

Women in the workplace

Week 1: Number of working women rises

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Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the



Women make up half of U.S. workforce

Today, women fill half of the jobs in the United States. The Current Employment Statistics survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that women accounted for 65.3 million (49.8 percent) of the 131 million jobs in the U.S. in September. The Shriver Report, released in October, highlights these and other dramatic changes in the role of women in the U.S. and how these changes have affected our lives and work. This month, Economic Snapshots will examine the BLS data cited in the Shriver Report.

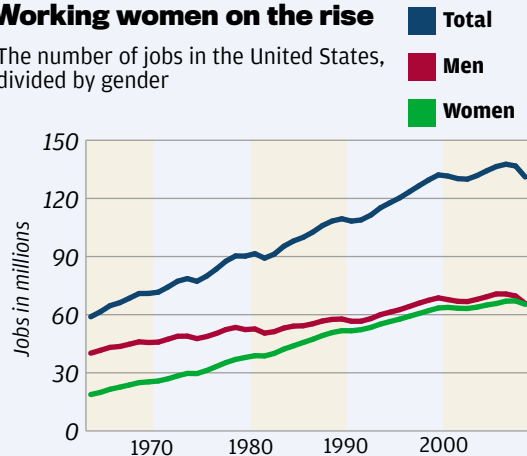
BLS data reveals some other significant facts and trends. For example, the 65.3

million jobs held by women today is greater than the total number of jobs held by men and women (58.9 million) in the U.S. in 1964. Today, women fill almost 3.5 times as many jobs than they did in 1964 (18.8 million).

The BLS calculates current employment statistics (CES) by surveying employers. The CES counts the number of jobs, not the number of people. Therefore, if a person has more than one job, each job is counted in the total. The CES includes private and public sector jobs, but does not include farm workers or self employed people in their calculation. The following graph includes jobs by gender since 1964.

Working women on the rise

The number of jobs in the United States, divided by gender



Source: BLS Current Employment Statistics survey, <http://www.bls.gov/ces/home.htm>