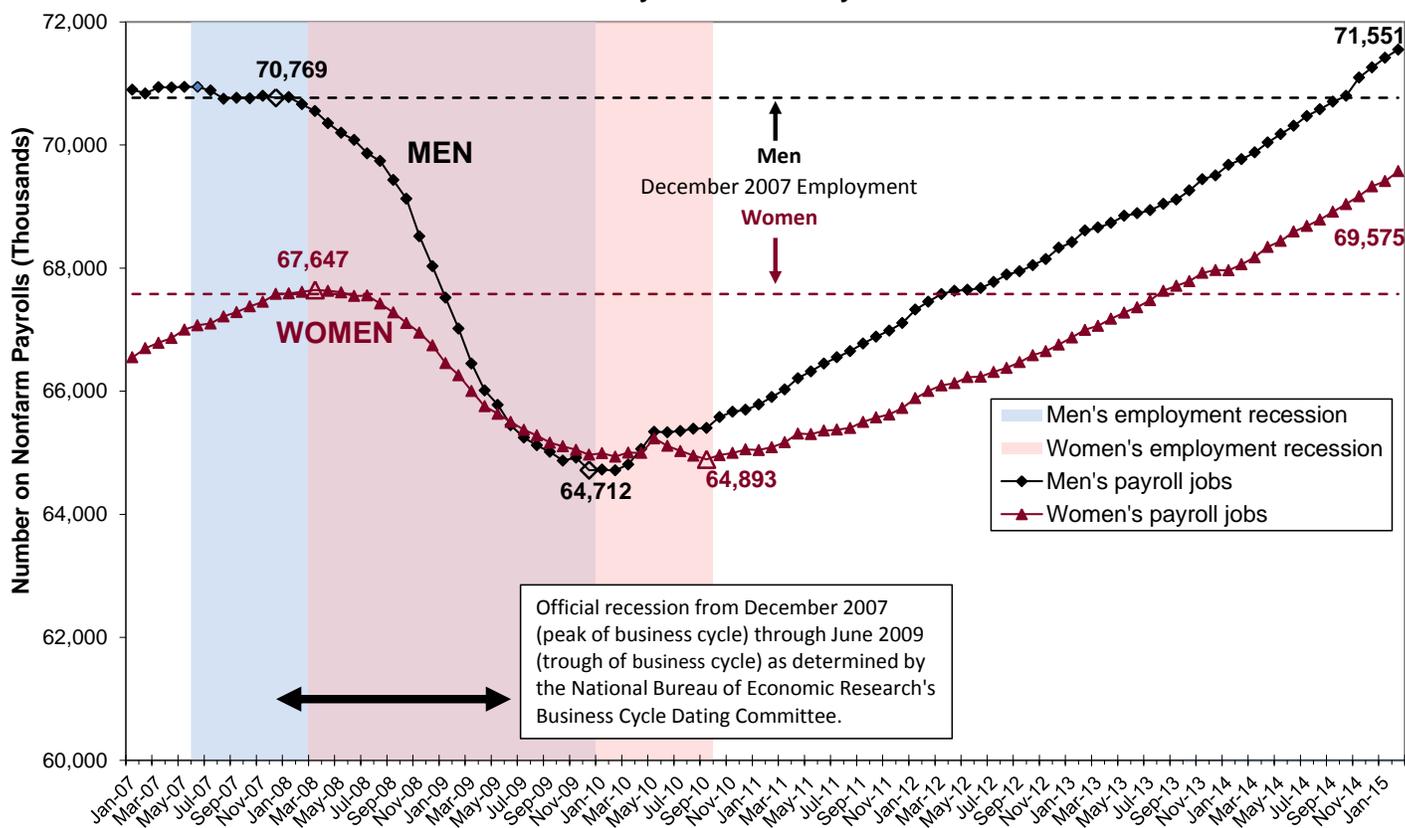


Job Gains Continue in February: Women Gained 162,000 and Men Gained 133,000 Jobs

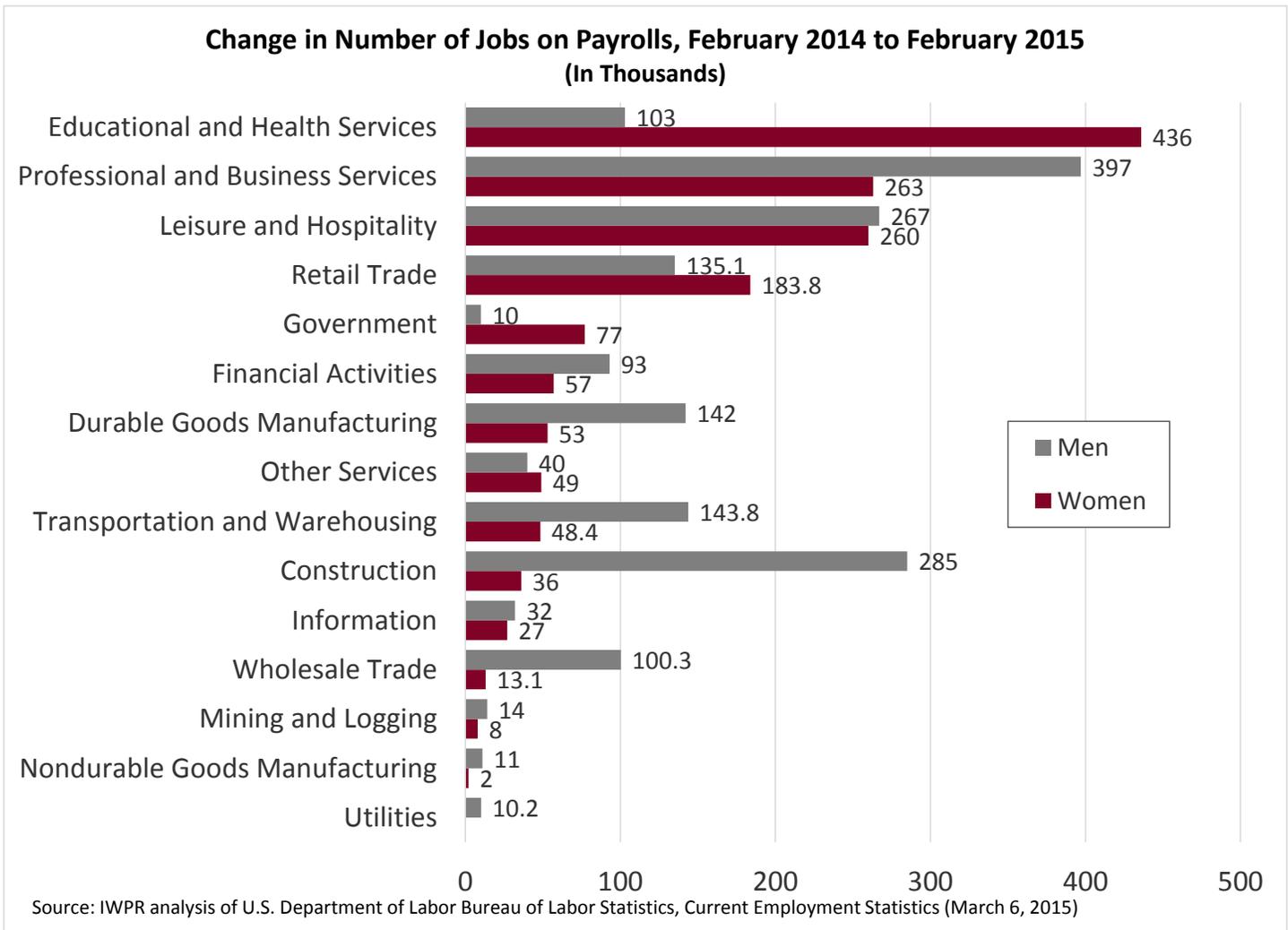
Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (In Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – February 2015



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (March 6, 2015)

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), as of February men hold more jobs (71,551,000) 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 (69,575,000 jobs in February 2015 vs 67,581,000 jobs in December 2007 when the recession began). The overall unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent in February from 5.7 percent in January.

In February, women’s employment growth was strongest in Educational and Health Services (48,000 jobs gained by women), Leisure and Hospitality (41,000 jobs gained by women), Professional and Business Services (23,000 jobs gained by women), Retail Trade (21,400 jobs gained by women), and Government (11,000 jobs gained by women).



In the last year, from February 2014 to February 2015, of the 3.3 million jobs added to payrolls, 46 percent were filled by women (1,513,000 jobs) and 54 percent were filled by men (1,783,000 jobs). Job growth improved overall compared with the prior year, though women did lose 500 jobs in Utilities. Women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (436,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business Services (263,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (260,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (183,800 jobs added for women). Men’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (397,000 jobs added for men), Construction (285,000 jobs added for men), and Leisure and Hospitality (267,000 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 5.4 percent in February from 5.6 percent in January. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older decreased to 5.7 percent in February from 5.9 percent in January. Among workers aged 20 and older, unemployment is higher among black women and men (8.9 percent and 10.4 percent respectively) and Hispanic women and men (6.1 percent and 6.0 percent respectively) compared to white women and men (4.2 percent and 4.5 percent respectively). Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate decreased to 7.7 percent in February from 8.1 percent in January. 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 62.8 percent in February from 62.9 percent in January. Women's labor force participation rate decreased from 56.8 percent in January to 56.7 percent in February, and remains 2.7 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate was 69.4 percent in February, or 3.7 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, 8.7 million workers remain unemployed and, of these, 2.7 million (31.1 percent) have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, usually referred to as the long-term unemployed. This share has declined by 5.7 percentage points in the past year, from 36.8 percent in February 2014.

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