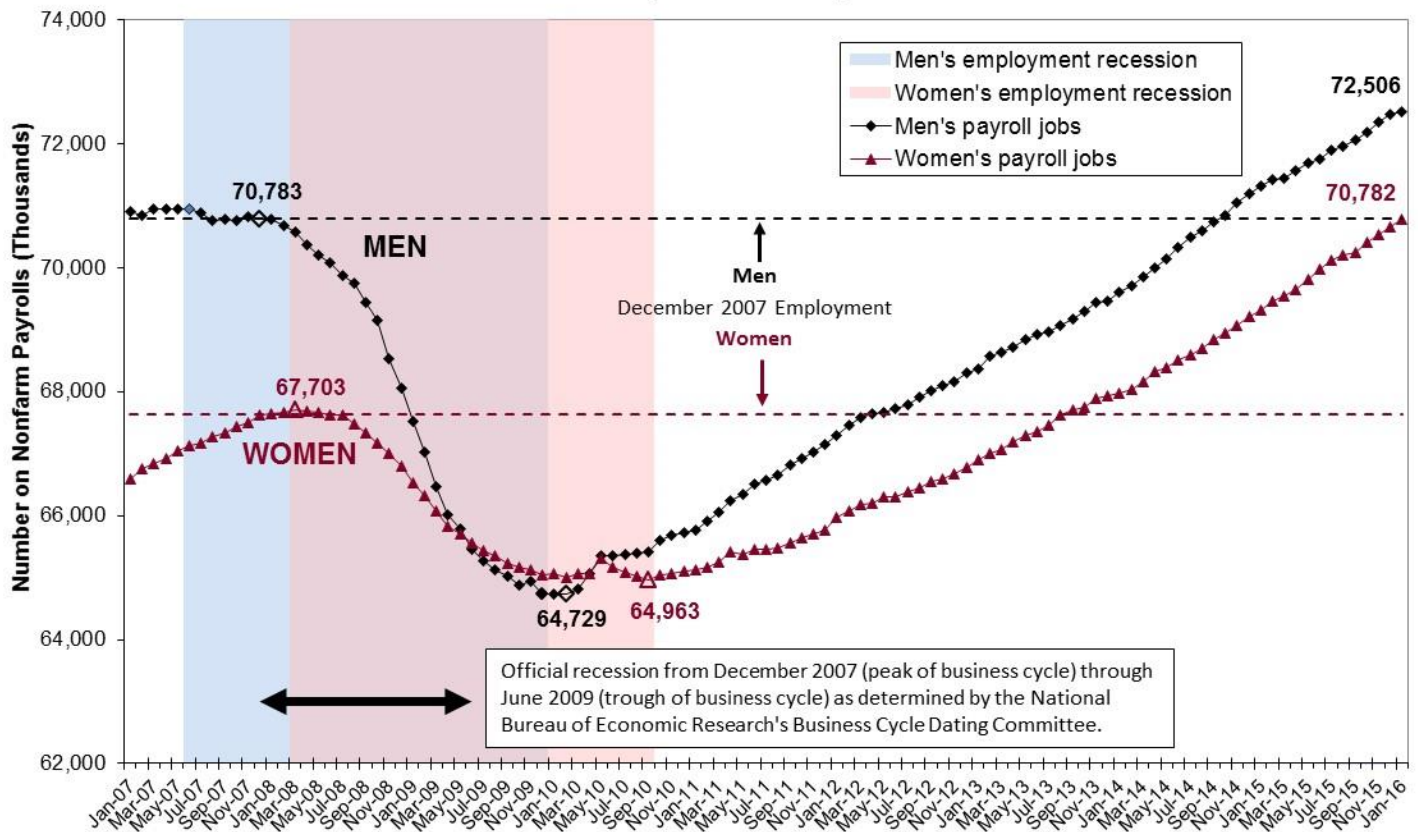


Women Gain 55 Percent of Jobs in Last Year, 77 Percent in Last Month Unemployment for Single Mothers is Down Six Percentage Points from Peak in Summer 2010

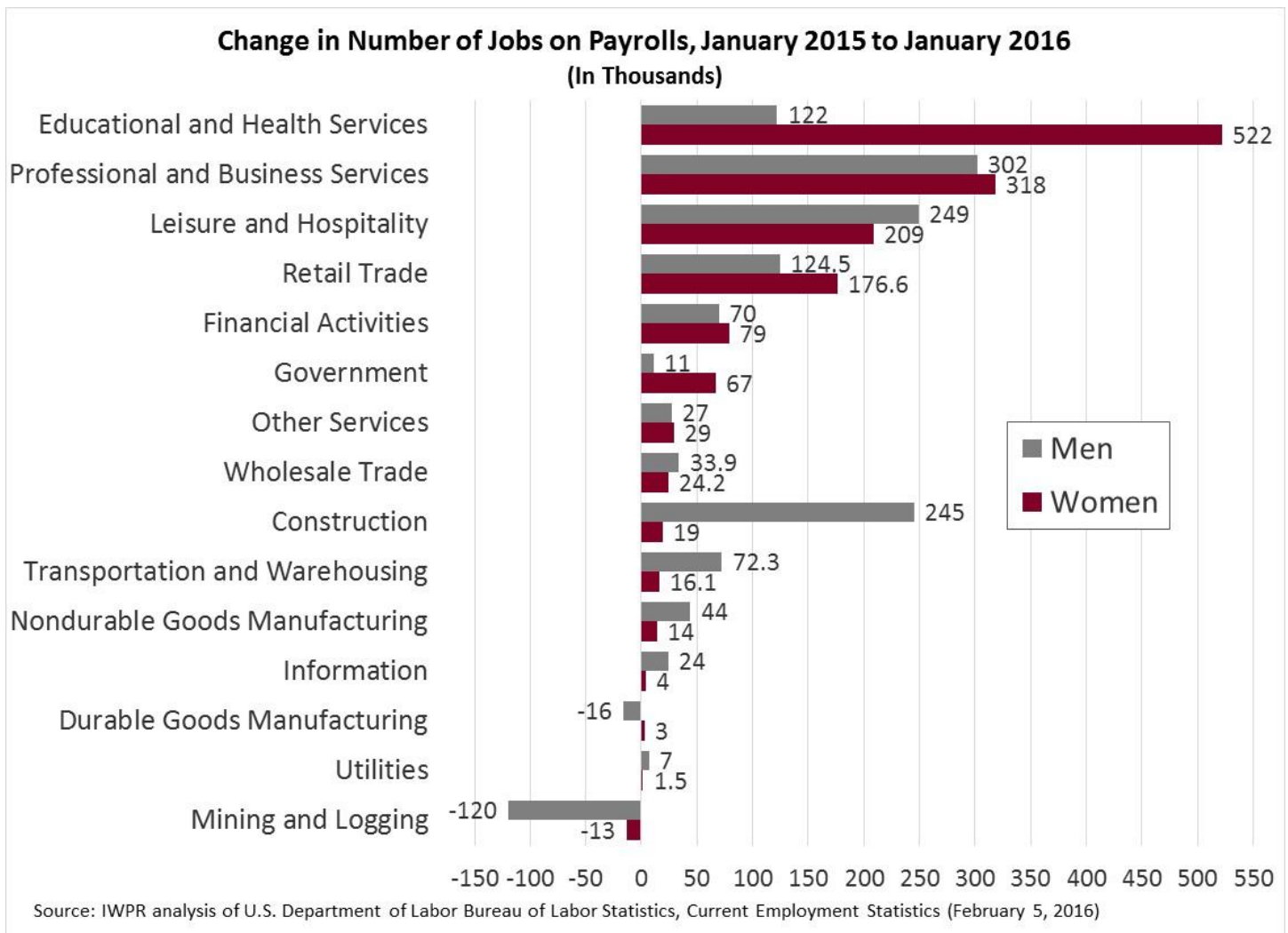
Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (In Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – January 2016



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (February 5, 2016)

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the February employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) finds that women gained 117,000 jobs and men gained 34,000 for a total of 151,000 jobs added in January. The overall unemployment rate declined from 5.0 percent in December to 4.9 percent in January.

In January, women’s employment growth was strong in Retail Trade (60,400 jobs gained by women), Leisure and Hospitality Services (24,000 jobs gained by women), Financial Activities (14,000 jobs gained by women), Professional and Business Services (13,000 jobs gained by women), and Educational and Health Services (10,000 jobs gained by women). Men’s employment growth was strong in Leisure and Hospitality Services (20,000 jobs gained by men), Durable Goods Manufacturing (14,000 jobs gained by men), and Construction (10,000 jobs gained by men). In contrast, men’s employment declined in Mining and Logging (6,000 jobs lost by men), Other Services (10,000 jobs lost by men), Educational and Health Services (4,000 jobs lost by men), Professional and Business Services (4,000 jobs lost by men), Retail Trade (2,700 jobs lost by men), and Government (1,000 jobs lost by men). Women lost 21,700 jobs in Transportation and Warehousing, 6,000 jobs in Government, and 1,000 jobs in Mining and Logging in January.



In the last year, from January 2015 to January 2016, of the 2.7 million jobs added to payrolls, more than half were filled by women (55 percent or 1,470,00 jobs) and slightly less than half were filled by men (45 percent or 1,195,000 jobs). Between January 2015 and January 2016 women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (522,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business Services (318,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (209,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (176,600 jobs added for women). Men’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (302,000 jobs added for

men), Leisure and Hospitality (249,000 jobs added for men), and Construction (245,000 jobs added for men). In contrast, men lost 120,000 jobs in Mining and Logging and 16,000 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 increased to 4.9 percent in January from 4.8 percent in December. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older decreased from 5.2 percent in December to 4.9 percent in January. Among workers aged 20 and older, unemployment is substantially higher among black women and men (7.9 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively) compared with white women and men (at 3.9 percent for both). Compared with white women, Hispanic women's unemployment is substantially higher at 5.9 percent, and Hispanic men's unemployment is also higher than white men's at 4.9 percent. For single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate increased to 7.1 percent in January from 5.8 percent in December. 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 62.6 percent in December to 62.7 percent in January. Women's labor force participation rate remained unchanged in January at 56.8, and remains 2.7 percentage points lower than the 59.5 percent rate in January 2007, before the start of the Great Recession. Men's labor force participation rate increased from 68.9 percent in December to 69.1 percent in January, 4.7 percentage points lower than the 73.8 percent rate in January 2007.

As of January, 7.8 million workers remained unemployed and, of these, 2.1 million (26.9 percent) had been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. This share has declined by 3.1 percentage points in the past year, from 30.0 percent in January 2015. Involuntary part-time workers numbered 6 million workers in January; 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, 796,000 fewer workers reported involuntary part-time work, a substantial decline of 12 percent from 6.8 million in January 2015.

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