

Plenty hidden inside unemployment numbers

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Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the



In today's economy, the monthly jobless report and unemployment rate announcements from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) are afforded headline status.

In March alone, 694,000 people in the U.S. lost their jobs. In the preceding 12 months, unemployment increased by 5.3 million people. Just like industries, groups of people have been affected differently by the recession. Unemployment rates vary by age, gender and education.

In the next few weeks, we will examine

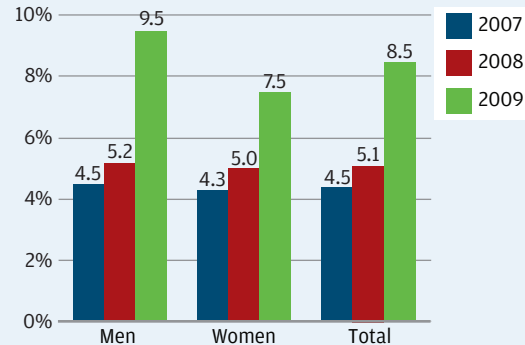
Jobs Week 1: Unemployment by gender

these differences. This week, we focus on gender.

In March 2008, there were 78 million men and 67.6 million women employed in the U.S. Over the next 12 months, the number

of unemployed men increased by 3.9 million (92.5 percent), and unemployed women grew by 1.2 million (33.7 percent). The following chart includes unemployment rates by gender for the month of March. Similar data by month is available at <http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab1.htm>.

Unemployment percentage by gender (workers 16 years and older)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov

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