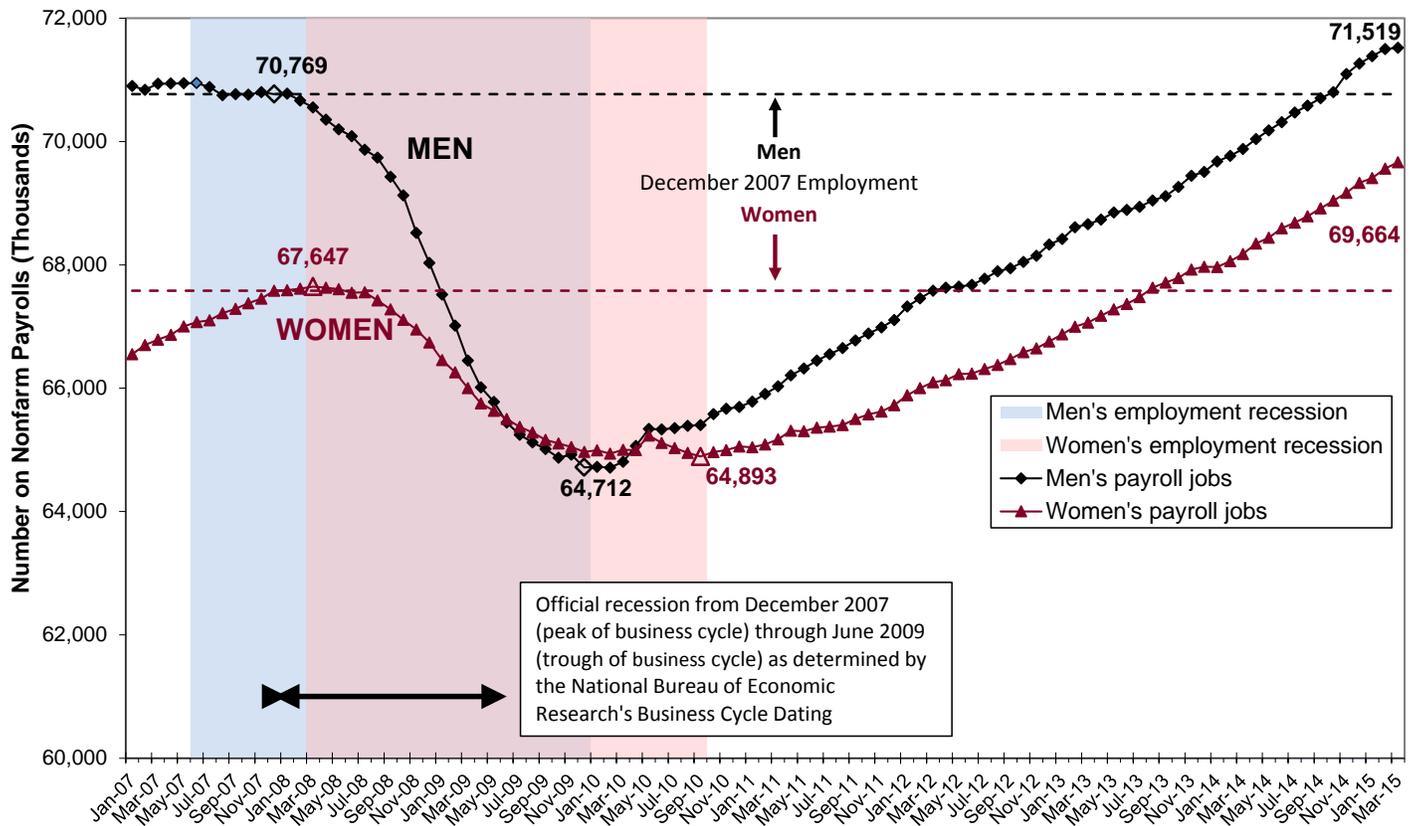


## Slower Job Gains in March: Women Gained 105,000 and Men Gained 21,000 Jobs

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

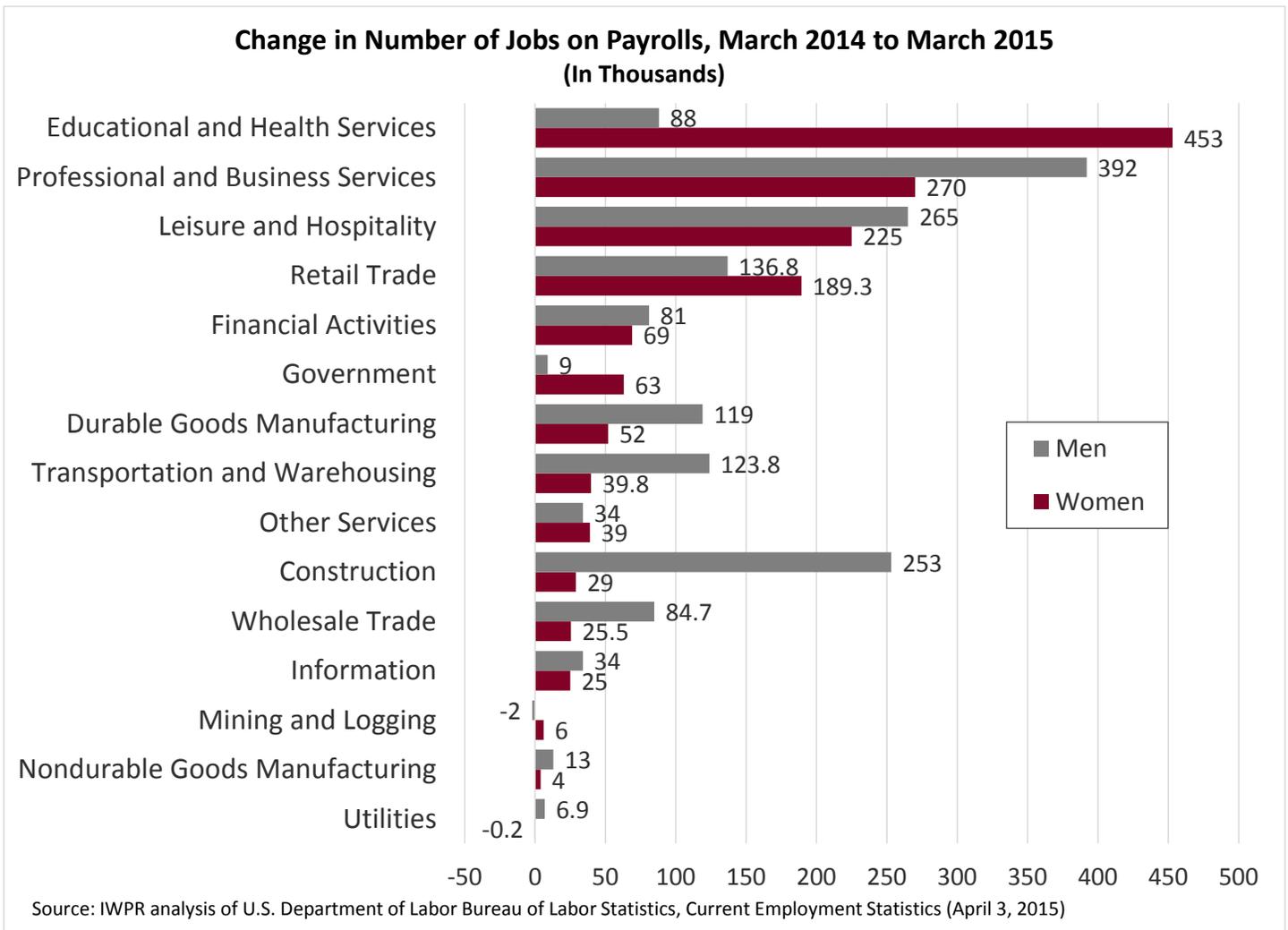


Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (April 3, 2015)

According to an Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the April employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as of March men hold more jobs (71,519,000) 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 (69,664,000 jobs in March 2015 vs 67,581,000 jobs in December 2007)

when the recession began). The overall unemployment rate remained steady at 5.5 percent from February to March.

In March, women’s employment growth was strongest in Educational and Health Services (41,000 jobs gained by women), Professional and Business Services (27,000 jobs gained by women), and Retail Trade (23,600 jobs gained by women). However, women lost 4,000 jobs in Leisure and Hospitality and 1,000 jobs in Government in March.



In the last year, from March 2014 to March 2015, of the 3.1 million jobs added to payrolls, 48 percent were filled by women (1,489,000 jobs) and 52 percent were filled by men (1,639,000 jobs). Job growth improved overall compared with the prior year, though women did lose 200 jobs in Utilities. Women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (453,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business Services (270,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (225,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (189,300 jobs added for women). Men’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (392,000 jobs added for men), Leisure and Hospitality (265,000 jobs added for men), and Construction (253,000 jobs added for men). However, men lost 2,000 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 decreased to 5.3 percent in March from 5.4 percent in February. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older decreased to 5.6 percent in March from 5.7 percent in February. Among workers aged 20 and older, unemployment is higher among black women and men (9.2 percent and 10.0 percent respectively) and Hispanic women and men (6.5 percent and 5.8 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 increased to 8.1 percent in March from 7.7 percent in February. 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 decreased to 62.7 percent in March from 62.8 percent in February. Women's labor force participation rate decreased from 56.7 percent in February to 56.6 percent in March, and remains 2.8 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate was 69.3 percent in March, or 3.8 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 March, 8.6 million workers remain unemployed and, of these, 2.6 million (29.8 percent) have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. This share has declined by 6.2 percentage points in the past year, from 36.0 percent in March 2014.

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*The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) conducts rigorous research and disseminates its findings to address the needs of women, promote public dialogue, and strengthen families, communities, and societies. The Institute's research strives to give voice to the needs of women from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds across the income spectrum and to ensure that their perspectives enter the public debate on ending discrimination and inequality, improving opportunity, and increasing economic security for women and families. The Institute works with policymakers, scholars, and public interest groups to design, execute, and disseminate research and to build a diverse network of individuals and organizations that conduct and use women-oriented policy research. IWPR's work is supported by foundation grants, government grants and contracts, donations from individuals, and contributions from organizations and corporations. IWPR is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that also works in affiliation with the women's studies and public policy and public administration programs at The George Washington University.*