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Globalization: Economic Implications for Women in the United States

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This paper examines the effects of globalization on the economic position of women in the United States. Implications of globalization such as increased competition in the global marketplace which has led to “downsizing,” cost-cutting, and outsourcing, will be studied. Labor market consequences of all these measures on economic position of the workforce in general, and women in particular, will be examined. In addition, we will investigate whether labor market effects of globalization are distributed evenly by gender and by race/ethnicity. It has been suggested in the current body of research that national assimilation into the world economy considerably increases the prospects for women in the workforce. However, a large proportion of newly created jobs are low-paying service jobs that do not require a high level of skill, most of which are held by women. We will investigate whether globalization will eliminate obstacles to women's progress in terms of reducing labor market segregation and improving the types of jobs that are available to women. Policy implications of our findings will be discussed in conclusion.