America’s Changing Labor Force

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulation, based on the American Community Survey (ACS), provides statistics on the demographics of the workforce by occupation. The U.S. Census Bureau has produced this tabulation after every census since the 1970s. However, for the first time, this tabulation uses five years of statistics from the American Community Survey (2006-2010). They serve as the primary benchmark for assessing the diversity of the labor force and monitoring compliance with civil rights laws. This infographic focuses on men and women in the civilian labor force and what we can learn from the EEO tabulations over the past five decades.
Composition of the Labor Force by Sex

Total civilian labor force

Civilian labor force: men and women ages 16 and over who are employed or unemployed and not in the Armed Forces.

1970

- Men: 49.5 million
- Women: 30.3 million
- Total: 79.8 million workers

2006–2010

- Men: 81.3 million
- Women: 72.7 million
- Total: 154.0 million workers

Women’s share of the labor force has increased since the first Equal Employment Opportunity Tabulation. The largest increase was between 1970 and 1980, increasing by 4.6 percentage points. Between 1980 and 1990, women’s share of the labor force increased by 3.1 percentage points. The pace of growth slowed to 1.1 percentage points between 1990 and 2000 and 0.4 percentage points between 2000 and 2006-2010.

Change in Women's Representation in Select Occupations Since 1970

Men

Leading Occupations

2006–2010

- Truck drivers .................... 3.2M
- Miscellaneous managers ... 2.1M
- Freight, stock, and material movers ......................... 1.9M

1970

- Miscellaneous managers 1.9M
- Truck drivers ................. 1.5M
- Production supervisors . 1.4M

Occupational Growth Since 2000

Men’s representation grew among tellers, loan interviewers and clerks, and insurance claims and policy processing clerks.

Women

Leading Occupations

2006–2010

- Secretaries and administrative assistants ....................... 3.8M
- Cashiers ................................ 2.8M
- Elementary and middle school teachers ...................... 2.7M

1970

- Secretaries ......................... 2.8M
- Bookkeepers ....................... 1.4M
- Elementary school teachers 1.3M

Some of the occupations with the largest increases in women’s representation were dentists, veterinarians, and physicians and surgeons.

Leading Industries

Manufacturing employed the largest number of men: 10.8M.

Educational services, health care, and social assistance employed the largest number of women: 22.4M.
State and metro areas with high percentages of **men** or **women** in the civilian labor force

Among the states with the highest percentage of...

**Male Workers**
- Utah .................. 55.9%
- Wyoming ............... 54.7%
- Nevada ................ 54.7%
- Idaho .................. 54.6%
- Texas .................. 54.4%

**Female Workers**
- Washington D.C. ....... 51.3%
- Maryland ................ 49.2%
- Rhode Island ........... 49.0%
- Delaware ............... 48.8%
- Massachusetts .......... 48.8%

**Metro Areas**
- Madera-Chowchilla, CA  57.9%
- Provo-Orem, UT  57.2%
- Hanford-Corcoran, CA  60.0%
- Fayetteville, NC  53.4%
- Columbus, GA-AL  53.0%
- Jacksonville, NC  51.3%
- Provo-Orem, UT  57.2%
You can explore the characteristics of the labor force in your community (more than 6,500 areas) by accessing the Equal Employment Opportunity Tabulation on American FactFinder, the Census Bureau’s online statistics tool.