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**Coverage**  
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**Theme**  
Social and Welfare



## More women in work, but half in part-time jobs

There has been a marked increase over the last three decades in the number of jobs in the UK filled by women. However, in 2008 almost half of women's jobs were part-time compared with around one in six of men's, according to a new report from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

An updated *Focus on Gender* published today provides an insight into the differences between the sexes in contemporary UK society. It shows that in March 2008, both men and women filled similar numbers of jobs, around 13.6 million each, compared with 1985 when men filled 2.0 million more jobs than women.

The historical employment rates for both men and women have generally been increasing since 1971, however, they still remain higher for men than for women. In the second quarter of 2008 the employment rate was 79 per cent for men and 70 per cent for women.

Also in the same document, the *Work and Family* summary shows that the presence of a dependent child has a substantial impact on employment. More than two-thirds of working-age women with dependent children (68 per cent) were in employment in the second quarter of 2008. Women without children were more likely to be in employment, at 73 per cent over the same period. Conversely, men with dependent children are more likely than those without to be in employment.

Women are more likely than men to work part-time, particularly if they have dependent children. Thirty eight per cent of women with dependent children worked part-time compared with only 4 per cent of men with dependent children.

Other updated summaries also show some marked differences between men and women. Some of the main summary findings from this new edition include:

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- Women outnumber men in the UK population. In 2007 there were almost three times as many women as men aged 90 or over.
- Women can expect to live longer than men in the UK. In 2006 circulatory diseases were the most common cause of death for men, while cancer was the most common cause for women.
- Four-fifths of offenders in England and Wales were male. Men are more at risk of violent crime than women, but women are more likely than men to worry about it.
- In 2006, more men than women were home owners and women were more likely to rent their homes from the social sector. There was little distinction between sexes for private renting.
- In Great Britain men travel further than women. Men made more trips for business or commuting than women, while women made more shopping trips than men.

The updated version of *Focus on Gender* is available on the ONS website at: [www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/gender](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/gender)

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the Media Relations Office.
2. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2008.