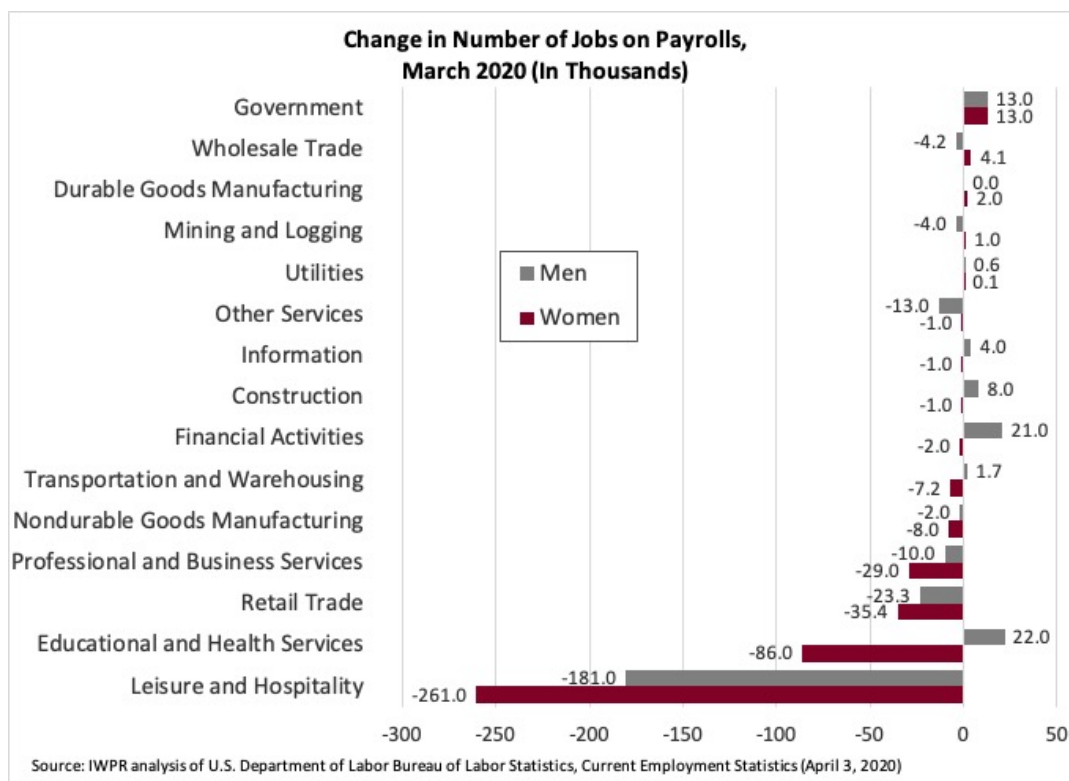


Women Lost More Jobs than Men in almost all Sectors of the Economy

Employment data released on Friday, April 3rd show dramatic job losses and sharp rises in unemployment for both women and men since February. Altogether 701,000 jobs were lost, the majority (58.8 percent or 412,188) by women. While these estimates of job losses are already outdated - since their collection in the second week of March new applications for unemployment reached almost ten times that level¹--they point to the critical role of gender in understanding the impact of the COVID -19 crisis. Women's job losses outnumbered men's in almost all sectors of the economy (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Women's Job Losses Exceed Men's in almost all Sectors

Changes in the Number of Women and Men on Payroll between February and March 2020, by Sector of Industry



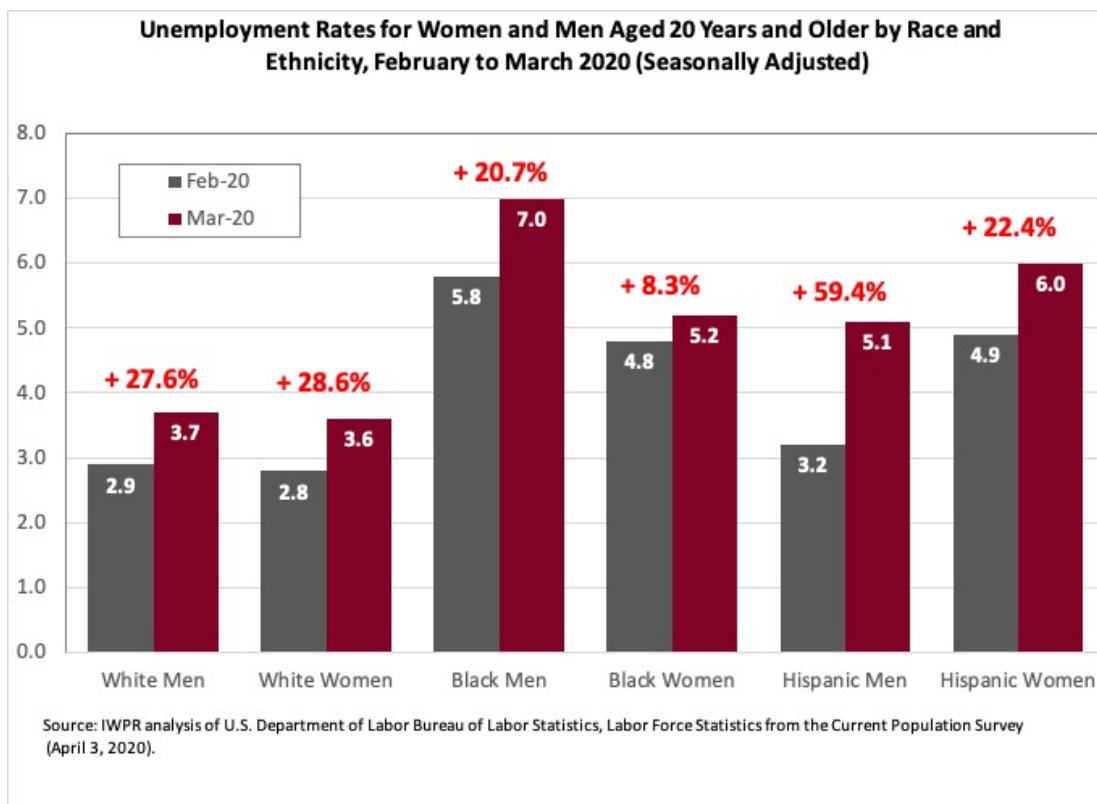
The biggest job losses were experienced in Leisure and Hospitality where women's payroll employment fell by 261,000 compared with a drop in employment for men of 181,000. Women also disproportionately lost jobs in

¹ See U.S. Department of Labor (2020) "Unemployment insurance Weekly Claims." News Release: April 2; <<https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>> (accessed April 5, 2020).

the Retail Trade, Professional and Business Services, and Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing. Indeed, in four sectors- Educational and Health Services, Financial Services, Construction, Information--women lost jobs while men’s employment still grew. Men lost more jobs than women in just three sectors, Wholesale Trade, Mining and Logging, and Other Services. The only sector where both women and men saw employment increases, and of the same magnitude, is Government, at least partly reflecting job growth related to Census survey collection.

Payroll data are not available by race/ethnicity. Unemployment data from the household data collected in the Current Population Survey find a sharp increase in the rate of unemployment for women and men of the largest racial and ethnic groups since February, as well as substantial differences in the level of unemployment. Hispanic women have the highest rate of unemployment among women (6.0 percent, a 22 percent increase in 4 weeks to mid March); unemployment for Hispanic men saw the sharpest increase (59 percent) and reached 5.1 percent. The rate of unemployment for Black men (7.0 percent) is almost twice as high as the rate for White men (3.7 percent) and White women (3.6 percent). Black women’s unemployment saw the lowest monthly increase of just 8.3 percent, but at an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent is also much higher than the rates for White women and men (Figure 2).

Figure 2: All Groups Saw Substantial Increases in Unemployment since February- Rates of Unemployment are Particularly High for Hispanic Women and Black men



Young workers were also particularly severely impacted by employment changes last month and are the only group currently with rates of unemployment in the double digits. The rate of unemployment for young women ages 16 to 19 is 14.3 percent, compared with 4.0 percent for women aged 20 and older. (The rates for men are the same). Unemployment also rose sharply for part-time workers.² Young workers are particularly likely to work part-time. The job losses in Leisure and Hospitality, and in Retail are likely to have a particularly severe impact on younger workers.

² See U.S. Department of Labor (2020) “Table A-10. Selected unemployment indicators, seasonally adjusted.” Economic News Release, April 3 <<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t10.htm>> (accessed April 5, 2020).

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