

# Occupational choice and labor force behavior of women in Japan \*

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## Abstract

This study uses repeated cross-sectional data to investigate the changes in occupational choice of women over the 1982–2007 period. We find that the proportion of teachers declined among highly educated women. This change occurred mainly at cohort-level: that is, a lower proportion of women of recent cohorts chose teaching profession than their predecessors. Many women left regular employment around the time of marriage, but the leaving patterns differ significantly across occupations. We find that leaving full-time employment around the time of marriage is much less for public-sector employees than for private-sector employees. This suggests that occupational choice is closely related to individual woman's preference to continue their career after marriage.

Keywords: cohort, Equal Employment Opportunity Law, occupation, Japan.

JEL Classification: J12, J21

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