

## Modest Recovery Largely Leaves Women Behind

(January 2011)

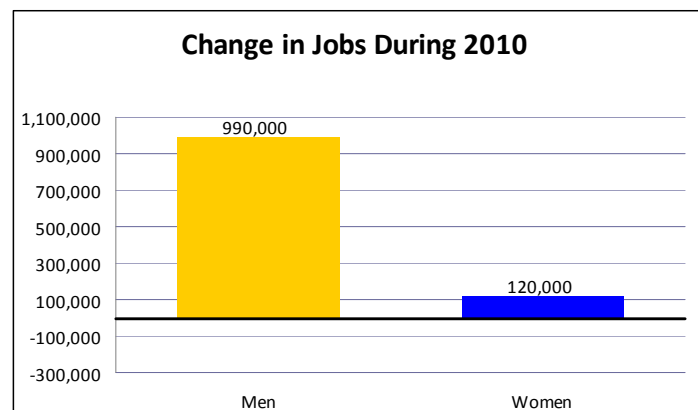
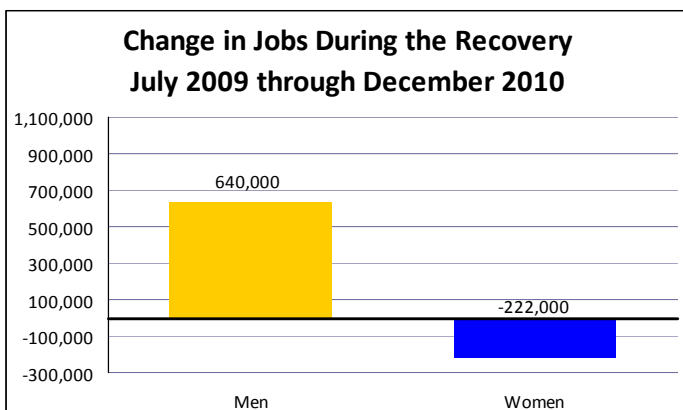
The deep recession that began in December 2007 officially ended in June 2009. Although unemployment remains high for both men and women, women are losing ground during the recovery.

### During the Recovery (July 2009-December 2010):

- Women lost 222,000 jobs, while men gained 640,000.
- Women's overall unemployment rate increased from 7.7 percent to 8.1 percent while men's dropped from 9.8 percent to 9.4 percent.
- Women lost 99.6 percent of the 257,000 jobs cut from the public sector.

### ➤ Women lost jobs over the course of the recovery while men made modest gains.

- Between July 2009 and December 2010, women lost 222,000 jobs while men gained 640,000.<sup>1</sup>
- As the pace of the recovery quickened in 2010, women were largely left behind. Of the 1.11 million jobs added to the economy between January and December 2010, only 120,000—just 10.8 percent—went to women.<sup>2</sup>
- While women lost three in every ten jobs cut over the course of the recession (December 2007 – June 2009), they only filled one in every ten when job growth picked up in 2010.<sup>3</sup>



Source: U.S. Dep't of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

- Heavy job losses in public sector employment disproportionately affected women and contributed to the dismal employment picture for women throughout the recovery. While women represented just over half (57.0 percent) of the public workforce at the end of the recession, they lost virtually all (99.6 percent) of the 257,000 jobs cut in this sector during the recovery.<sup>4</sup>
- In the private sector, over the course of the recession, women suffered 29.8 percent of all job loss, yet have only seen 5.0 percent of the jobs created in the recovery.<sup>5</sup>

- **Women’s unemployment rate rose over the course of the recovery while men’s rate declined.**
  - Between July 2009 and December 2010, women’s overall unemployment rate increased from 7.7 percent to 8.1 percent while men’s overall unemployment rate dropped from 9.8 percent to 9.4 percent.<sup>6</sup>
  - The average annual unemployment rates in 2010 for single mothers (12.3 percent), African-American women (12.8 percent), African-American men (17.3 percent), Hispanic women (11.4 percent), and Hispanic men (11.7 percent) were higher than the 9.8 percent annual average unemployment rate for men overall.<sup>7</sup>
  
- **Long-term unemployment is worsening for women.**
  - Between July 2009 and December 2010 the percentage of jobless workers out of work and seeking employment for 27 weeks or more increased from 32.3 percent to 48.2 percent for women (15.9 percentage points), nearly twice as much as for men (8.3 percentage points from 36.9 percent to 45.2 percent).<sup>8</sup>
  - In December 2010 the typical unemployed woman was jobless nearly a month longer than the typical man, for 24.3 weeks and 20.7 weeks respectively.<sup>9</sup>
  - For older jobseekers the gender gap in December 2010 was even larger – for women ages 55- to 64-years old the median length of unemployment was 39.1 weeks, nearly two and a half months longer than men in this age range (29.6 weeks).<sup>10</sup>

Deep cuts in federal and state spending could lead to further job losses and cuts in vital services, as well as jeopardize the fragile recovery.

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<sup>1</sup> NWLC calculations from U.S. Dep’t of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Employment Statistics Survey, Table B-5: Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, *available at* <http://bls.gov/ces/cesbtabs.htm> (last visited Jan. 19, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> NWLC calculations from U.S. Dep’t of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, Table A-1: Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age, seasonally adjusted, *available at* <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Jan. 18, 2011). (BLS “Current Population Survey”)

<sup>7</sup> BLS “Current Population Survey,” Tables A-1: Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age, seasonally adjusted, A-2: Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex and age, seasonally adjusted, A-3: Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age, and A-10: Selected Unemployment Indicators, seasonally adjusted *available at* <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm> (last visited Jan. 18, 2011).

<sup>8</sup> NWLC calculations from BLS “Current Population Survey,” Table A-36: Unemployed persons by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, marital status, and duration of unemployment, August 2009, *available at* <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/> (last visited Jan. 19, 2011) and Table A-36: Unemployed persons by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, marital status, and duration of unemployment, *available at* <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/suppl/empsit.cpseea36.txt> (last visited Jan. 20, 2011). Rates are for persons 20 years old and up.

<sup>9</sup> BLS “Current Population Survey,” Table A-36: Unemployed persons by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, marital status, and duration of unemployment, *available at* <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/suppl/empsit.cpseea36.txt> (last visited Jan. 20, 2011).

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*