



# WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE: 1940–2010

## Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 and Older: 1940–2010
- Item 2: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 to 29: 1940–2010
- Item 3: Percentage of Managers Who Are Women: 1940–2009
- Item 4: Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Sex: 1960–2009
- Item 5: Ratio of Women's-to-Men's Median Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers: 1960–2009
- Item 6: Number of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers With Earnings by Sex: 1967–2009
- Item 7: Usual Hours Worked by Sex: 1975–2010
- Item 8: Percentage of Women-Owned Businesses: 1997, 2002, and 2007
- Item 9: Percentage of Employees in Women-Owned Firms: 1997, 2002, and 2007
- Item 10: Percentage of Firms by Sales/Receipts Levels by Sex of Owner: 2007
- Item 11: Industries With Relatively High and Low Women Ownership: 2007
- Item 12: Educational Attainment of Owners of Respondent Firms by Sex: 2007
- Item 13: Average Hours Worked Per Week by Owners of Respondent Firms by Sex: 2007
- Item 14: Ratio of Women's to Men's Median Earnings in Selected Occupations for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers: 2007–2009
- Item 15: Major Occupation Groups by Percentage of Mothers of Preschoolers Opting Out of the Labor Force: 2009

## Student Learning Objectives

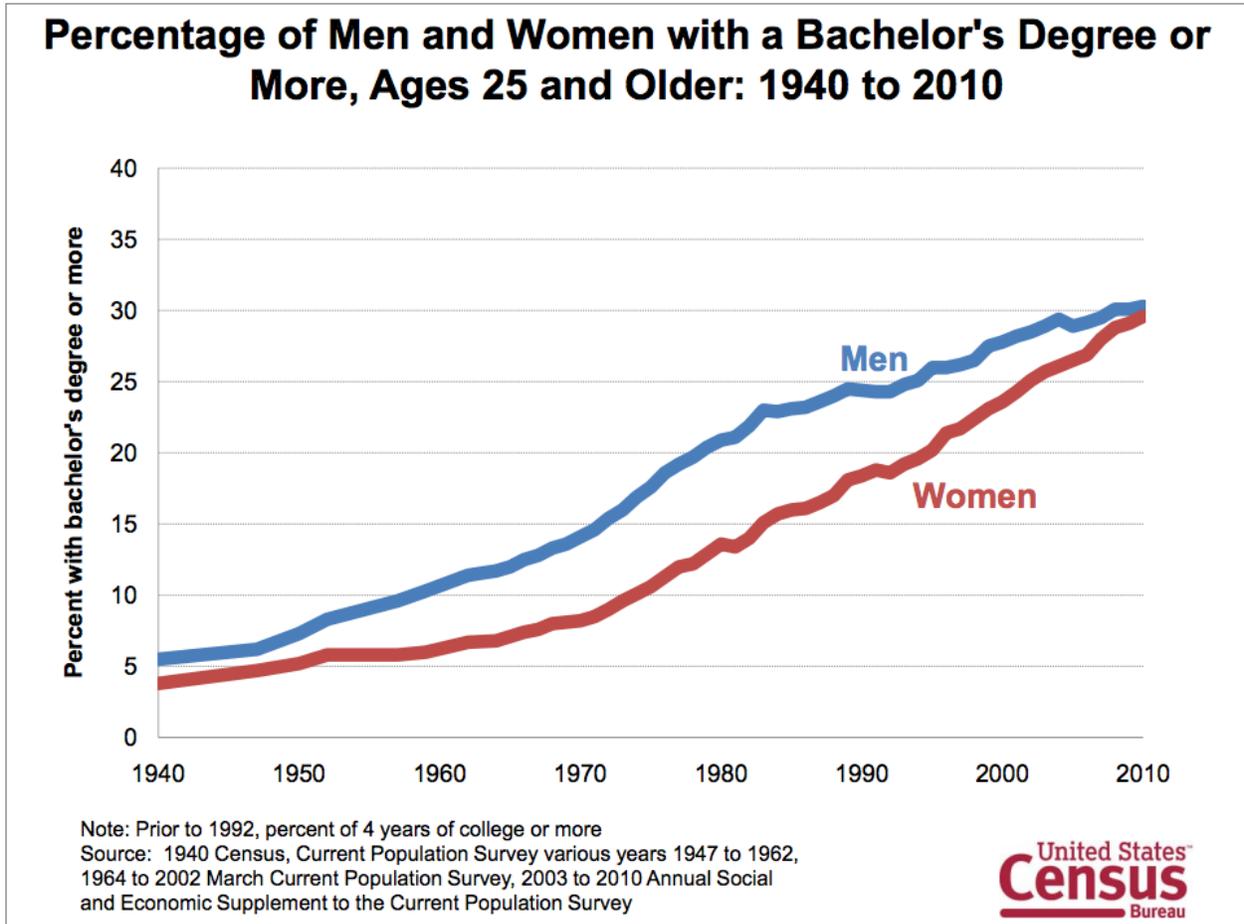
- I will be able to analyze and compare data in graphs to understand the differences in education, earnings, and workforce statistics for men and for women between 1940 and 2010.
- I will be able to make connections between historical movements of the 20th century and changes in women's levels of education, earnings, and workforce participation.



4. Look at **Item 1: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 and Older: 1940-2010**. What trends and differences do you notice?
  
5. Now look at **Item 2: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 to 29: 1940-2010**. What do you notice?
  
6. Next, look at **Item 3: Percentage of Managers Who Are Women: 1940-2009**. During which period of time did the percentage of female managers increase the most sharply? What historical movement could explain this change?
  
7. Still looking at **Item 3**, during which time period did the percentage of female managers appear to level out, and why do you think this happened?
  
8. Based on your understanding of the trends for female managers in the workplace from 1940 to 2009, predict how the same data from 2009 to today would look (an increase, a decrease, or no change). Explain using data from the graph.



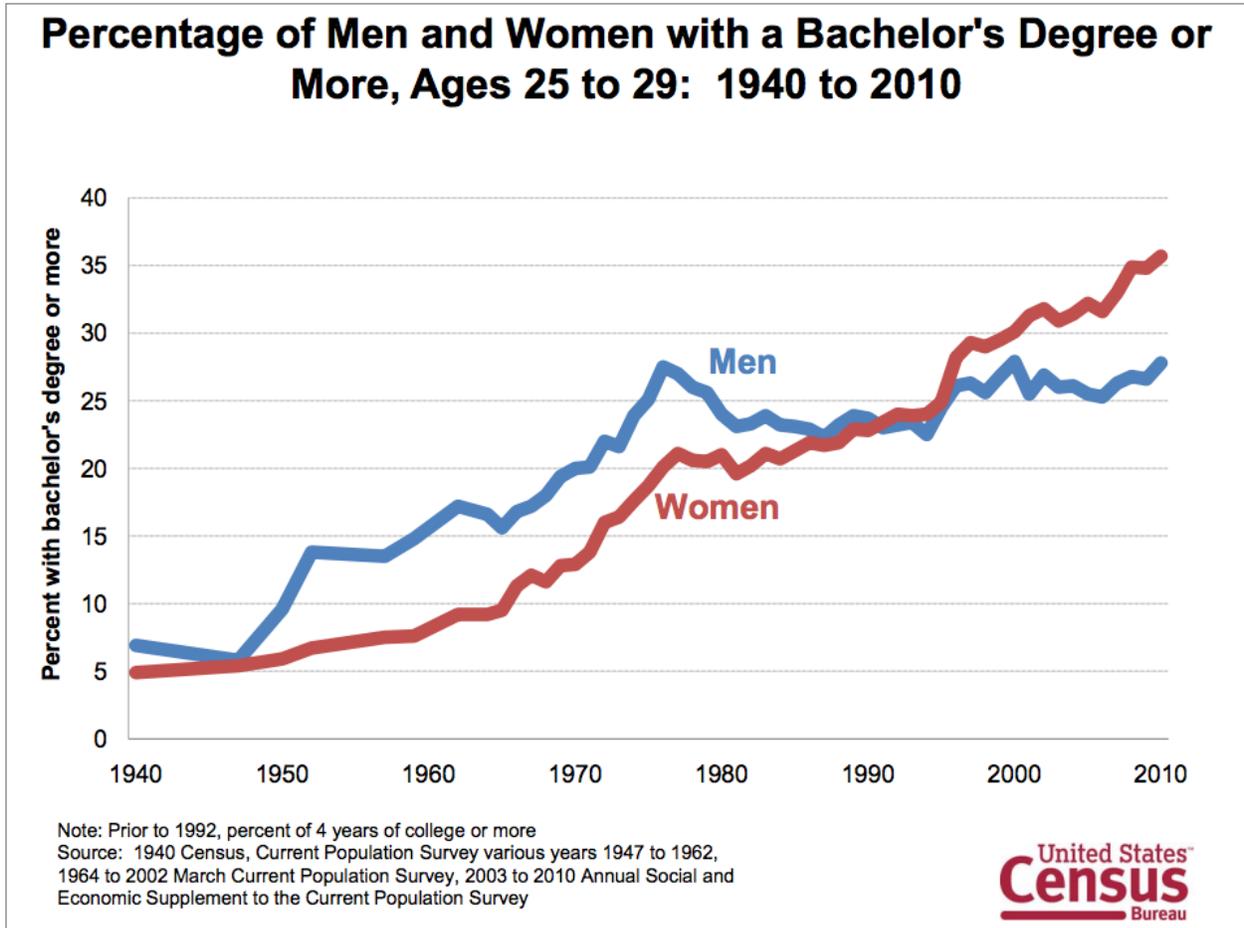
Item 1: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 and Older: 1940-2010



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To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 9.

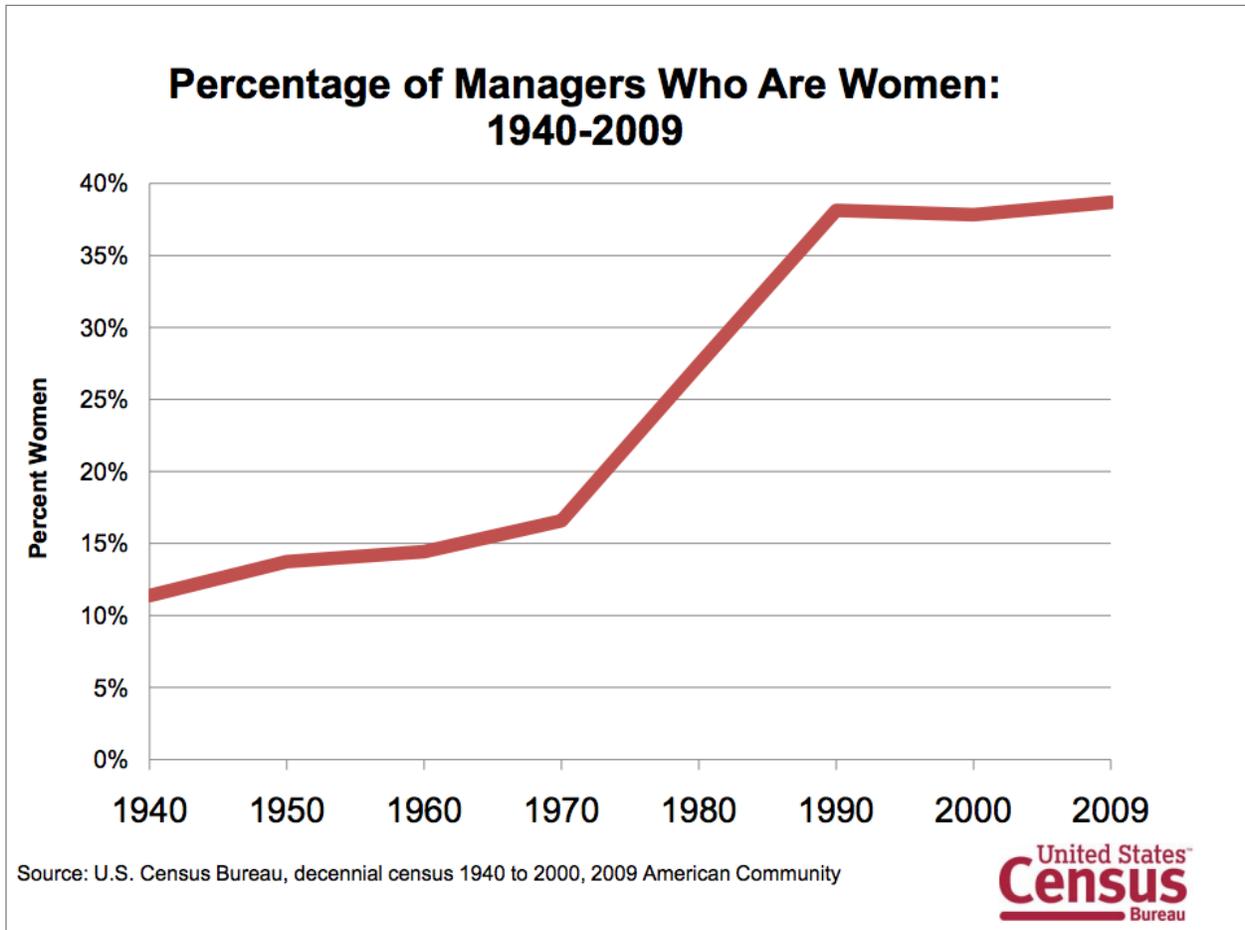
Item 2: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 to 29: 1940-2010



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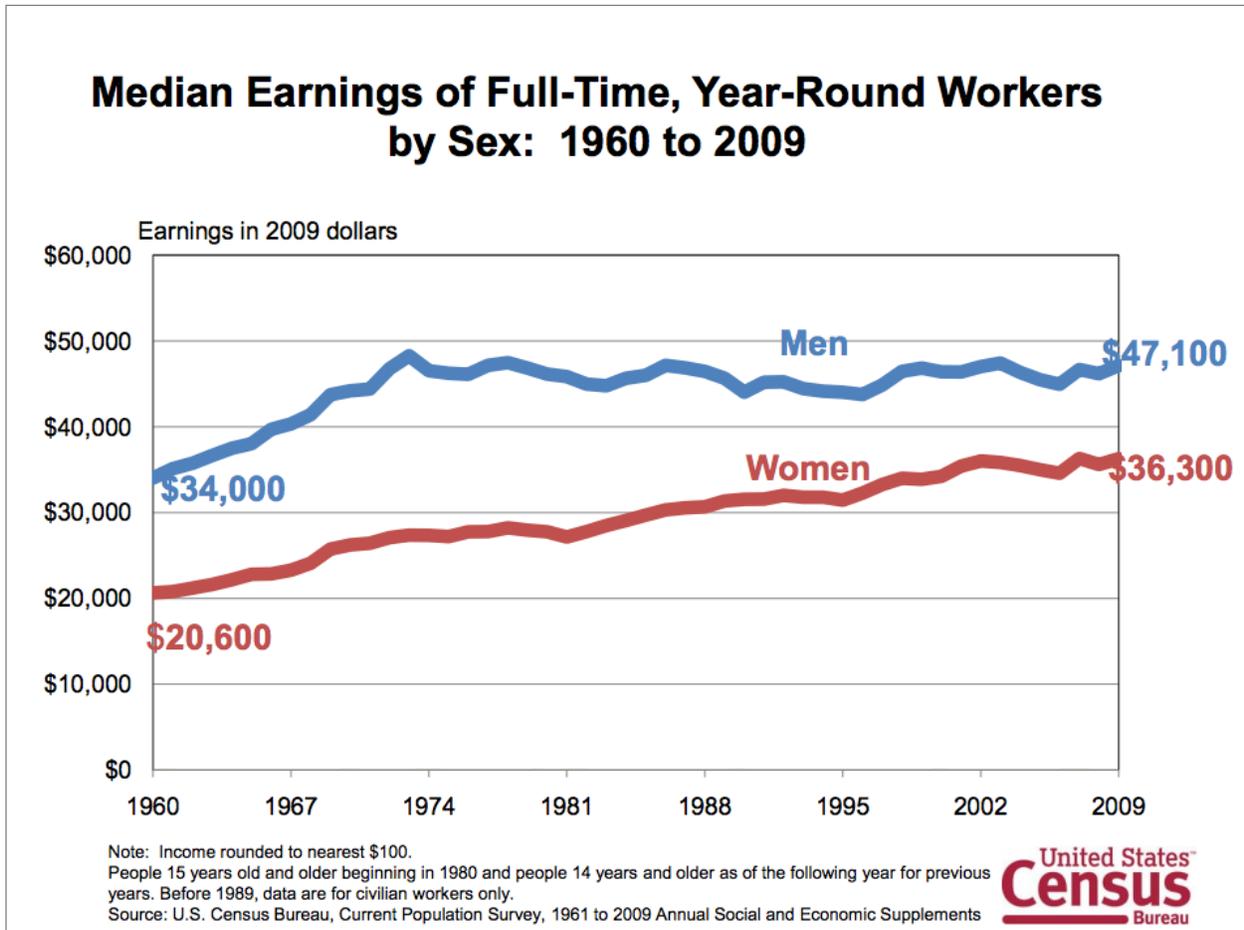
Item 3: Percentage of Managers Who Are Women: 1940-2009



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Item 4: Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Sex: 1960-2009

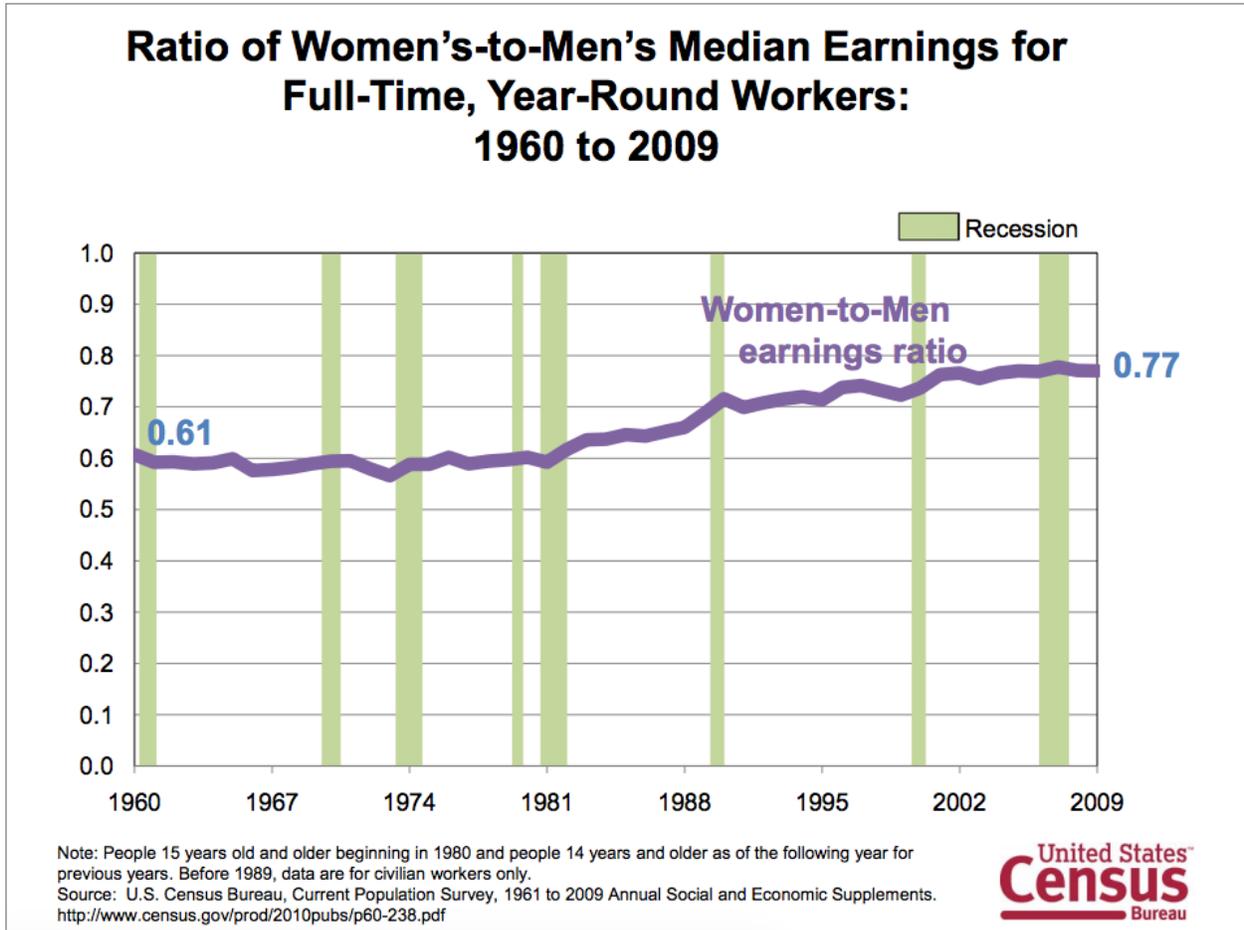


Note: This item compares all jobs, not like jobs. Since women dominated lower-paying fields, such as nursing, retail, and education, the overall wages of women were lower than those of men.

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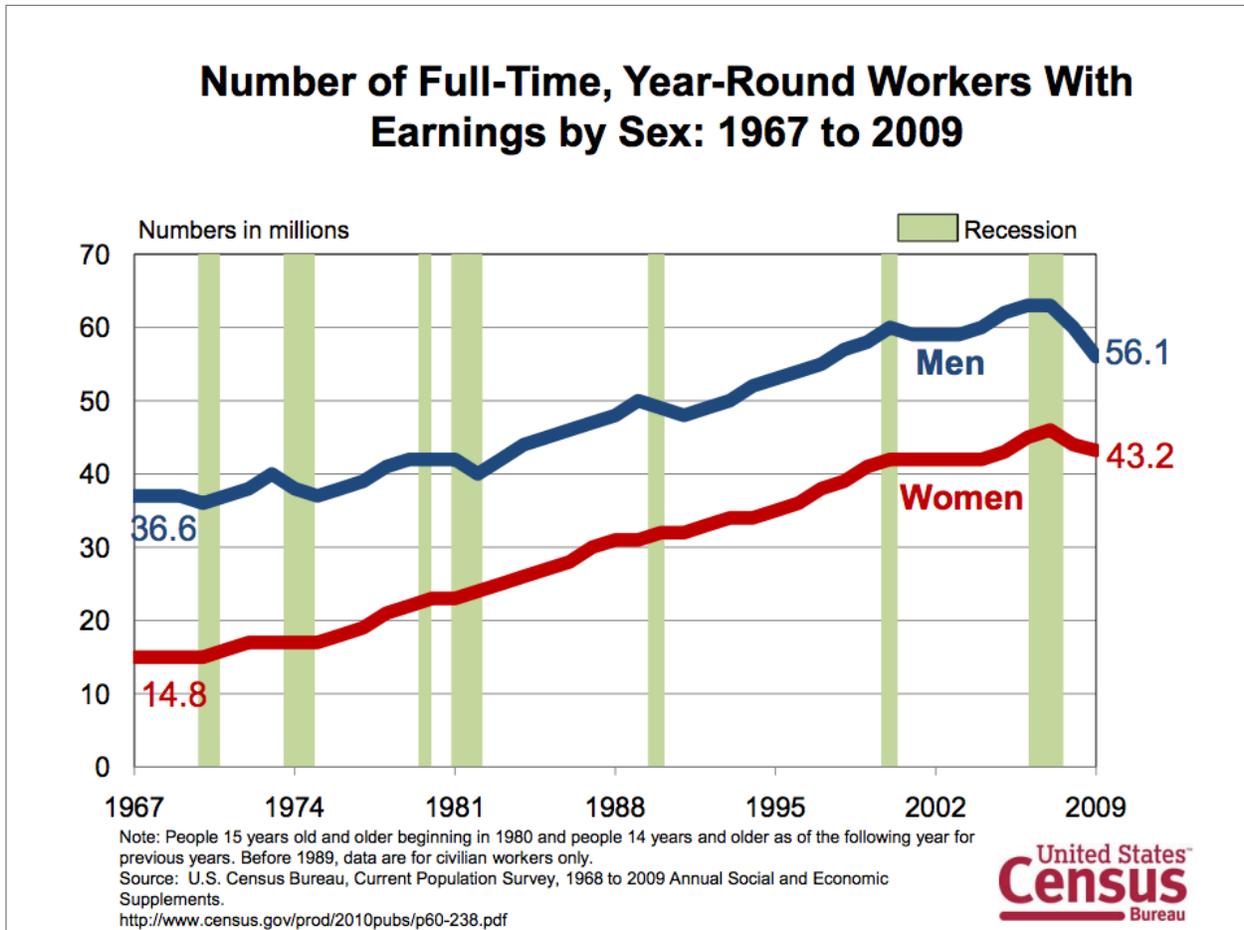
Item 5: Ratio of Women's-to-Men's Median Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers: 1960-2009



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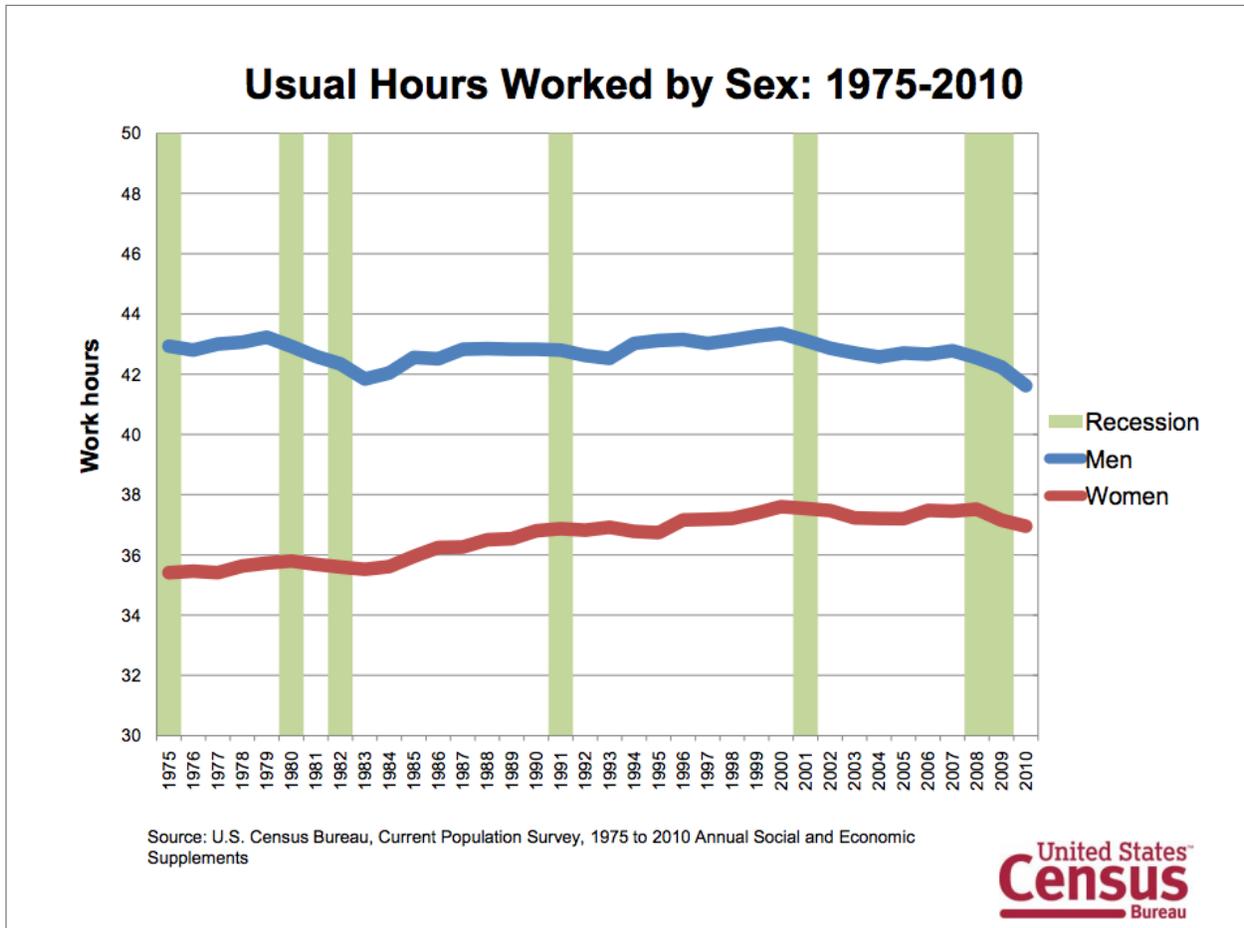
Item 6: Number of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers With Earnings by Sex: 1967-2009



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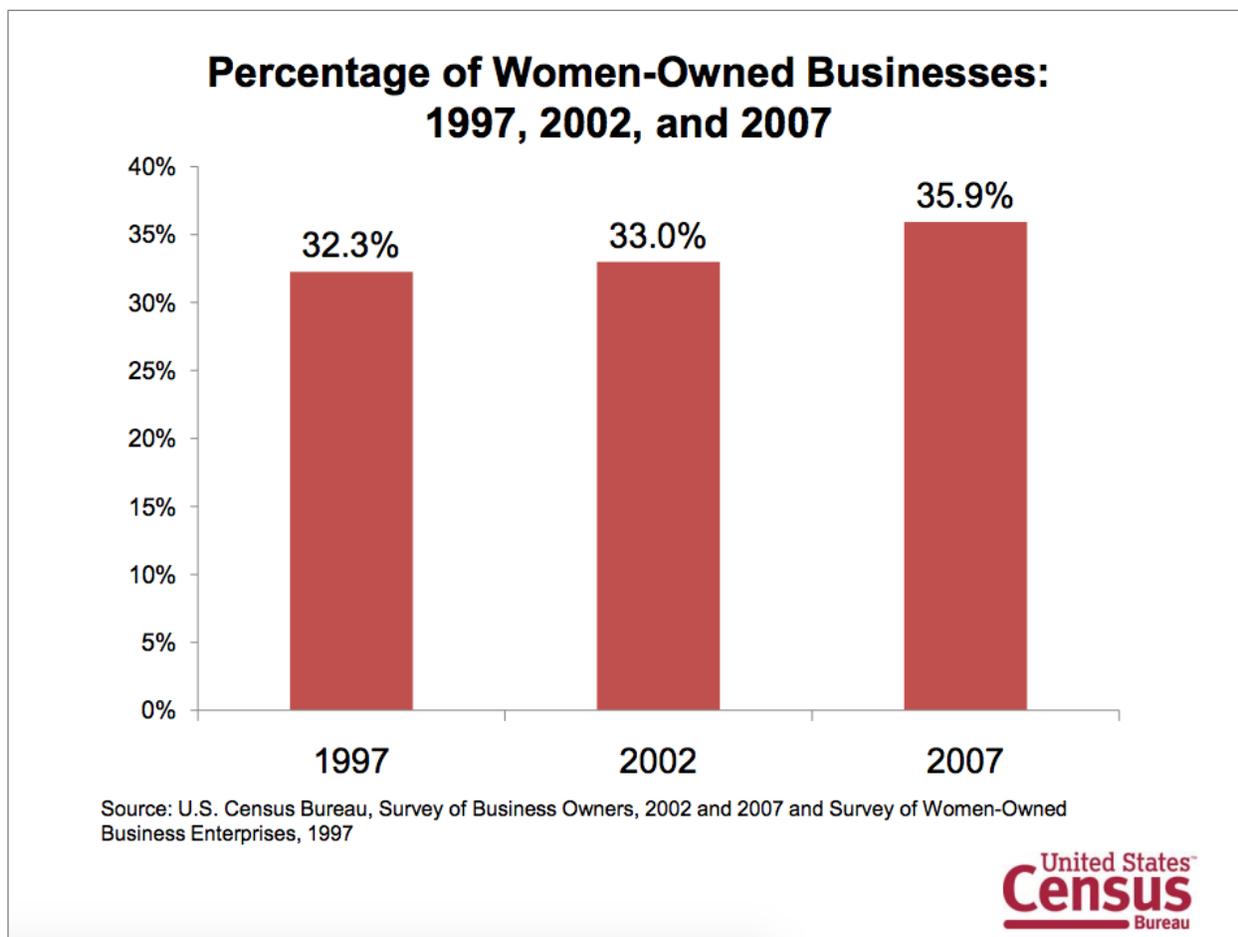
Item 7: Usual Hours Worked by Sex: 1975-2010



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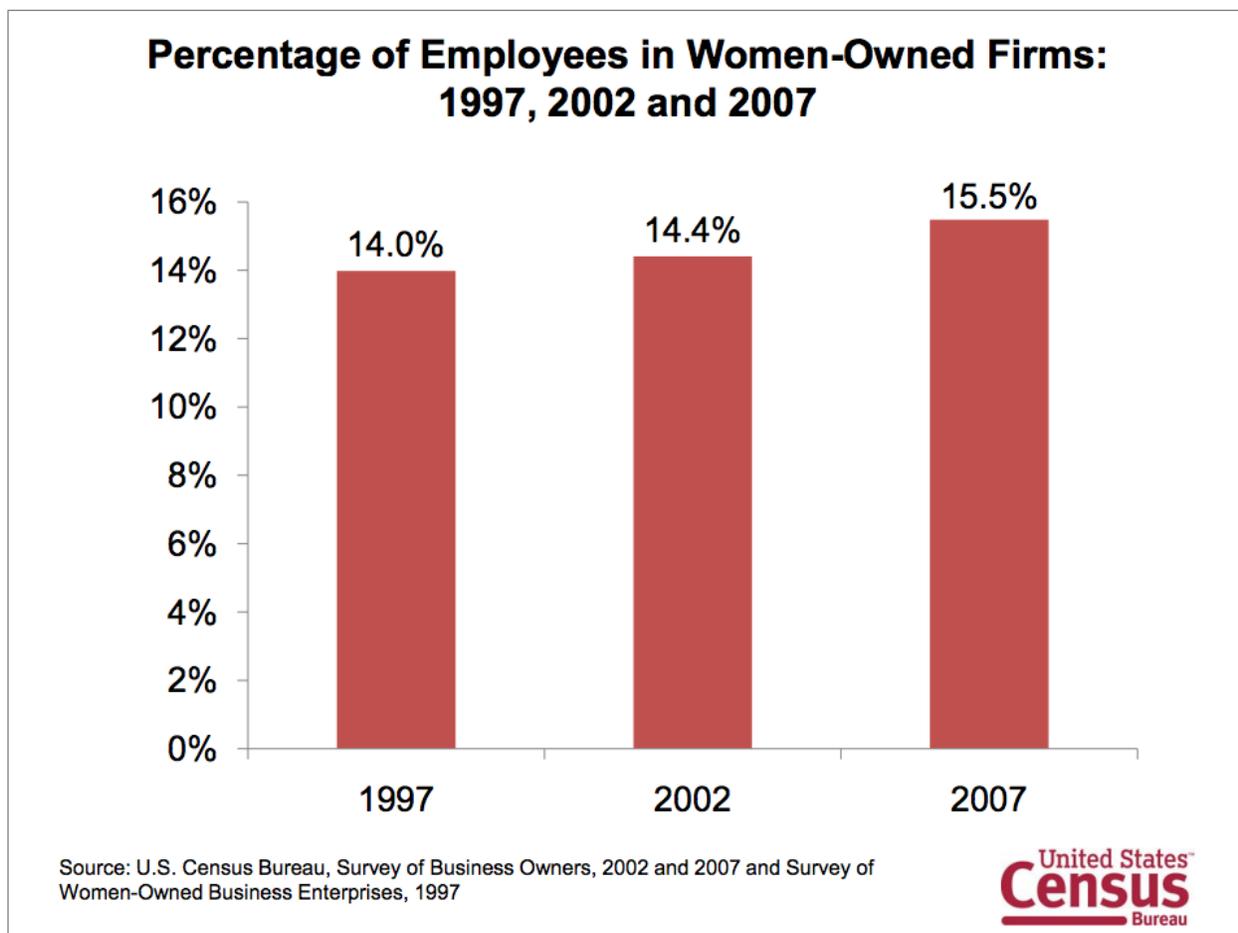
Item 8: Percentage of Women-Owned Businesses: 1997, 2002, and 2007



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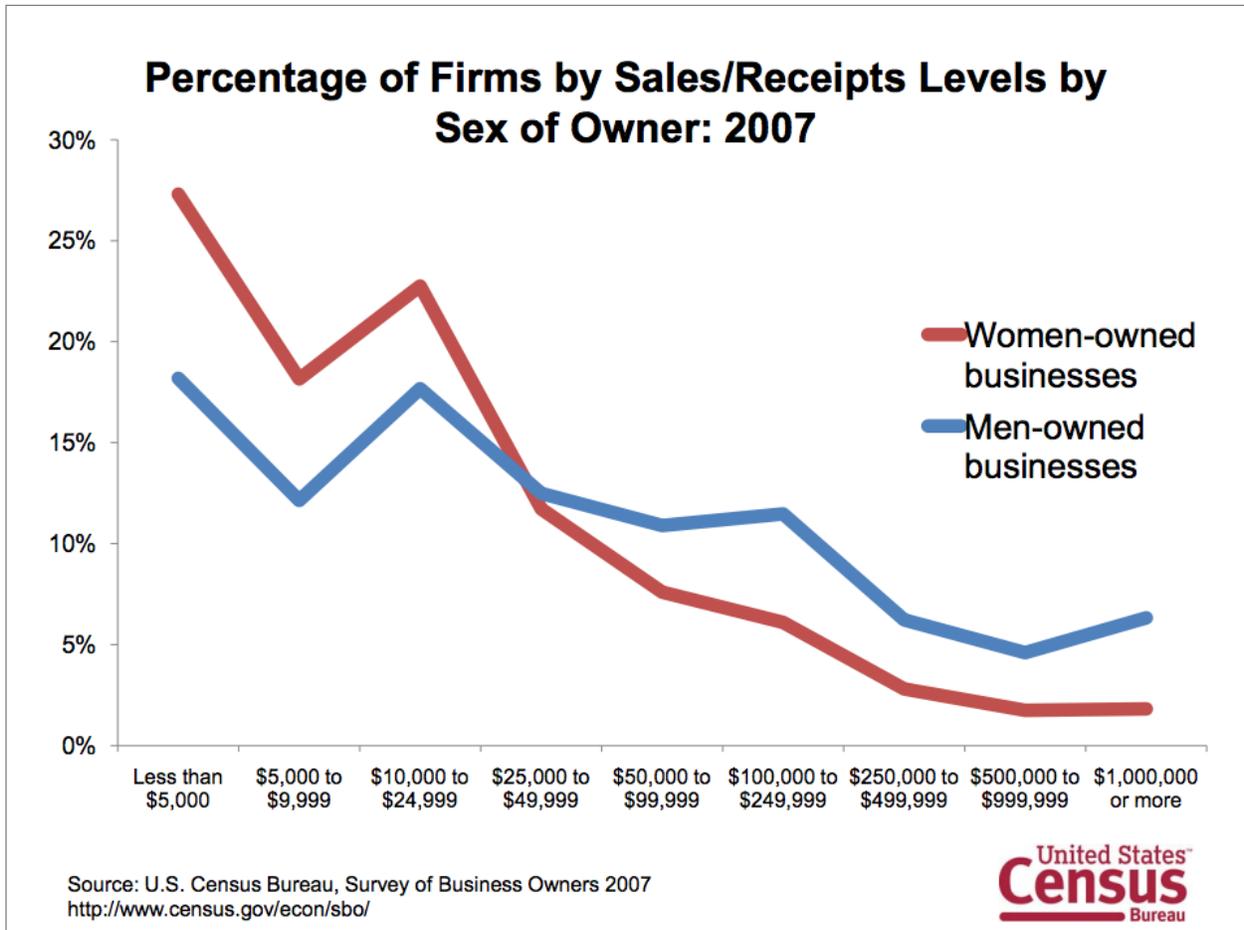
Item 9: Percentage of Employees in Women-Owned Firms: 1997, 2002, and 2007



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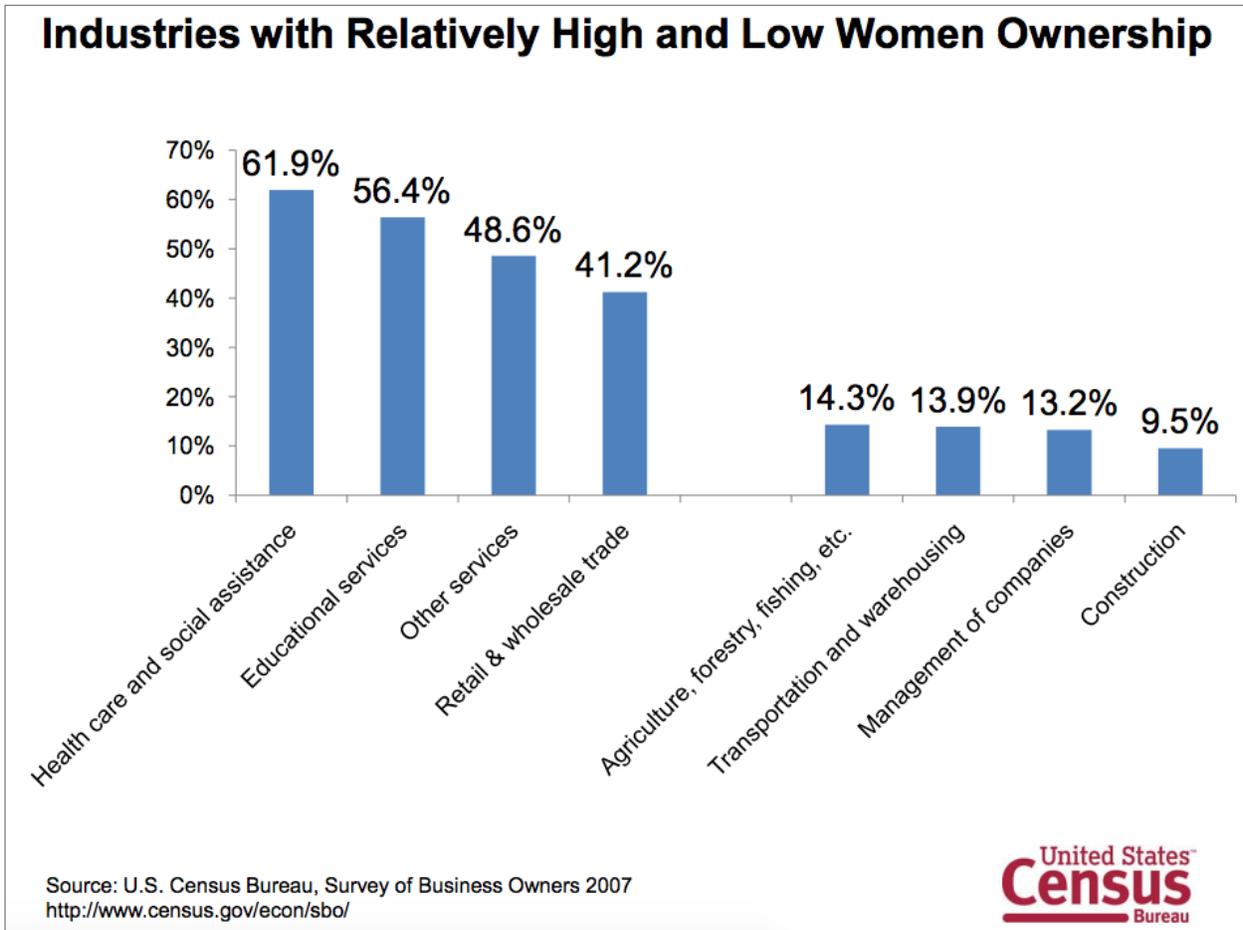
Item 10: Percentage of Firms by Sales/Receipts Levels by Sex of Owner: 2007



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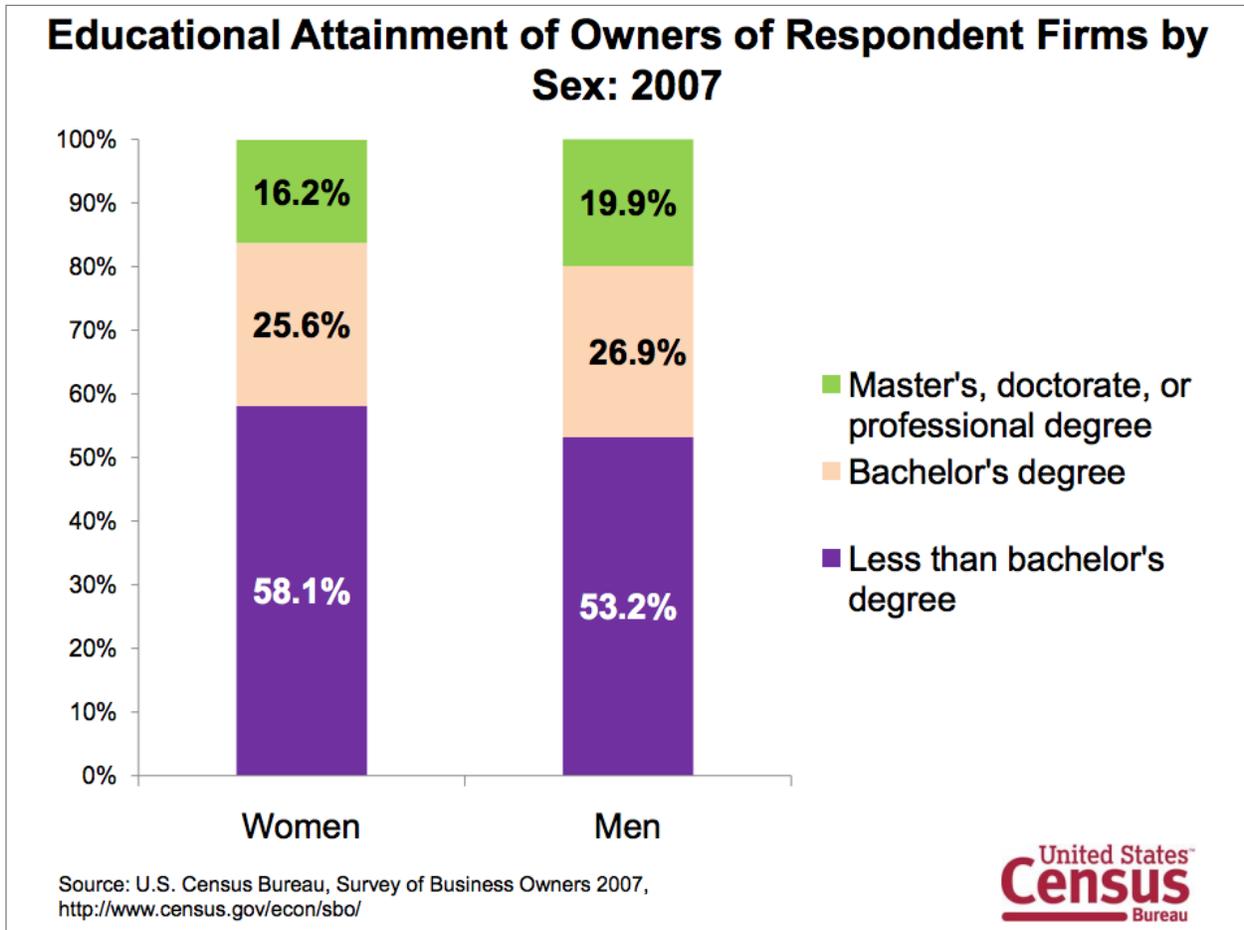
Item 11: Industries With Relatively High and Low Women Ownership: 2007



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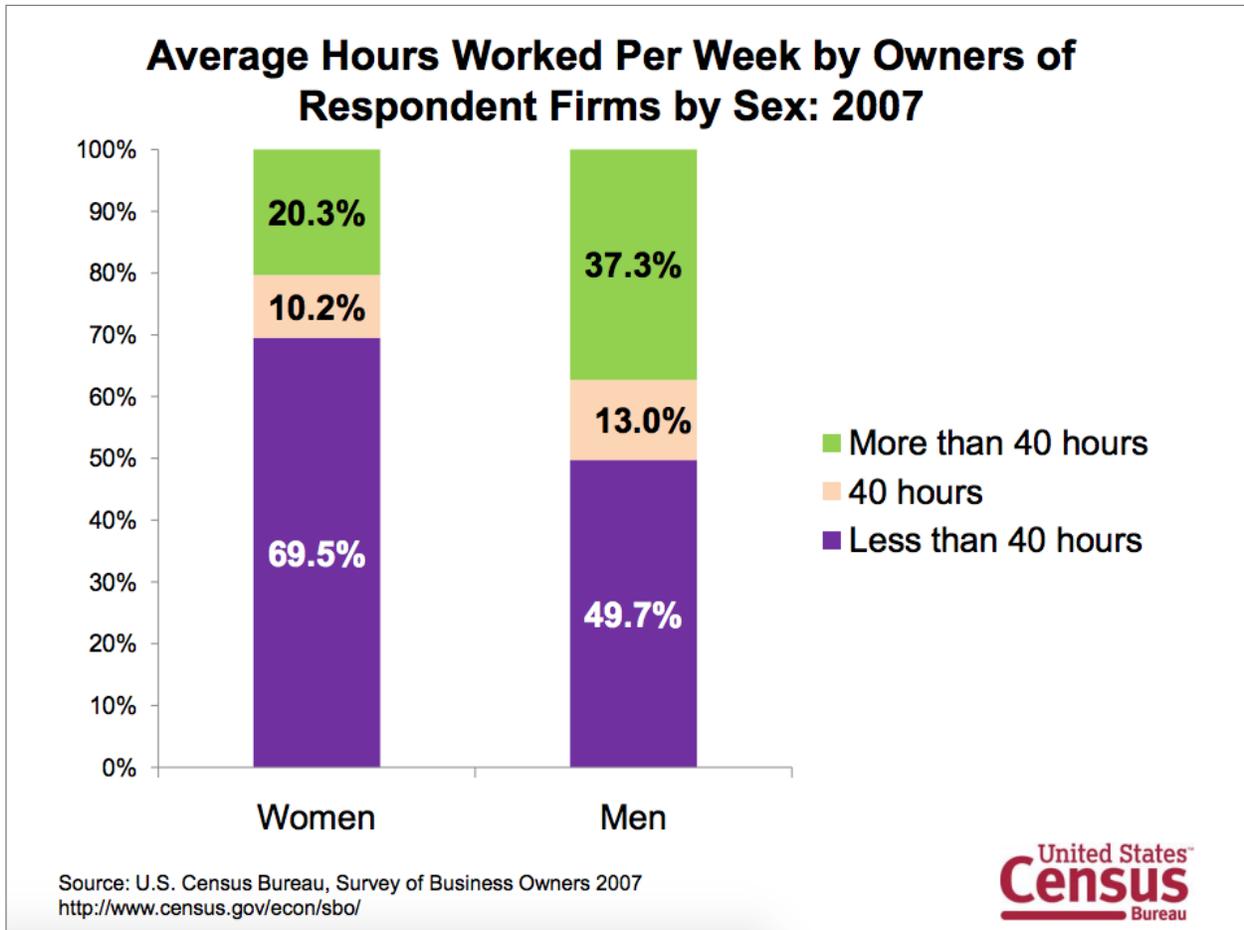
Item 12: Educational Attainment of Owners of Respondent Firms by Sex: 2007



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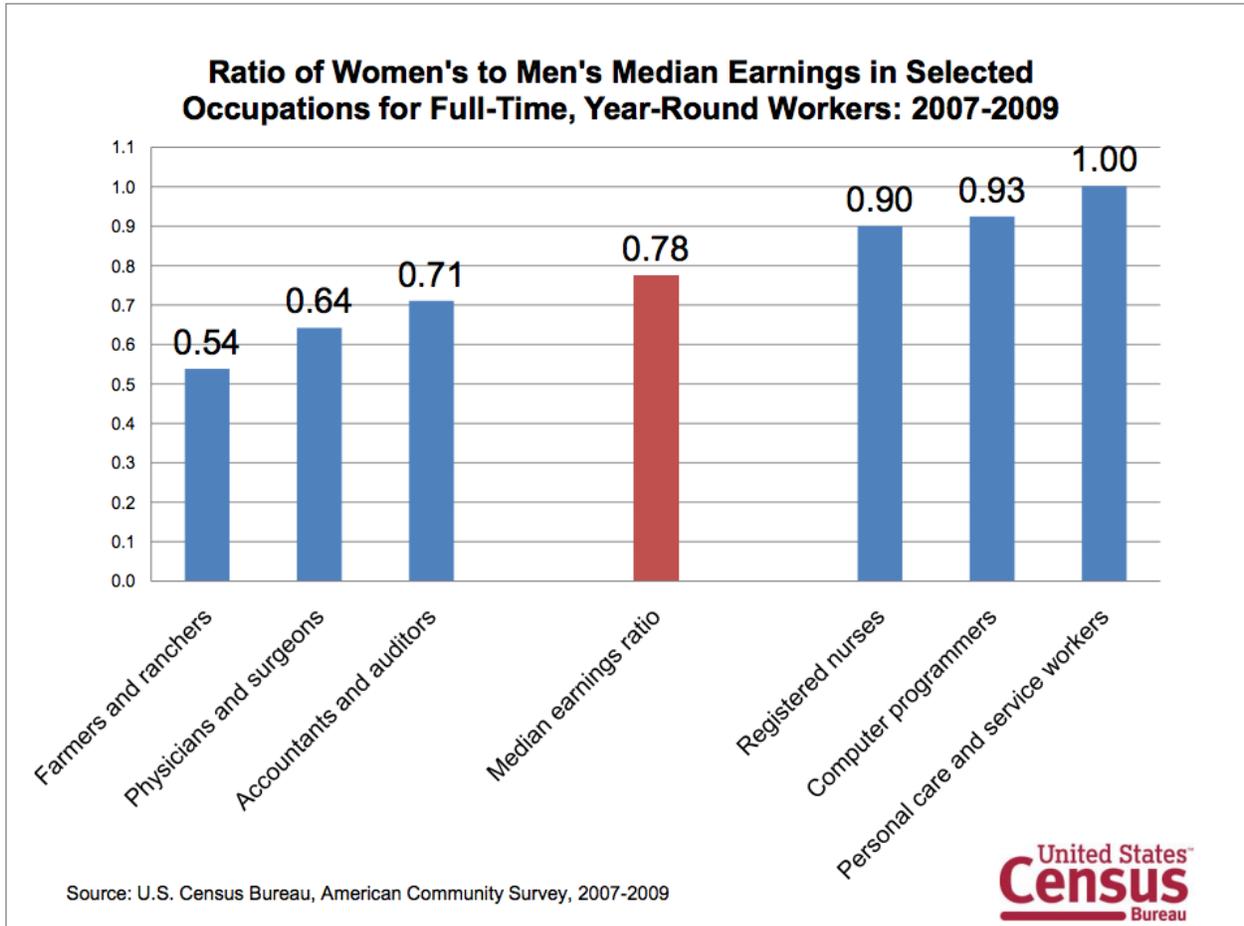
Item 13: Average Hours Worked Per Week by Owners of Respondent Firms by Sex: 2007



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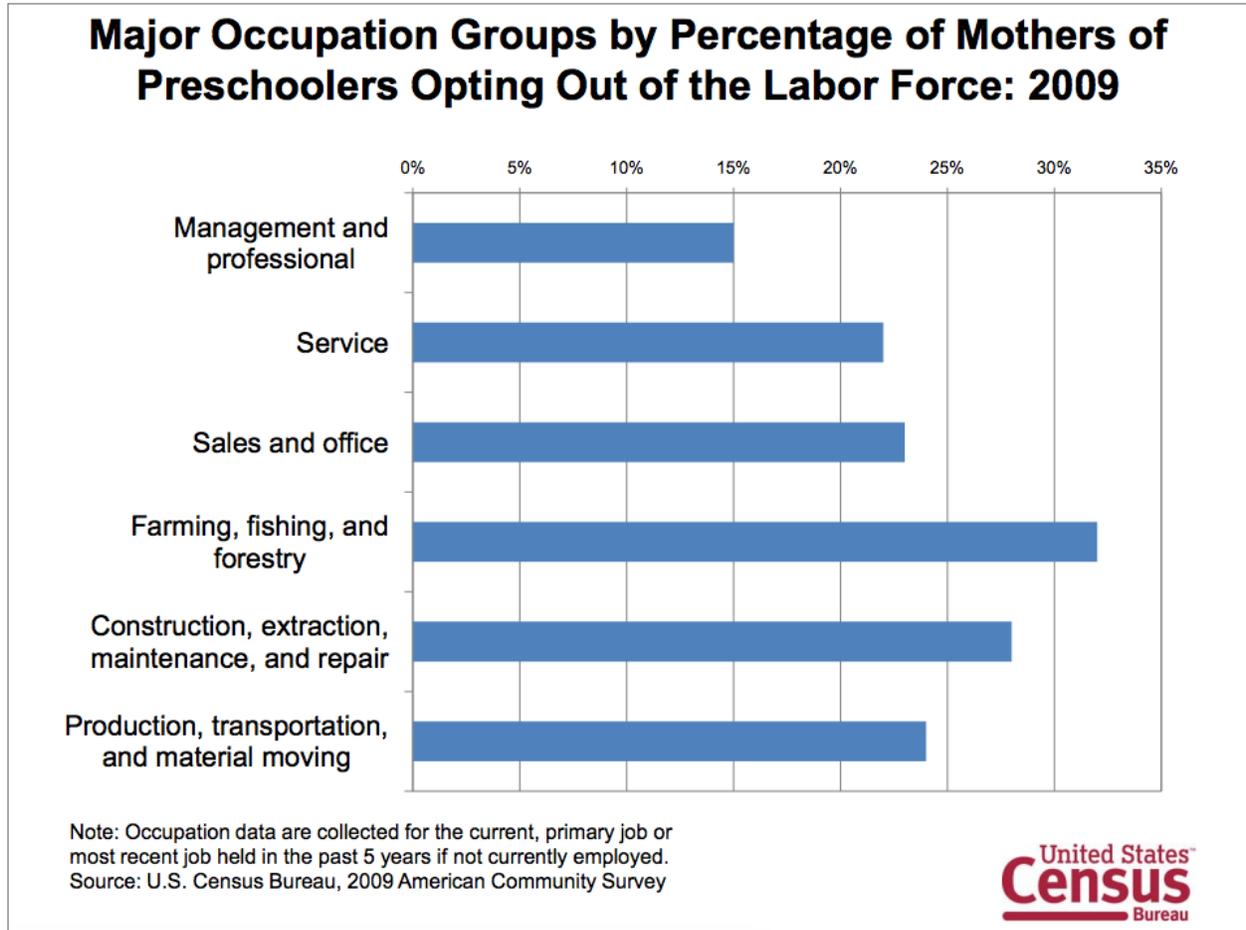
Item 14: Ratio of Women's to Men's Median Earnings in Selected Occupations for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers: 2007-2009



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Item 15: Major Occupation Groups by Percentage of Mothers of Preschoolers Opting Out of the Labor Force: 2009



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