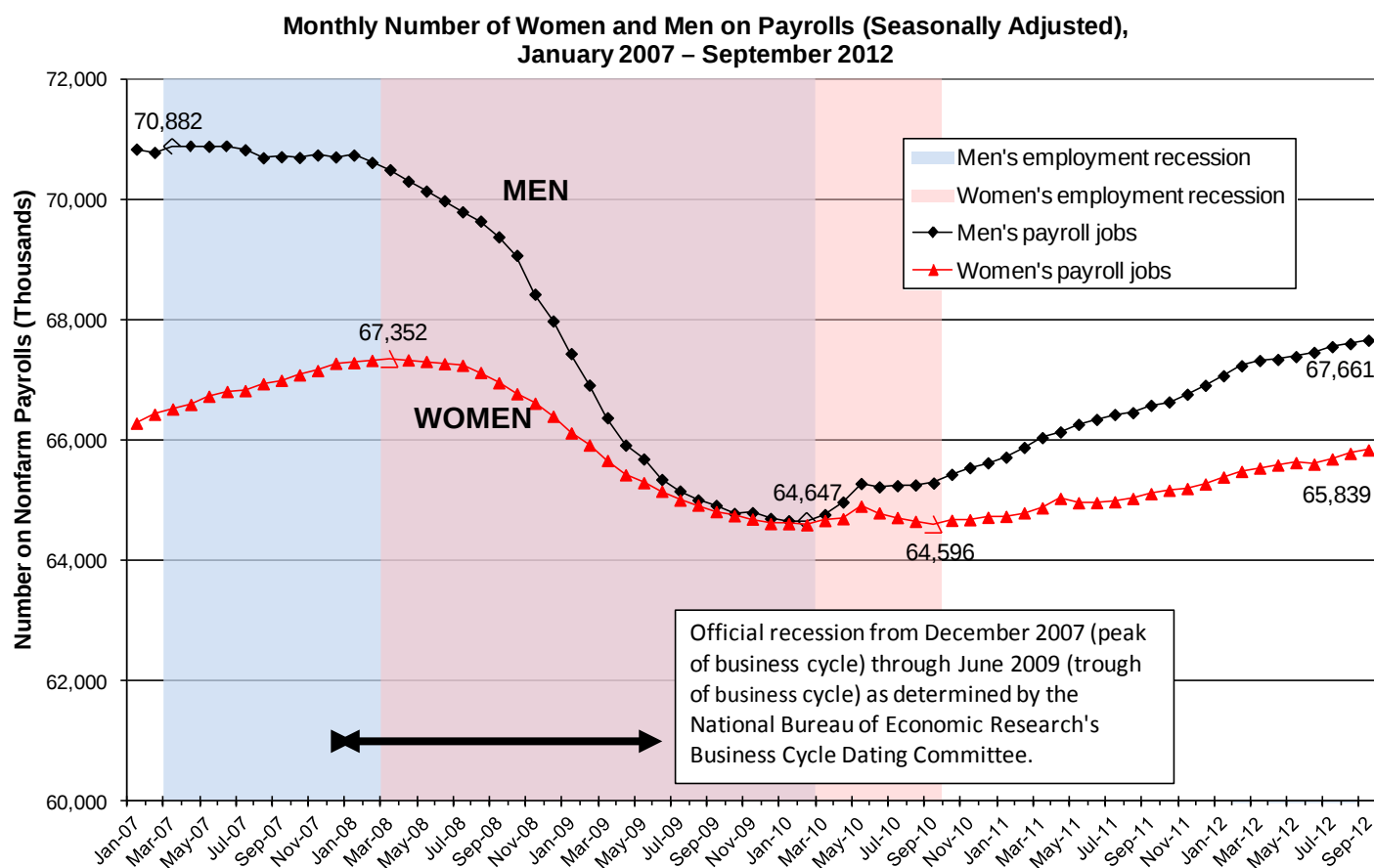


IWPR # Q008

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Women Gain Half of Jobs Added in September: Net Job Growth During Obama Years



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (October 5, 2012)

According to IWPR analysis of the September employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), job growth continued in September with 114,000 jobs added to nonfarm payrolls. Job growth was evenly divided with women and men each gaining 57,000 jobs. As in past months, most of the job growth was in the private sector, but jobs in the public sector grew slightly, 7,000 new jobs for men and 3,000 new jobs for women.

Women's employment growth was aided by strong growth in education and health services (40,000 jobs added for women), financial activities (15,000 jobs added for women), and professional and business services (14,000 jobs added for women).

BLS routinely revises the reported number of jobs in the two months following the original report. The latest data increased the number of jobs on payrolls by 40,000 for July (from 141,000 to 181,000) and 46,000 for August (from 96,000 to 142,000). Since January 2012 an average of 146,000 jobs have been added each month, 43 percent of which went to women.

Men now have a higher number of jobs than they did in February 2009, the time of the first jobs report after President Obama took office. Men have experienced net growth of 745,000 jobs as of September 2012. Women, whose job peak and job trough occurred later than men's peak and trough, are still 82,000 jobs below their February 2009 jobs number. In the past year, women's job growth has accelerated and women have now regained almost as large a share of their lost jobs as have men.

IWPR analysis of the BLS payroll data over the entire course of the recession and recovery shows that women have regained 46 percent (1.2 million) of the total jobs they lost in the recession from December 2007 to the trough for women's employment in September 2010 (2.7 million). The picture looks somewhat better for men: men have regained nearly 50 percent (3.0 million) of the jobs they lost between December 2007 and the trough for men's employment in February 2010 (6.1 million). In the last year, from September 2011 to September 2012, of the 1.8 million jobs added to payrolls, 725,000 or 40 percent were filled by women, and 1,081,000 or 60 percent were filled by men. The gap between women's and men's employment is 1.8 million jobs in September, substantially less than at the start of the recession (3.4 million jobs in December 2007).

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women and men aged 16 and older declined from 8.1 percent in August to 7.8 percent in September. For women aged 16 and older, the unemployment rate declined to 7.5 percent from 7.8 percent. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older declined as well, to 8.0 percent from 8.3 percent. As of September, 12.1 million workers remain unemployed.

In August 2012, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) increased employment by 200,000 to 1,200,000 in the second quarter of 2012 (April–June 2012) and reduced the unemployment rate by 0.1 to 0.6 percentage points (<http://www.cbo.gov/publication/43552>). In September 2011 President Obama proposed the American Jobs Act to Congress, but most of his job creation proposals were not passed. At the time the additional stimulus was proposed Macroeconomic Advisors estimated that had it been enacted, the American Jobs Act would have produced 1.3 million more jobs in 2012 and reduced the unemployment rate by an additional 0.3 percentage points (<http://macroadvisers.blogspot.com/2011/09/updated-american-jobs-act-greater-than.html>). Mark Zandi of Moody Analytics estimated the American Jobs Act would produce an additional 1.9 million jobs and a one-point reduction in the unemployment rate (<http://jaredbernsteinblog.com/that-tireless-cruncher-of-numbers/>).



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