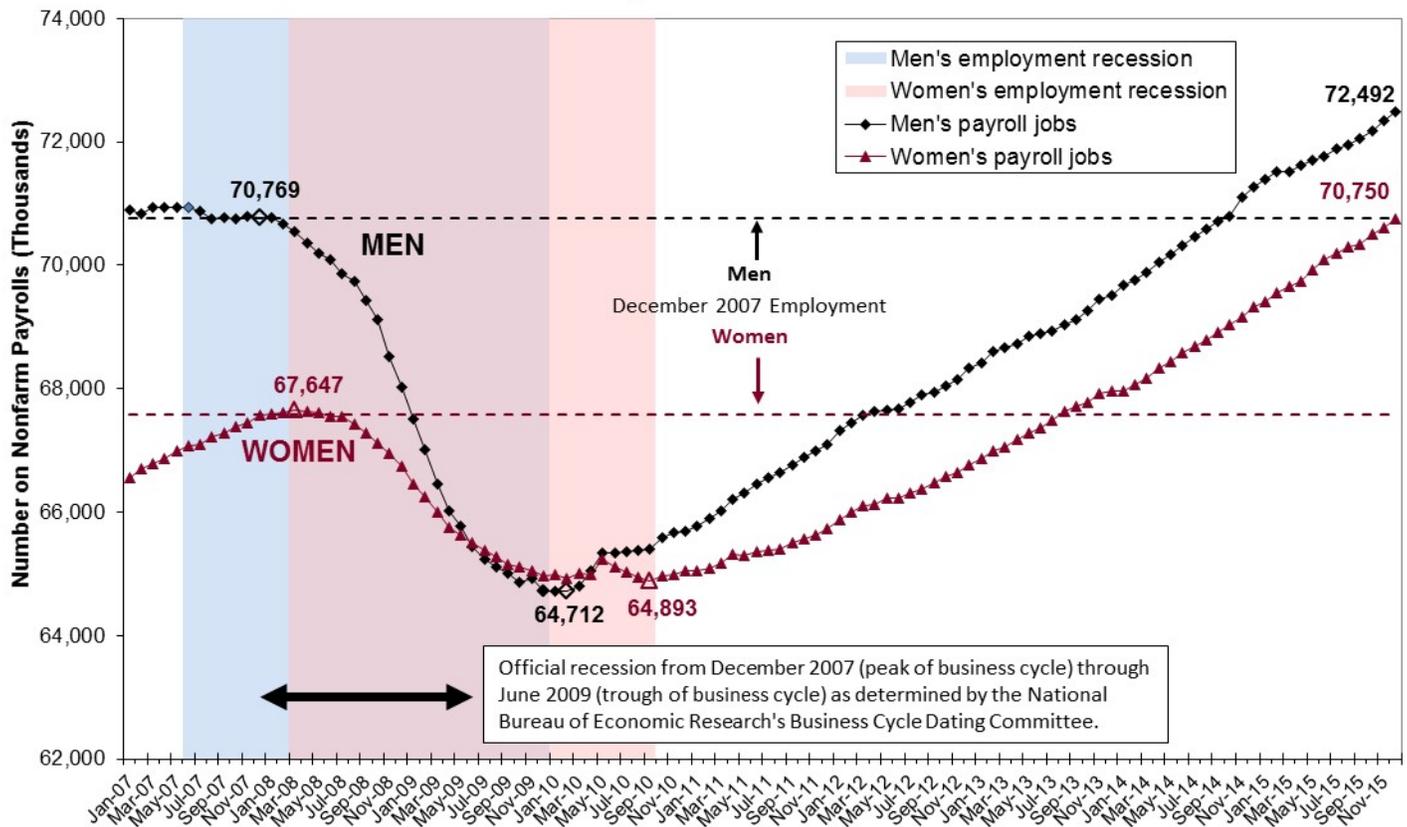


Women and Men Share Stronger Job Gains in December Women's Unemployment Rate Is at 4.8 Percent; Men's at 5.2 Percent

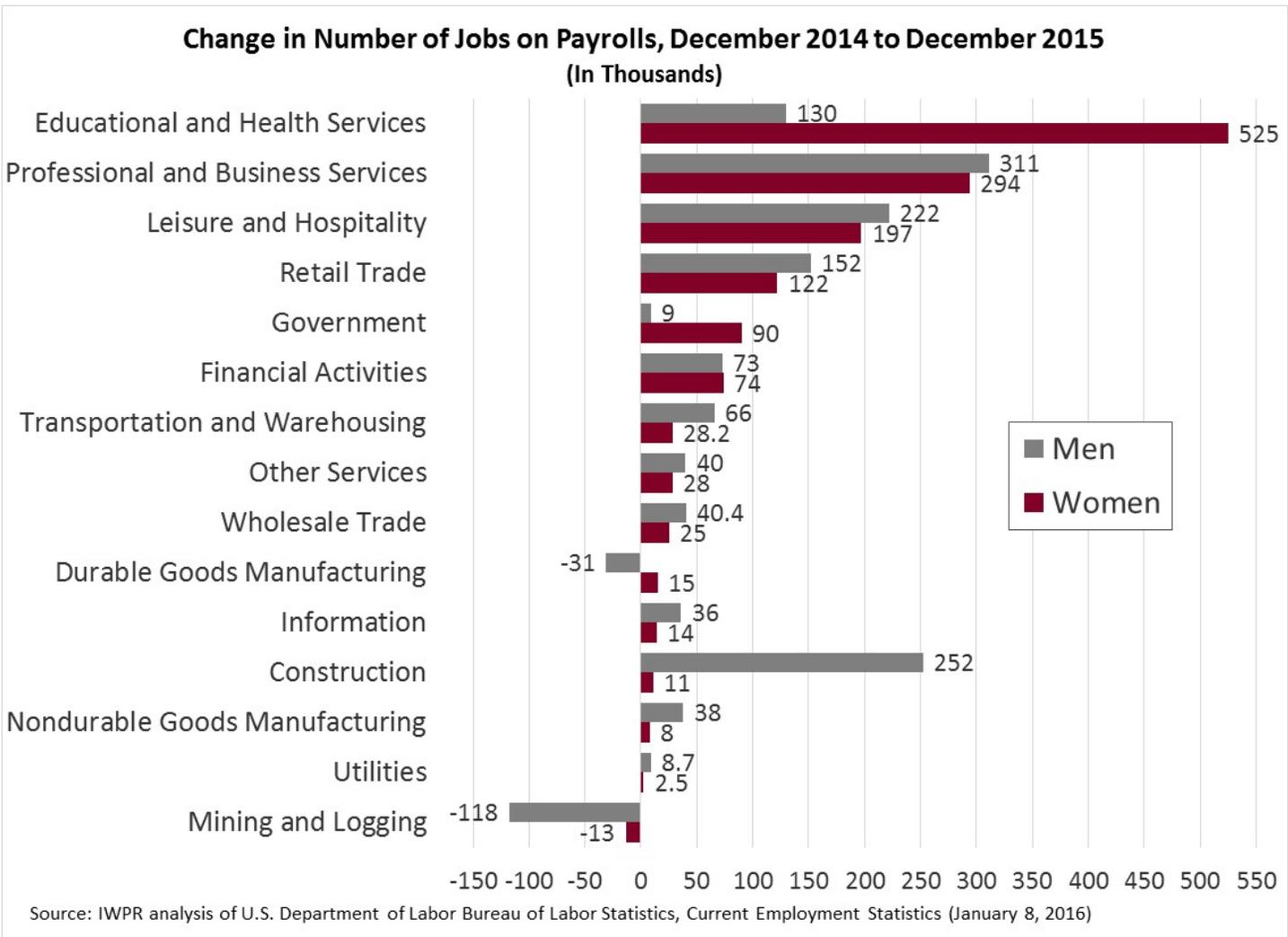
Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (In Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – December 2015



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (January 8, 2016)

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the January employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) finds that women gained 141,000 jobs and men gained 151,000 for a total of 292,000 jobs added in December. Revisions to preliminary estimates of nonfarm payroll employment for October and November improved the picture for men adding 121,000 jobs to previous releases. Those revisions reduced the number of jobs added for women by 12,000 in October and November. The overall unemployment rate remained steady at 5.0 percent in November and December.

In December, women’s employment growth was strong in Educational and Health Services (49,000 jobs gained by women), Professional and Business Services (34,000 jobs gained by women), Government (20,000 jobs gained by women), and Leisure and Hospitality Services (17,000 jobs gained by women). Men’s employment growth was strong in Construction (45,000 jobs gained by men), Professional and Business Services (39,000 jobs gained by men), Transportation and Warehousing (20,000 jobs gained by men), Information (13,000 jobs gained by men), Leisure and Hospitality Services (12,000 jobs gained by men), and Educational and Health Services (10,000 jobs gained by men). In contrast, men’s employment declined in Mining and Logging (8,000 jobs lost by men), Durable Goods Manufacturing (6,000 jobs lost by men), and Government (3,000 jobs lost by men). Women lost 3,100 jobs in Wholesale Trade and 1,600 jobs in Retail Trade in December.



In the last year, from December 2014 to December 2015, of the 2.65 million jobs added to payrolls, more than half were filled by women (54 percent or 1,420,00 jobs) and slightly less than half were filled by men (46 percent or 1,230,000 jobs). Between December 2014 and December 2015 women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (525,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business Services (294,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (197,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (122,000 jobs added for women). Men’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (311,000 jobs

added for men), Construction (252,000 jobs added for men), Leisure and Hospitality (222,000 jobs added for men), Retail Trade (152,000 jobs added for men), and Education and Health Services (130,000 jobs added for men). In contrast, men lost 118,000 jobs in Mining and Logging and 31,000 jobs in Durable Goods Manufacturing during the past year.

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women aged 16 and older decreased to 4.8 percent in December from 4.9 percent in November. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older remained steady at 5.2 percent in November and December. Among workers aged 20 and older, unemployment is substantially higher among black women and men (6.9 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively) compared with white women and men (at 3.9 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively). Compared with white women, Hispanic women's unemployment is substantially higher at 6.3 percent, and Hispanic men's unemployment is also higher than white men's at 5.5 percent. For single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate decreased to 5.8 percent in December from 6.9 percent in November. Unemployment for single mothers is substantially lower than its peak five 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 from 62.5 percent in November to 62.6 percent in December. Women's labor force participation rate increased to 56.8 percent in December from 56.7 percent in November, and remains 2.6 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007, at the start of the Great Recession. Men's labor force participation rate increased from 68.7 percent in November to 68.9 percent in December, 4.2 percentage points lower than the 73.1 percent rate in December 2007.

As of December, 7.9 million workers remained unemployed and, of these, 2.1 million (26.3 percent) had been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. This share has declined by 5.5 percentage points in the past year, from 31.8 percent in December 2014. Involuntary part-time workers numbered 6.0 million workers in December; they reported working part-time for reasons such as slack work or unfavorable business conditions, inability to find full-time work, or seasonal declines in demand. Compared to the same time last year, 764,000 fewer workers reported involuntary part-time work, a substantial decline from 6.8 million in December 2014.

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