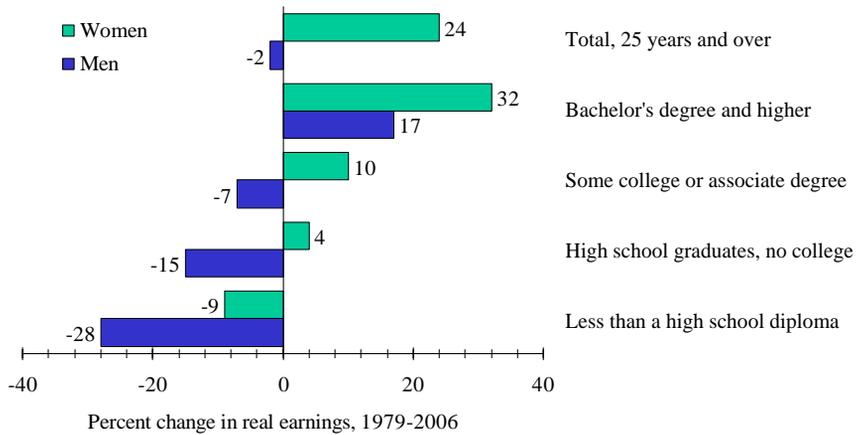


Chart 5-9. The change in real earnings since 1979 has been more favorable for women than for men at all levels of education



NOTE: Change in median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers 25 years and older, adjusted using the CPI-U-RS research series as of April 2007. In 2006, data were based on highest diploma or degree received; in 1979, data were based on years of school completed.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 5-9. The change in real earnings since 1979 has been more favorable for women than for men at all levels of education

- Overall, real earnings for women 25 years and over increased by nearly 25 percent from 1979 to 2006, while men’s real earnings were little changed.
- Women with at least a high school diploma experienced increases in real earnings. For men, only college graduates saw an increase; all other education groups experienced a decline in real earnings.
- While women fared better overall than men during this time period, in a sense they were playing “catch up” to men. The growth in women’s earnings reflects the impacts of a rise in the proportion of working women with a college education, an increase in women in higher-paying managerial and professional jobs, and a shift toward more year-round, full-time work among women.