Chart 5-9. The change in real earnings since 1979 has been more favorable for women than for men at all levels of education

- Women with at least a high school diploma experienced increases in real earnings. For men, only college graduates saw an increase; all other education groups experienced a decline in real earnings.

- While women fared better than men over this time period, in a sense they were playing “catch up” to men. The growth in women’s earnings reflects in large part a rise in the proportion of working women with a college education, an increase in women in higher-paying managerial and professional jobs, and a shift toward more year-round, full-time work among women.