

FL Today 6/4/04

It pays to be a man in most jobs, Census says

Few fields pay women more

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — If a woman wants to make more money than a man, her job options are severely limited. She could clean up hazardous waste. Or install telecommunications lines.

But not much else.

The Census Bureau compiled statistics on hundreds of job categories from its 2000 head count and found just five where women typically earn at least as much as men.

Among hazardous-material-removal workers, women earn \$1.09 for every dollar earned by man. It's slightly more than a dollar for telecommunications-line installer and repairers. And it was exactly dollar-for-dollar in three categories: meeting and convention planners; dining room or cafeteria workers; and construction-trade helpers.

Each of these fields employs predominantly men, except for meeting planning.

Myra Strober, a Stanford University economics professor, said the report and other studies show, "If you are a young woman and want to go into an occupation to earn more money, you'll want to do that in an occupation dominated by men."

Indeed, in the field with the highest proportion of female workers — kindergarten and preschool teachers, nearly 98 percent women — men had median earnings of \$22,000, \$5,000 more than for women.

Among registered nurses, 91 percent were women, but their median income was \$42,000. Men made \$45,000, according to the Census Bureau's study. ■

LOWER EARNINGS. A woman earns less than 74 cents for every dollar earned by a man, an improvement from the early 1960s, **BUSINESS, 1C**