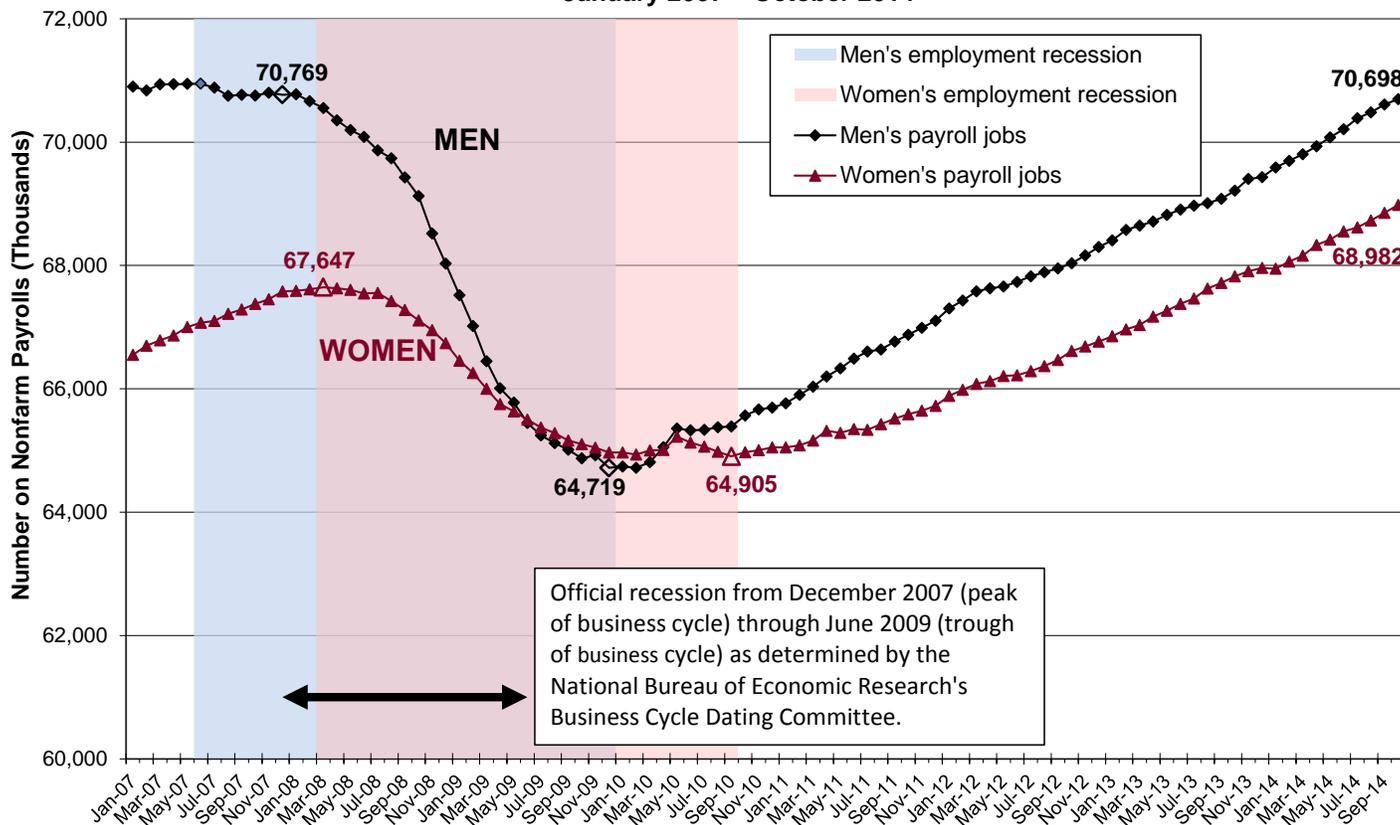


Women Gained 127,000 Jobs in October; Men Still 71,000 Short from Pre-Recession Employment Levels

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

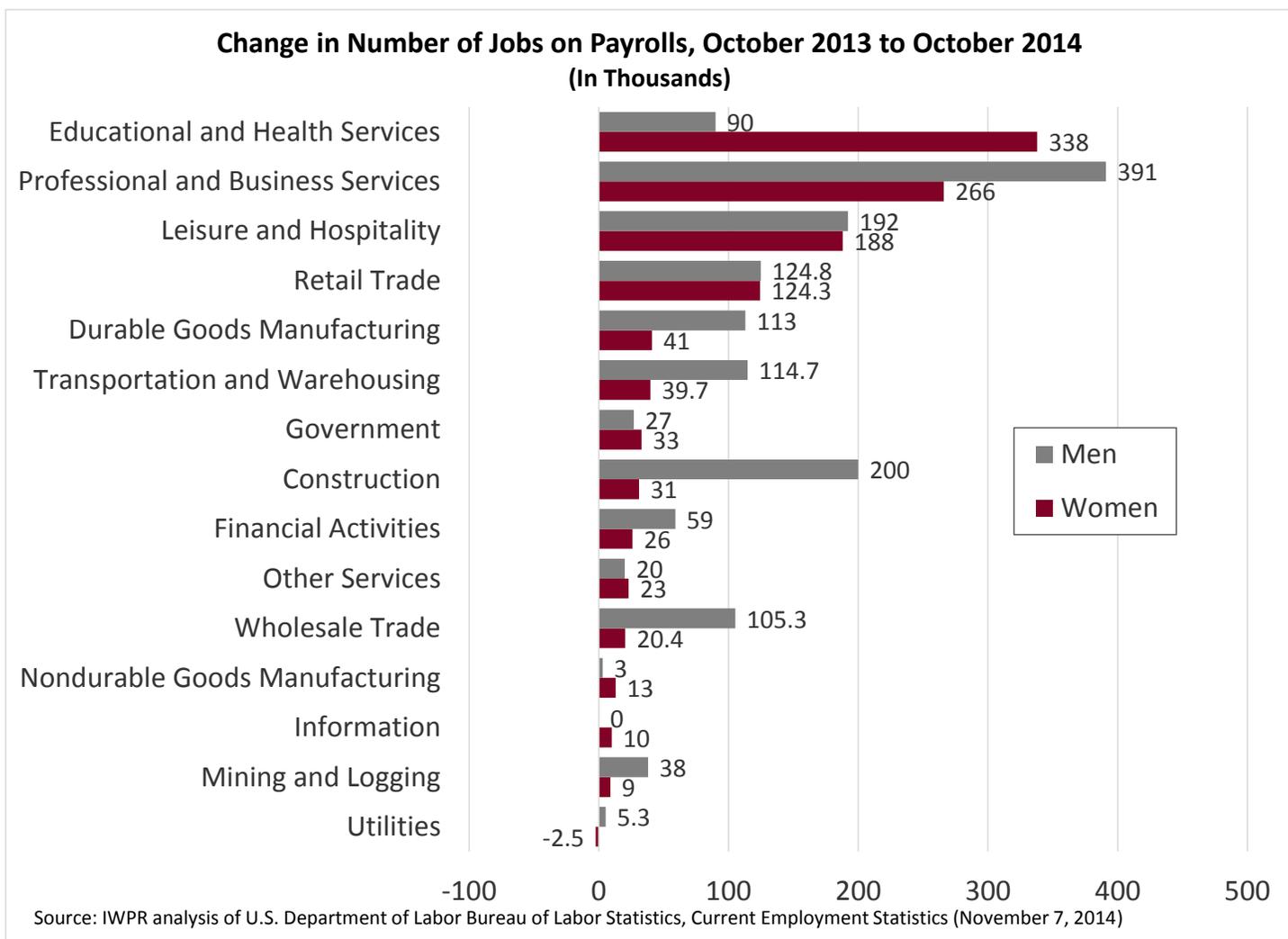


Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (November 7, 2014)

According to an Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the November employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), although the total number of jobs lost in the recession has been recovered (139,680,000 jobs in October 2014 vs. 138,350,000 jobs in December 2007, when the recession began), men are still short 71,000 jobs from the start of the recession. In October, men gained 87,000 jobs on nonfarm payrolls, while women gained 127,000 for an increase of 214,000 total jobs in October. The unemployment rate decreased to 5.8 percent in October from 5.9 percent in September.

In October, women’s employment growth was strongest in Education and Health Services (41,000 jobs gained by women), Leisure and Hospitality (26,000 jobs gained by women), Professional and Business Services (16,000 jobs gained by women), and Retail Trade (14,700 jobs gained by women).

In October, women hold 1.4 million more jobs on payrolls (69.0 million) than at their previous employment peak in March 2008 (67.6 million), indicating they now have regained about fifty percent more jobs relative to the number they lost in the downturn. Women lost 2,676,000 jobs between December 2007 and the trough for women’s employment in September 2010. Men have regained 99 percent (5.98 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 (6.05 million jobs lost).



In the last year, from October 2013 to October 2014, of the 2.6 million jobs added to payrolls, 44 percent were filled by women (1,159,000 jobs) and 56 percent were filled by men (1,484,000 jobs), an improvement in average job growth overall compared with the prior year. Women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (338,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business

Services (266,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (188,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (124,300 jobs added for women). In the same one year period, however, women lost 2,500 jobs in Utilities. Men's job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (391,000 jobs added for men), Construction (200,000 jobs added for men), and Leisure and Hospitality (192,000 jobs added for men).

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women aged 16 and older decreased to 5.9 percent in October from 6.0 percent in September. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older decreased to 5.6 percent in October from 5.9 percent in September. Among workers aged 20 and older, unemployment is higher among black women and men (9.4 percent and 10.7 percent, respectively) and Hispanic women (7.0 percent), compared with Hispanic men (5.1 percent) and white women and men (4.6 percent and 4.2 percent respectively). Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate increased to 8.7 percent in October from 8.3 percent in September. Unemployment for single mothers is substantially lower than its peak four years ago, 13.4 percent in July and August 2010. Neither the unemployment rates for Hispanics nor the rate for single mothers are seasonally adjusted and can fluctuate due to small sample sizes in the household survey.

The overall labor force participation rate increased to 62.8 percent in October from 62.7 percent in September. Women's labor force participation rate increased from 56.7 percent in September to 57.0 percent in October, but remains 2.4 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate was 69.1 percent in October, or 4.0 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 October, 9.0 million workers remain unemployed and, of these, 2.9 million (32.0 percent) have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. This share has declined by 4.0 percentage points in the past year, from 36.0 percent in October 2013.

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