

Women in the workplace

Week 3: Women dominate several employment areas

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More women working now than during WWII

Women comprised nearly half of all workers on U.S. payrolls for the first time in July 2009. The Shriver Report gauges the magnitude of this milestone by citing the fact that during World War II, when tens of thousands of women replaced men in the work force, women still comprised only about one-third of the work force.

The Shriver Report based its analysis on national data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Business. The U.S. Census Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program provides local data including the Madison Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Although the two sources are not directly comparable, both provide useful information.

According to the LED, women comprised 49.3 percent of all private-sector

employees in the Madison MSA (Columbia, Dane, and Iowa counties) in 2008. Three private-sector industries each employed more than 10,000 women in the MSA in 2008: food services and drinking places; insurance carriers; and ambulatory health care. Women workers dominated several health care categories, accounting for 84.2 percent of all hospital employees, 82.1 percent of all nursing home and residential care facility employees and 78.4 percent of all jobs in ambulatory health care (outpatient) services in the Madison MSA.

The following chart lists the top 10 private-sector industries employing women in the Madison MSA. Similar data for all Wisconsin MSAs and all 72 counties is available through the U.S. Census Industry Focus program at: <http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/>

Top 10 employers of women in Madison MSA, 2008

	Average quarterly employment	Percentage of female employees
All NAICS subsectors	132,164	49.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	11,552	72.2%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	10,313	54.2%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10,010	78.4%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	9,015	47.4%
Administrative and Support Services	6,849	53.7%
Hospitals	5,915	84.2%
Social Assistance	5,884	76.6%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	5,364	82.1%
Nonstore Retailers	5,011	70.2%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	4,061	57.8%

Source: Industry Focus, U.S. Census, 2008