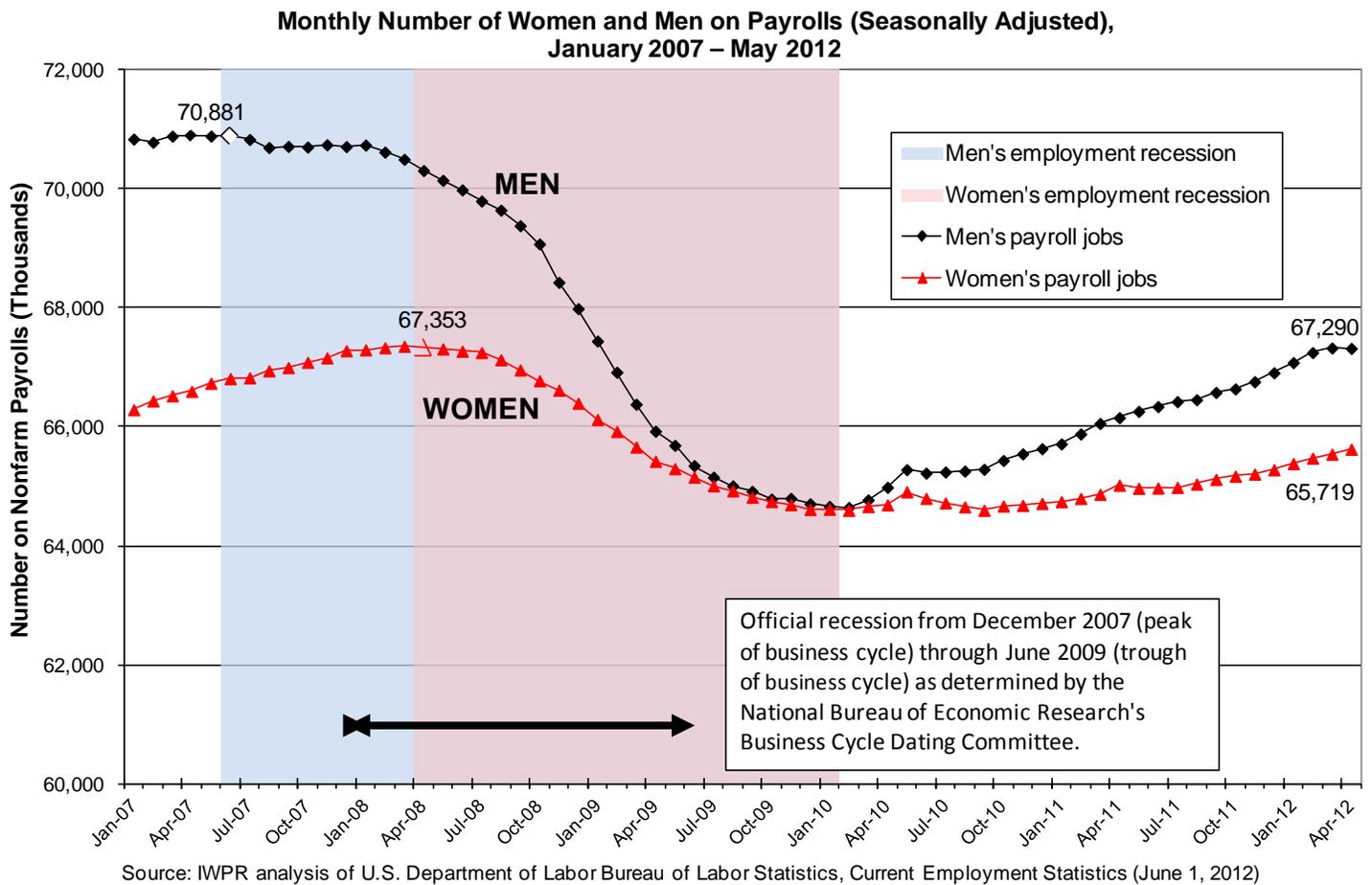


Job Growth for Women Continues in May: Both Men and Women Have Regained More Than 40 Percent of Jobs Lost BLS issues corrected job numbers for women for past several years.



According to IWPR analysis of the June employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), job growth continued in May with 69,000 jobs added to nonfarm payrolls. In May women gained 95,000 jobs, but men lost 26,000.

Women’s employment growth was aided by strong growth in education and health services (49,000 jobs added for women) and retail trade (25,200 jobs added for women). However, jobs in government fell by 13,000 jobs overall and 3,300 of the jobs lost were in education at the local level.

On May 25, 2012, BLS released corrected job numbers for women going back to 2002. The new numbers supply missing data for female postal workers who were included in the total jobs figures (men and women together), but not in the figures for women's jobs. Women's jobs have thus been undercounted since before the recession began. The new data suggest that while the jobs recession began later for women than men, both women and men experienced an employment trough in February 2010). In the recovery, both women and men have regained more than 40 percent of the jobs they lost (41 percent for women and 44 percent for men). Women's job growth was slower than men's in the first year of the recovery, because a large number of jobs in government were lost then and women work disproportionately in state and local government.

The table below displays changes in the number of government jobs on payrolls held by women and men during the recession, recovery, and overall. While government employment continued to grow for both men and women during the recession, many government jobs have been lost in the recovery. More than three times the number of government jobs added during the recession have been lost in the recovery (601,000 lost in the recovery compared with 194,000 added in the recession) resulting in a decline of more than 400,000 government jobs since December 2007. In the recovery, women’s employment has been particularly hard hit with nearly 60 percent of government jobs (348,000 of 601,000 jobs) being lost compared with 40 percent by men. The reported number of jobs by level of government and gender lags the total for all government employment by one month. As of April 2012, most government job losses were at the local government level (roughly 395,000 jobs of 601,000 lost in the recovery, calculations not shown).

Change in Number of Government Jobs on Payrolls During the Recession and Recovery

	Women	Men	Total
December 2007 - June 2009	154,000	40,000	194,000
June 2009 – May 2012	-348,000	-253,000	-601,000
Total December 2007 – May 2012	-194,000	-213,000	-407,000

Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (June 1, 2012).

IWPR analysis of the BLS payroll data shows that women have regained 41 percent (1.1 million) of the total jobs they lost in the recession (2.8 million from the peak of their employment in March 2008 to the trough for women’s employment in February 2010). The picture looks somewhat better for men: men have regained 44 percent (2.6 million) of the jobs they lost between their job peak during the recession in January 2008 and the trough for men’s employment in February 2010 (6.1 million). In the last year, from May 2011 to May 2012, of the 1.8 million jobs added to payrolls, 751,000 or 42 percent were filled by women, and 1,031,000 or 58 percent were filled by men. The gap between women’s and men’s employment is 1.6 million jobs in May.

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women remained largely steady from April to May, declining for women aged 16 and older (to 7.9 percent from 8.0 percent). The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older increased slightly (to 8.4 percent from 8.2 percent). As of May, 12.7 million workers remain unemployed.