



Nontraditional Careers for Women: Higher Pay and Better Opportunities

Not more than a few decades ago, it would be surprising to see women working as truck drivers, physicians, engineers, pilots, computer scientists, technicians, and in a variety of other occupations. But that is changing as more women enter nontraditional occupations (careers defined by the US Department of Labor as being made up of less than 25 percent of women) in search of higher wages (nontraditional jobs pay wages that are 20 to 30 percent higher than traditionally female careers) and benefits, better promotion opportunities, and more challenging careers. Today, nearly 3.5 million women (or 5.5 percent of all working women) are employed in nontraditional careers. This percentage is expected to increase as more efforts are made to educate female students about the opportunities that are available in the sciences, trades, business, and other formerly male-dominated professions. This Minichart provides a variety of resources and statistics for female students who are interested in pursuing nontraditional careers.

Top Nontraditional Career Fields for Women, 2002

1. Managerial/professional
2. Technical/sales/administrative support
3. Service
4. Production/craft/repair
5. Operators/laborers

Source: US Department of Labor

Who Works in Nontraditional Jobs?

8 percent of employed African American women.

8 percent of employed White women.

10 percent of employed Hispanic American women.

Source: Wider Opportunities for Women

Top Paying Occupations for Women, 2004

1. Pharmacist (\$74,464)
2. Chief executive (\$68,120)
3. Lawyer (\$65,260)
4. Computer and information systems manager (\$63,856)
5. Computer software engineer (\$59,748)

Source: US Department of Labor

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ✓ **Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology**
www.anitaborg.org
- ✓ **Association for Computing Machinery-Women**
www.acm-w.org
- ✓ **Association for Women in Mathematics**
www.awm-math.org
- ✓ **Association for Women in Science**
www.awis.org
- ✓ **Catalyst**
www.catalystwomen.org
- ✓ **Military Woman**
www.militarywoman.org
- ✓ **Society of Women Engineers**
www.swe.org

- ✓ **Research on Gender in Science and Engineering Program**
www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5475&org=HRD&from=home
- ✓ **Tradeswomen, Inc.**
www.tradeswomen.org
- ✓ **Tradeswomen Now and Tomorrow**
www.tradeswomennow.org
- ✓ **US Department of Labor: Women's Bureau**
www.dol.gov/wb
- ✓ **Webgrrls International**
www.webgrrls.com
- ✓ **Wider Opportunities for Women**
www.wowonline.org

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