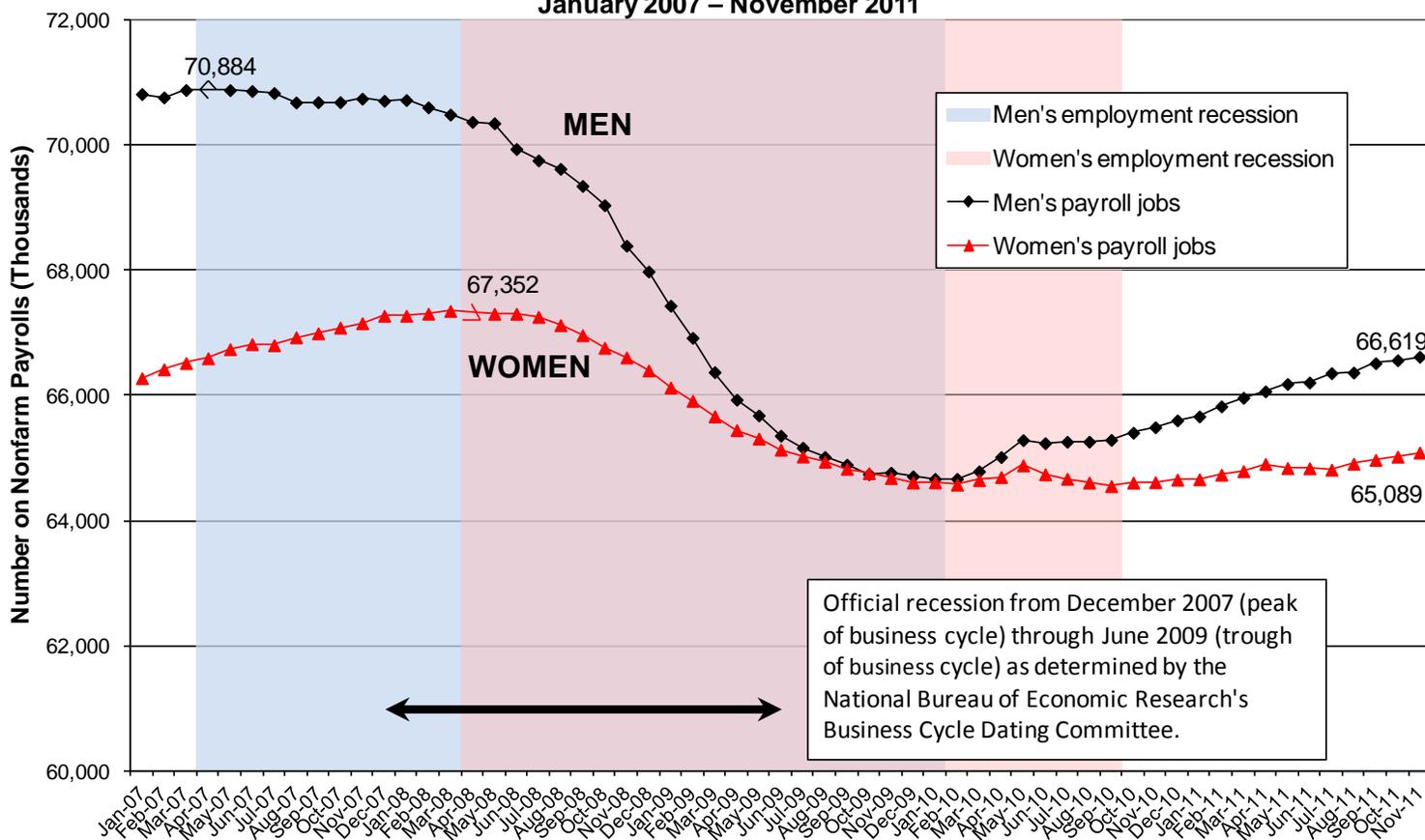


Slow Job Growth in November for Both Women and Men Unemployment Length Averages 41 Weeks, Unemployment Benefit Extension Critically Important

Monthly Number of Women and Men on Payrolls (Seasonally Adjusted),
January 2007 – November 2011



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (December 2, 2011)

Job growth remained slow in November with 120,000 jobs added to nonfarm payrolls. This is up slightly from 100,000 new jobs in October, but down from 210,000 added in September. (September's gains included more than 40,000 Verizon workers returning after a strike. September and October's totals were revised by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in December). Women's employment now appears to be rising. In November women gained 65,000 jobs, but men gained only 55,000. The revised

numbers for September and October show 113,000 new jobs for women compared with 197,000 for men.

In the last year, from November 2010 to November 2011, of the 1.6 million jobs added to payrolls, 474,000 or 30 percent were filled by women and 1,126,000 or 70 percent were filled by men. Since October of 2009 when men's and women's total jobs numbers were virtually equal, women have gained 329,000 jobs, whereas men have gained 1,874,000. The gap between women's and men's employment in November is 1.5 million.

Women have regained only one out of five (536,000 or 19.7 percent) of the total jobs they lost in the recession (2.7 million from December 2007 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, especially if we count only from the beginning of the recession: men have gained almost one out of three (1.95 million or 32.3 percent) of the jobs they lost since December 2007 (6.0 million). If we count all the job losses from the prior seven months, dating back to May of 2007, when men's job losses actually began, then men have regained 31 percent of the total 6.2 million jobs they lost. Men are recovering more quickly than women, but the jobs recovery is slow for both men and women.

The unemployment rate fell from October to November for both women (from 8.5 percent to 8.3 percent) and men (from 9.5 percent to 8.9 percent) aged 16 and older. Some of the apparent improvement is due to workers ending their job search and no longer being counted among the unemployed. Overall, the civilian labor force (those employed or unemployed and actively seeking work) shrank by 315,000 between October and November. However, this figure represents the net change of a loss of 339,000 female labor force participants and a gain of 23,000 male labor force participants. For those unemployed, the average (mean) person has been unemployed for 40.9 weeks. Unless Congress acts soon, the National Employment Law Project estimates that 1.8 million unemployed workers will lose their unemployment benefits in January 2012.¹

Why are men doing somewhat better than women at this point in the recession? One reason is that women are a disproportionate share of state and local government workers; those levels of government are shedding jobs now. In November the private sector added 140,000 jobs, but government employment fell by 20,000 jobs. For the past year employment has been growing in the private sector in nearly all industries and growing more for men than women in most.

¹ National Employment Law Project. 2011. "Hanging On By a Thread: Renew Federal Unemployment Insurance to Aid Families, Boost Stalled Economy; Nearly Two Million Jobless Workers Face Premature Cut-Off in January 2012." <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/2011/NELP_UI_Extension_Report_2011.pdf> accessed December 2, 2011.