



# What a day without women would look like, in charts

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By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

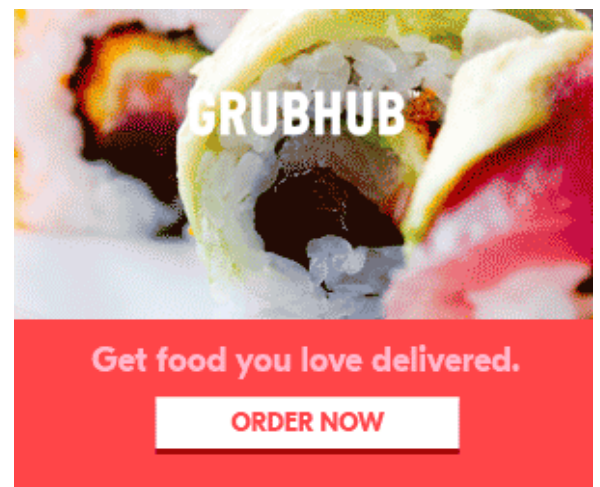
GLOBE STAFF MARCH 07, 2017

The organizers behind the Women’s March on Washington are [planning to hold a strike](#) on March 8 — International Women’s Day — to demonstrate what a day without women would look like.

The organizers are calling for women to take the day off from work, avoid shopping (with exceptions for small, women- and minority-owned businesses), and to wear red, according to a [website](#) about the event.

It’s unclear how many women will participate. The Women’s March, held on Jan. 21, was effective in rallying large numbers of people.

In any case, we wondered: What would a day without women actually look like? Below are some graphics that help show the impact that would have.



## 1. Nearly half the nation's workforce would be gone.

This chart below shows how there were more women of working age, those 16 or older, than men in the United States, as of 2015.

Women

51.7%

## Men



Even though there are more women of working age, men outnumber women in the labor force, as this chart shows.

— WOMEN IN CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE IN THOUSANDS — MEN IN THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE IN THOUSANDS

Created with Highcharts

4.0.3194819491950195119521953195419551956195719581959196019611962196319641965196619671968196919701971

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But, as this chart shows, the gap between the number of men and women in the labor force has shrunk significantly. Women account for about 73.5 million workers nationwide. And in a host of professions, women greatly outnumber men. To see that data, [click here](#).

— PERCENT OF CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE WHO ARE WOMEN — PERCENT OF CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE WHO ARE MEN

Created with Highcharts

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Despite representing about half the country's workforce, women's wages remain significantly lower than men's. Below is just one estimate, as of 2014, from the U.S. Department of Labor. Estimates for the gender wage gap range from 77 to 84 percent. Such figures do not account for differences in occupation, education, and experience between men and women, however. When those factors are accounted for, the gap shrinks to less than 10 cents. Controlling for these differences, college-educated women working full time one year out of college are paid 7 percent less than their male peers, according to the American Association of University Women. This unexplained 7 percent gap, which is there from the beginning of women's careers and puts them on an unequal footing from the start, is widely assumed to be the result of gender discrimination, and the gap grows as women move through the ranks. There are also differences in earnings based on race and ethnicity.

But, as this chart below shows, the wage gap between men and women has been narrowing.

Created with Highcharts

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100

## 2. A lot of businesses would be closed.

Women-owned businesses — defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as businesses in which women own 51 percent or more of the equity, interest, or stock of the business — account for a large, growing share of firms.

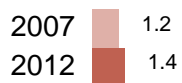
### Number of women-owned businesses (in millions)



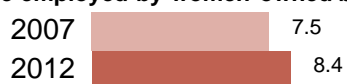
### % of all businesses that are women-owned



### Sales from women-owned businesses (in trillions)



### People employed by women-owned businesses (in millions)



### 3. Many businesses would see a drop in sales.

That's because women control the majority of household spending. As this chart shows, women controlled about 70 percent of household spending, on average, in developed countries like the United States, as of 2011. Their control added up to about \$12 trillion in spending globally.

WOMEN MEN

#### Control of household spending



SOURCES: U.S. Department of Labor, National Women's Business Council, U.S. Census Bureau, Boston Consulting Group, Harvard Business Review  
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