

## Women's History Month: March 2016

The roots of National Women's History Month go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

### 162 million

The number of females in the U.S. as of July 2014. The number of males was 157.0 million.  
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/PEP/2014/PEPAGESEX>

### 2 to 1

At 85 and older, the approximate ratio by which women outnumbered men in 2014 (4.1 million to 2.1 million).  
Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/PEP/2014/PEPAGESEX>

## Jobs

### 75.6 million

The number of females 16 and older who participated in the civilian labor force in 2014. Women comprised 47.4 percent of the civilian labor force in 2014.  
Source: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table DP03  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14\\_1YR/DP03](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14_1YR/DP03)

### 63%

Percentage of social scientists who were women, the heaviest representation of women among all STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. Among other STEM fields, approximately 14 percent of engineers, 45 percent of mathematicians and statisticians, and 47 percent of life scientists were women. The rates of mathematicians and statisticians, and life scientists are not statistically different from each other.  
Source: 2012 American Community Survey  
<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-130.html>

## Women's Representation In Select Occupations

	1970	2006-2010
Registered nurses	97.3%	91.2%
Dental assistants	97.9%	96.3%
Cashiers	84.2%	74.7%
Elementary and middle school teachers	83.9%	79.3%
Pharmacists	12.1%	52.6%
Accountants	24.6%	60.0%
Computer programmers	24.2%	24.4%
Physicians and surgeons	9.7%	32.4%
Lawyers and judges	4.9%	33.4%
Police officers	3.7%	14.8%
Civil engineers	1.3%	12.7%

Source: 1970 Equal Employment Opportunity Tabulation based on the decennial census and 2006-2010 Equal Employment Opportunity Tabulation based on the American Community Survey [http://www.census.gov/how/pdf/EEO\\_infographic.pdf](http://www.census.gov/how/pdf/EEO_infographic.pdf)

## 14.0%

Percentage of employed women 16 and over in 2014 who worked in management, business and financial occupations, compared with 15.6 percent of employed men in the same year.

Source: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B24010

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14\\_1YR/B24010](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14_1YR/B24010)

## Military

### 1.6 million

Number of women veterans in the United States in 2014.

Source: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B21001

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14\\_1YR/B21001](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14_1YR/B21001)

## Earnings

### 3%

Percentage points of increase — from 6 to 9 percent — where the wife in married couples earned at least \$30,000 more than the husband between 2000 and 2015.

Source: 2014 Families and Living Arrangements table package

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-199.html>

### \$39,621

The median annual earnings of women 15 or older who worked year-round, full time in 2014. In comparison, the median annual earnings of men were \$50,383.

Source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014, Table A-4  
<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf?cssp=SERP>

## **79¢**

The amount that female year-round, full-time workers earned in 2014 for every dollar their male counterparts earned.

Source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014, Figure 2  
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/incpovhlth/2014/figure2.pdf>

## **Education**

### **12.7 million**

Number of women enrolled in undergraduate college and graduate school in 2014. Women comprised 55.2 percent of all college students (undergraduate and graduate).

Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-year estimates, table B14002.  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14\\_1YR/B14002](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14_1YR/B14002)

### **30.2**

Percentage of women 25 and older who had obtained a bachelor's degree or more as of 2014. The percentage of men 25 and older who had obtained a bachelor's degree or more as of 2014 was 29.9 percent.

Source: American Community Survey, 2014 1-year estimates, table S1501.  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14\\_1YR/S1501](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14_1YR/S1501)

## **Business**

### **\$1.4 trillion**

Estimated receipts from women-owned firms in the U.S. in 2012, rising 18.7 percent, from \$1.2 trillion in 2007.

Sources: 2012 Survey of Business Owners  
<http://census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-209.html>  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/SBO/2012/00CSA01>

### **9.9 million**

Estimated number of women-owned firms in the U.S. 2012, up from 7.8 million or 26.8 percent in 2007.

Sources: 2012 Survey of Business Owners  
<http://census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-209.html>  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/SBO/2012/00CSA01>

### **35.8%**

Estimated percent of U.S. firms that were owned by women in 2012. They constituted the majority of firms in the health care and social assistance sector (62.5 percent), the educational

services sector (54.2 percent) and the “other services” sector (51.8 percent). For comparison, women accounted for 51.4 percent of the 18-and-older population in the U.S. in 2012.

Sources: 2012 Survey of Business Owners and 2012 Population Estimates

<http://census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-209.html>

<http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/SBO/2012/00CSA01>

[http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/12\\_5YR/S0501](http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/12_5YR/S0501)

<http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/PEP/2012/PEPAGESEX>

## Voting

### 43.0%

Percentage of female citizens 18 and older who reported voting in the 2014 election. By comparison, 40.8 percent of their male counterparts reported voting.

Source: Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2014, Table 2

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p20-577.pdf>

## Motherhood

### 43.5 million

Estimated number of mothers age 15 to 50 in the U.S. in 2014.

Source: Current Population Survey: 2014, Detailed Table 2

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/fertility/data/cps/2014.html>

### 2.0

Average number of children that women age 40 to 44 had given birth to as of 2014, down from 3.1 children in 1976, the year the Census Bureau first began collecting such data. The percentage of women in this age group who had ever given birth was 85 percent in 2014, down from 90 percent in 1976.

Source: Current Population Survey, Historical Table 2

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/fertility/data/cps/historical.html>

## Marriage

### 67.1 million

Number of married women 18 and older (including those who were separated or had an absent spouse) in 2015.

Source: Families and Living Arrangements: 2015, Table A1

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/cps2015A.html>

### 5.2 million

Number of stay-at-home mothers nationwide in 2015, compared with 199,000 stay-at-home fathers.

Source: Families and Living Arrangements: 2015, Historical Table SHP-1

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/shp1.xls>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau’s *Facts for Features* series:

Black History Month (February)  
Super Bowl  
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)  
Women's History Month (March)  
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/  
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)  
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)  
Older Americans Month (May)  
Mother's Day  
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)  
Father's Day  
The Fourth of July (July 4)  
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)  
Back to School (August)

Labor Day  
Grandparents Day  
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)  
Unmarried and Single Americans Week  
Halloween (Oct. 31)  
American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month  
(November)  
Veterans Day (Nov. 11)  
Thanksgiving Day  
The Holiday Season (December)

**Editor's note:** The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines.

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