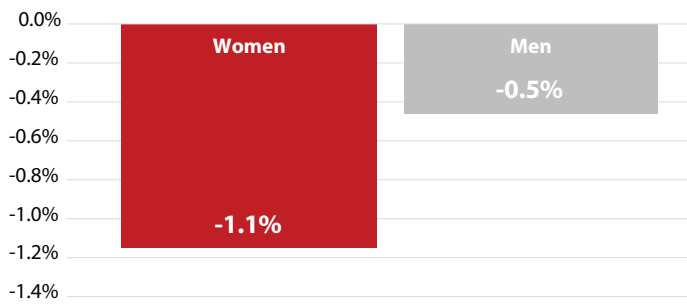


COVID-19 Impacts by Gender

The COVID-19 public health recession created an economic shock that reverberated across industries, occupations, and genders. While the economic accounting is incomplete, initial data yield compelling insights about the pandemic’s impact on men and women in both the Utah and U.S. economies.

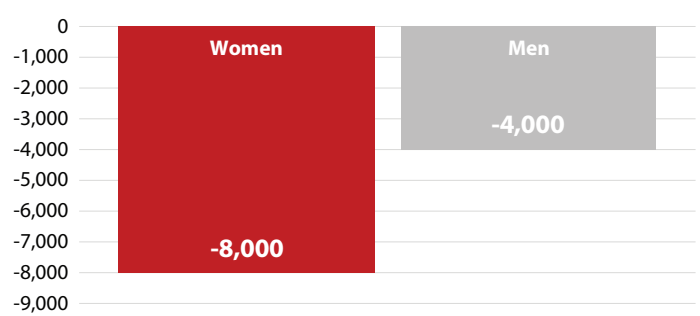
1 Jobs held by women in Utah declined at more than twice the rate of men from 2019 to 2020.

Year-Over Percentage Change in Utah Employment, 2019–2020



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Year-Over Numeric Change in Utah Employment, 2019–2020

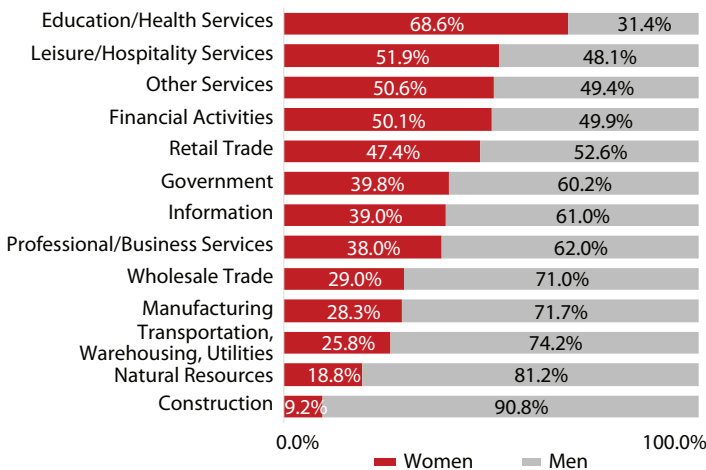


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

2 A likely explanation for this decline is the significant impact of the recession on occupations held predominantly by women, especially in health, education, and leisure and hospitality.

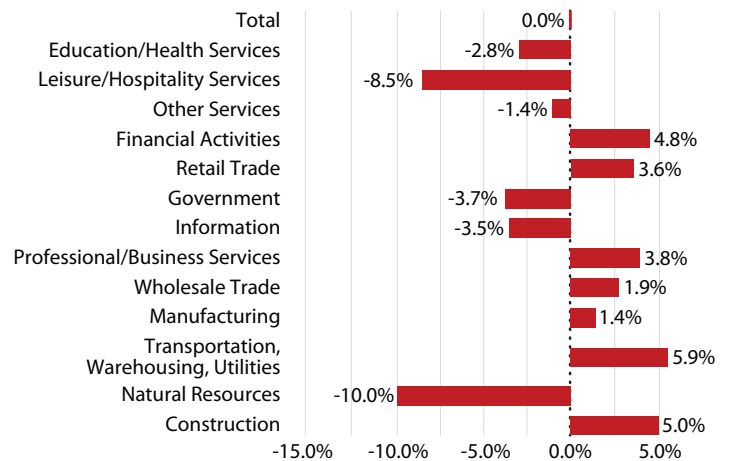
The rapid recovery in Utah’s construction sector, which is dominated by men, also explains why men’s employment levels in Utah fared comparatively better during the pandemic recession.

Utah Women Share of Employment by Industry, 2015–2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey five-year average

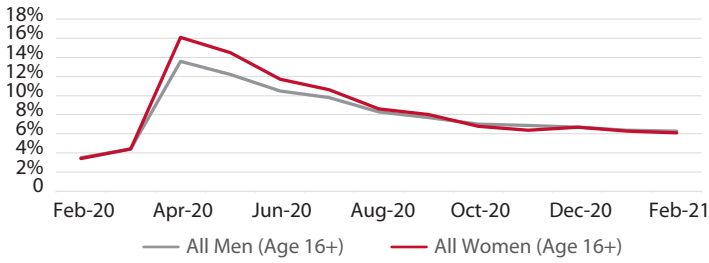
Utah Job Change by Industry, Feb. 2020–Feb. 2021



Note: Not seasonally adjusted
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - Current Employment Statistics (CES)

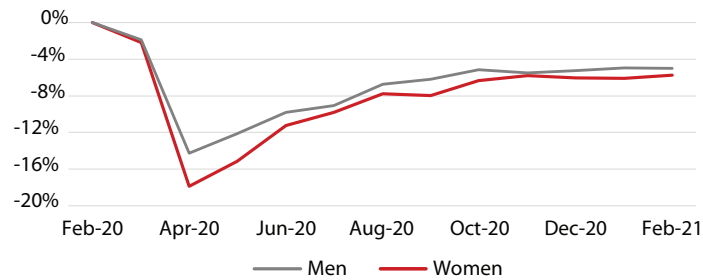
3 The negative female job impact appears to have been greatest in the initial months of the pandemic and has evened out between men and women in recent months.

U.S. Unemployment Rate by Gender, Feb. 2020–Feb. 2021



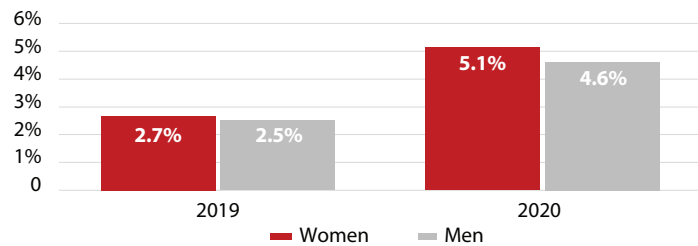
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Change in U.S. Employment by Gender Compared to Feb. 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

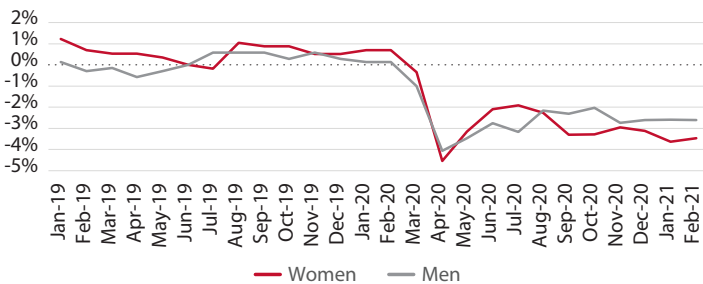
Utah Annual Unemployment Rate by Gender, 2019–2020



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

4 An additional interpretation is that women have dropped out of the labor force at higher rates than men during most of the pandemic, likely to care for older adults and children, including online schooling needs.

Year-Over Percent Change in U.S. Labor Force Participation

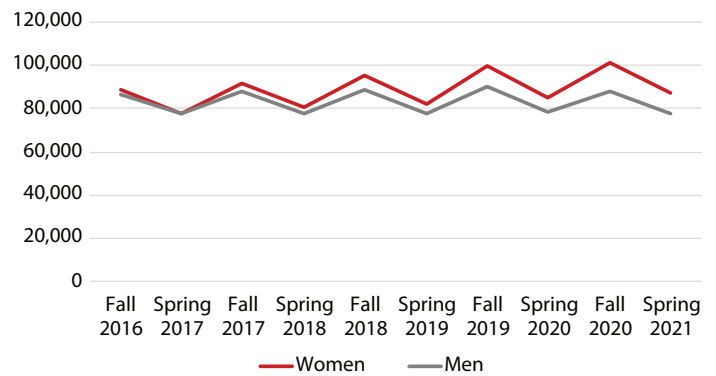


Note: Data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey show that the share of mothers, with school age children, actively working decreased more than fathers during the pandemic.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

5 Utah women continue to enroll at institutions of higher learning at rates higher than men. This spread in enrollment has been increasing over time.

USHE Enrollment, Fall 2016–Spring 2021

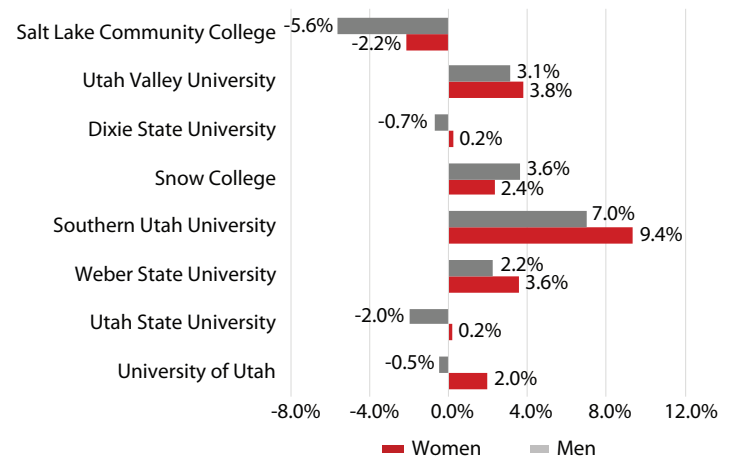


Note: Includes Dixie State University, Salt Lake Community College, Southern Utah University, Snow College, University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, and Weber State University.

Source: Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)

6 Utah community college enrollment stands out among institutions of higher learning with enrollment losses, particularly among men. Overall, female enrollment growth continues to outpace male enrollment.

Enrollment Change, Fall 2019–Fall 2020



Source: Utah System of Higher Education (USHE)