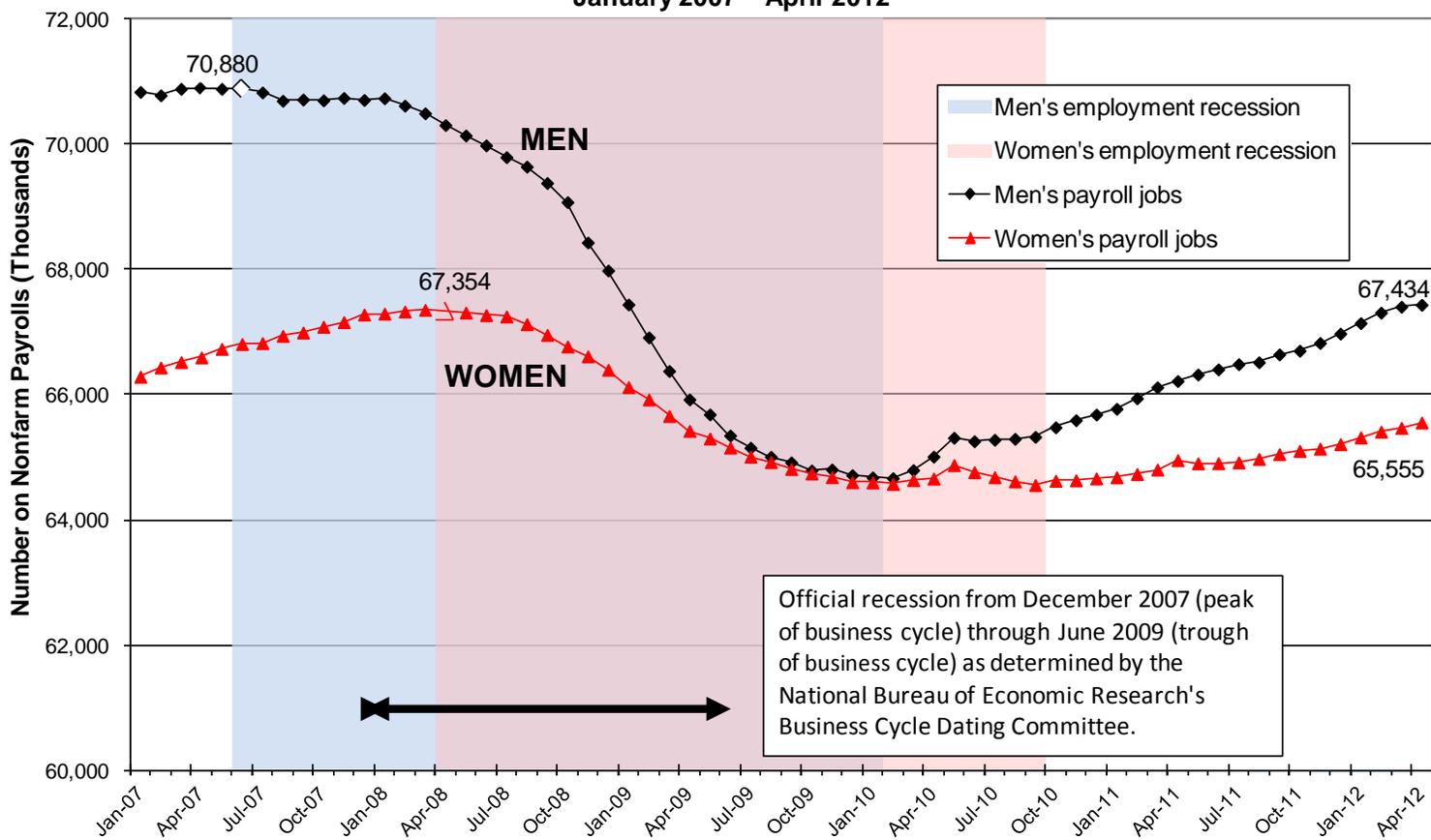


Slow and Positive Job Growth for Women and Men Continues in April

Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – April 2012



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (May 4, 2012)

According to IWPR analysis of the May employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), job growth continued in April with 115,000 jobs added to nonfarm payrolls. In April, women gained 84,000 jobs (nearly three-quarters of jobs added) and men gained 31,000. BLS also increased the estimated number of jobs in February by 19,000 and March by 53,000. Of the 72,000 jobs added in the revised report, 42,000 (58 percent) were filled by women and 30,000 were filled by men.

Women's employment growth was aided by strong growth in professional and business services (62,000 jobs added overall), health care (19,000 jobs added overall) and food service and drinking places (19,700

jobs added overall). However, jobs in government fell by 15,000 jobs overall and 10,700 of the jobs lost were in education at the local level. Of the 62,000 jobs added in professional and business services, 21,100 jobs were in temporary help services.

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 over 400,000 government jobs since December 2007. In the recovery women’s employment has been particularly hard hit with women losing two-thirds (400,000 out of 601,000) of government lost. The reported number of jobs by level of government and gender lags the total for all government employment by one month. As of March 2012, nearly all of women’s government job losses were at the local government level (roughly 380,000 jobs out of 400,000 lost, calculations not shown).

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

	Women	Men	Total
December 2007 - June 2009	152,000	42,000	194,000
June 2009 – April 2012	-400,000	-201,000	-601,000
Total December 2007 – April 2012	-248,000	-159,000	-407,000

Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (May 4, 2012).

IWPR analysis of the BLS payroll data shows that women have regained more than one out of three (997,000 or 36 percent) 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 September 2010, which occurred more than one year after the recession officially ended). The picture looks somewhat better for men: men have regained 46 percent (2.8 million) of the jobs they lost between their job peak during the recession in December 2007 and the trough for men’s employment in February 2010 (6.0 million). In the last year, from April 2011 to April 2012, of the 1.8 million jobs added to payrolls, 600,000 or 33 percent were filled by women, and 1,216,000 or 67 percent were filled by men. The gap between women’s and men’s employment in April is 1.9 million.

According to the household survey data reported by the BLS, unemployment rates remained largely steady from March to April, declining for women aged 16 and older (to 8.0 percent from 8.1 percent), and for men (to 8.2 percent from 8.3 percent). As of April 12.5 million workers remain unemployed.