

Tennessee Economic Council on Women

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Economic Status of Women in Tennessee 2002: Report Highlights

Tennessee women continue to face serious obstacles in achieving equality with men and attaining a standing equal to the average for women in the United States. Their problems are evident in low rankings on all of the indicators calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, in Washington, D.C. Of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Tennessee ranks 46th in employment and earnings, 42nd in economic autonomy and 50th in political participation. We are 50th out of 51 in women's overall economic self sufficiency.

The problems facing Tennessee women demand significant attention from policymakers, women's advocates and researchers concerned with women's status. In the Institute for Women's Policy Research's evaluation of Tennessee women's status compared with goals set for women's ideal status, Tennessee earns the grades of D in economic autonomy, D in employment and earnings and F in political participation.

How IWPR Ranks Tennessee on Key Indicators – Year 2002

Indicators	National Rank 2002	Regional Rank* 2002	Overall Grade 2002
Composite Employment and Earnings Index	46	3	D
Women's Median Annual Earnings	41	3	
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings	21	2	
Women's Labor Force Participation	37	1	
Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations	45	3	
Composite Economic Autonomy Index	42	1	D
Percent with Health Insurance of Nonelderly Women	15	1	
Percent of Women with Four or More Years of College	44	1	
Women's Business Ownership	38	2	
Percent of Women above the Poverty Level	38	2	
Composite Political Participation Index	50	4	F
Women's Voter Registration	36	4	
Women's Voter Turnout	42	4	
Women in Elected Office Composite Index	47	2	
Women's Institutional Resources	31	3	

*The national rankings are of a possible 51, referring to the 50 states and the District of Columbia except for the Political Participation indicators, which do not include the District of Columbia. The regional rankings are of a maximum of four and refer to the states in the East South Central Region (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee).

Calculated by **the Institute of Women's Policy Research**. For more on this report, visit: www.iwpr.org.

WHAT'S PROMISING

- TN HAS MOVED FROM **50th** TO **38th** IN THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES
- THE TN WAGE GAP BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN'S EARNINGS HAS DECREASED FASTER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE SINCE 2000. TN MOVED FROM **32nd** TO **21st**.
- TN MOVED FROM **45th** TO **15th** IN THE PERCENTAGE OF NONELDERLY WOMEN WITH HEALTH INSURANCE

WHAT'S DISAPPOINTING

- TN HAS REMAINED **44th** IN THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WITH FOUR OR MORE YEARS OF COLLEGE
- TN RANKS **47th** IN THE WOMEN IN ELECTED OFFICE COMPOSITE INDEX
- TN RANKS **45th** IN THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS

How IWPR Ranked Tennessee on Key Indicators – Year 2000

Indicators	National Rank*	Regional Rank*	Grade
Composite Employment and Earnings Index	44	2	D-
Women's Median Annual Earnings, 1997	45	3	
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings, 1997	32	3	
Women's Labor Force Participation, 1998	37	1	
Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations, 1998	42	4	
Composite Economic Autonomy Index			
Composite Economic Autonomy Index	45	1	D
Percent of Women with Four or More Years of College, 1990	44	1	
Women's Business Ownership, 1992	50	3	
Percent of Women above the Poverty Level, 1997	37	1	
Composite Political Participation Index			
Composite Political Participation Index	46	2	D-
Women's Voter Registration, 1992-96	42	4	
Women's Voter Turnout, 1992-96	46	4	
Women in Elected Office Composite Index, 2000	43	1	
Women's Institutional Resources, 2000	21	2	

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