemployed last month, women's unemployment rate would have been 4.6%.

Reported unemployment rates do not capture people who have left the labor force entirely and are no longer looking for work. If the more than 1 million women ages 20 and over who have left the labor force since February 2020 were counted as unemployed in April 2022, women's unemployment rate would have been 4.6% in April 2022 instead of the reported 3.2%.¹⁷

Since February 2020, 181,000 Black women have left the labor force, along with 113,000 Latinas. If these women were counted as unemployed, the unemployment rate for Black women in April 2022 would have been 6.7% instead of 5.0% and the unemployment rate for Latinas would have been 4.7% instead of 3.8%.¹⁸

1. Data was factchecked by Sarah Javid.
2. NWLC calculations using Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Table B-1 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary* and BLS, "Employment of Women on Nonfarm Payrolls by Industry Sector, Seasonally Adjusted," Table B-5 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary* (Washington, DC: May 6, 2022), <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t21.htm>. Historical data available at <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cesbtab5.htm>. Throughout this factsheet, changes since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic are measured using February 2020 as a reference point.
3. NWLC calculations using BLS, Table B-1 and Table B-5 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary*.
4. NWLC calculations using BLS, "Employment Status of the Civilian Population by Sex and Age," Table A-1 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary* (Washington, DC: May 6, 2022), <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t01.htm>. Historical data available at <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab1.htm>. Figures are seasonally adjusted and capture women and men ages 20 and over. Each year when January data is released, the Bureau of Labor Statistics adjusts its household survey data to incorporate new methodologies and population estimates from the most recent decennial Census and other sources. However, BLS does not revise past figures with these new estimates and therefore cautions the comparability of figures across years.
5. NWLC calculations using BLS, Table B-1 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary* and BLS, Table B-5 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary*. Figures are seasonally adjusted. Historical data available at <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cesbtab1.htm> and <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cesbtab5.htm>.
6. NWLC calculations using BLS, Table B-1 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary* and BLS, "Women Employees, Thousands, Child Day Care Services" from the Current Employment Statistics Survey (National), <https://beta.bls.gov/dataViewer/view/timeseries/CES6562440010>. Figures are seasonally adjusted.
7. NWLC calculations using BLS, "Employment Status of the Civilian Population by Sex and Age," Table A-1 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary* (Washington, DC: May 6, 2022), <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t01.htm>. Historical data available at <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab1.htm>. Figures are seasonally adjusted and capture women and men ages 20 and over.
8. BLS, "Employment Status of the Civilian Population by Race, Sex, and Age" Table A-2 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary* (Washington, DC: May 6, 2022). Historical data available at <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab2.htm>. Figures are seasonally adjusted.
9. NWLC calculations using BLS, "Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age," Table A-3 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary*. (Washington, DC: May 6, 2022), <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t03.htm>. Figures are seasonally adjusted.
10. NWLC calculations using BLS, "(Unadj) Unemployment Rate – Asian, Women," *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*, <https://beta.bls.gov/dataViewer/view/timeseries/LNU04032342>. Figures are not seasonally adjusted.
11. BLS, "Employment Status of the Civilian Population by Sex, Age, and Disability Status, Not Seasonally Adjusted," Table A-6 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary*, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t06.htm>.
12. BLS, "Employment Status of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population by Age, Sex, and Race," Table A-13 in *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*, <https://www.bls.gov/web/empst/cpseea13.htm>. Figures are not seasonally adjusted.
13. BLS, "Employment Status of the Hispanic or Latino Population by Age and Sex," Table A-14 in *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*, <https://www.bls.gov/web/empst/cpseea14.htm>. Figures are not seasonally adjusted.
14. BLS, Table A-2 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary*. Figure is seasonally adjusted.
15. NWLC calculations based on BLS, "Unemployed Persons by Age, Sex, Race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, Marital Status, and Duration of Unemployment," Table A-36 in *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey* (Washington, DC: May 6, 2022), <https://www.bls.gov/web/empst/cpseea36.htm>. Figures are not seasonally adjusted.
16. NWLC calculations using BLS, "(Unadj) Number Unemployed for 52 Weeks & Over, Women," *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*, <https://beta.bls.gov/dataViewer/view/timeseries/LNU03008735> and BLS, Table A-36 in *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*. Figures are not seasonally adjusted.
17. NWLC calculations using BLS, Table A-1 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary*. To calculate these adjusted unemployment rates, NWLC added the 1,053,000 women who have dropped out of the labor force since February 2020 to the number of women in April 2022 who were in the labor force and to the number of women who were unemployed and recalculated the share of women in the labor force who were unemployed.
18. NWLC calculations using BLS, Tables A-2 and A-3 in *April 2022 Employment Situation Summary*. To calculate these adjusted unemployment rates, NWLC added the 181,000 Black women who have dropped out of the labor force since February 2020 to the number of Black women in April 2022 who were in the labor force and to the number of Black women who were unemployed and recalculated the share of women in the labor force who were unemployed. The same was done for Latinas.