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October 21, 2009

The Difference Between Men and Women

The recession of 2008/'09 has undoubtedly taken its toll on the workers of Wild Rose Country. But the numbers also indicate that its effects have not been felt equally, with the labour market for males being hit much harder than that for women.

As of the most recent Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate for all men 25 years and older was 6.9%, this same statistic for women was only 5.0%. Similarly, the number of men with jobs fell by 19,300 between October 2008 and October 2009, while employment among women actually rose by 21,700, despite the recession.

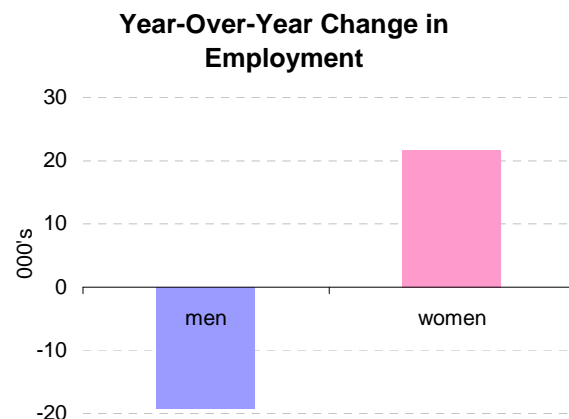
The gender disparity is explained quite easily by looking at what sectors were hit the hardest by the recession.

Manufacturing (-36,000); forestry, mining, fishing, oil and gas (-20,100); and agriculture (-11,000) saw some of the largest job losses, while health care and social services (+26,900); and information, culture and recreation (+13,000) added substantially to their work forces.

In fact this disparity is somewhat typical of recessions. Goods-producing industries are generally the sectors that suffer the most during all recessions and are also predominantly populated by male workers. The service sectors, on the other hand, are usually less impacted by recessions and are populated much more evenly with both men and women.



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM



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