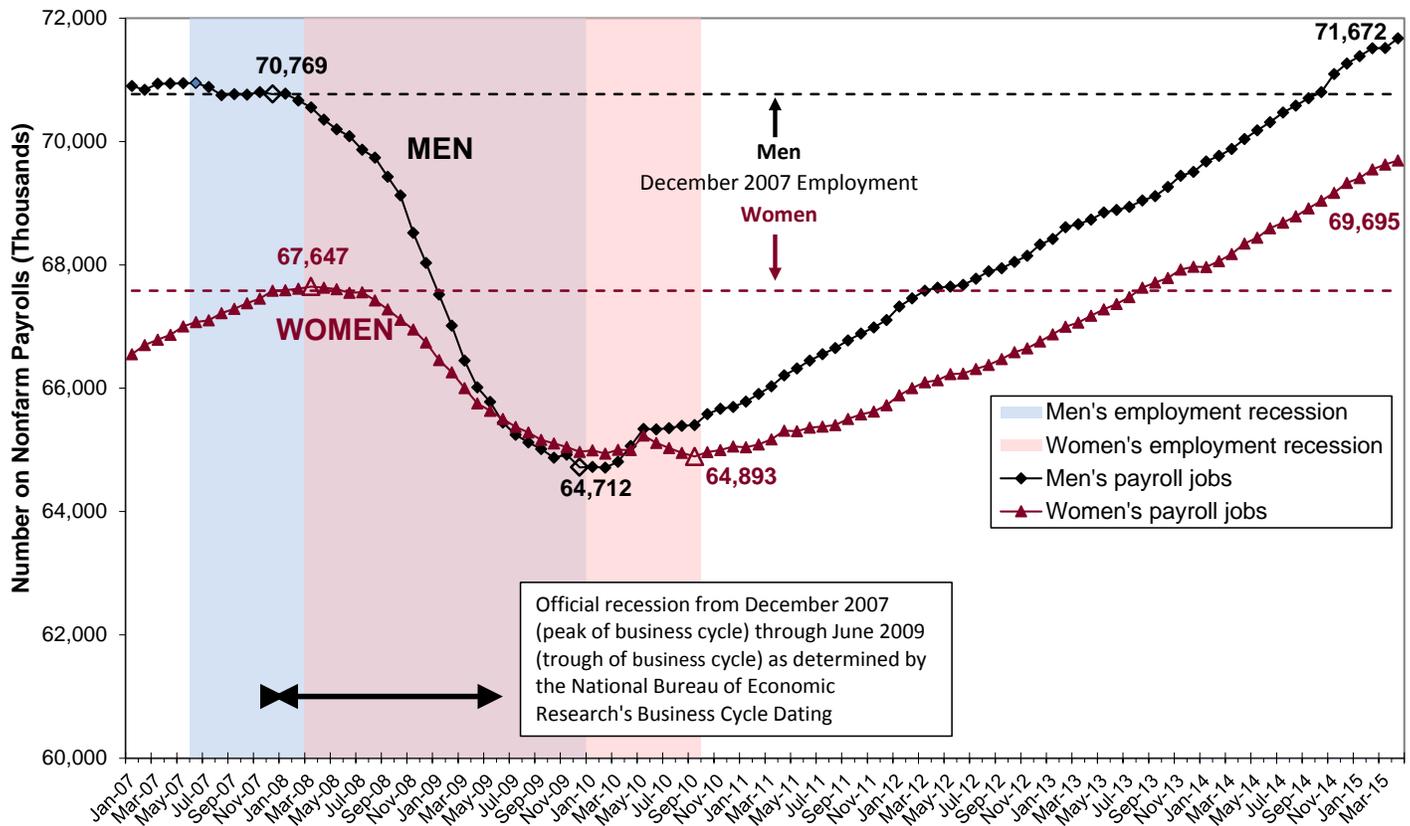


Stronger Job Gains for Men in April: Women Gained 68,000 and Men Gained 155,000 Jobs

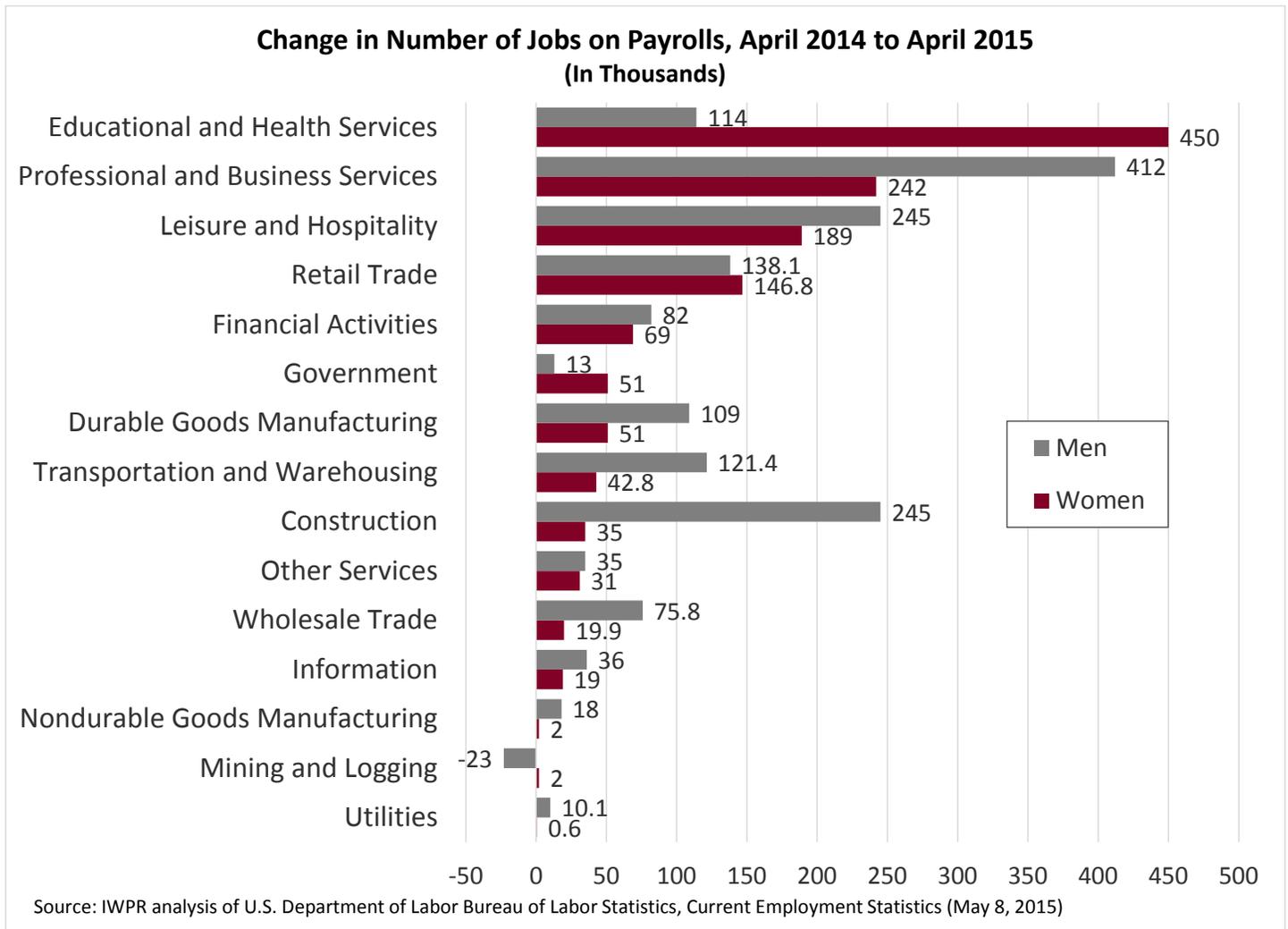
Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (In Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – April 2015



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (May 8, 2015)

According to an Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the May employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in April women gained 68,000 jobs and men gained 155,000 for a total of 223,000 jobs added in the month. The overall unemployment rate declined slightly to 5.4 percent in April from 5.5 percent in March.

In April, women’s employment growth was strongest in Educational and Health Services (45,000 jobs gained by women) and Professional and Business Services (14,000 jobs gained by women). However, women lost 6,100 jobs in Retail Trade and 5,000 jobs in Information in April.



In the last year, from April 2014 to April 2015, of the 3 million jobs added to payrolls, 45 percent were filled by women (1,351,000 jobs) and 55 percent were filled by men (1,631,000 jobs). Between April 2014 and April 2015 women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (450,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business Services (242,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (189,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (146,800 jobs added for women). Men’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (412,000 jobs added for men), Leisure and Hospitality (245,000 jobs added for men), and Construction (245,000 jobs added for men). However, men lost 23,000 jobs in Mining and Logging during the past year.

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women aged 16 and older increased to 5.4 percent in April from 5.3 percent in March. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older decreased to 5.5 percent in April from 5.6 percent in March. Among workers aged 20

and older, unemployment is higher among black women and men (8.8 percent and 9.2 percent respectively) and Hispanic women and men (6.9 percent and 6.0 percent respectively) compared to white women and men (4.2 percent and 4.4 percent respectively). Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate decreased to 7.0 percent in April from 8.1 percent in March. Unemployment for single mothers is substantially lower than its peak four years ago, 13.4 percent in July and August 2010. The unemployment rate for single mothers is not seasonally adjusted and can fluctuate due to small sample sizes in the household survey.

The overall labor force participation rate increased to 62.8 percent in April from 62.7 percent in March. Women's labor force participation rate remained steady at 56.6 percent in March and April, but remains 2.8 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate rose slightly from 69.3 percent in March to 69.4 percent in April, but remains 3.7 percentage points lower than the 73.1 percent rate in December 2007.

As of April, 8.5 million workers remain unemployed and, of these, 2.5 million (29.0 percent) have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. This share has declined by 6.1 percentage points in the past year, from 35.1 percent in April 2014.

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