STUDENT VERSION

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.

NAME:_____ DATE:_____

1. Looking closely at **Items 1–15**, record at least three observations and ask two questions about any of the data.

2. Based on the items and what you learned in the C-SPAN segment before this activity, are you surprised by these data? Why or why not? What are your opinions of the trends in the data? Support your answers with specific information.

3. What major event of the 1940s resulted in more women joining the workforce, and how did this result change the perception of what women could do around that time? Explain.

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.

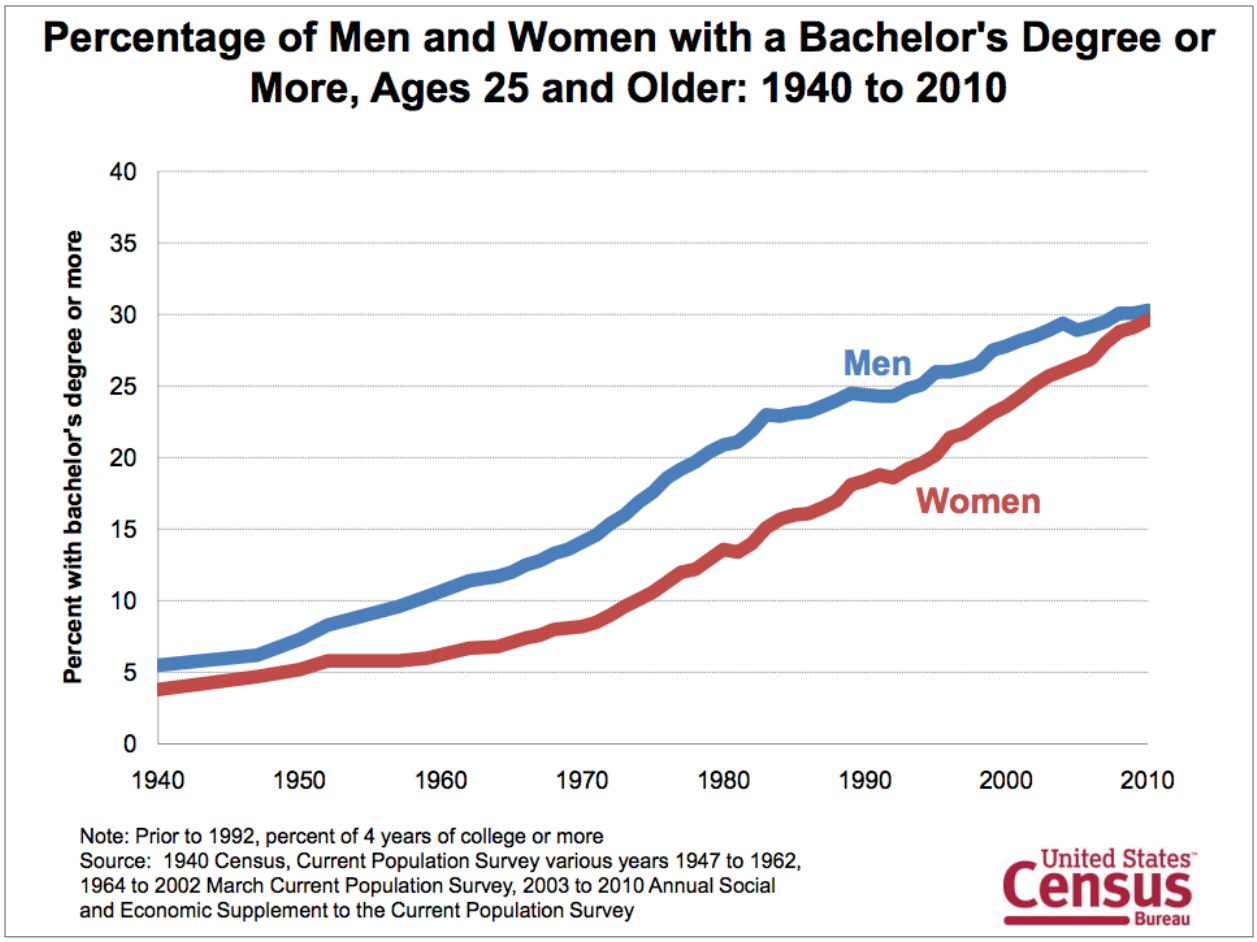
9. Looking at **Item 4: Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Sex: 1960–2009**, what was the status of earnings for men versus for women in 2009?

10. Thinking back to the C-SPAN segment, what did you learn about the difference in earnings between men and women in 2011?

11. Look at **Item 11: Industries With Relatively High and Low Women Ownership: 2007**. Which industry had the most female owners? What about the least? Why would it be important for women to have careers in industries that are dominated by men?

12. Find any graph from **Items 1–15** that interests you — and that has not been discussed specifically as part of this activity — and write your observations and questions about the data.

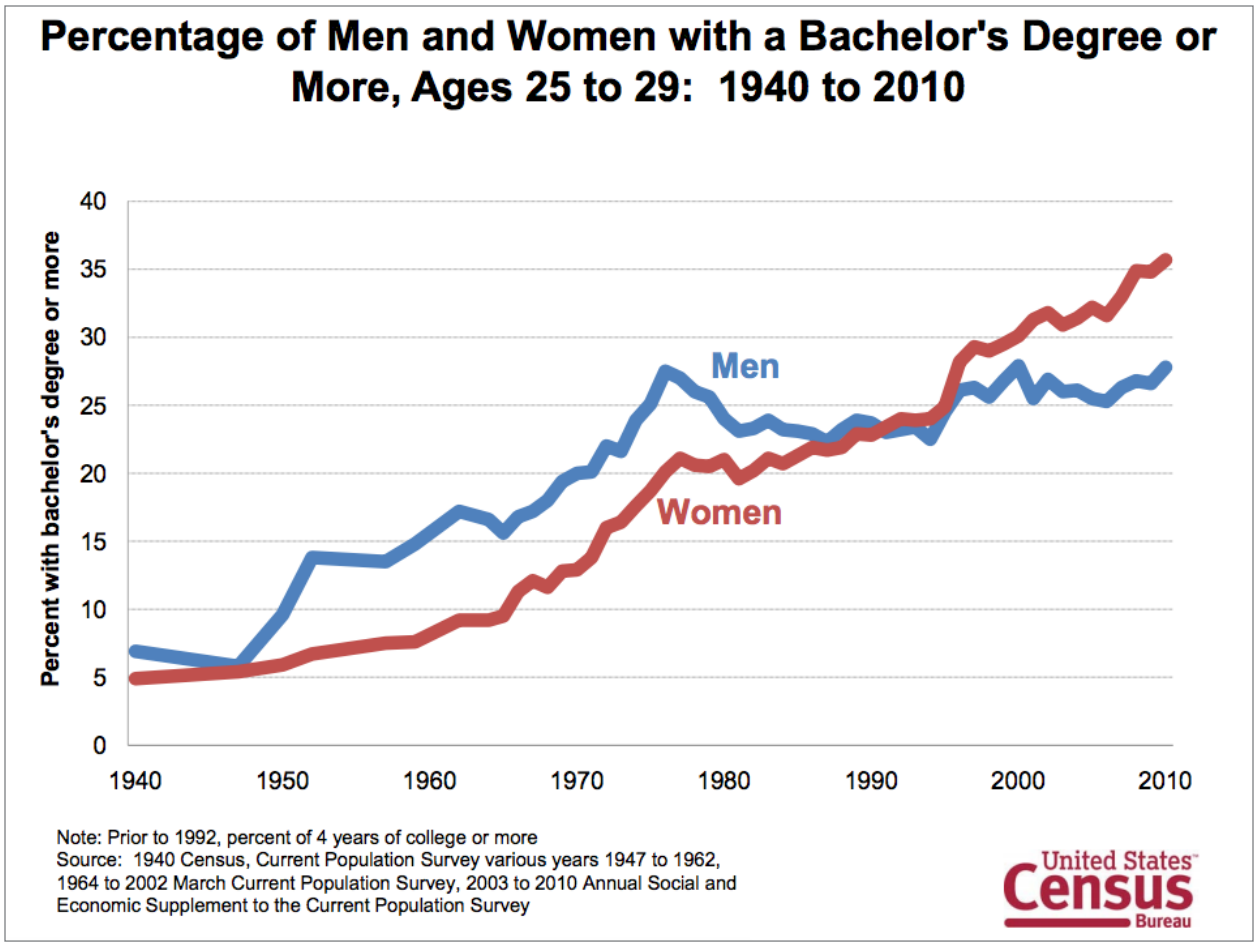
Item 1: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 and Older: 1940-2010



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

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

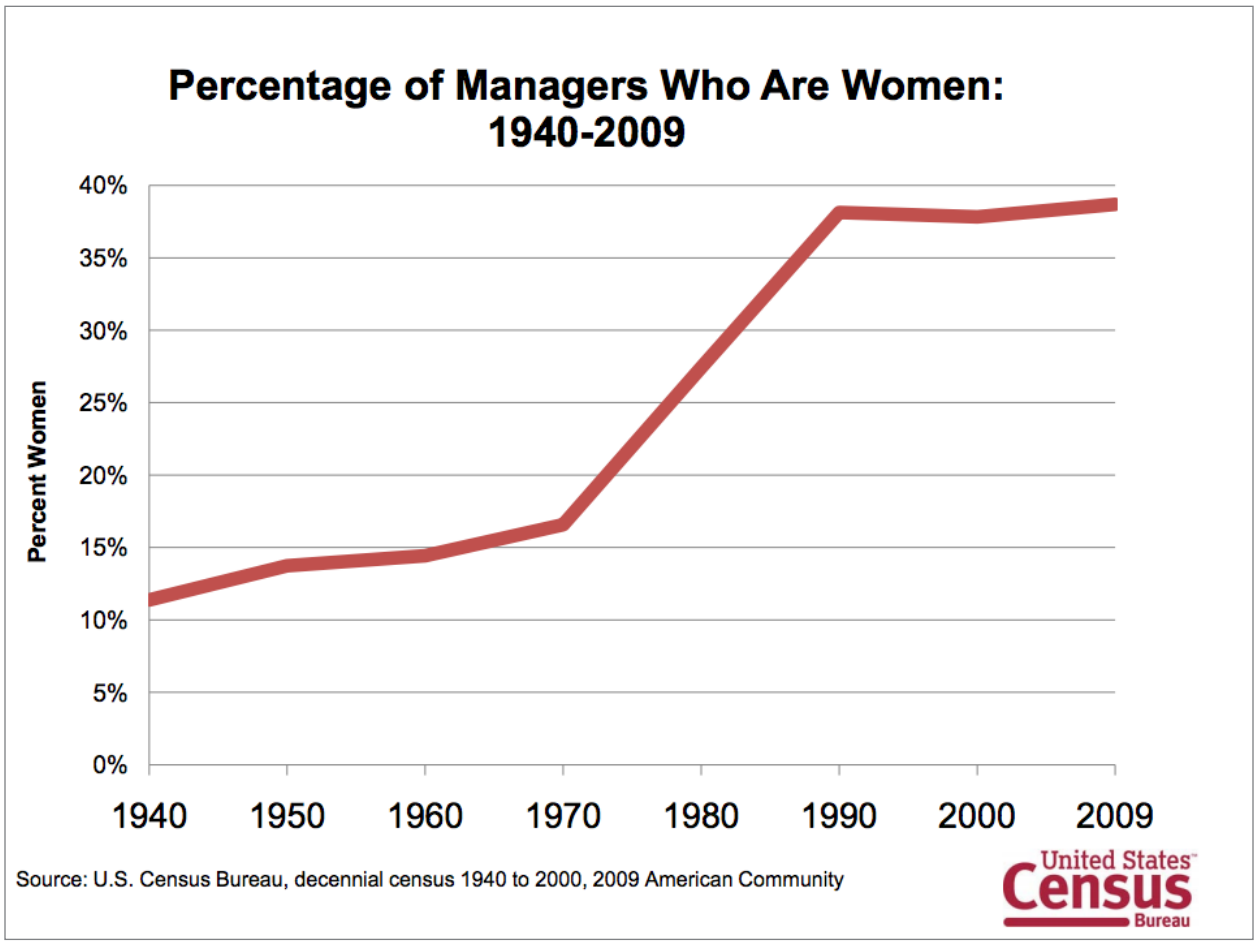
Item 2: Percentage of Men and Women With a Bachelor's Degree or More, Ages 25 to 29: 1940-2010



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 10.

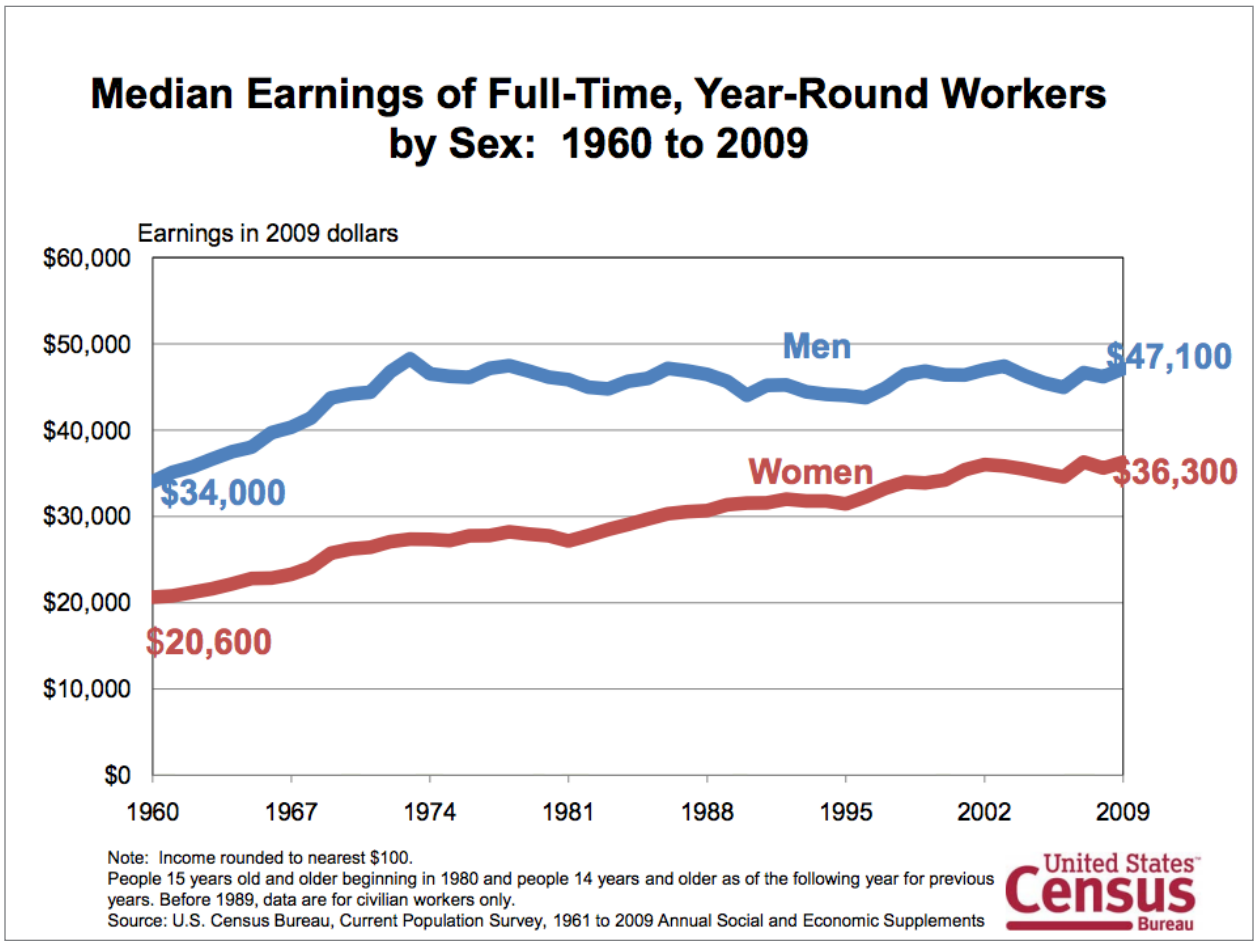
Item 3: Percentage of Managers Who Are Women: 1940-2009



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 11.

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

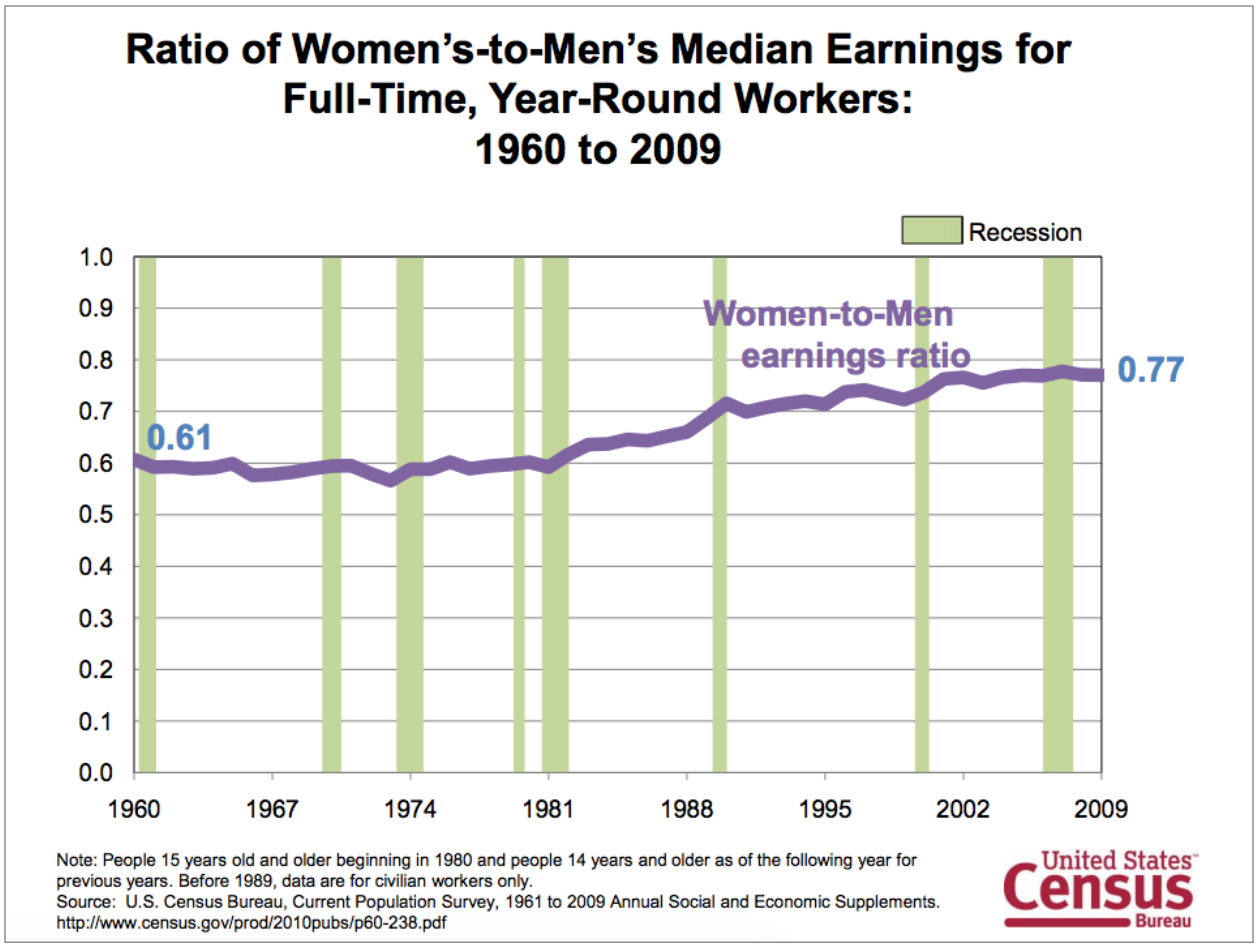


Note: This item compares all jobs, not like jobs. Since women dominated lower-paying fields, such as nursing, retail, and education, the overall wages of women were lower than those of men.

www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 4.

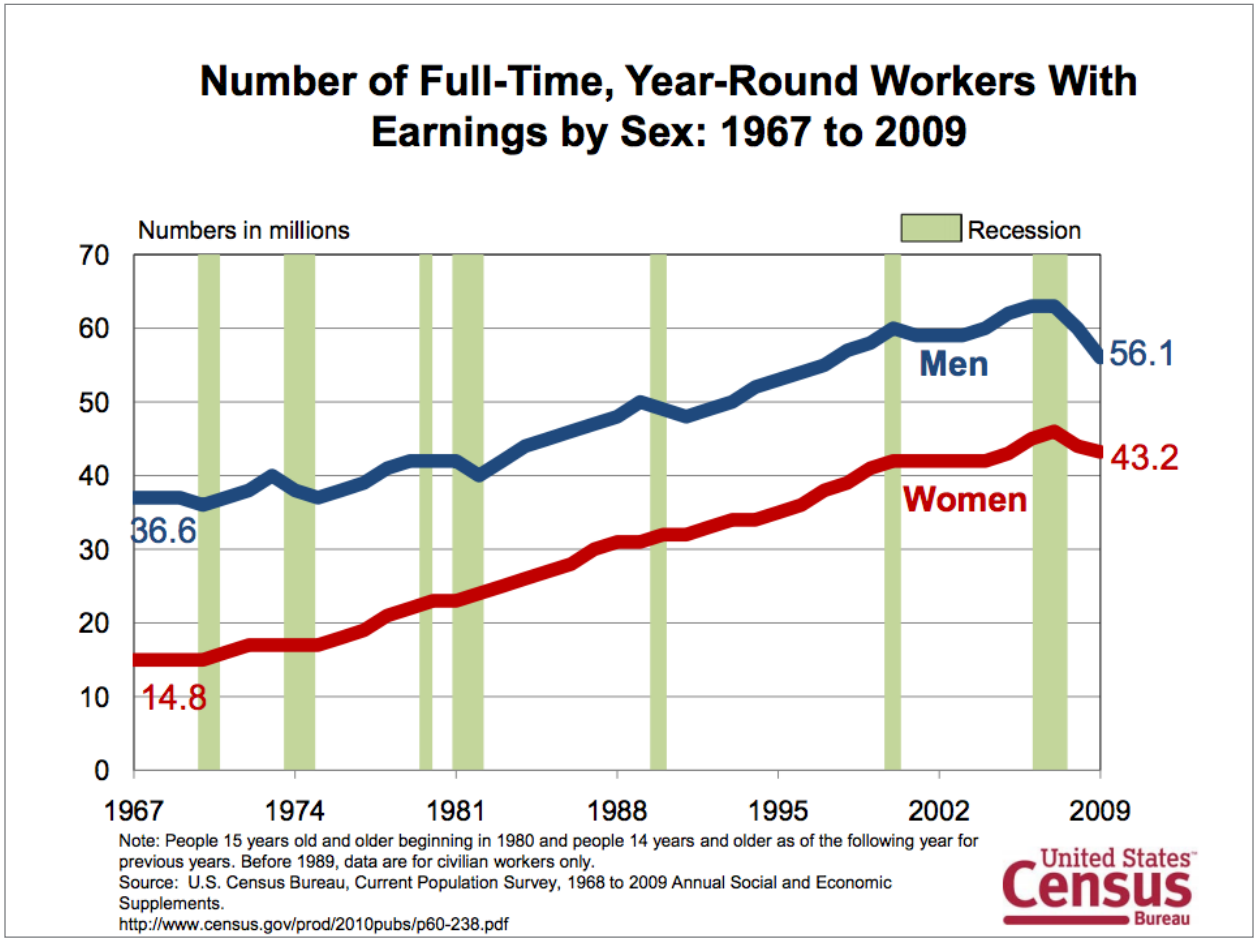
Item 5: Ratio of Women's-to-Men's Median Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers: 1960-2009



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 5.

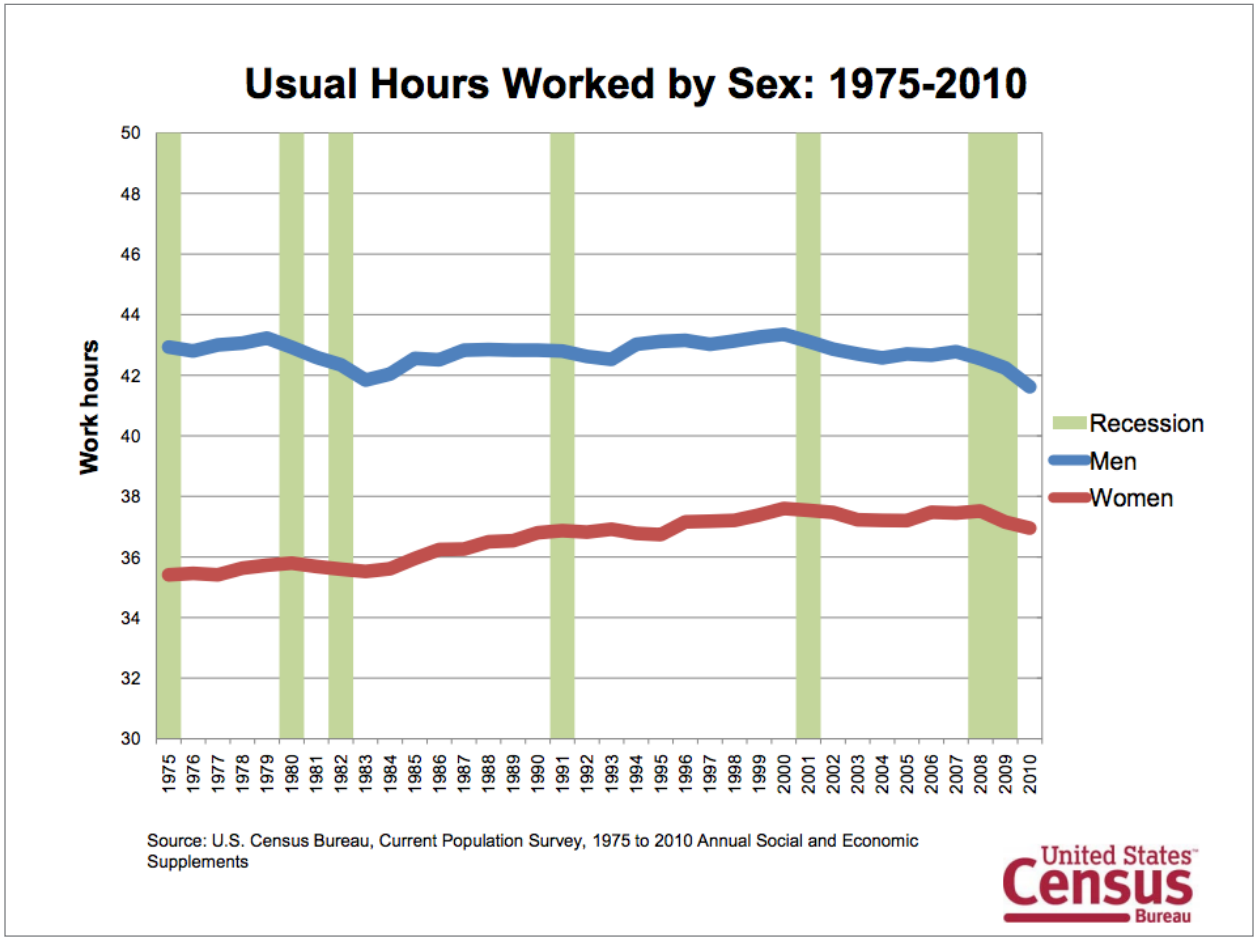
Item 6: Number of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers With Earnings by Sex: 1967-2009



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 3.

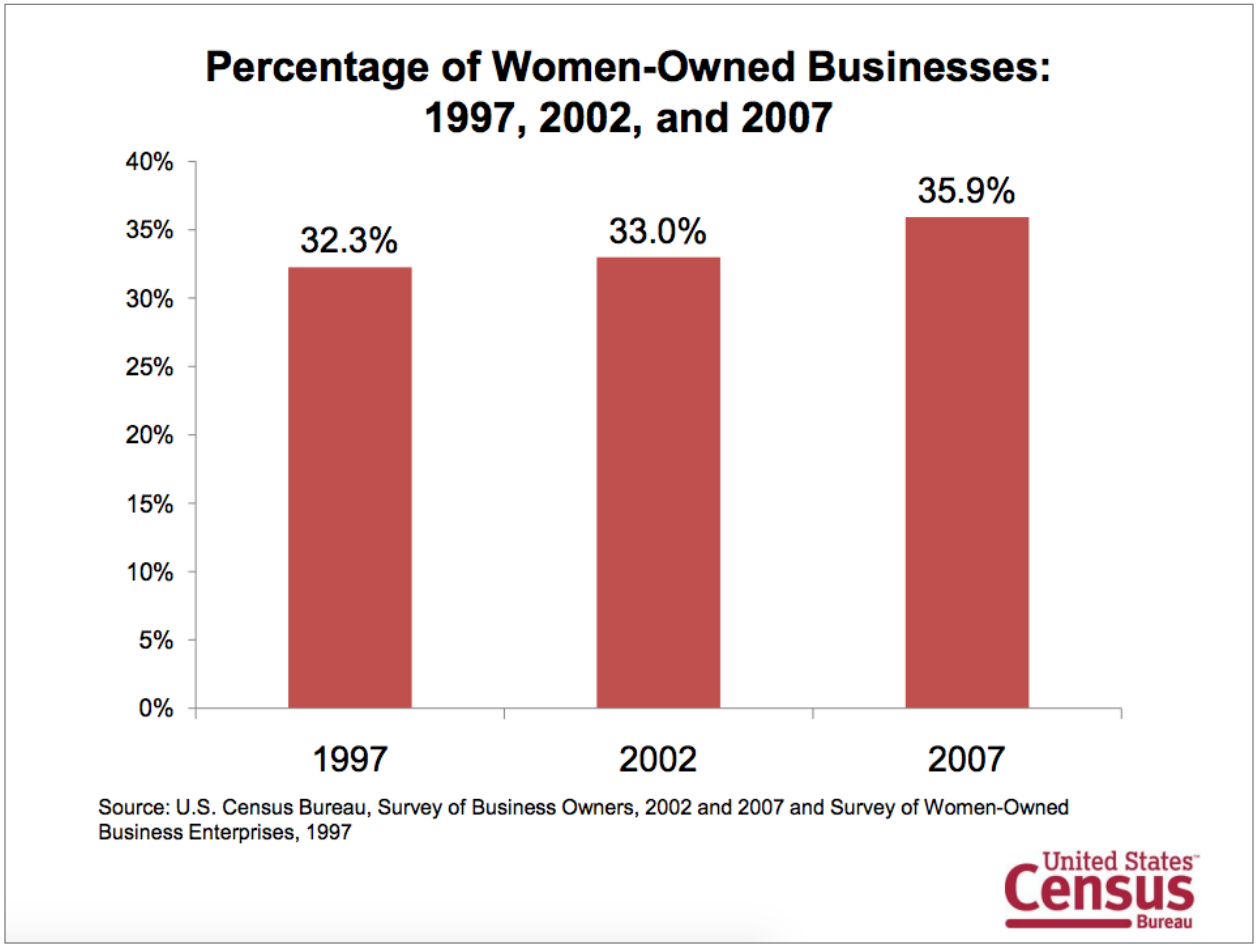
Item 7: Usual Hours Worked by Sex: 1975-2010



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 7.

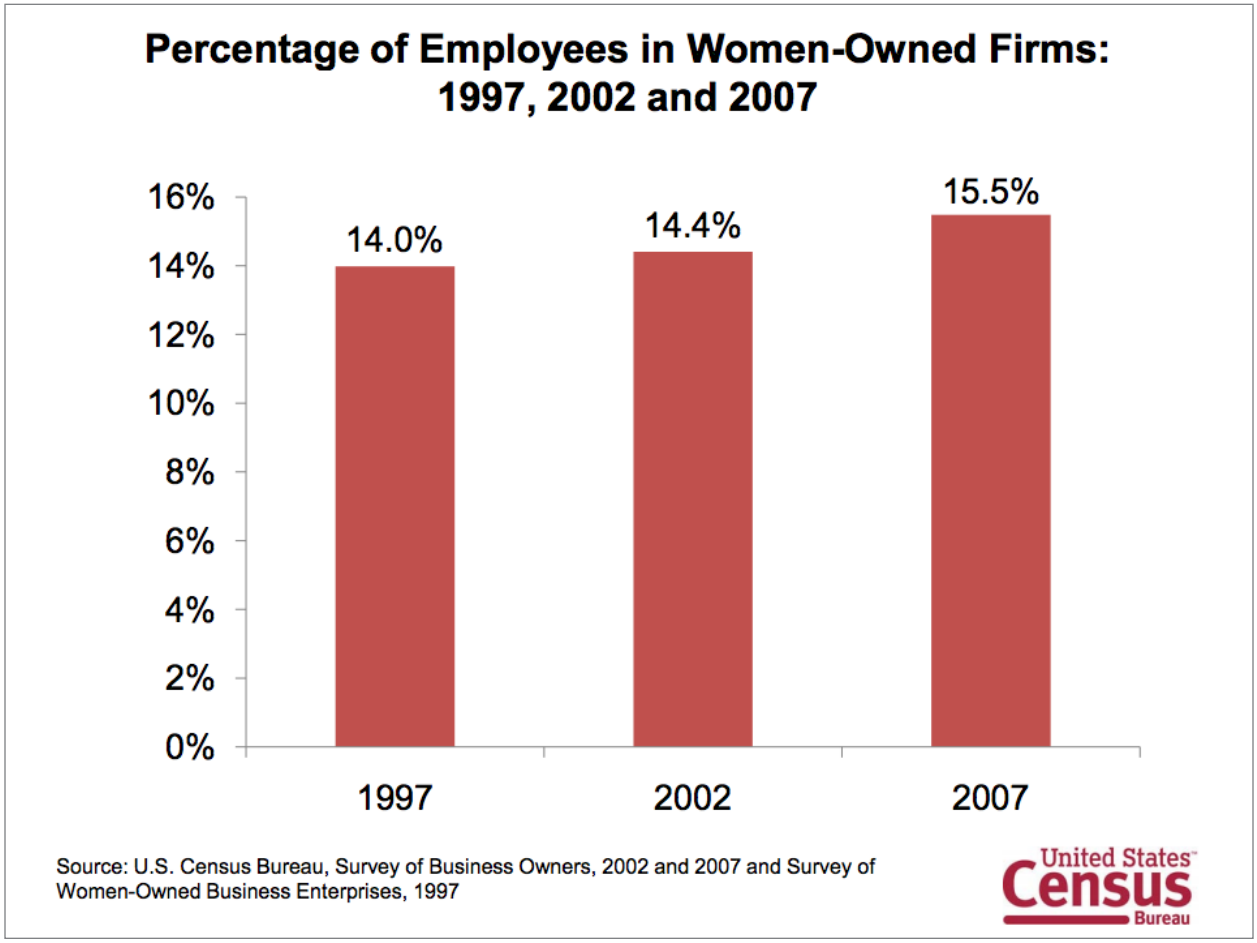
Item 8: Percentage of Women-Owned Businesses: 1997, 2002, and 2007



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 12.

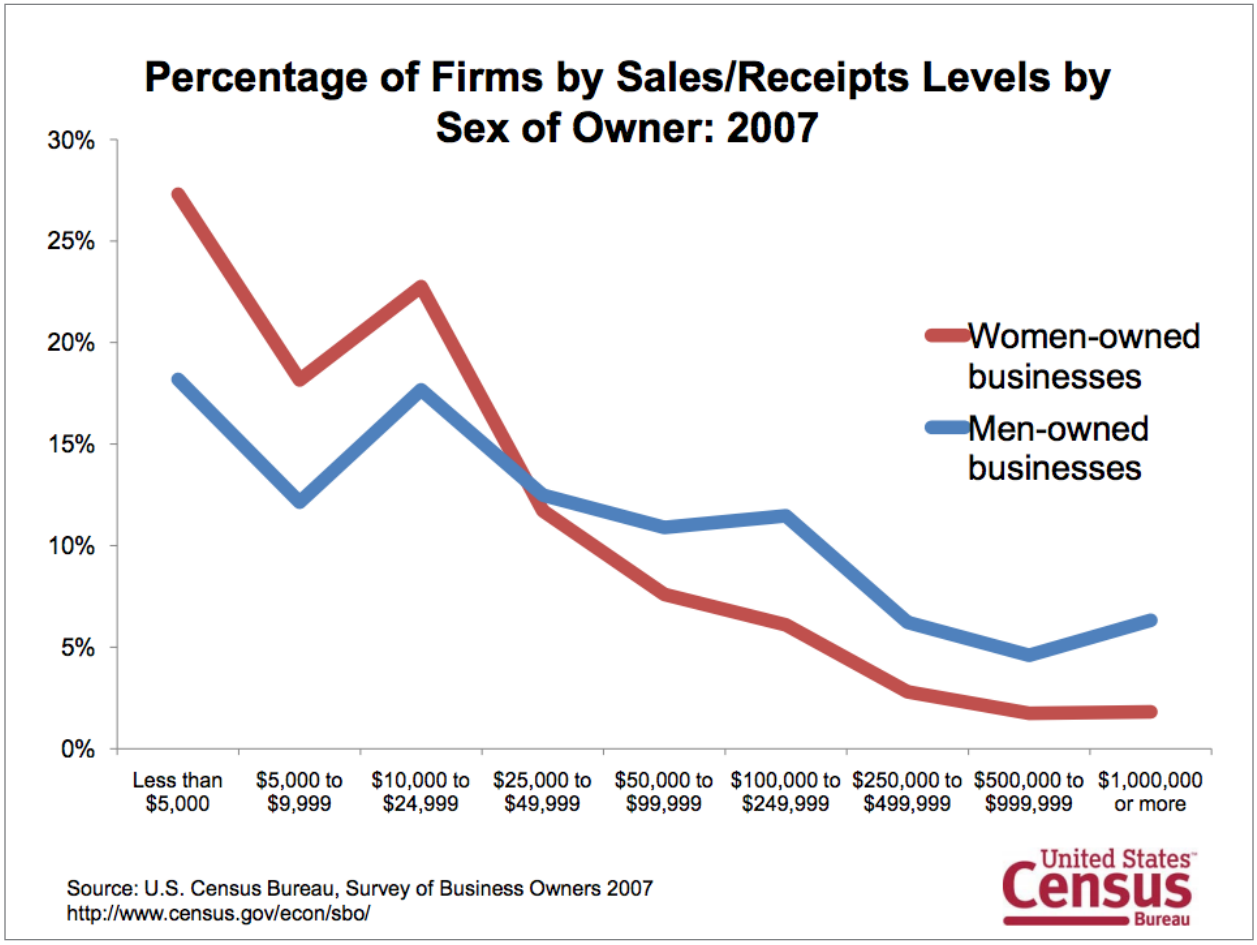
Item 9: Percentage of Employees in Women-Owned Firms: 1997, 2002, and 2007



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 13.

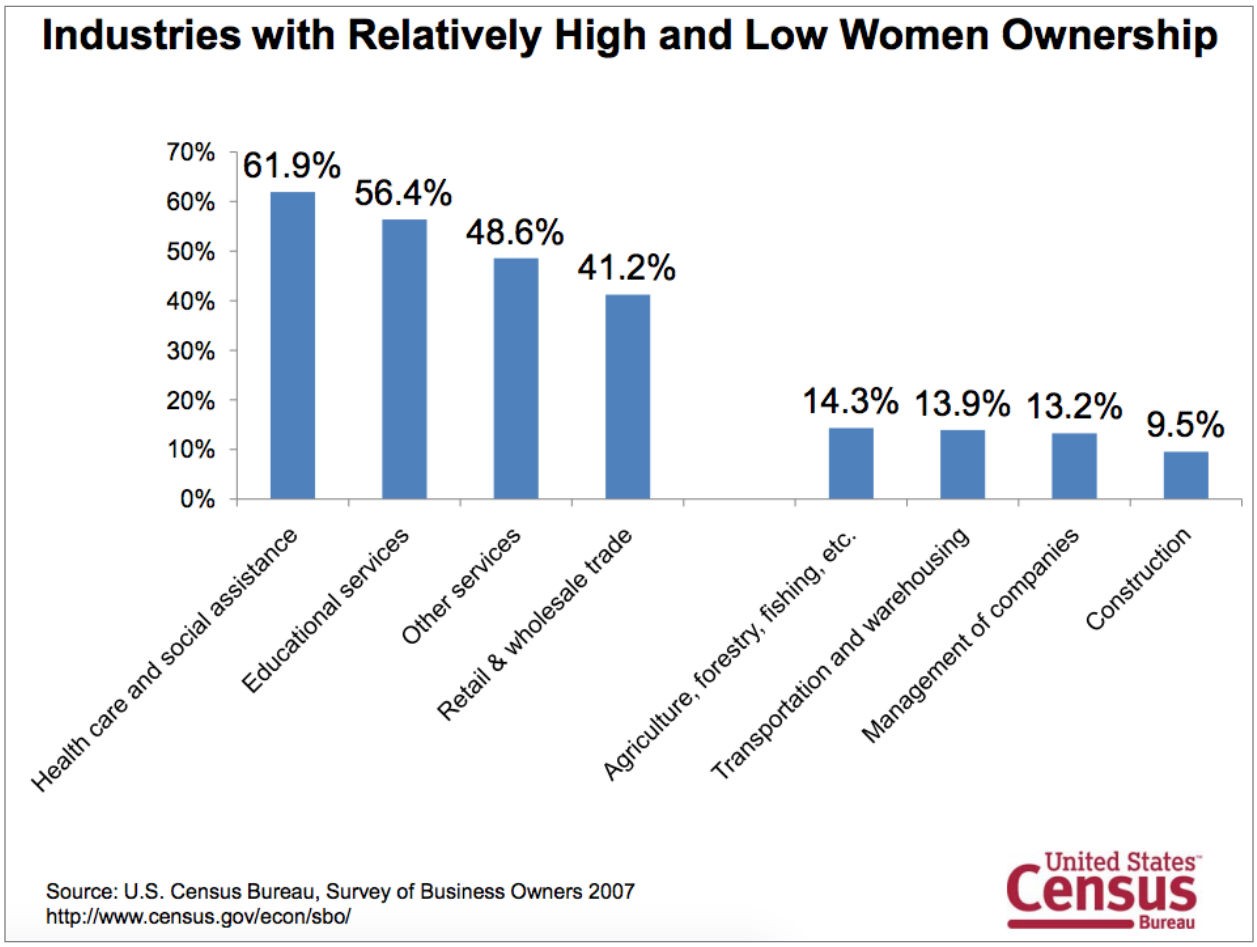
Item 10: Percentage of Firms by Sales/Receipts Levels by Sex of Owner: 2007



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 14.

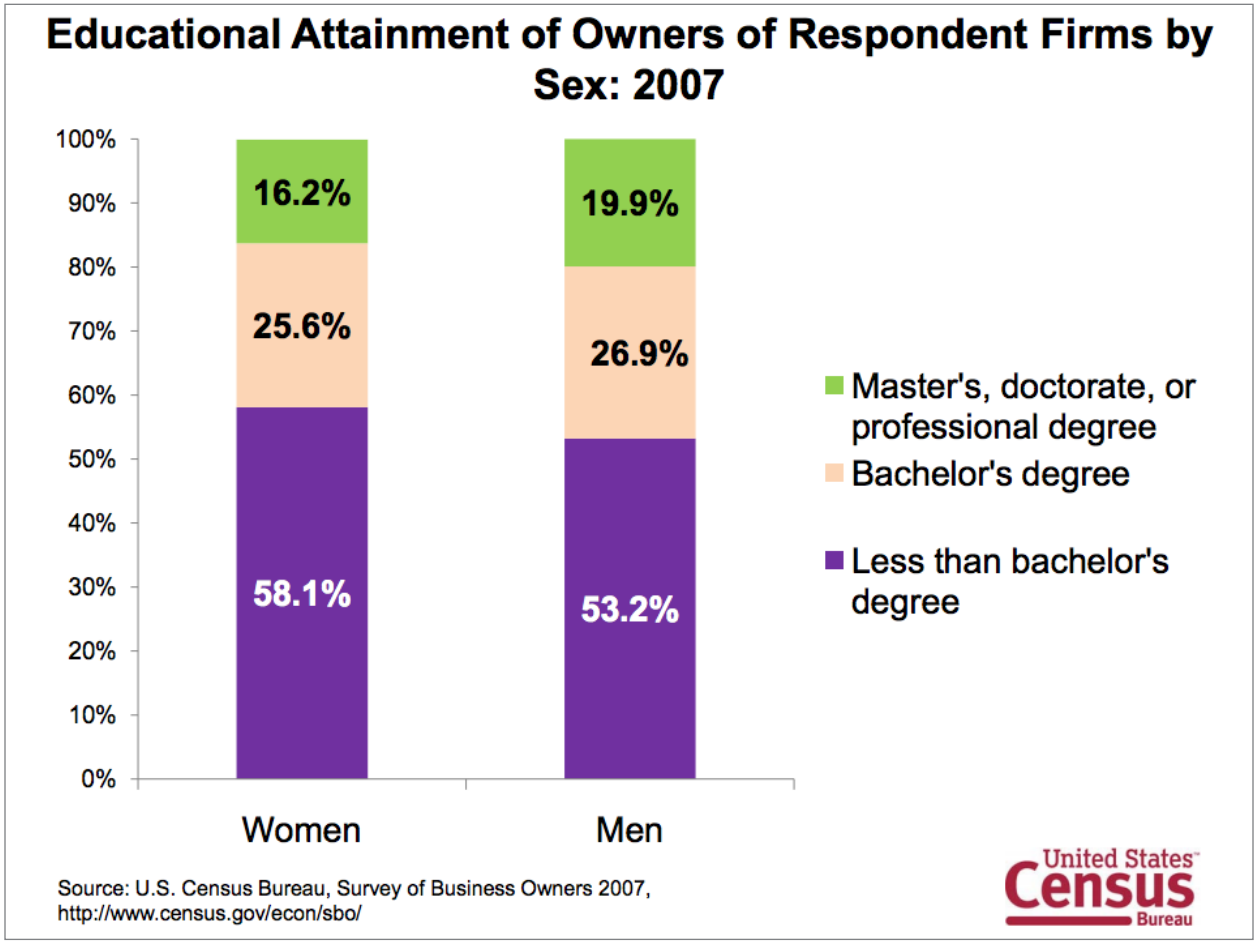
Item 11: Industries With Relatively High and Low Women Ownership: 2007



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 15.

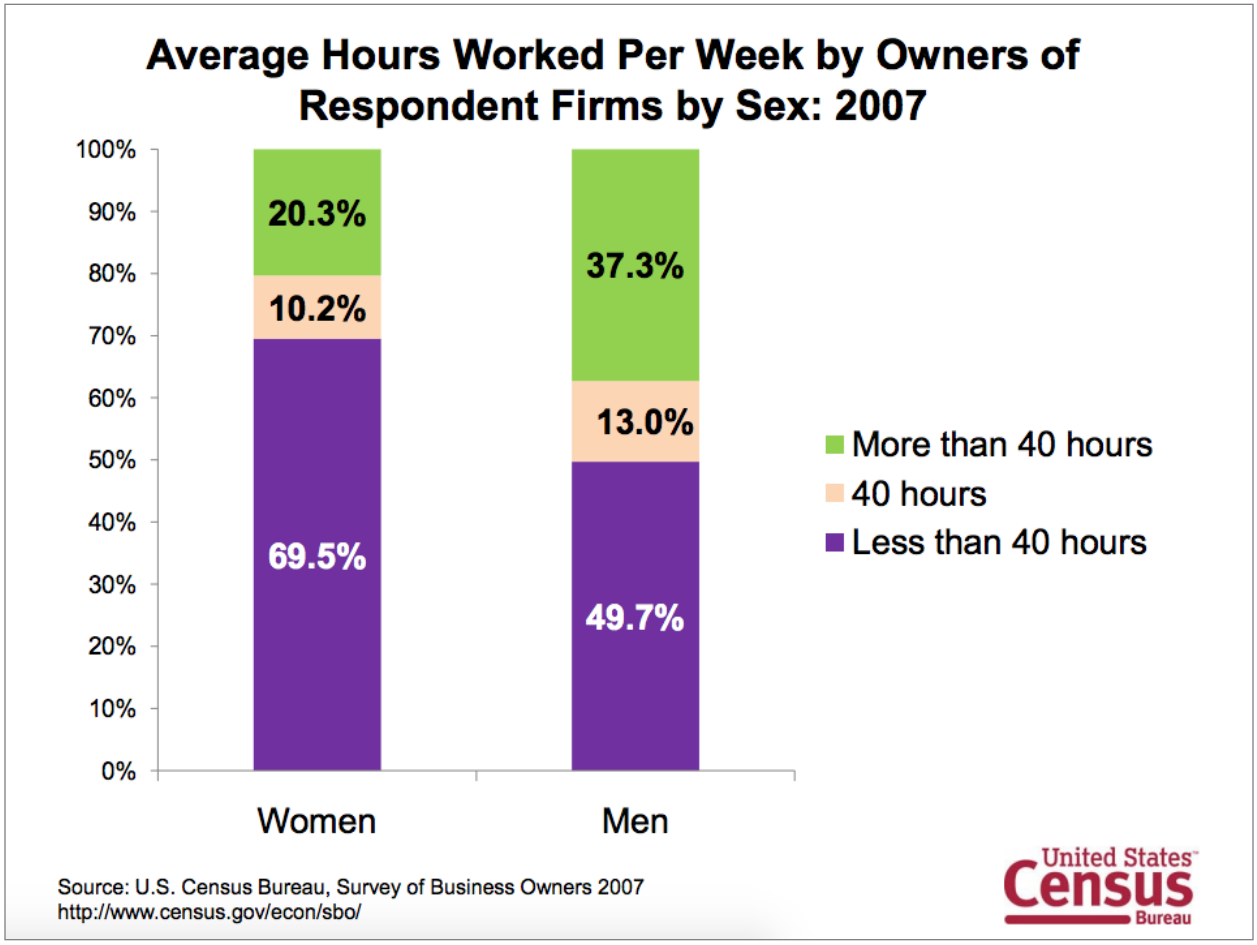
Item 12: Educational Attainment of Owners of Respondent Firms by Sex: 2007



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 16.

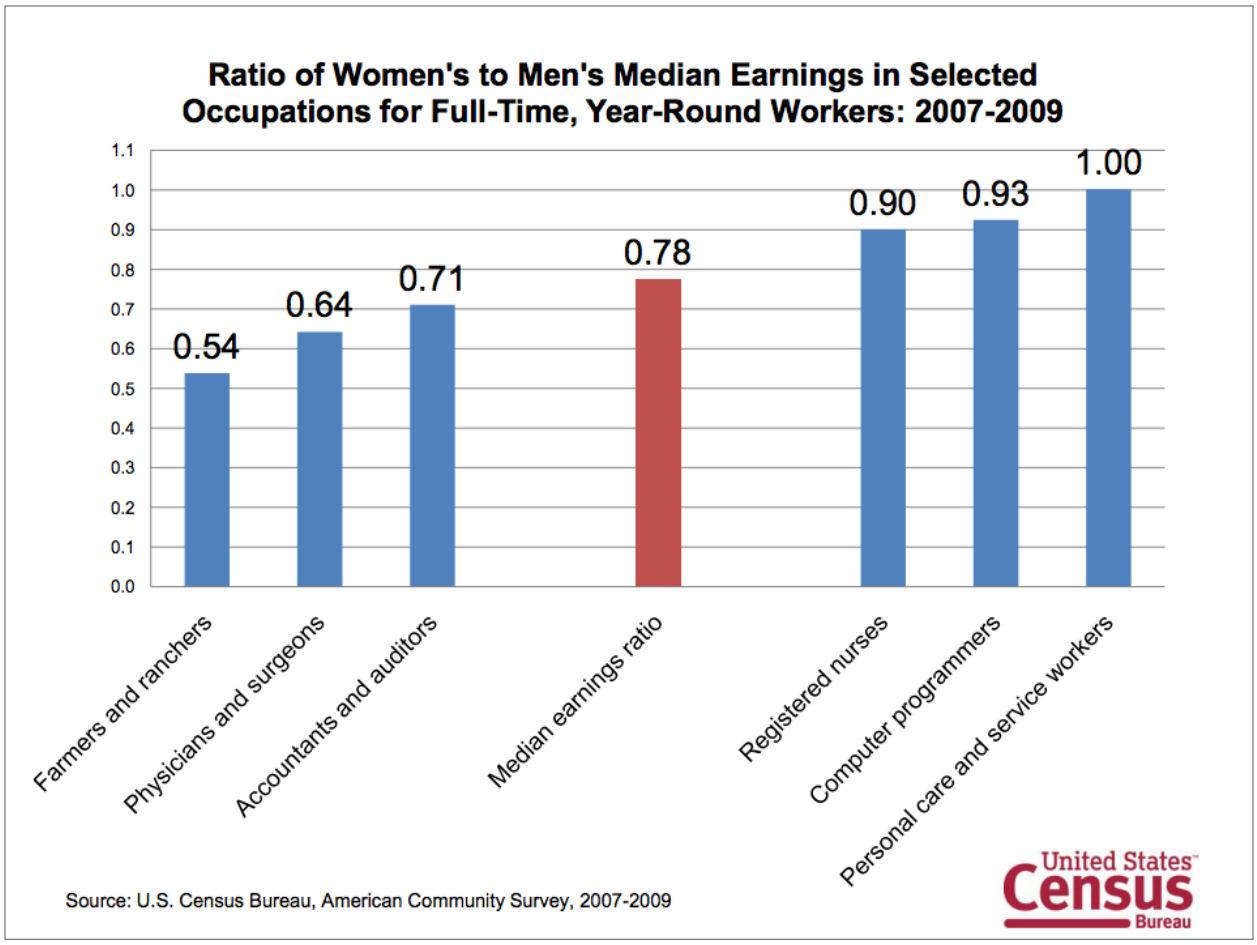
Item 13: Average Hours Worked Per Week by Owners of Respondent Firms by Sex: 2007



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 17.

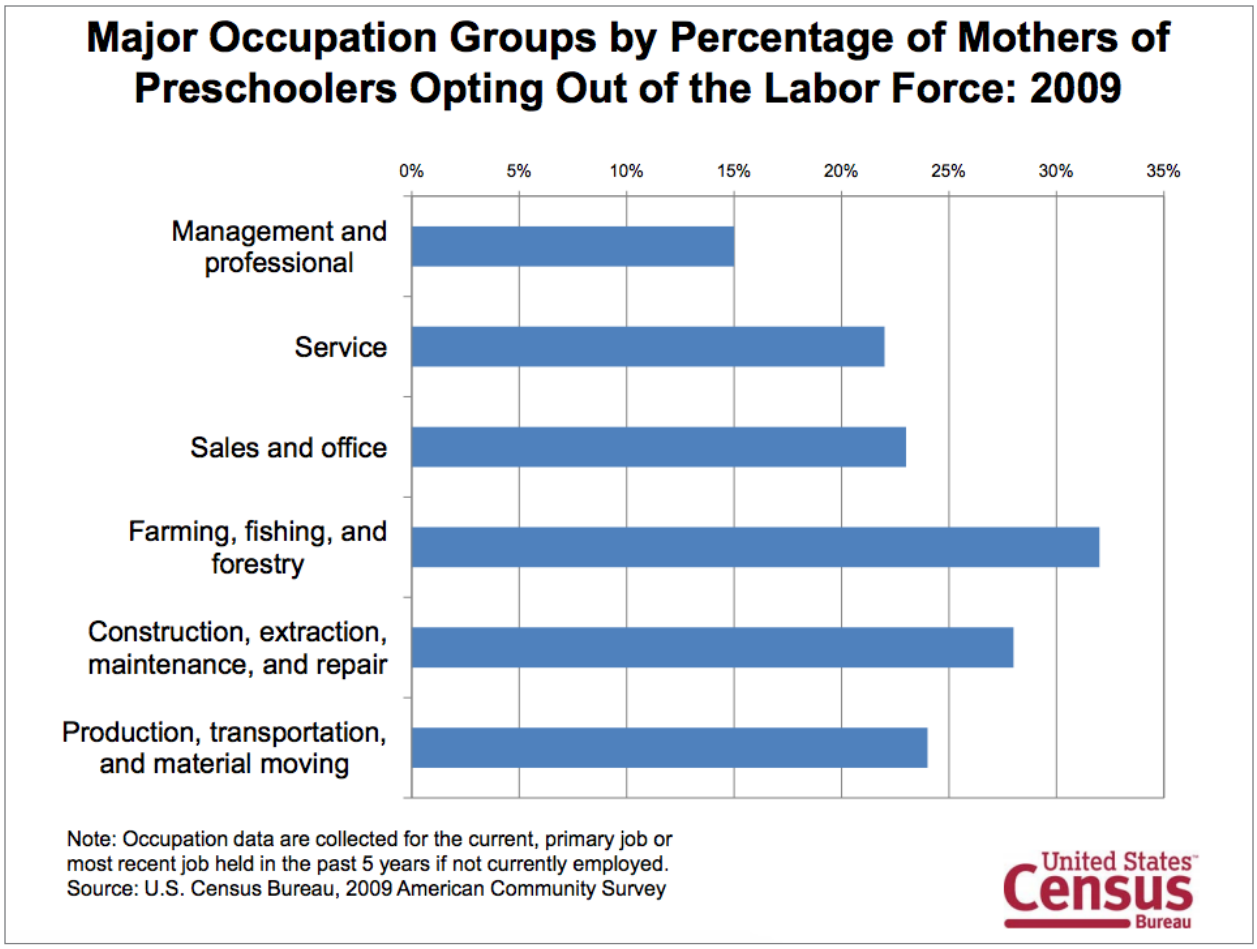
Item 14: Ratio of Women's to Men's Median Earnings in Selected Occupations for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers: 2007-2009



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 6.

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



www.census.gov/newsroom/pdf/women_workforce_slides.pdf

To view the graph online, click on the link above and go to Page 8.