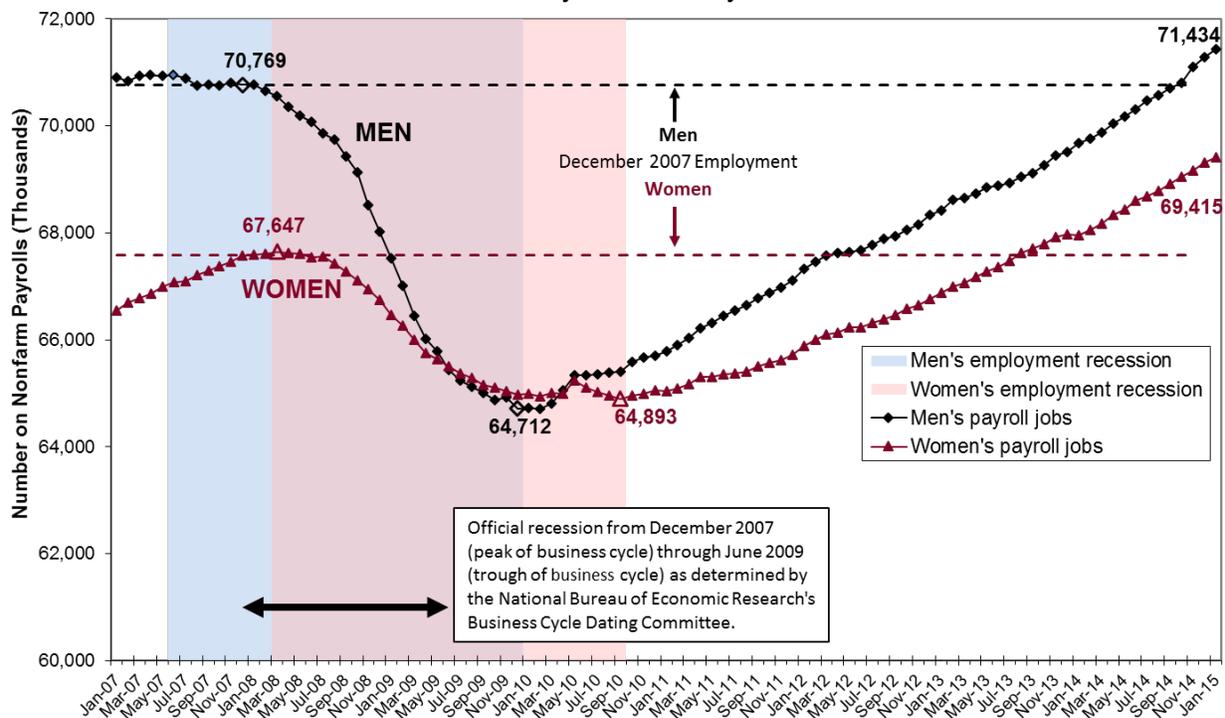


Job Gains Continue in 2015: Women Gained 101,000 and Men Gained 156,000 Jobs in January

Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (In Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – January 2015



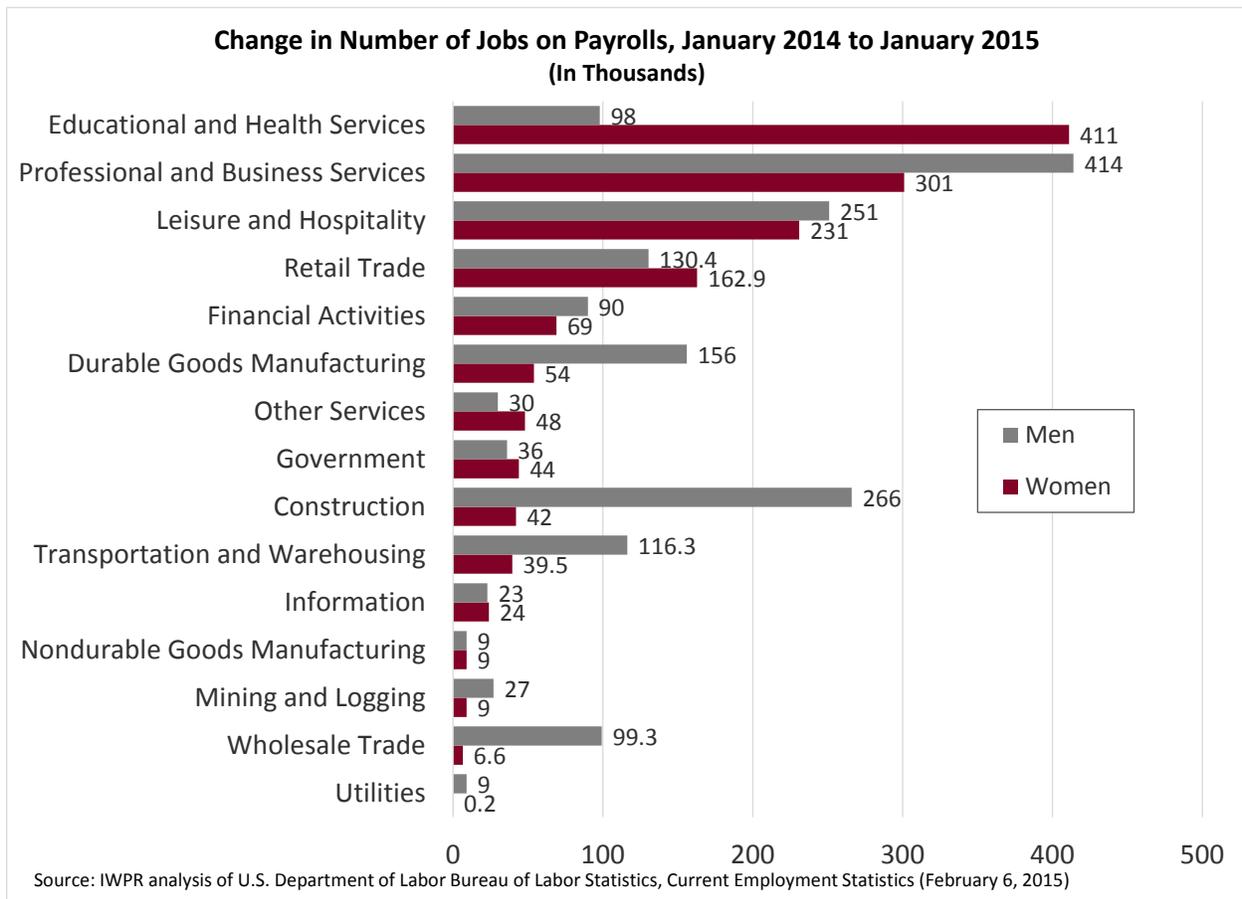
Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (February 6, 2015)

According to an Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the February employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as of January men hold more jobs (71,434,000) than when the recession began (70,769,000 in December 2007) seven years earlier. Due to women's relatively stronger job growth in several of the last few years, their total number of jobs lost in the recession has been recovered for some time (69,415,000 jobs in January 2015 vs 67,581,000 jobs in December 2007 when the recession began). The overall unemployment rate increased slightly to 5.7 percent in January from 5.6 percent in December (an amount that is not statistically significant).

The February employment report introduces annual benchmarking adjustments for the number of payroll jobs in the economy that are principally based on the number of jobs covered by the unemployment

insurance tax system. With the annual adjustments, women gained 448,000 more jobs than previously estimated in 2014 and men gained an additional 1,156,000.

In January, women’s employment growth was strongest in Educational and Health Services (40,000 jobs gained by women), Leisure and Hospitality (25,000 jobs gained by women), and Retail Trade (24,500 jobs gained by women). However, women lost 16,000 jobs in Government in January.



In the last year, from January 2014 to January 2015, of the 3.2 million jobs added to payrolls, 45 percent were filled by women (1,451,000 jobs) and 55 percent were filled by men (1,755,000 jobs). Job growth improved overall compared with the prior year. Women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (411,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business Services (301,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (231,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (162,900 jobs added for women). Men’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (414,000 jobs added for men), Construction (266,000 jobs added for men), and Leisure and Hospitality (251,000 jobs added for men).

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women aged 16 and older increased to 5.6 percent in January from 5.3 percent in December. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older increased to 5.9 percent in January from 5.8 percent in December. Among workers

aged 20 and older, unemployment is higher among black women and men (8.7 percent and 10.6 percent respectively) and Hispanic women and men (6.2 percent and 5.7 percent respectively) compared to white women and men (4.4 percent and 4.5 percent respectively). Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate increased to 8.1 percent in January from 7.8 percent in December. Unemployment for single mothers is substantially lower than its peak four years ago, 13.4 percent in July and August 2010. Neither the unemployment rates for Hispanics nor the rate for single mothers are seasonally adjusted and can fluctuate due to small sample sizes in the household survey.

The overall labor force participation rate increased to 62.9 percent in January from 62.7 percent in December. Women's labor force participation rate increased from 56.6 percent in December to 56.8 percent in January, but remains 2.6 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate was 69.5 percent in January, or 3.6 percentage points lower than the 73.1 percent rate in December 2007. In a report issued in February 2014, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that about half of the decline in total labor force participation is due to the aging of the U.S. population.

As of January, 9.0 million workers remain unemployed and, of these, 2.8 million (31.5 percent) have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. This share has declined by 4.1 percentage points in the past year, from 35.6 percent in January 2014.

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