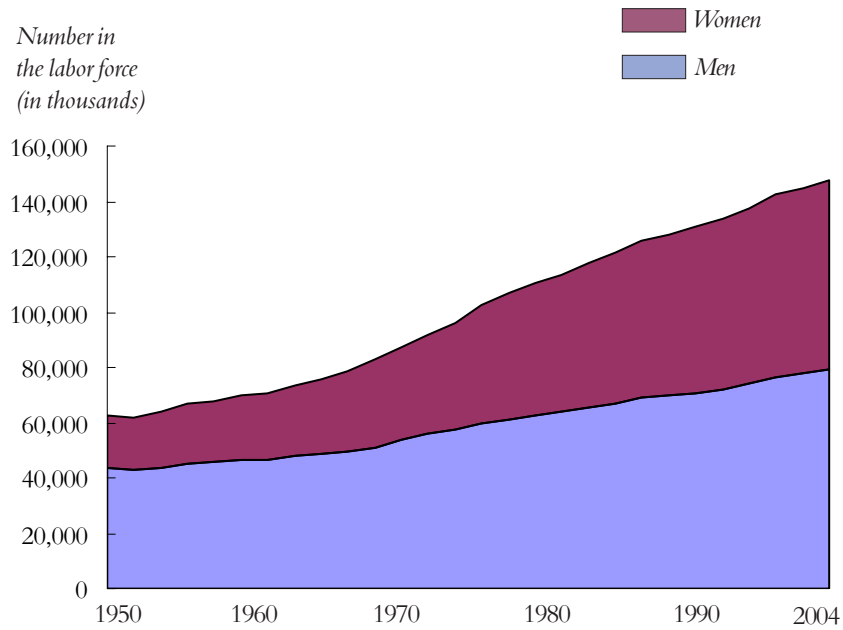


Figure 4-1 • Women in the labor force, 1950–2004

At the midpoint of the twentieth century, only one-third of the U.S. labor force was female; by the end of the century, that proportion seemed to be on its way to one-half. The number of women in the labor force increased by more than 350 percent over the period. However, although the number of women in the labor force continued to increase, as of 2004 their proportion of the labor force had yet to reach 47 percent (see Table 4-1).



Sources: Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages, January 2005, Tables 1 and 2.
Figure prepared by the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), 2005.