Highlights of Women's Earnings
Region I: Boston

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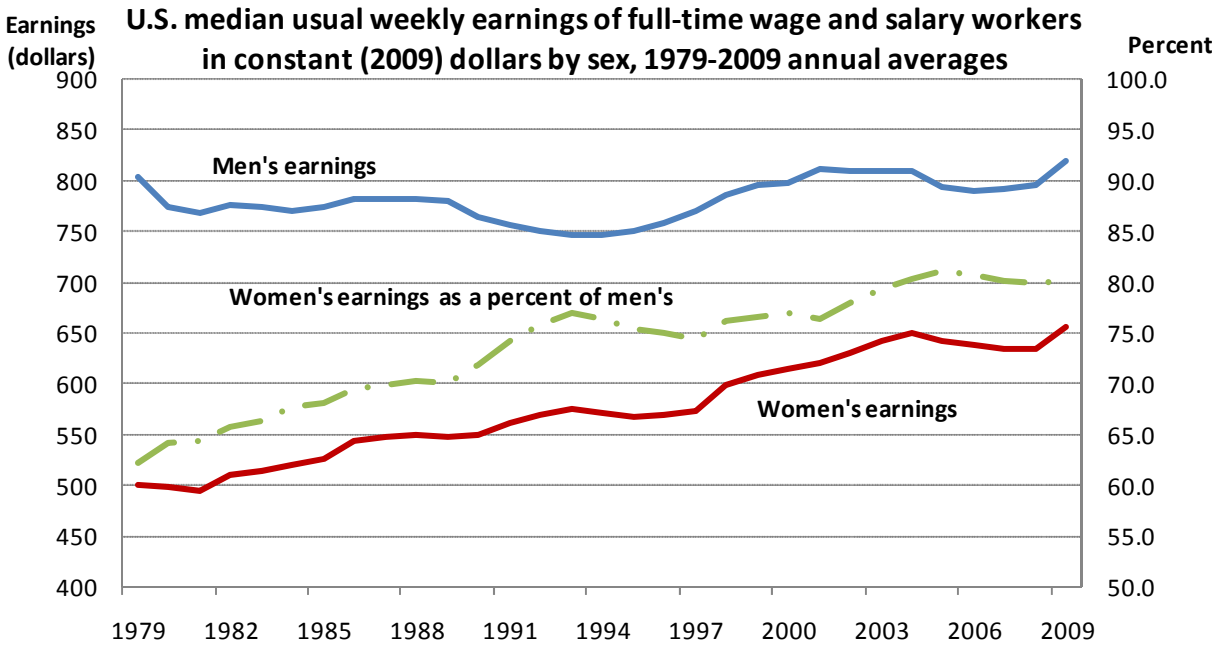
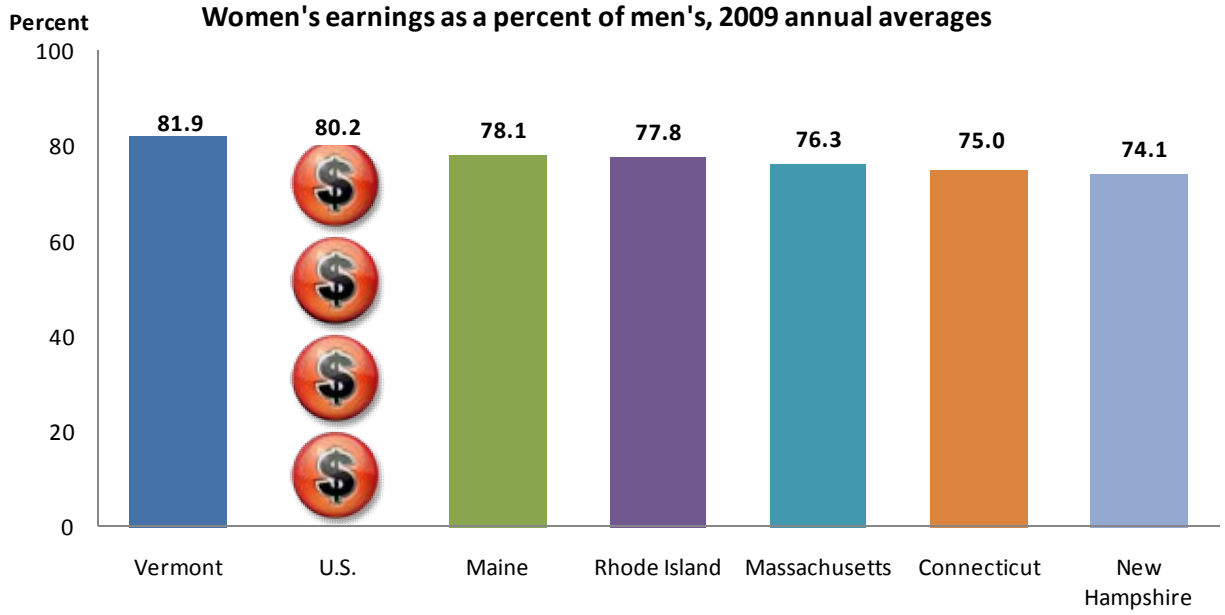
In 2009, women who were full-time wage and salary workers had median weekly earnings of $657, or about 80% of the $819 median for their male counterparts. In 1979, the first year comparable earnings data were available, women earned about 62% as much as men. After a gradual rise in the 1980s and early 1990s, the women's-to-men's earnings ratio peaked at 81% in 2005 and 2006.



Source: Current Population Survey

The ratio of female-to-male earnings varied by place of residence, ranging from 74 percent in New Hampshire to 82 percent in Vermont.



Source: Current Population Survey

- Earnings gaps between women and men were widest for Whites and for Asians. White women earned 79% as much as their male counterparts in 2009, while Asian women earned 82% as much.
- Among both women and men aged 25 and older, the weekly earnings of those without a high school diploma were less than half of those with a college degree in 2009.
- In the age groupings of those 35 years and older, women had earnings that were roughly three-fourths as much as their male counterparts. Among younger workers, the earnings differences were not as great.
- Median weekly earnings for married women and men were higher than those for their unmarried counterparts. Women who had never married had the highest women's-to-men's earnings ratio at 94.9.

U.S. median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, 2009 annual averages

	Women	Men	Women's earnings as percent of men's
Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity			
White	$669	$845	79.2
Black or African American	582	621	93.7
Asian	779	952	81.8
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	509	569	89.5
Educational Attainment			
Less than a high school diploma	$382	$500	76.4
High school, no college	542	716	75.7
Some college or associate's degree	630	835	75.4
Bachelor's degree and higher	970	1327	73.1
Age			
16 to 24 years	$424	$458	92.6
25 to 34 years	634	715	88.7
35 to 44 years	709	916	77.4
45 to 54 years	712	967	73.6
55 to 64 years	727	965	75.3
65 years and older	602	791	76.1
Marital Status			
Never married	$577	$608	94.9
Married, spouse present	708	936	75.6
Divorced	680	805	84.5
Separated	561	649	86.4
Widowed	629	791	79.5

Source: Current Population Survey

Readers should note that the comparisons of earnings in this report are on a broad level and do not control for many factors that can be significant in explaining earnings differences. The differences among the States reflect, in part, variation in the occupations and industries found in each State and in the age composition of each State's labor force. The sampling error for the State estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national estimates; thus, comparisons of State estimates should be made with caution. Additional information is available in the *Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2009* at: www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2009.pdf.