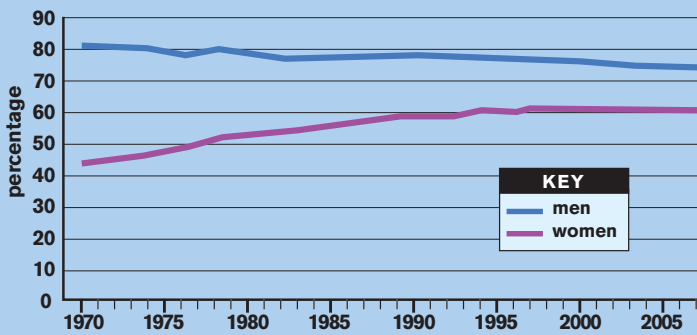


Now Hiring

Women's History Month isn't just a look at the past. It's a reminder of how much times have changed—especially in the workforce. In 1900, fewer than one in five U.S. women had jobs or were looking for work. Today, women account for nearly half the country's workforce. They are involved in almost every profession under the sun, including medicine, engineering, and teaching. Study the data below to learn more about how women are taking care of business.

Women in the Workforce

This graph shows how the percentage of male and female workers in the United States changed from 1970 to 2007.



Source: Population Reference Bureau

By the Numbers

49.83%



Women made up 49.83 percent of the U.S. workforce in June 2009—the highest percentage on record.

77%



Women's salaries are short on cash. In 2008, the average salary for women was 77 percent of the average salary for men. Still, that number is up from 1960, when women earned 61 percent of what men earned.

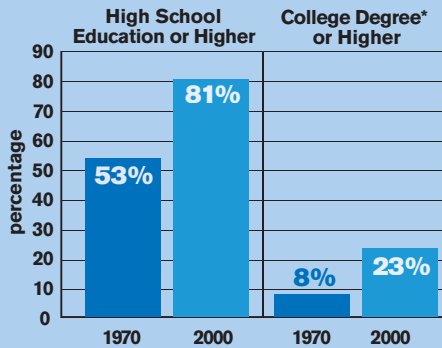
68 million



About 68 million U.S. women worked in 2008. One-fourth of them held part-time jobs. The rest worked full-time.

Head of The Class

More women are hitting the books. This graph shows how the number of U.S. females who wore caps and gowns increased between 1970 and 2000.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Note: Percentages have been rounded. *A college degree refers to a bachelor's degree.

Picking Professions

This graph shows how women workers were divided among different careers in 2008.

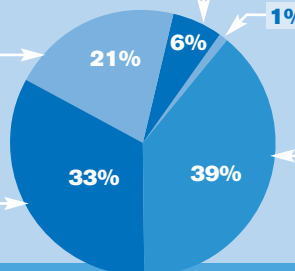
Service jobs (including health-care workers, police officers, and food servers)

Sales and office jobs (including salespeople and bookkeepers)

Production, transportation, and material moving jobs (including construction workers and repair people)

Natural resources, construction, and maintenance jobs (including truck drivers and transportation workers)

Management, professional, and related jobs (including teachers, journalists, and managers)



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

THINK CRITICALLY: How might changes in education have affected women's job choices?

