



Three times more young women are doing low-paid jobs than 20 years ago

(<http://www.tuc.org.uk/economic-issues/labour-market/equality-issues/gender-equality/three-times-more-young-women-are-doing>)

The proportion of young women doing low-paid, low-skill jobs has trebled over the last 20 years, according to new TUC-commissioned research published today (Friday).

The study, carried out for the TUC by The Work Foundation, shows that between 1993 and 2011 the share of female 16-24 year-olds in employment doing low-paid work, such as office and hotel cleaning, has increased from seven per cent to 21 per cent. Over the same period the proportion of young men working in low-paid jobs also rose from around one in seven (14 per cent) to one in four (25 per cent).

The report – *The Gender Jobs Split* – also reveals how gender still plays a huge part in determining young people's careers.

Just one in a hundred young women worked in skilled trades in 2011, compared to one in five young men. And four times more young women (21 per cent) worked in personal service occupations like hairdressing, leisure and the travel industry in 2011 than young men (5 per cent).

The report also shows how despite being better qualified than their male peers, young women are still following employment routes that offer lower wage returns.

The Gender Jobs Split finds that:

- **More young people have become trapped in low-paid, low-skill jobs** The number of young people trapped in low-paid work has increased markedly over the past 20 years. The report blames the huge rise in low-skilled work on the collapse of middle-income jobs, such as administrative and plant and manufacturing jobs in recent decades.
- **Gender segregation is rife at the lower end of the youth jobs market.** In 1993 only three per cent of young women worked in skilled trades. However, by 2011 this had fallen to just one per cent, compared to 20 per cent of young men. The proportion of young men doing personal service jobs had almost halved.
- **There is a big gender split in apprenticeships.** Young women take a much narrower range of apprenticeships than young men. They continue to dominate in traditional areas such as customer service, retail, health and social care. The report says this has particular implications for young women as female-dominated sectors typically offer fewer progression opportunities and lower pay.
- **Young women are getting a lower wage return on their qualifications.** Despite being better qualified than young men, young women are seeing a lower wage premium for vocational qualifications. For women the wage premia for level 2 qualifications are eight per cent, compared to 12-14 per cent for men. The report says the most likely reason for this is the types of vocational qualifications young women take, with women particularly likely to enter relatively low-paid areas like social care.
- **Young women are more likely to be economically inactive because of caring responsibilities.** There is no sign of young men taking on greater caring responsibilities. In 2011, 14 per cent of young women were economically inactive as a result of looking after family and their home, compared to just one per cent of young men.

Commenting on the report TUC General Secretary **Frances O'Grady** said: "The youth labour market has become much a harsher place for young people over the past 20 years, especially for young women.

"While there has been a welcome rise in the number of females gaining qualifications, many still find themselves trapped in low-skill, low-wage jobs.

"This is because there are fewer good jobs out there and because young women are still being channelled down 'traditional' routes.

"Unless we create better training and employment opportunities for young people, as well as challenging gender roles from the outset, the situation will not improve. We need to invest in new industries to create decent jobs and provide better early years careers support."

Katy Jones from The Work Foundation said: "The gender gap starts early in working lives and is particularly striking in the lower half of the labour market. Young women tend to start work and remain in sectors with lower pay and fewer prospects.

"Unemployment for both young men and women remains at crisis levels. While it is higher for young men, young women are more likely to quit an active job search and move into inactivity from unemployment.

"Intermediaries have an important role to play in cutting across the gender divide by encouraging young people to consider a wider

range of 'non-traditional' occupations and apprenticeships"

The report calls for:

- Employers who win major public procurement contracts to provide more hiring and training opportunities for young men and women.
- Policies aimed at addressing gender segregation to be targeted at the bottom end of the youth labour market. This will involve schools promoting apprenticeships as an option for all and challenging traditional gender roles at an early stage.
- More support and understanding from employers and the government for women with caring responsibilities.
- The creation of specialist youth and employment services that will provide advice and support to young people in their first few years of employment, instead of just focusing on getting them a job.
- Better information about the opportunities and returns for from different qualifications and careers.

The findings of the report will be discussed at a TUC seminar in London (today). Chaired by TUC Head of Economic and Social Affairs Nicola Smith the seminar will feature a presentation of the findings by the report's authors Ian Brinkley and Katy Jones and expert responses from Rebecca Gill, Director of Policy, Campaigns and Communications at Platform 51 and Richard Exell, Senior Policy Officer at the TUC.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Proportion of 16-24 year-olds in each main occupation (per cent)

	1993		2001*		2011		% point change 1993- 2011	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Managers and senior officials	6	6	4	3	6	4	0	-2
Professional occupations	5	3	5	4	5	4	0	1
Associate professional and technical	7	7	10	10	10	10	3	3
Administrative and secretarial	13	31	8	21	6	13	-7	-18
Skilled trades occupations	23	3	21	1	20	1	-3	-2
Personal service occupations	9	19	2	15	5	21	-4	2
Sales and customer service occupations	11	19	15	25	17	24	6	5
Process, plant and machine operatives	12	5	9	2	6	1	-6	-4
Elementary occupations	14	7	26	18	25	21	11	14

Source: Labour Force Survey, average of four quarters in 1993, 200[1]

file:///T:/Media%20&%20Parliamentary%20Relations/Press%20Releases/2013/November/Work%20Foundation%20Report.doc#_ftn1
and 2011, weighted

As a result of rounding not all columns total 100.

Table 2 Median full-time gross weekly earnings by occupation

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Managers and senior officials	£796.9	£619.6
Professional occupations	£750.0	£679.3
Associate professional and technical	£593.1	£529.2
Administrative and secretarial	£412.4	£373.2
Skilled trades occupations	£469.1	£324.9
Personal service occupations	£364.2	£322.5
Sales and customer service occupations	£318.4	£293.3
Process, plant and machine operatives	£440.3	£316.4
Elementary occupations	£347.3	£274.7

Source: 2011 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

- The *Gender Jobs Split* is available at:

www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/The_Gender_Jobs_Split_Touchstone_Extra_2013_FINAL.PDF
(http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/The_Gender_Jobs_Split_Touchstone_Extra_2013_FINAL.PDF)

- For more details about the seminar and to book a free place please visit www.genderjobssplit.eventbrite.co.uk
(<http://www.genderjobssplit.eventbrite.co.uk/>)

- The TUC's campaign plan can be downloaded from www.tuc.org.uk/campaignplan (<http://www.tuc.org.uk/campaignplan>)

- All TUC press releases can be found at www.tuc.org.uk (<http://www.tuc.org.uk/>)

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