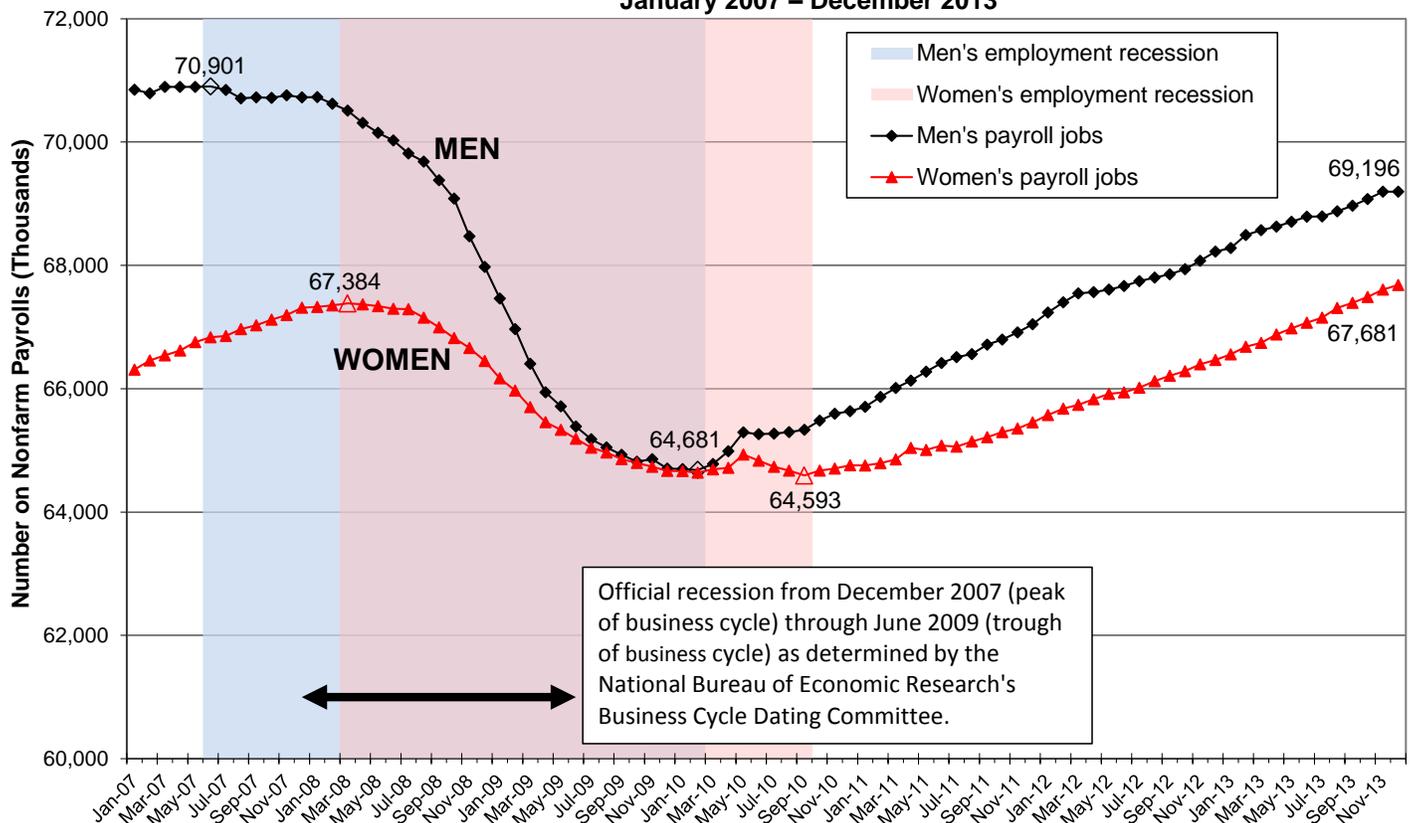


IWPR # Q015

January 2014

Job Growth Slows in December Women Gained All 74,000 Jobs Added to Payrolls

Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (In Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – December 2013



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (January 10, 2014)

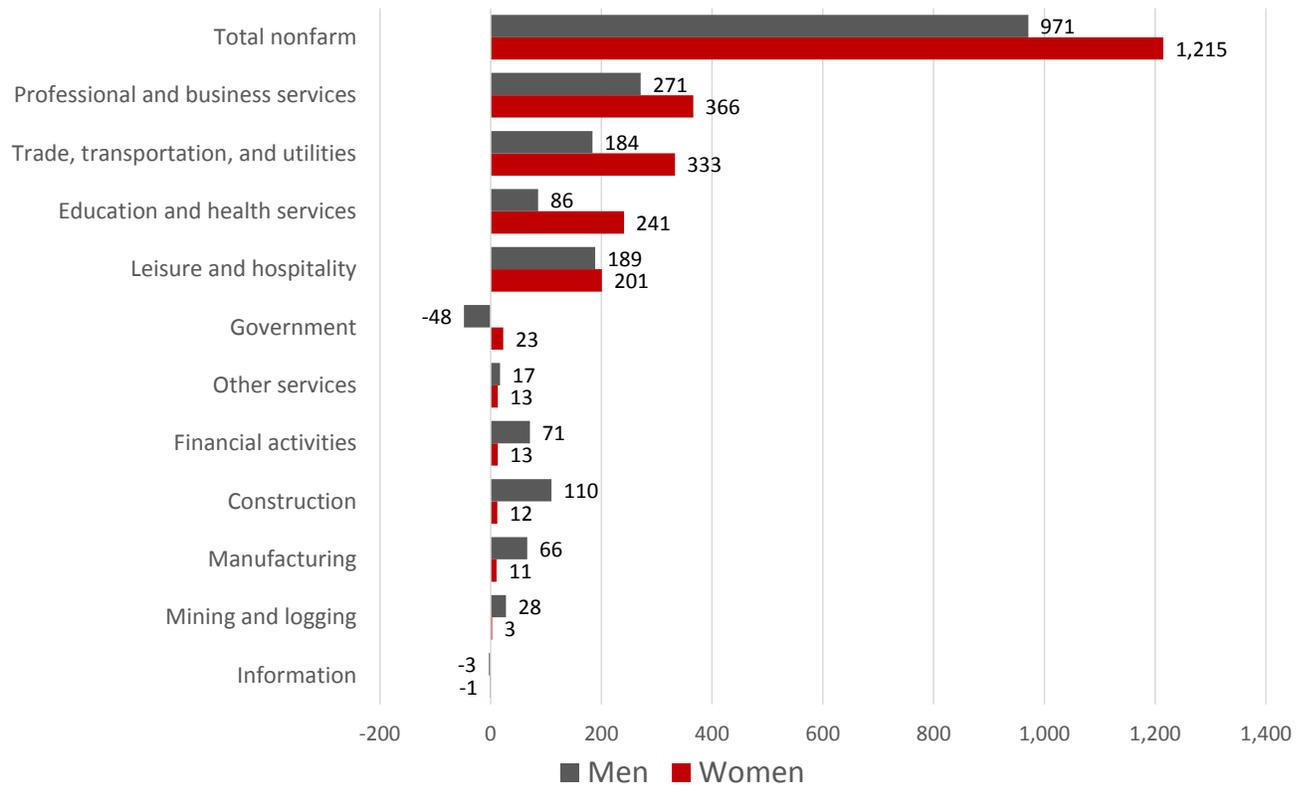
According to an Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the January employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), women gained 75,000 jobs added to nonfarm payrolls in December while men lost 1,000 for a net increase of 74,000 jobs in December. Because women continued to add jobs in the past month, as of December, women hold more jobs on payrolls than ever. Men have regained 75 percent (4.5 million) of the jobs they lost between December 2007 and the trough for men's employment in February 2010 (6 million). The gap between women's and men's

employment is 1.5 million jobs in December, substantially less than at the start of the recession (3.4 million jobs in December 2007).

In December, women’s employment growth was strongest in Retail Trade (38,500 jobs gained by women), Leisure and Hospitality (18,000 jobs for women), and Professional and Business Services (15,000 jobs added for women). Unusually, Education and Health Services, which has also been a strong growth industry for women, showed zero job gains for women and men together in December, and health care alone lost 6,000 jobs in December. December’s job gains continue the pattern reported previously (*Women and Men in the Recovery: Where the Jobs Are*, IWPR #C408) that showed strong gains for women in the fourth year of the recovery. While women gained 866,000 jobs in the third year of the recovery, they gained many more in the fourth year, 1,128,000 according to the payroll data. In contrast men’s job gains were 1,250,000 in the third recovery year, substantially more than women’s that year, but in the fourth year, men’s job gains fell slightly to 1,123,000, a number slightly less than women’s job gains for that year.

Change in Number of Jobs on Payroll for Women and Men (in thousands)

December 2012 to December 2013



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (January 10, 2014)

In the last year, from December 2012 to December 2013, of the 2.2 million jobs added to payrolls, 56 percent were filled by women (1,215,000 jobs), and 44 percent were filled by men (971,000 jobs) indicating a declining trend for job gains by men especially. In 2013, women's job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (366,000 jobs added), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (333,000 jobs added for women), Education and Health Services (241,000 jobs added for women), and Leisure and Hospitality (201,000 jobs added for women).

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women aged 16 and older decreased to 6.5 percent in December from 6.7 percent in November. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older decreased to 6.8 percent in December from 7.3 percent in November. Women's labor force participation rate was 56.9 percent in December or 2.5 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate was 69.1 percent in December or 4.0 percentage points lower than the 73.1 percent rate in December 2007. Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate fell from 9.7 percent in November to 8.7 percent in December, indicating continued difficulty for these women in finding jobs. (This series is not seasonally adjusted and can fluctuate due to small sample sizes in the household survey.)

As of December, 10.4 million workers remain unemployed and of these 3.9 million (38 percent) have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. At the end of 2013, in an unprecedented policy change, the extensions of unemployment insurance that were enacted during the recession and extended while unemployment remained high were allowed to expire by the US Congress. Shierholz (2014, Economic Policy Institute Issue Brief #374) shows that the share of the labor force that is long-term unemployed is *twice* as high compared with the levels when extended unemployment insurance compensation was ended following previous recessions (since 1957). There has been little improvement over the past year in the average (mean) number of weeks spent unemployed and looking for work, from 38.0 weeks in December 2012, to 37.1 weeks in December 2013. (The median number of weeks declined from 17.8 weeks in December 2012 to 17.1 weeks in December 2013.)