



**Wider Opportunities for Women**

## **Women's Work in 2008**

In 2008, there were **67,876,000 women** working part-time or full-time in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Of the 504 occupational categories that the Department of Labor tracks:

- **One-third** of all working women (34.4%) were clustered into **13 occupations**.
  - Weekly median earnings in these occupations ranged from \$349 for cashiers to \$1,011 for registered nurses. The average weekly median wage for women for these 13 occupations was \$544.
- **One-half** of all working women (50.7%) were clustered into just **25 occupations**.
  - Weekly median earnings in these occupations ranged from \$349 for cashiers to \$1,011 for registered nurses. The average weekly median wage for women in these 25 occupations was \$573
- **Two-thirds** of all working women (66.5%) are clustered into **50 occupations**.<sup>2</sup>
  - Weekly median earnings in these occupations ranged from \$338 for food preparation workers to \$1,603 for chief executives. The average weekly median wage for women in these 50 occupations was \$681.

The average median weekly wage for men in these 50 occupations was \$856. For women, it was \$681.<sup>3</sup>

Women continue to make inroads in nontraditional career paths. Many jobs that were nontraditional for women in 1988 are no longer nontraditional in 2008. Some of these occupations are purchasing managers; chemists; physicians; lawyers; athletes; postal service mail carriers; bailiffs, correctional officers, and jailers; and butchers and other meat, poultry, and fish processing workers.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages, 2008

<sup>2</sup> Source: WOW Analysis of US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages, 2008

<sup>3</sup> Source: WOW Analysis of US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages, 2008

<sup>4</sup> Source: US Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, Nontraditional Occupations for Women in 2008+



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### **Top 50 Occupations Employing Women and their Median Weekly Earnings<sup>i</sup>**

	<b>Occupational Category</b>	<b>Total number employed (in thousands)</b>	<b>Percent women employed</b>	<b>Total number of women employed (in thousands)</b>	<b>Men's median weekly earnings*</b>	<b>Women's median weekly earnings*</b>
1	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	3,296	96.1	3,168	\$736	\$614
2	Registered Nurses	2,778	91.7	2,548	\$1,168	\$1,011
3	Elementary and Middle School Teachers	2,958	81.2	2,403	\$994	\$871
4	Cashiers	3,031	75.5	2,287	\$399	\$349
5	Retail Salespersons	3,416	52.2	1,783	\$623	\$440
6	Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides	1,889	88.7	1,675	\$485	\$424
7	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	3,471	43.3	1,505	\$781	\$556
8	Waiters and Waitresses	2,010	73.2	1,471	\$436	\$367
9	Receptionists and Information Clerks	1,413	93.6	1,323	\$537	\$502
10	Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerks	1,434	91.5	1,311	\$645	\$603
11	Customer Service Representatives	1,908	68.3	1,302	\$607	\$568
12	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,434	89.8	1,287	\$436	\$371
13	Child Care Workers	1,314	95.6	1,256	**	\$393
14	Managers, All Others	3,473	35.8	1,244	\$1,359	\$1,010
15	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office and Administrative Support Workers	1,641	71.2	1,169	\$848	\$688



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16	Accountants and Auditors	1,762	61.1	1,077	\$1,178	\$908
17	Office Clerks, General	1,176	84.4	993	\$602	\$582
18	Teacher Assistants	1,020	91.7	936	\$517	\$413
19	Cooks	1,997	40.1	801	\$404	\$363
20	Personal and Home Care Aides	871	85.4	744	\$475	\$404
21	Medical Assistants and Other Healthcare Support Occupations	831	88.8	738	\$529	\$502
22	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	773	90.6	700	**	\$489
23	Janitors and Building Cleaners	2,125	32.2	684	\$493	\$397
24	Secondary School Teachers	1,210	56	677	\$995	\$920
25	Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers	685	97.6	668	***	\$589
26	Financial Managers	1,168	54.8	640	\$1,457	\$945
27	Social Workers	729	79.4	579	\$812	\$779
28	Human Resources, Training, and Labor Relations Specialists	803	70.7	568	\$1,158	\$850
29	Postsecondary Teachers	1,218	46.1	562	\$1,245	\$1,056
30	Education Administrators	829	65.1	540	\$1,398	\$1,000
31	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	566	93.3	529	**	\$679
32	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	1,481	35.4	524	\$470	\$466
33	Real Estate Brokers and Sales Agents	962	54.4	523	\$952	\$682
34	Other Teachers and Instructors	751	66.9	502	\$953	\$812
35	Designers	834	57.5	480	\$899	\$744
36	Billing and Posting Clerks and Machine Operators	516	90.9	469	**	\$575
37	Food Service Managers	1,039	44.8	466	\$739	\$628



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38	Counselors	674	68	459	\$787	\$787
39	Food Preparation Workers	724	60.7	439	\$368	\$338
40	Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	558	77.3	431	\$729	\$636
41	Tellers	466	84.8	395	\$471	\$468
42	Medical and Health Service Managers	561	69.4	389	\$1,504	\$1,066
43	Marketing and Sales Managers	922	42	388	\$1,601	\$1,024
44	Chief Executives	1,655	23.4	387	\$1,999	\$1,603
45	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	1,050	35	367	\$581	\$466
46	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	635	57.8	367	\$599	\$439
47	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	1,343	27.3	367	\$1,064	\$846
48	Lawyers	1,014	34.4	349	\$1,875	\$1,509
49	Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioner Support Technicians	447	76.7	343	\$677	\$564
50	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Non-Retail Sales Workers	1,287	26.1	336	\$947	\$765

\* These wages reflect only full-time workers

\*\* The Department of Labor does not collect data on populations of less than 50,000 people. These jobs have less than 50,000 workers of the indicated gender.

<sup>i</sup> Source: The Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages 2008