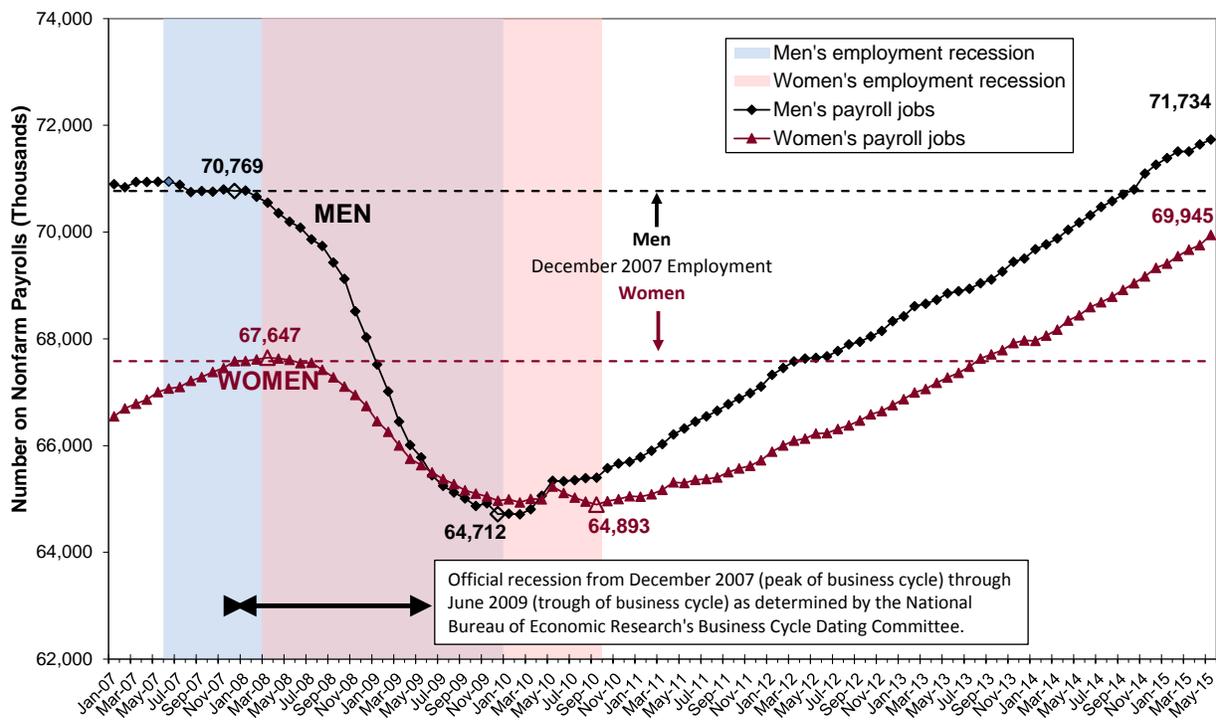


## Strong Job Gains for Women in May: Women Gained 189,000 and Men Gained 91,000 Jobs

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

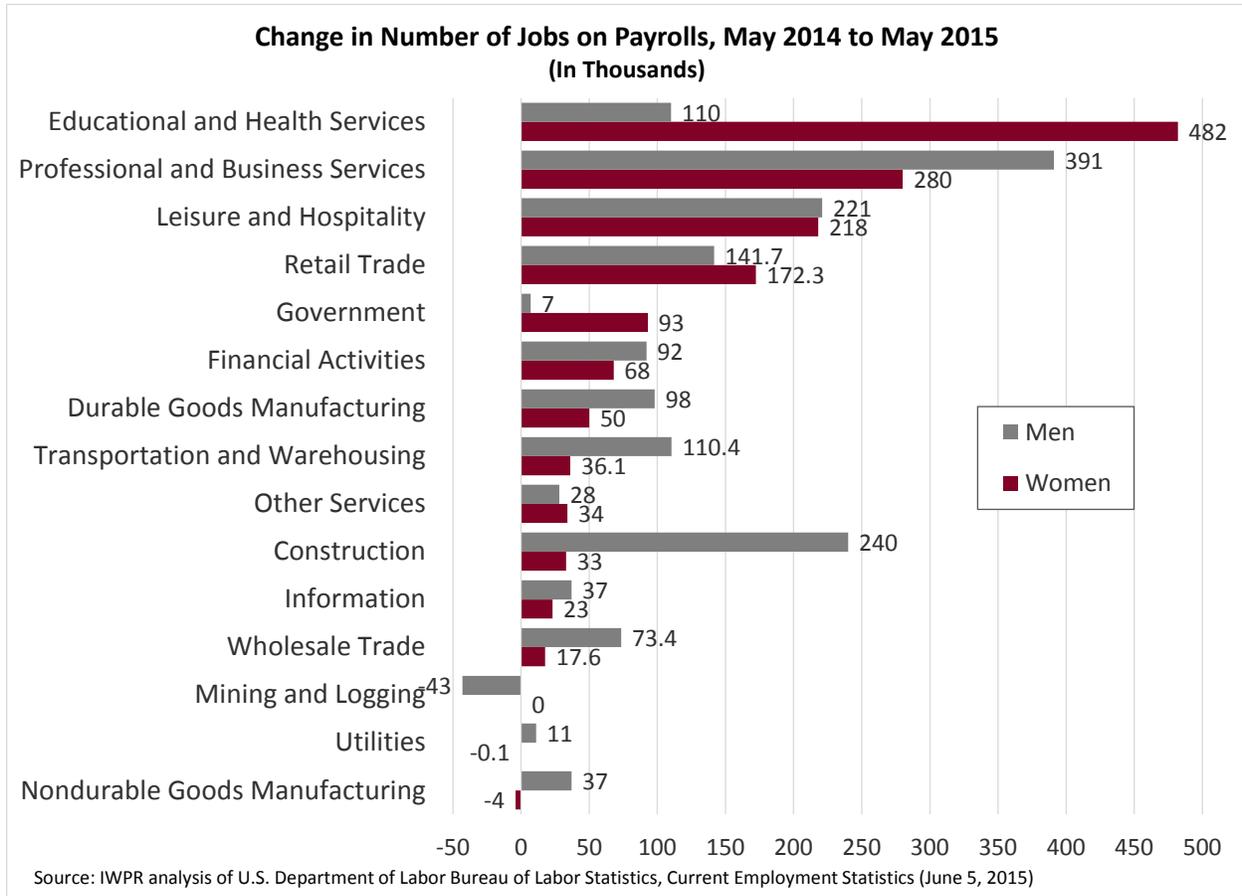


Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (June 5, 2015)

According to an Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the June employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in May women gained 189,000 jobs and men gained 91,000 for a total of 280,000 jobs added in the month. The overall unemployment rate increased slightly to 5.5 percent in May from 5.4 percent in April. (In May, the number of people employed increased 272,000 and the number unemployed, but looking for work, grew 125,000 while the number not in the labor force dropped by 208,000.)

In May, women's employment growth was widespread and strong in Educational and Health Services (61,000 jobs gained by women), Leisure and Hospitality (44,000 jobs gained by women), Professional and Business Services (42,000 jobs gained by women), Retail Trade (28,200 jobs gained by women), and

Government (18,000 jobs gained by women). However, women lost 7,000 jobs in Nondurable Goods Manufacturing, 2,900 jobs in Transportation and Warehousing, 2,000 jobs in Mining and Logging, 2,000 jobs in Information, 1,000 jobs in Financial Activities, and 300 jobs in Utilities in May.



In the last year, from May 2014 to May 2015, of the 3.1 million jobs added to payrolls, 49 percent were filled by women (1,502,900 jobs) and 51 percent were filled by men (1,554,500 jobs). Between May 2014 and May 2015 women’s job gains were strongest in Education and Health Services (482,000 jobs added for women), Professional and Business Services (280,000 jobs added for women), Leisure and Hospitality (218,000 jobs added for women), and Retail Trade (172,300 jobs added for women). Men’s job gains were strongest in Professional and Business Services (391,000 jobs added for men), Construction (240,000 jobs added for men), and Leisure and Hospitality (221,000 jobs added for men). However, women lost 4,000 jobs in Nondurable Manufacturing and men lost 43,000 jobs in Mining and Logging during the past year.

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, the unemployment rate for women aged 16 and older remained steady at 5.4 percent in April and May. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older increased to 5.6 percent in May from 5.5 percent in April. Among workers aged 20 and older, unemployment is higher among black women and men (8.8 percent and 10.2 percent respectively) and Hispanic women and men (6.5 percent and 6.0 percent respectively) compared to white women and men

(4.3 percent and 4.2 percent respectively). Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate decreased to 6.8 percent in May from 7.0 percent in April. 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 increased to 62.9 percent in May from 62.8 percent in April. Women's labor force participation rate increased to 56.8 percent in May from 56.6 percent in April, but remains 2.6 percentage points lower than the 59.4 percent rate in December 2007. Men's labor force participation rate remained steady at 69.4 percent in April and May, but remains 3.7 percentage points lower than the 73.1 percent rate in December 2007.

As of May, 8.7 million workers remain unemployed and, of these, 2.5 million (28.6 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 34.3 percent in May 2014.

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