



Women Employed

## Facts about Working Women

### Participation

- 68 million women work in the civilian labor force
- 47% of all workers are women
- 63% of all women work
- 54% of women work full-time
- 63% of white women work
- 65% of black women work
- 59% of Latinas work
- 61% of Asian/Pacific Islander women work
- 52% of white women, 56% of black women, 77% of Latinas, and 48% of Asian/Pacific Islander women earn less than \$30,000 a year

### Marital Status/Working Mothers

- 55% of working women are married, 25% are single and 20% are widowed, divorced or separated
- 62% of working women earn half or more of their family's income
- 73% of all mothers with children under 18 work
- 77% of all mothers with school age children (6-17) work
- 67% of women with children under the age of 6 work
- Women with 3 or more children under age 6 are 42% more likely to earn less than \$30,000
- 57% of women earning less than \$30,000 have children under 18

### Education and Earnings

- 76% of women with a high school education or less earn less than \$30,000
- Female high school graduates earn 34% less than male high school graduates
- 38% of women with college degrees or higher earn less than \$30,000
- Women college graduates earn 33% less than male college graduates
- Women with doctoral degrees earn 28% less than males with doctoral degrees

| Women's Educational Attainment                         | Median Annual Income |
|--|----------------------|
| Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade                        | \$12,217             |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade non-graduate | \$14,302             |
| High school graduate (including GED)                   | \$20,254             |
| Associate degree                                       | \$26,474             |
| Bachelor's degree                                      | \$34,232             |
| Master's degree  | \$42,301             |
| Doctorate Degree                                       | \$55,674             |

## Occupational Distribution

Women remain clustered in jobs that are traditionally dominated by women and pay low wages:

| Occupations   | % Women | % Lower-income <sup>1</sup> |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|
| Nursing/Home Health Aides, Occupational/Physical Therapy Aides  | 90%     | 74%                         |
| Paralegals, Legal Assistants, Legal Support Workers             | 86%     | 26%                         |
| Health Diagnosing/Treating, Clinical Laboratory Technicians     | 81%     | 43%                         |
| K – 12 Grade Teachers   | 75%     | 27%                         |
| Office and Administrative Support Occupations                   | 75%     | 55%                         |
| Food Preparation/Server Workers, Bartenders, Counter Attendants | 61%     | 89%                         |
| Community and Social Services                                   | 58%     | 33%                         |
| Postsecondary Teachers  | 40%     | 18%                         |
| Chiropractors, Dentists, Dieticians, Optometrists, Pharmacists  | 30%     | 5%                          |
| Lawyers, Judges, and Other Judicial Workers                     | 29%     | 3%                          |
| Computer Scientists, Systems Analysts, Computer Programmers     | 26%     | 11%                         |

## Income<sup>2</sup>

- Women earn 76.6% of what men earn; \$30,203 a year, compared to men's \$39,429
- 42% of working women earn less than \$25,000 a year, compared to 30% of men
- 53% of working women earn less than \$30,000 a year, compared to 38% of men

## Income Distribution by Sex

| <u>Annual income</u> | <u>Women</u> | <u>Men</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| Under \$15,000 ..... | 11.0%        | 6.9%       |
| 15,000-35,000 .....  | 47.2         | 33.8       |
| Over \$35,000 .....  | 41.8         | 59.2       |

## Distribution of Lower-Income Women by Race/Ethnicity

|                               | <u>% Earning less than \$30,000</u> | <u>% of Female workforce</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| White .....                   | 77.7%                               | 80.0%                        |
| Black .....                   | 16.9                                | 14.6                         |
| Hispanic .....                | 15.7                                | 11.5                         |
| Asian / Pacific Islander..... | 4.4                                 | 4.6                          |

(Full-time labor force)

|  |
|--|
| <p>Statistics are compiled by the Women Employed Institute from the latest available government statistics or research based on government statistics (as of April 2004, calculations are based on 2002 income data)</p> |
|--|

<sup>1</sup> Lower-income is defined as workers who earn less than \$30,000 a year.

<sup>2</sup> Annual earnings of year-round, full-time workers, 15 years and older