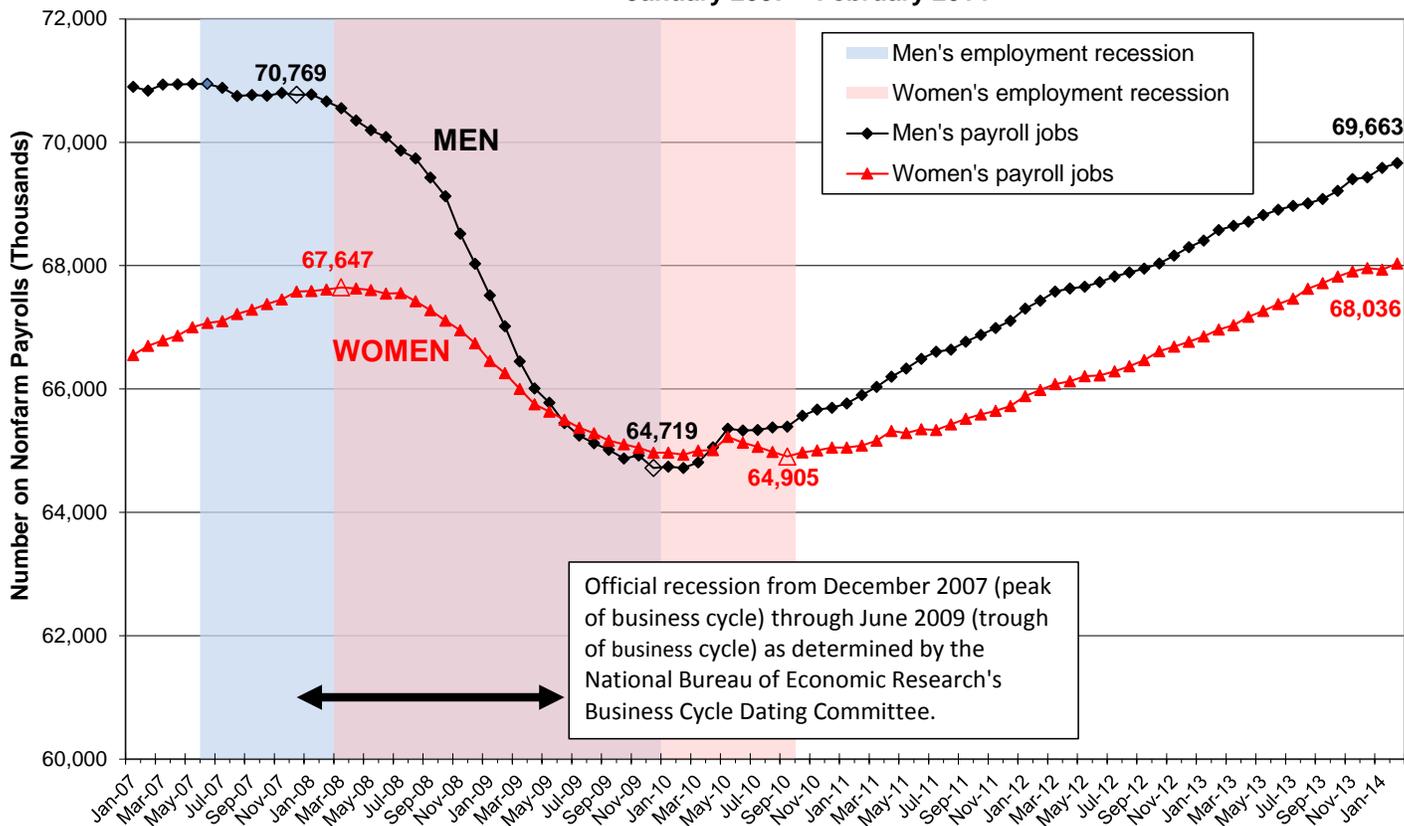


IWPR # Q018

March 2014

Women Gained 99,000 Jobs in February

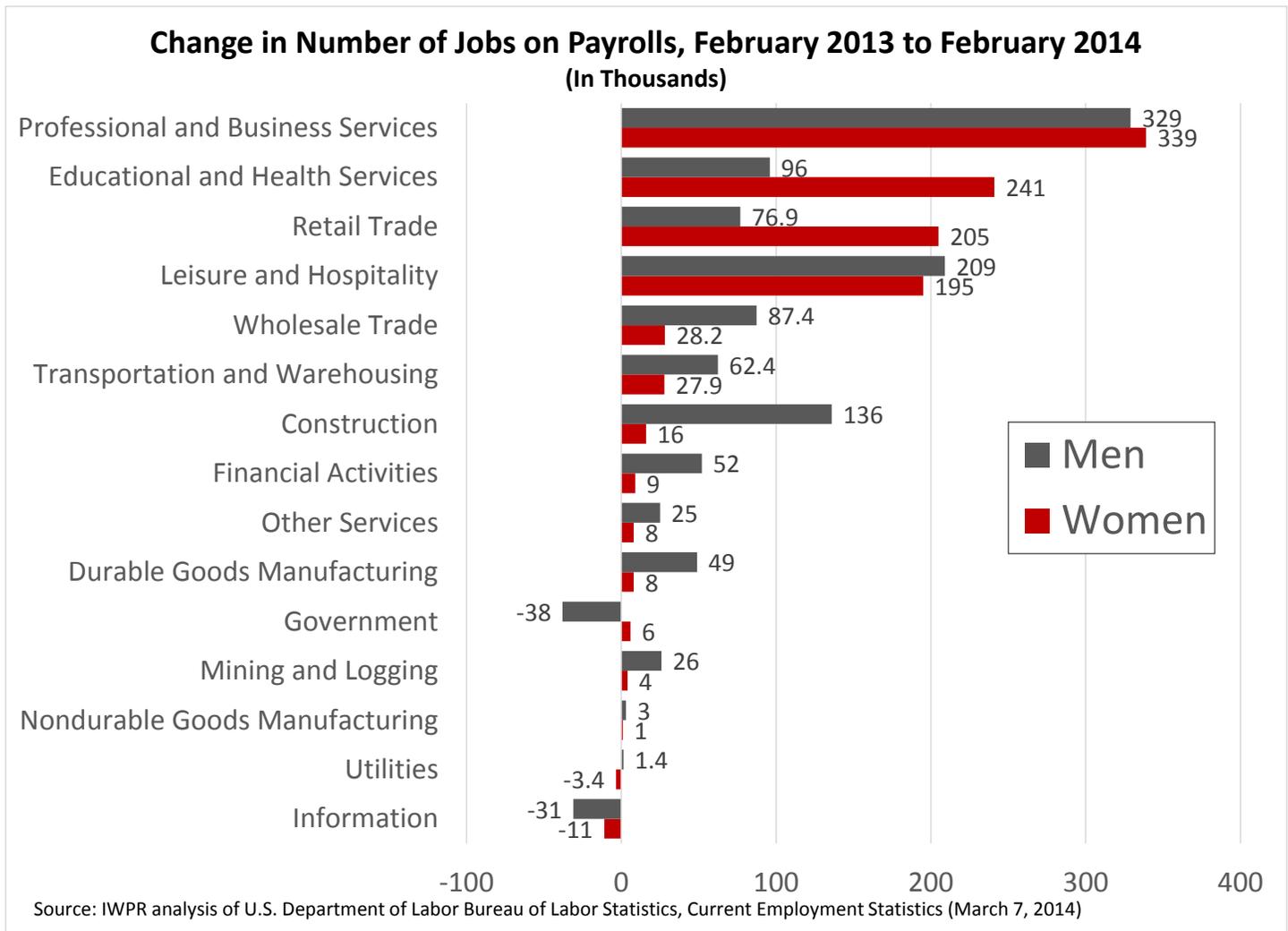
Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (In Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – February 2014



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (March 7, 2014)

According to an Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the March employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), women gained 99,000 jobs on nonfarm payrolls in February, while men gained 76,000 for a net increase of 175,000 jobs in February. In February, women's employment growth was strongest in Professional and Business Services (55,000 jobs gained by women), Education and Health Services (24,000 jobs gained by women), Leisure and Hospitality (14,000 jobs gained by women), Financial Activities (12,000 jobs gained by women), and Government (11,000 jobs gained by women). Women lost 16,000 jobs in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities including 10,000 jobs in Retail Trade alone.

In February, women hold 17 percent more jobs on payrolls (68.0 million) than at their previous employment peak in March 2008 (67.6 million), indicating they have more than recovered all the jobs they lost in the downturn. Men have regained 82 percent (4.9 million) of the jobs they lost between December 2007 (70.8 million) and the trough for men’s employment (64.7 million) in December 2009 (6 million jobs lost). The gap between women’s and men’s employment is 1.6 million jobs in February, substantially less than at the start of the recession (3.2 million jobs in December 2007).



In the last year, from February 2013 to February 2014, of the 2.2 million jobs added to payrolls, half were filled by women (1,073,000 jobs), and half were filled by men (1,085,000 jobs). In this time period, women’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (339,000 jobs added for women), Retail Trade (205,000 jobs added for women), Education and Health Services (241,000 jobs added for women), and Leisure and Hospitality (195,000 jobs added for women). In the same one year period, however, women lost 11,000 jobs in Information.

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women aged 16 and older remained steady at 6.4 percent from January to February. The unemployment rate for men aged

16 and older increased from 6.8 percent in January to 7.0 percent in February. Unemployment is higher among black women and men (10.5 percent and 13.7 percent respectively) and Hispanic women and men (9.5 percent and 8.1 percent respectively) compared to white women and men (5.6 percent and 6.0 percent respectively). Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate remained steady at 9.1 percent from January to February, 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).

The overall labor force participation rate remained at 63.0 percent in February. Women's labor force participation rate was 57.2 percent in February, or 2.2 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate was 69.2 percent in February, or 3.9 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 February, 10.5 million workers remain unemployed and, of these, 3.8 million (37 percent) have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. During 2013, a larger share of black (43 percent of black women and 44 percent of black men) and Asian American (45 percent of Asian American women and 40 percent of Asian American men) unemployed workers have been out of work and looking for 27 weeks and longer, compared with both white (35 percent of women and 36 percent of men) and Hispanic (34 percent of women and 35 percent of men) unemployed workers.

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