

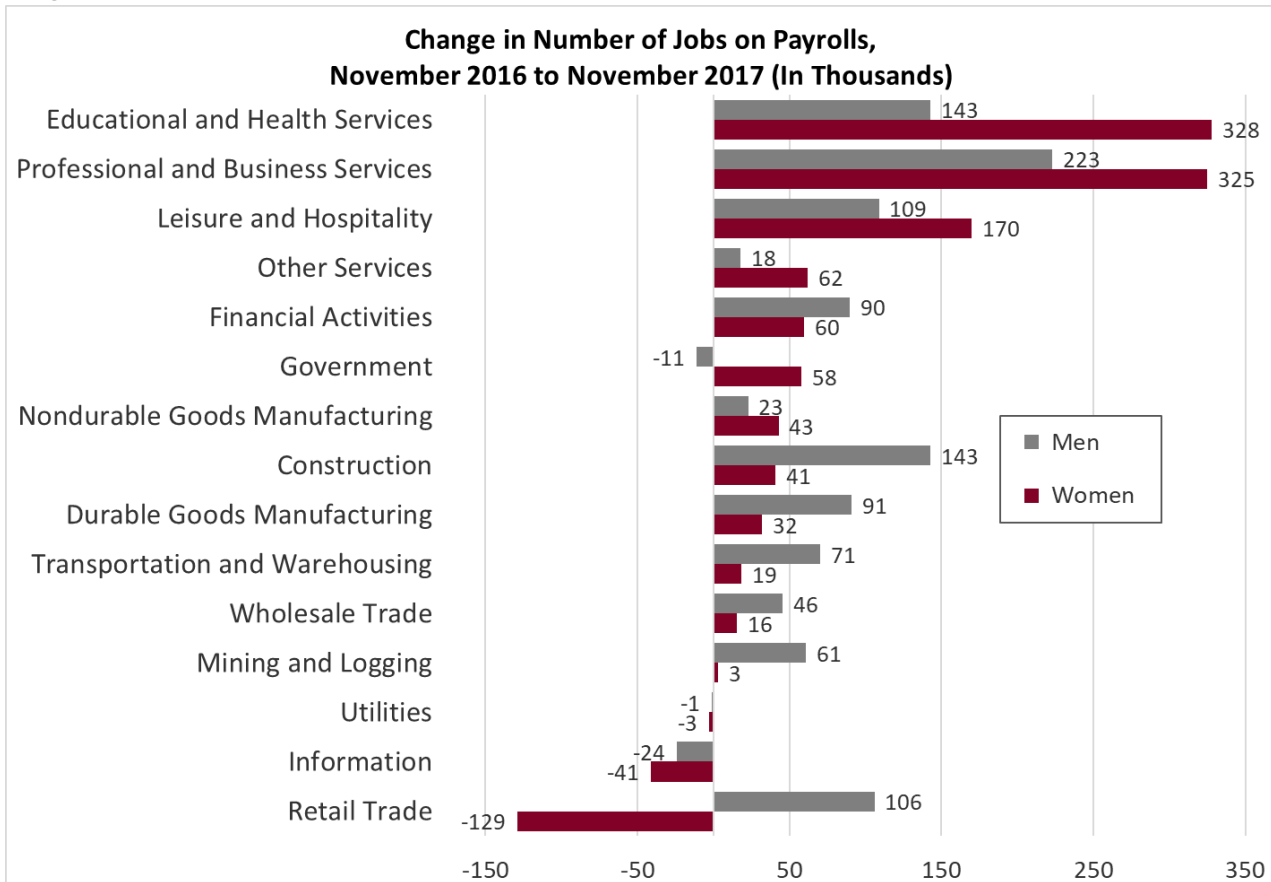
## Decline in Retail Jobs Felt Entirely by Women

*Men gained retail jobs over the last year, despite overall job loss in the industry*

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) analysis of the December employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) establishment survey finds that, over the last year (November 2016 - November 2017), women gained fewer jobs than men: women gained 985,000, while men gained 1,086,000 jobs.

Among industries, Retail Trade suffered the greatest job losses over the last year. Analyzing the industry job gains by gender, IWPR found that women shouldered the entirety of the job losses in Retail Trade, while men actually gained jobs in the industry (Figure 1). Women's share of all retail trade jobs fell from 50.4 to 49.6 percent.

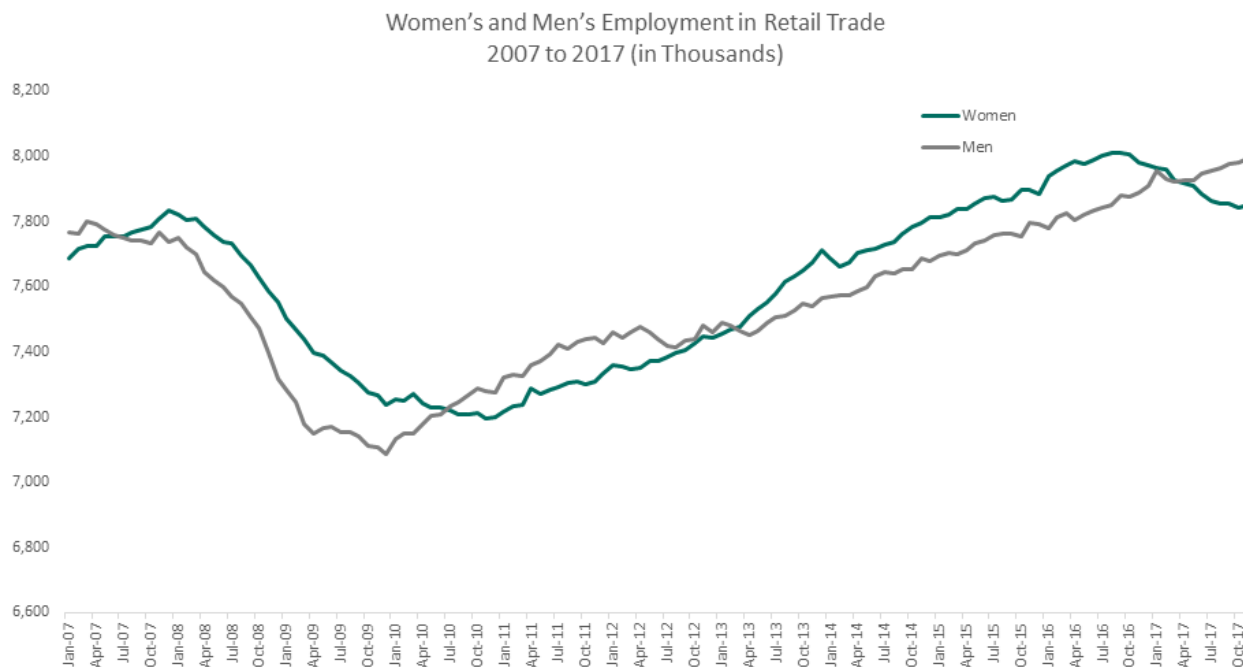
Figure 1. Women Lost Jobs in Retail since November 2016, While Men Gained



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (December 8, 2017)

Figure 2 shows the trends in men’s and women’s retail job growth since January 2007, reflecting the trends during and after the Great Recession. Men’s retail declines preceded women’s before the Great Recession, while men’s job gains preceded women’s during the recovery. Women’s recent job losses in retail show a reverse trend, with women seeing sustained losses over the last year—the longest stretch of job losses in the industry for women or men since the Great Recession—while men have continued to gain retail jobs.

**Figure 2. Women’s Retail Jobs on the Decline, while Men’s Still on the Rise**



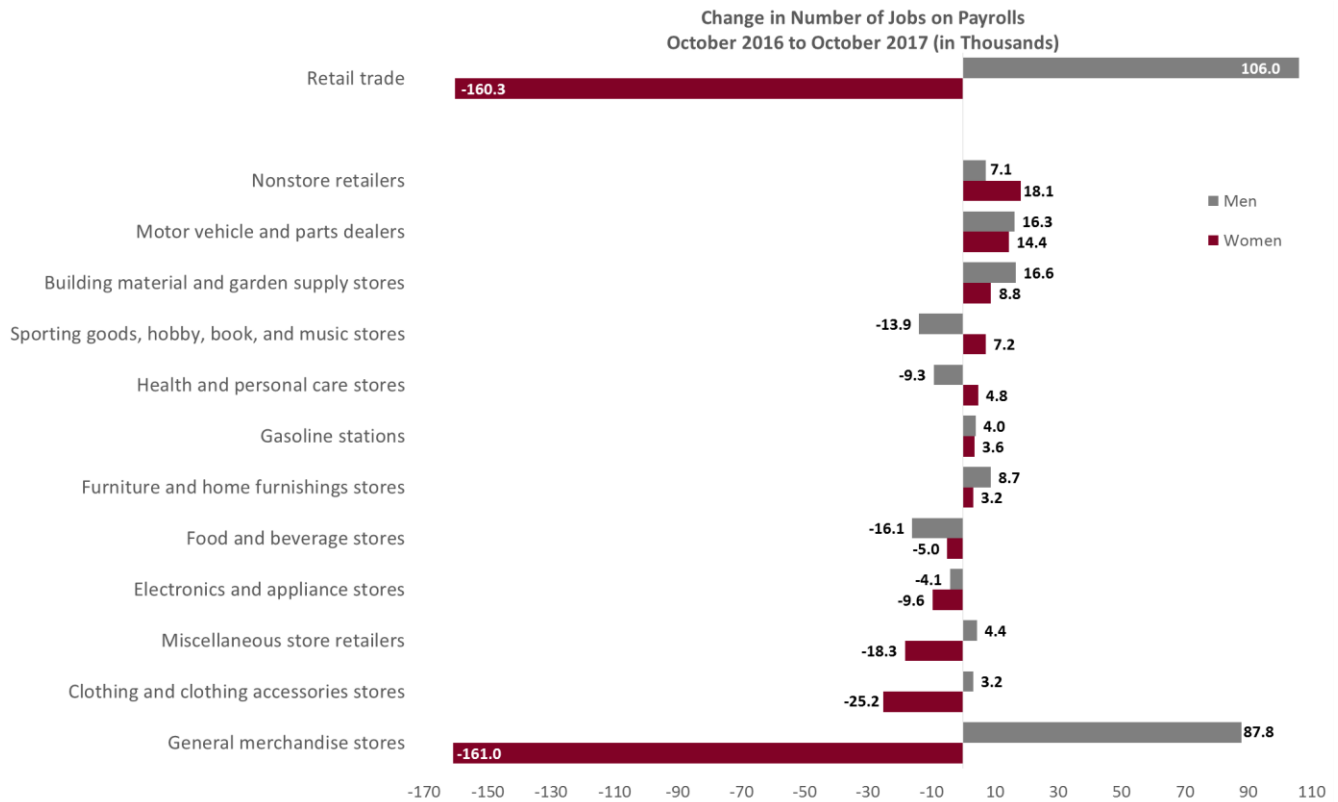
Note: To illustrate changes more clearly, Y-axis does not start at zero.

Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (December 14, 2017)

The BLS December employment report provides industry detail by gender for October 2017. Retail Trade lost 54,300 jobs between October 2016 and October 2017, but the experiences between men and women in retail were starkly different: during this time period, women *lost* 160,300 jobs, while men *gained* 106,000 jobs. Figure 3 shows that almost all of the losses in retail came from women’s job loss in general merchandising stores, while men actually gained 87,800 jobs in general merchandising. In October 2017, women were 60.4 percent of General Merchandise Store workers, down from 64 percent in October 2016.

In other areas of Retail Trade, women saw losses in Clothing and Clothing Accessories stores, while men saw losses in Food and Beverage Stores and Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores. Both men and women saw gains in Nonstore Retailers, Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers, and Building Material and Garden Supply Stores.

Figure 3. Overall Retail Jobs Losses Felt Mainly by Women in General Merchandise Stores



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (December 8, 2017)

*This quick figure was prepared by Jennifer Clark, Emma Williams-Baron, and Heidi Hartmann, Ph.D., at the Institute for Women's Policy Research.*

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