

Mapping New England

Male versus Female Unemployment Rate, 2006-2008, by County

Men have been disproportionately affected by the current economic downturn. Of the 63 counties in New England for which data are available, 47 showed higher unemployment rates among men than among women. In Orleans County, Vermont, the county with the largest gender gap in the region, the male unemployment rate was more than twice the female rate. In all six Massachusetts counties, men experienced higher unemployment rates than women.

The most recent data on unemployment rates by gender at the county level is from 2008. However, national-level reports show that the unemployment-rate gap between men and women has widened rapidly since mid-2008. As of July 2010, the unemployment rate for men was 10.4 percent versus 8.5 percent for women. August 2009 marked the largest jobless-rate gender gap (2.7 percentage points) since the data were first tracked in 1948. The main cause of these differences is that job losses have been concentrated in industries with a high percentage of men in the labor force (construction, manufacturing, and finance).

Map: Ana Patricia Muñoz
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Source: 2006-2008 American Community Survey,
U.S. Census Bureau

