

Women's Contributions to the Economy

(Data sourced in April 2017)

- Women account for 47 percent of all workers in the United States. That figure is expected to rise to 51 percent by 2018. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor)
- Women in America make up 94 percent of all child care workers, 91 percent of registered nurses, 60 percent of accountants, and one-third of all doctors. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
- Women account for 85 percent of OBGYNs and 75 percent of pediatricians. (Source: American Medical Association)
- More than three-fourths of public school teachers are women. (Source: National Center for Education Statistics)
- Women now represent some 55 percent of undergraduate students at four-year universities in the United States. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)
- Women make up just 15 percent of corporate executives. (Source: Catalyst)
- Women account for 4 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs. (Source: Fortune)
- A woman earns just 79 cents for every dollar earned by a man. For black women, that figure is 65 cents for every dollar earned by a white man. A Hispanic woman earns 69 cents on the dollar. (Source: American Association of University Women)
- The median income for a woman with full-time employment lags that of a man by almost \$11,000. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
- Women work more than two-thirds of the minimum wage jobs in this country. (Source: National Women's Law Center)
- Women's labor contributes \$7.6 trillion to the United States' Gross Domestic Product each year. If every woman took one day off simultaneously, it would cost the US GDP \$21 billion. California would bear the brunt of that hit, with a loss of \$2.76 billion—more than 13 percent of the national total. Texas would be second with a loss of \$1.85 billion, followed by New York with a loss of \$1.72 billion. Even Vermont, with a population of just over 626,000, would lose \$36.8 million from a single day without the contribution of women to the economy. (Source: Center for American Progress, based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis data)

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- Companies with at least one female board member outperformed comparable companies with all-male boards by 26 percent over a six-year period. Recent studies show companies in the top quartile for racial and ethnic and gender diversity are 35 percent more likely to have financial returns above national medians. (Source: McKinsey and Company)
- Forty percent of working mothers are the primary family breadwinner. (Source: White House Summit on Working Families)
- Women spend 150 percent more time on housework than men and spend twice the time on caregiving. Women also contribute 58 percent of volunteer hours; of the hours volunteered, men tend toward youth sports coaching and women toward charitable organizations. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor)
- The monetary value of women's unpaid work is \$10 trillion a year, or 13 percent of GDP. (Source: McKinsey and Company)
- Incorporating unpaid domestic work into the United States' GDP would have raised it by 26 percent in 2010. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)
- The increase of women in the workforce from 1970 to today accounts for about a quarter of our current GDP. (Source: McKinsey and Company)
- In 1995, the United States had a higher percentage of women of prime working age in the workforce (72.2 percent) than Germany (66.4 percent), Canada (69.4 percent), and Japan (63.2 percent). By 2015, the United States had dropped two percent, while Germany, Canada, and Japan—with more generous parental leave—all saw their percentages rise and surpass the United States (up to 79.2 percent, 77.5 percent, and 72.7 percent respectively). (Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)
- Senior women see higher rates of poverty than senior men. In 2014, the average social security benefit for women age 65 and older was \$13,150 per year. For men, the average was \$17,106 per year. Among elderly unmarried females receiving social security benefits in 2014, 46 percent relied on those benefits for at least 90 percent of their income. (Source: U.S. Social Security Administration)
- Among people 65 and older, more than twice as many women as men live in poverty. Poverty rates are particularly higher for black, Hispanic, and Native American women. (Source: National Women's Law Center)