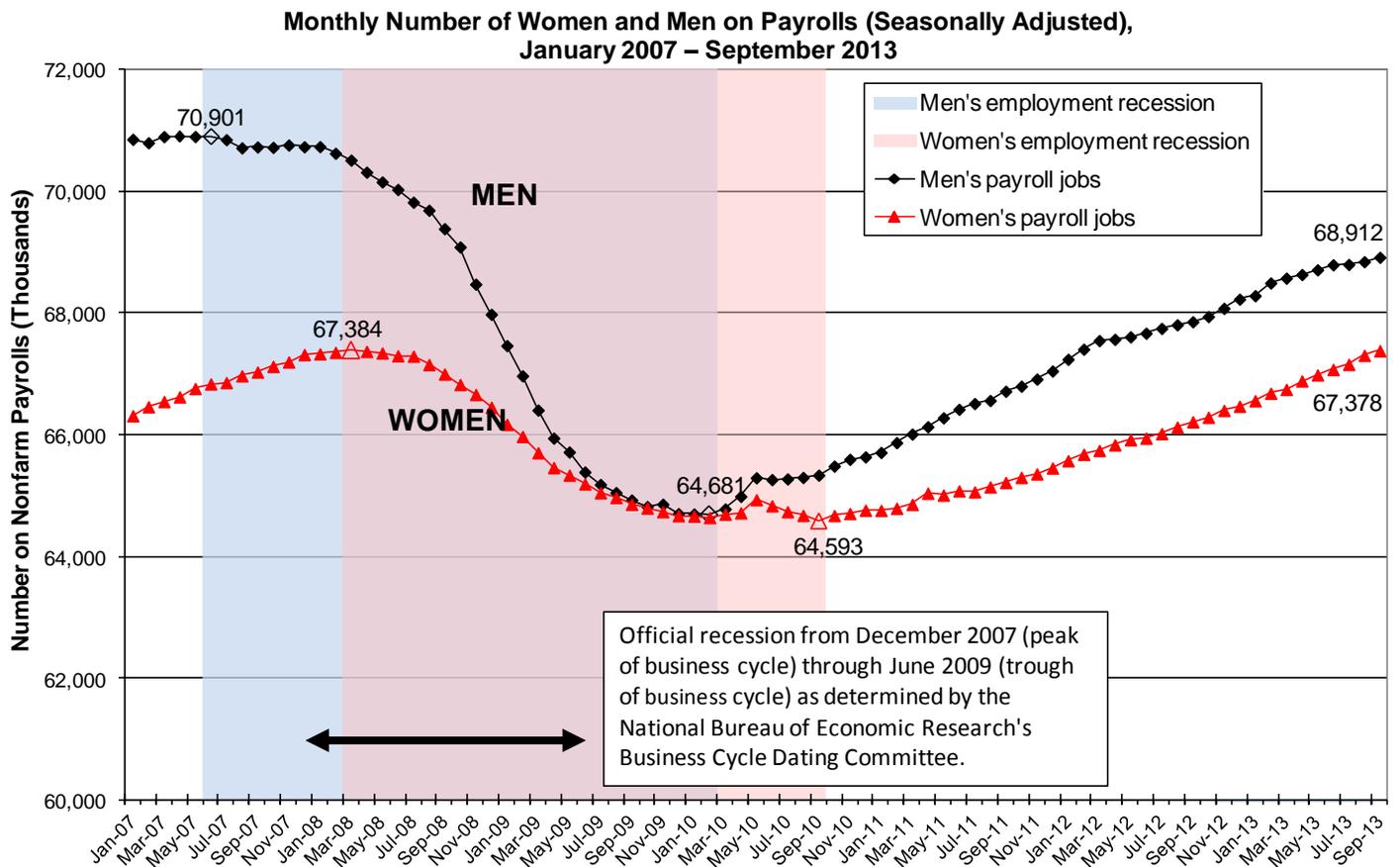


Women's Jobs Reaching Pre-Recession Numbers



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (October 22, 2013)

According to an Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the October employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), of the 148,000 total jobs added to nonfarm payrolls in September, women gained 76,000 of those jobs (51 percent) while men gained 72,000 jobs (49 percent).

In September, women's employment growth was strongest in Government (48,000 jobs gained by women) which includes jobs in state and local education; overall 29,300 jobs, or 20 percent of all jobs gained by men and women combined, were added at the state and local levels in education. Professional

and Business Services also grew (19,000 jobs added for women), but employment in Leisure and Hospitality declined (22,000 fewer jobs for women).

IWPR analysis of the BLS payroll data shows that as of September, women hold more jobs (67,378,000) than at the start of the recession in December 2007 (67,315,000), which is just 6,000 jobs below their employment peak (67,384,000) reached in March 2008. Men have regained 70 percent (4.2 million) of the jobs they lost between December 2007 and the trough for men's employment in February 2010 (6 million). In the last year, from September 2012 to September 2013, of the 2.2 million jobs added to payrolls, 52 percent were filled by women, and 48 percent were filled by men. The gap between women's and men's employment is 1.5 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 aged 16 and older decreased to 6.7 percent in September from 6.8 percent in August. The unemployment rate for men aged 16 and older remained steady at 7.7 percent in September. Among single mothers (female heads of households), the unemployment rate fell to 8.8 percent in September from 11 percent in August. While this series is not seasonally adjusted and can fluctuate due to small sample sizes in the household survey, this is the lowest unemployment rate for single mother families since October 2008.

As of September, 11.3 million workers remain unemployed. There has been improvement over the past year in the average (mean) number of weeks spent unemployed and looking for work, from 39.6 weeks in September 2012, to 36.9 weeks in September 2013. (The median number of weeks declined from 18.7 weeks in September 2012 to 16.3 weeks in September 2013.)



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