Women earn less than men. Women who worked full-time, year-round in 2014 earned on average, of men’s median annual earnings 79%.

Over the years, the wage gap has gotten smaller. But in the past decade or so, progress has stalled.

Many factors contribute to the gender wage gap, and women’s achievements in certain areas may have helped reduce it. For example...

- Higher educational attainment...
- ...and greater labor force participation
- ...and women’s unpaid work

In spite of these gains, the wage gap persists due to a number of other factors, including...

- Gender segregation across occupations...
- ...and women’s unpaid work

This is not an exhaustive list, and some causes for the wage gap remain unexplained by existing research. For example, gender discrimination may be responsible for some portion of the unexplained wage gap. However, these are some of the major factors that have been identified to explain the gender wage gap.

To ensure the health of our economy and the economic security of our nation’s families, we must do more to eliminate the gender wage gap.

Sources:
†Estimates for 2013 onward reflect redesigned income questions.
¹U.S. Census Bureau, 1965-2015 Annual Social and Economic Supplements
* The gender wage gap is bigger for black and Hispanic women compared to white, non-Hispanic men.