

The Economic Impact of COVID-19 Has Disproportionately Harmed

# Working Women

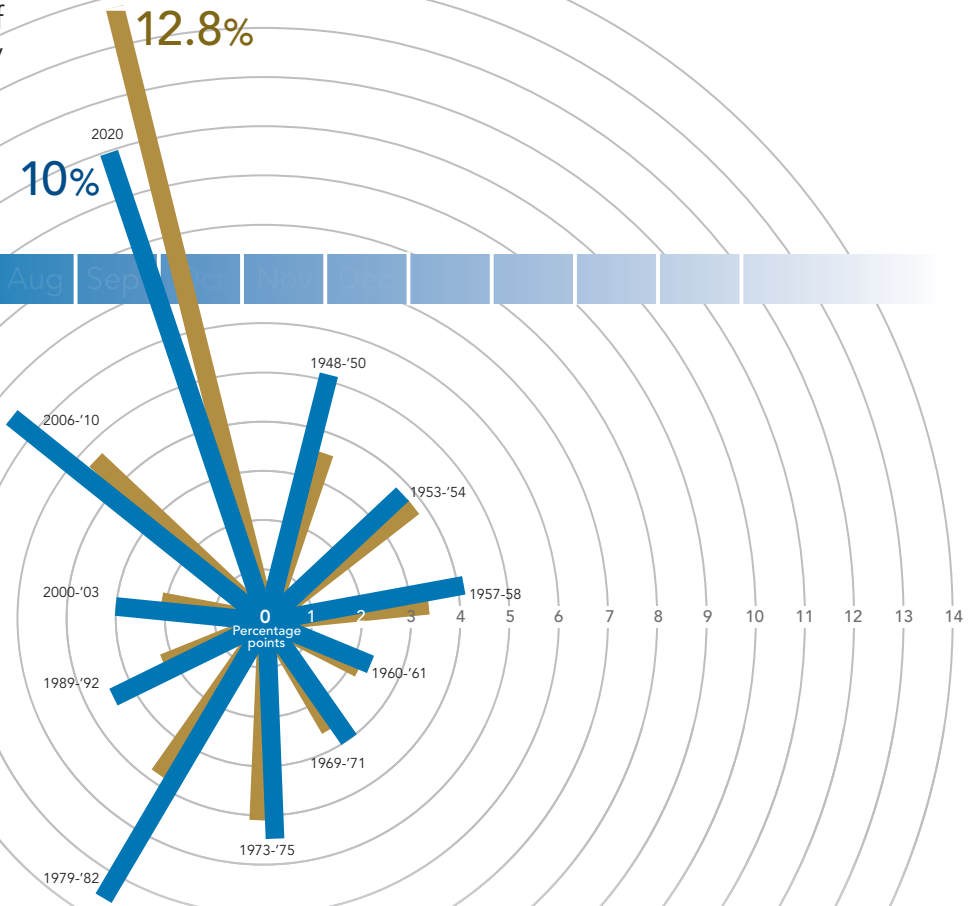
The COVID-19 pandemic has threatened long-running progress in women's integration and representation in all rungs of the US economy, with potentially lasting consequences for the strength and competitiveness of the American workforce.



**In April**, 2020, women's employment—in absolute numbers—fell to its lowest level since the 1990s.

The COVID-19 recession has featured the largest hit to women's employment rates relative to men since World War II.

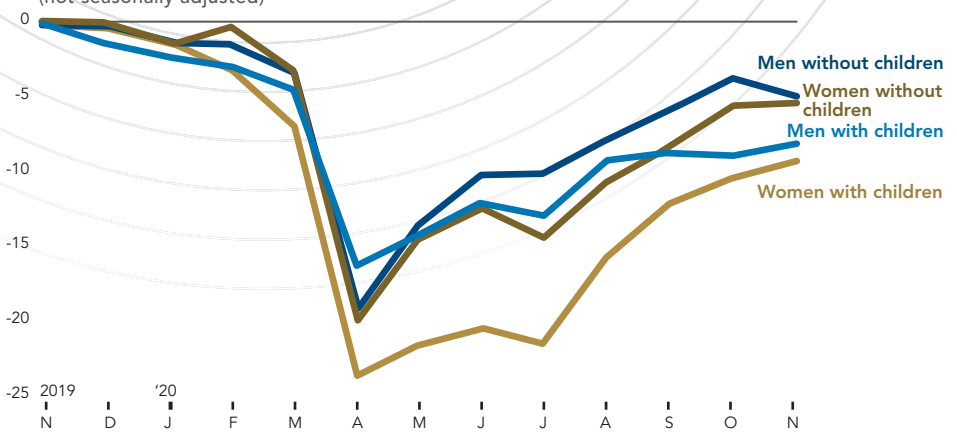
Percentage point increase in the unemployment rate, trough-to-peak, by gender (seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate)



Working mothers have particularly borne the burdens of disrupted or less reliable in-person child care and schooling arrangements during the pandemic.

The Conference Board estimates that the decline in female employment from January to November represented a loss of roughly **\$560 billion** in US GDP.

Net change in employment level since November 2019, by gender and parental status (not seasonally adjusted)



**COVID-19's Impact on Women in the Workplace: Avoiding a Major Setback** outlines how business leaders and policymakers can offset the impacts of COVID on working women and restart vital progress.

<https://www.ced.org/pdf/TCB-CED-COVID-19-Impact-on-Women.pdf>

