This document is made available electronically by the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library as part of an ongoing digital archiving project. http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.asp

OFFICE ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

Status Report

## EARNINGS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

## Earnings by Sex

Median annual earnings of U.S. full-time, year-round (FTYR) female workers age 15 years and over were lower than their male counterparts.

 The median annual earnings of women FTYR workers were \$9,575 lower than the median earnings of comparable male workers in 2004.

Median annual earnings of U.S. women and men who worked FTYR declined between 2003 and 2004.

 Median annual earnings declined by 1.0 percent for women and by 2.3 percent for men between 2003 and 2004. This was the second consecutive year that women FTYR workers experienced a decline in median annual earnings. Prior to 2003, women had not experienced a decline in median annual earnings since 1995 (the pattern for men was mixed over the same period).





## Earnings of Women by Educational Attainment

Earnings of U.S. women age 25 years and over increased as educational attainment increased.

 Women FTYR workers with professional degrees had the highest median annual earnings (\$75,036), followed by those with doctorate degrees (\$68,875) in 2004.



- Women FTYR workers with educational attainment of less than ninth grade had the lowest median annual earnings (\$17,023) in 2004.
- Women FTYR workers with high school diplomas or GEDs had median annual earnings of \$26,029 in 2004. Median
  annual earnings were nearly 30 percent higher (\$33,481) for comparable workers with associate degrees, sixty percent
  higher (\$41,681) for those with bachelor's degrees, and nearly double (\$51,316) for those with master's degrees.

Data compiled from *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004* and Current Population Survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Updated April 4, 2006

Full-time, Year-round Workers Age 15 Years and Over United States 2003 and 2004 \$41,761 \$40,798 **Jedian Annual Earnings** \$40,000 \$31.550 \$31,223 \$30,000 Women \$20,000 🗌 Men \$10,000 \$0 2004 2003 Note: 2003 earnings adjusted for inflation

Median Annual Earnings by Sex

Median earnings of U.S. FTYR women workers age 15 years and over varied by age.

- Women FTYR workers age 45 to 54 years had the highest median annual earnings (\$34,115) of all age groups in 2004.
- Women FTYR workers age 15 to 24 years had the lowest median income (\$20,217), followed by those 65 years and over (\$26,640) in 2004.