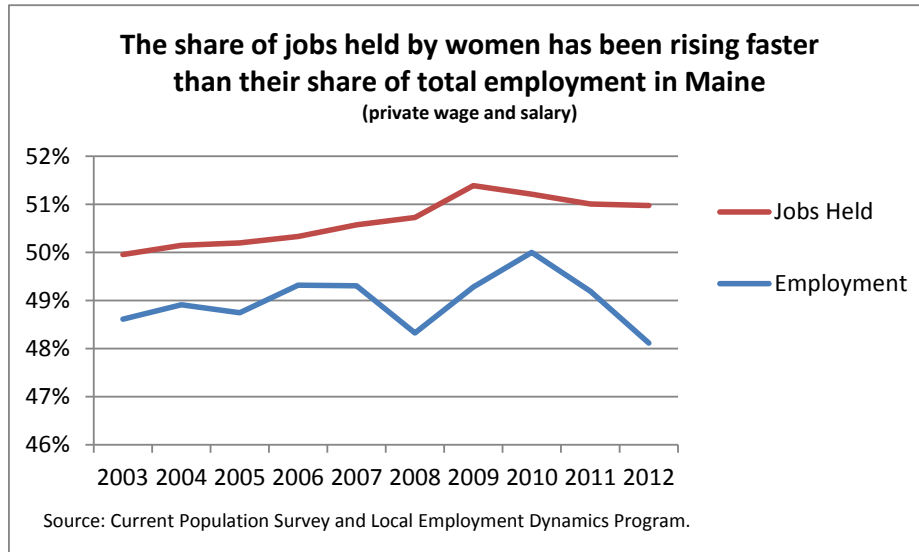


A Rising Share of Jobs are Held by Women

Women accounted for 50 percent of private wage and salary *employment* for the first time in 2010 in Maine, before dropping to 48 percent in 2012. Women's share of private *jobs held* first reached 50 percent back in 2002, rising to 51 percent in 2012.



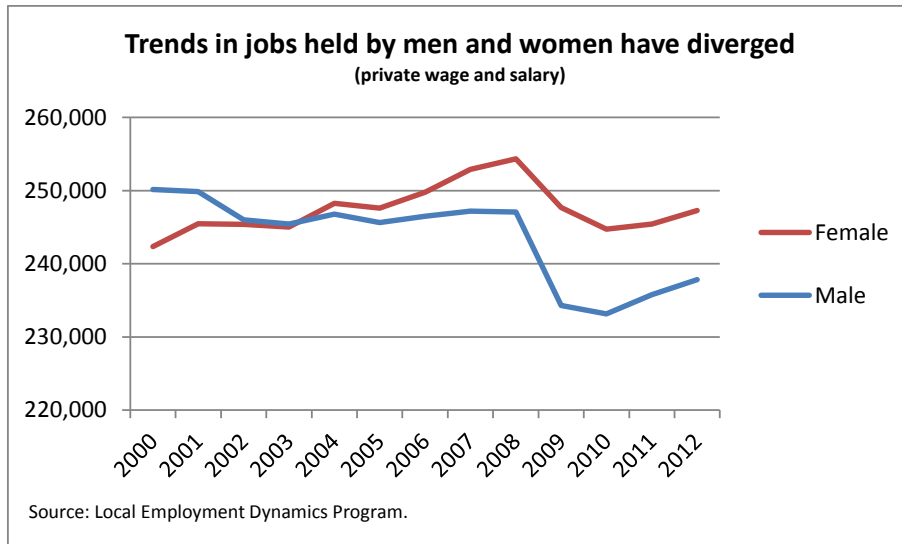
Why are these statistics so different? The reason is they count different things. An individual is counted as one employed person, regardless of how many jobs they have, though many people hold more than one job (whether full- or part-time). The difference seems to indicate that more women than men hold multiple jobs in Maine. Though a breakdown by gender is not available for states, multiple-job holding nationally has been higher for women than men for two decades.

Maine's total multiple-job holding rate, for men and women combined, has consistently been above the U.S. average. In 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated 8.1 percent of employed people in Maine held more than one job, well above the U.S. average of 4.9 percent.

Maine's Gender Gap

Private-sector jobs held by men exceeded those held by women by nearly 8,000 in 2000. Men lost more jobs during and shortly after the 2001 recession; as a result, by 2002 and 2003, the number of jobs held by men and women was roughly equal. From 2004 to 2008, women gained jobs while the number held by men remained relatively flat.

Men lost far more jobs during the 2008 and 2009 recession, increasing the gender gap to its widest point of 13,400 in 2010. The jobs recovery since that year closed the gap to 9,700 jobs in 2012, when women's share of jobs was about 51 percent and men's share was 49 percent.



Our next post in this series will examine whether industry trends explain the gender gap in jobs held.