

# The future heaven of gender equality?

## Occupational preferences of Icelandic youths 1968-2003

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## Just you wait...

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*Gendered wage differences are decreasing at an ever increasing speed even if we have to admit that women are still underrepresented in managerial positions in our society. But that too will change in the next few years.*



***(Bjarni Ármannson, director of Íslandsbanki,  
in a newspaper interview in February 2004)***

## But for how long?

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*I am tired of listening to people telling me that gender equality has already been achieved and that there is no need to struggle. It is 2004 and nothing has changed and the numbers stay the same. ... We have to get rid of those middle-aged, narrow-minded male chauvinists and prevent them from being constantly reproduced.*

***(Kristín Tómasdóttir, student and a young feminist in a newspaper interview in Oktber 2004)***

# Are we there yet, but without knowing it?

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- ❑ Do the future generations already have ideas which will later evolve into a heaven of gender equality?  
*Or...*
- ❑ Do we have to teach the old dogs to sit?  
*Or...*
- ❑ Do we have to shoot the bastards?

# A little sociological archeology

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Children and television in Iceland, a long term research project initiated in 1968 by Þorbjörn Broddason.

Surveys carried out

1968

1979

1985

1991

1997

2003

Children aged 10-15 years  
in Reykjavik, Akureyri and  
Vestmannaeyjar

# Some basic geography

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# The sample

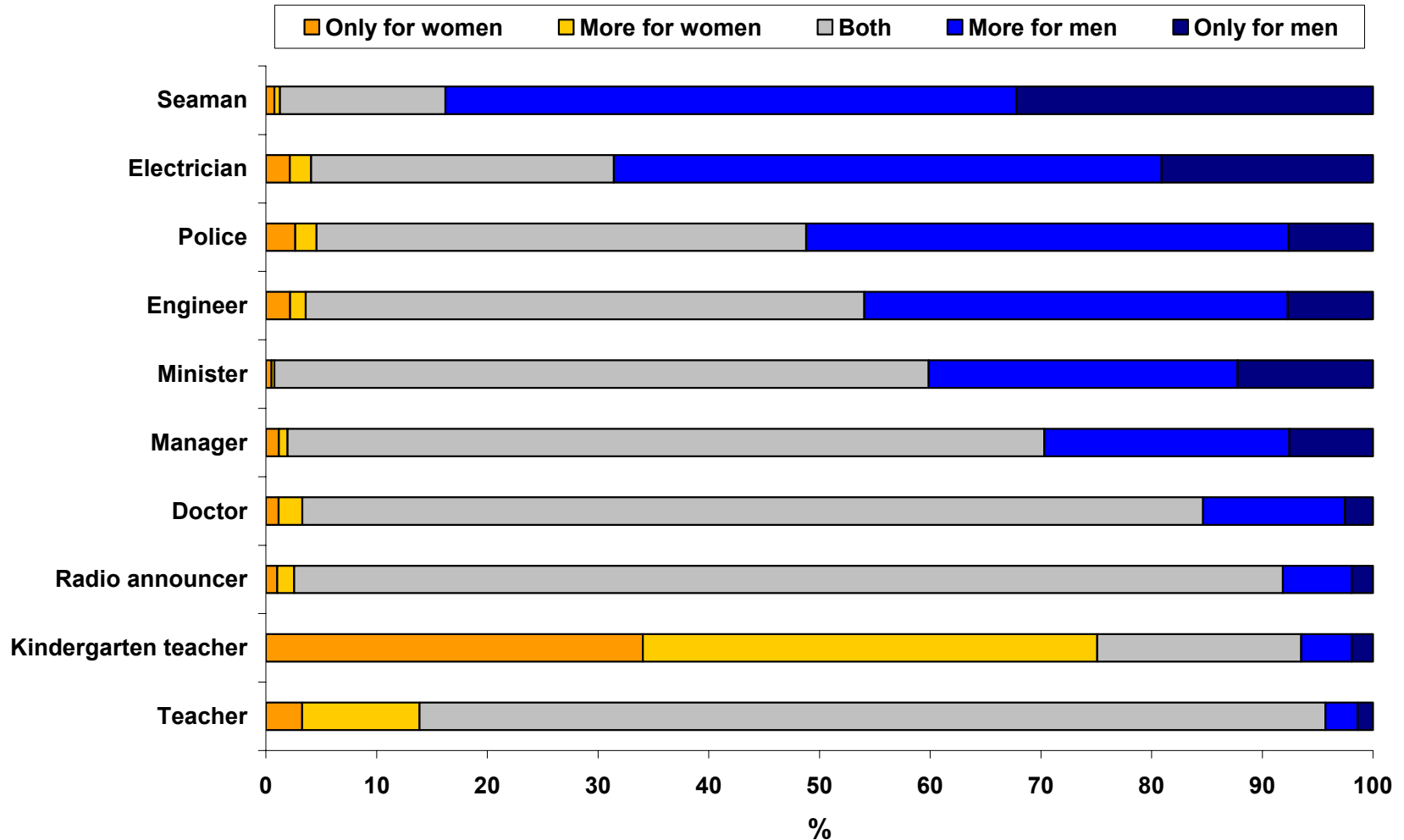
	Sample	Responses	Response rate
1968	733	601	82%
1979	864	795	92%
1985	896	824	92%
1991	961	817	85%
1997	984	857	87%
2003	1008	786	78%

# A man's or a woman's job? Asked in 1991 and 2003

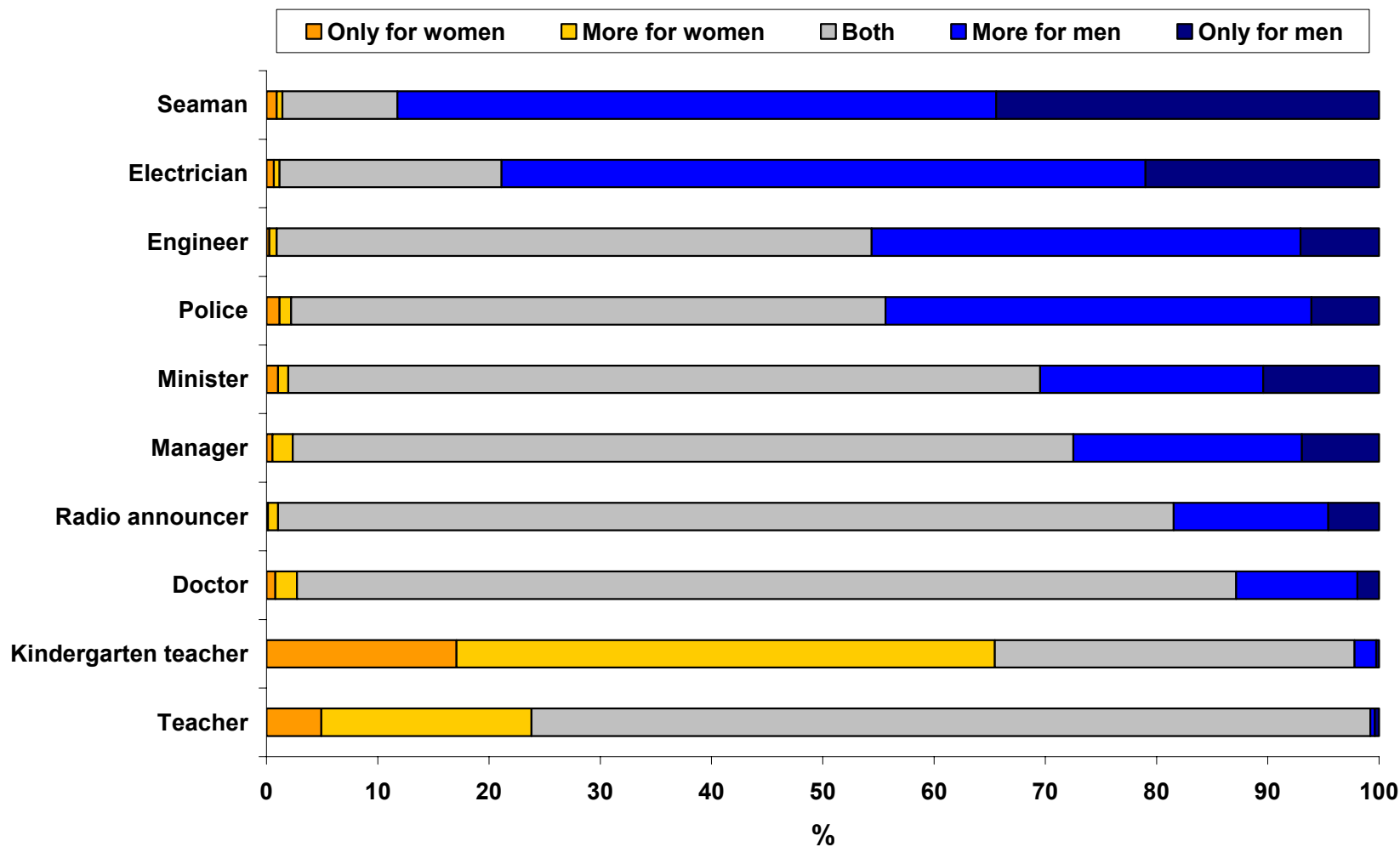
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- Sometimes people talk about male or female occupations – what do you think about the following professions?
  - Only for women
  - More for women
  - For both men and women
  - More for men
  - Only for men

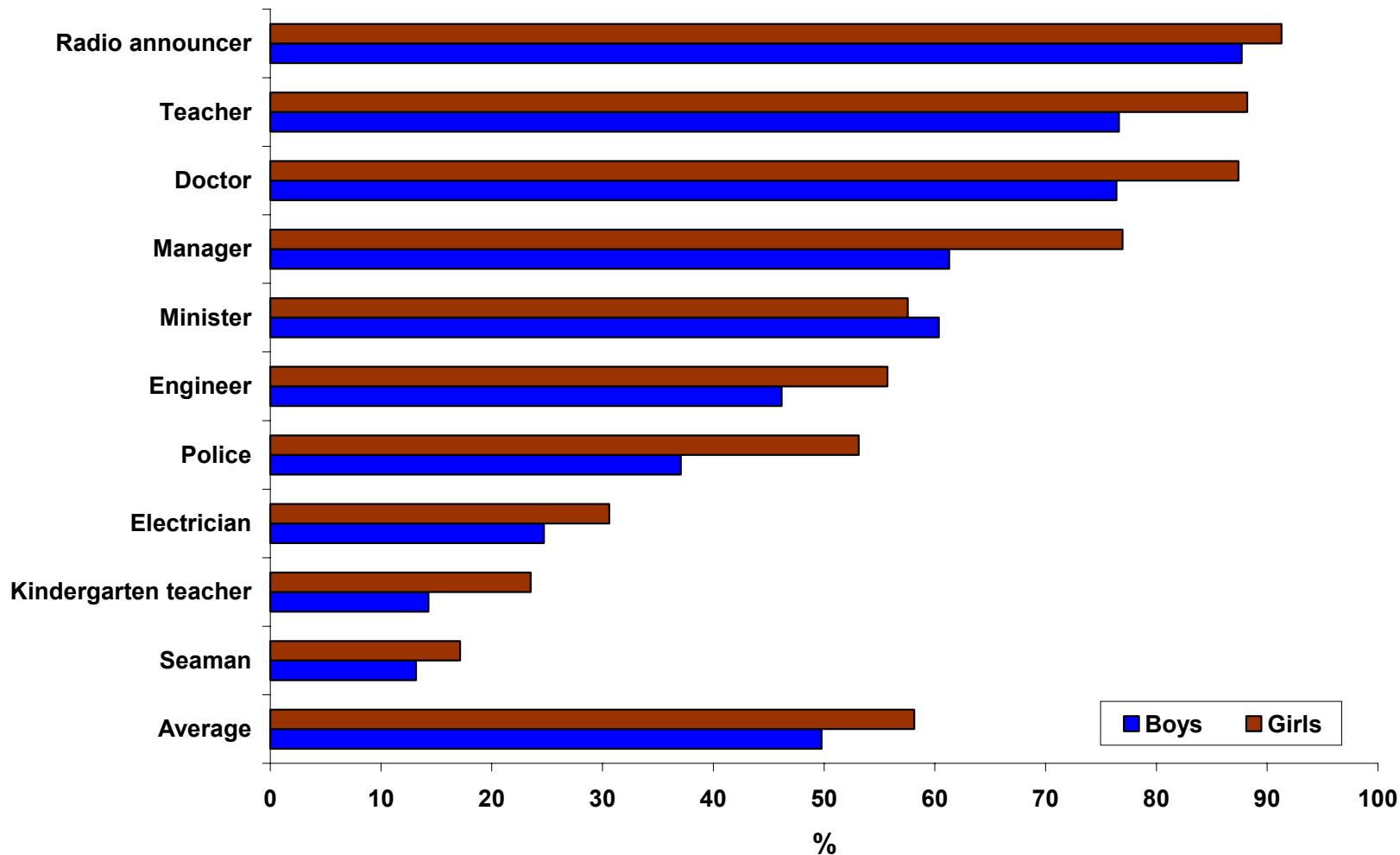
# A man's or a woman's job, 1991



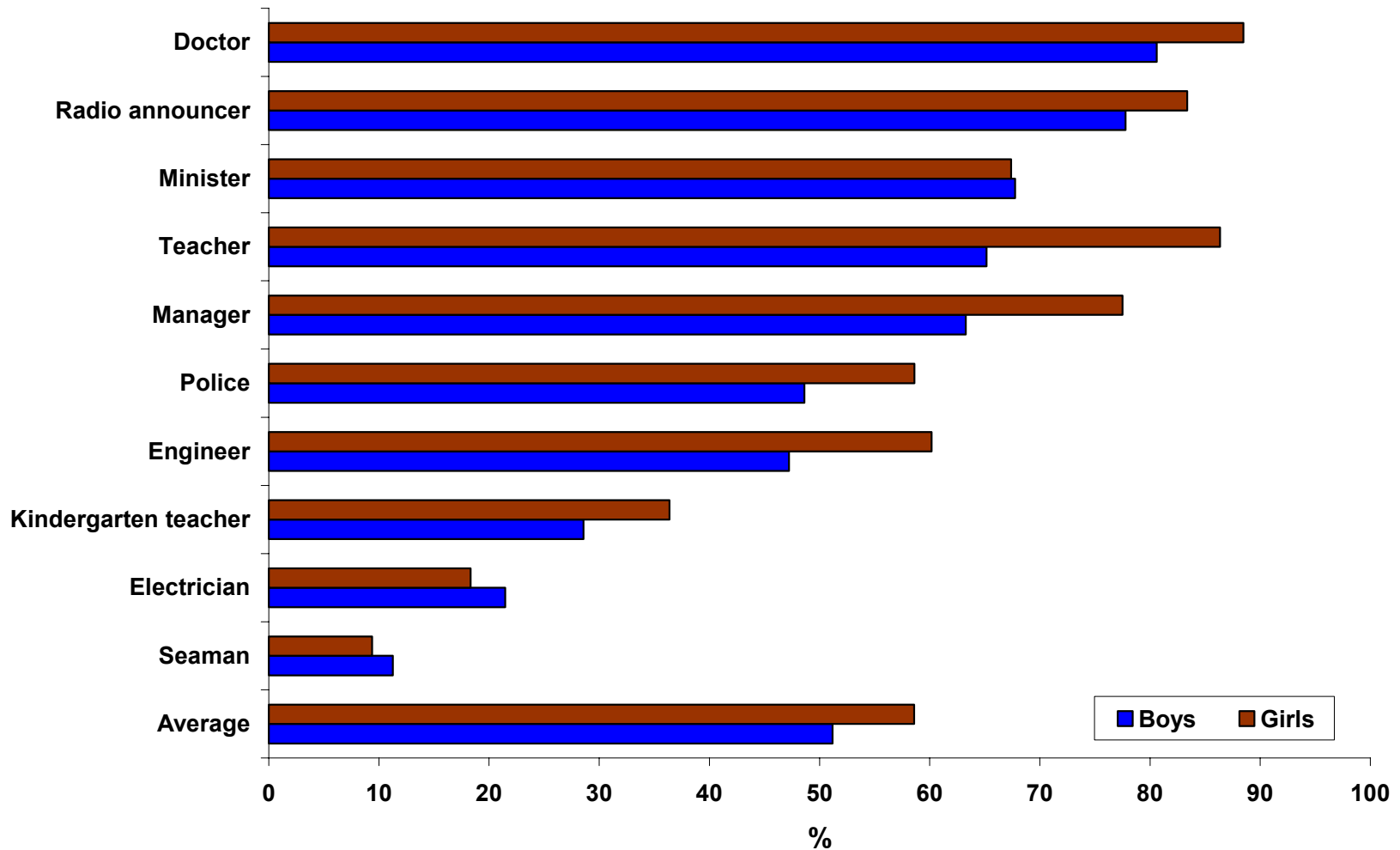
# A man's or a woman's job, 2003



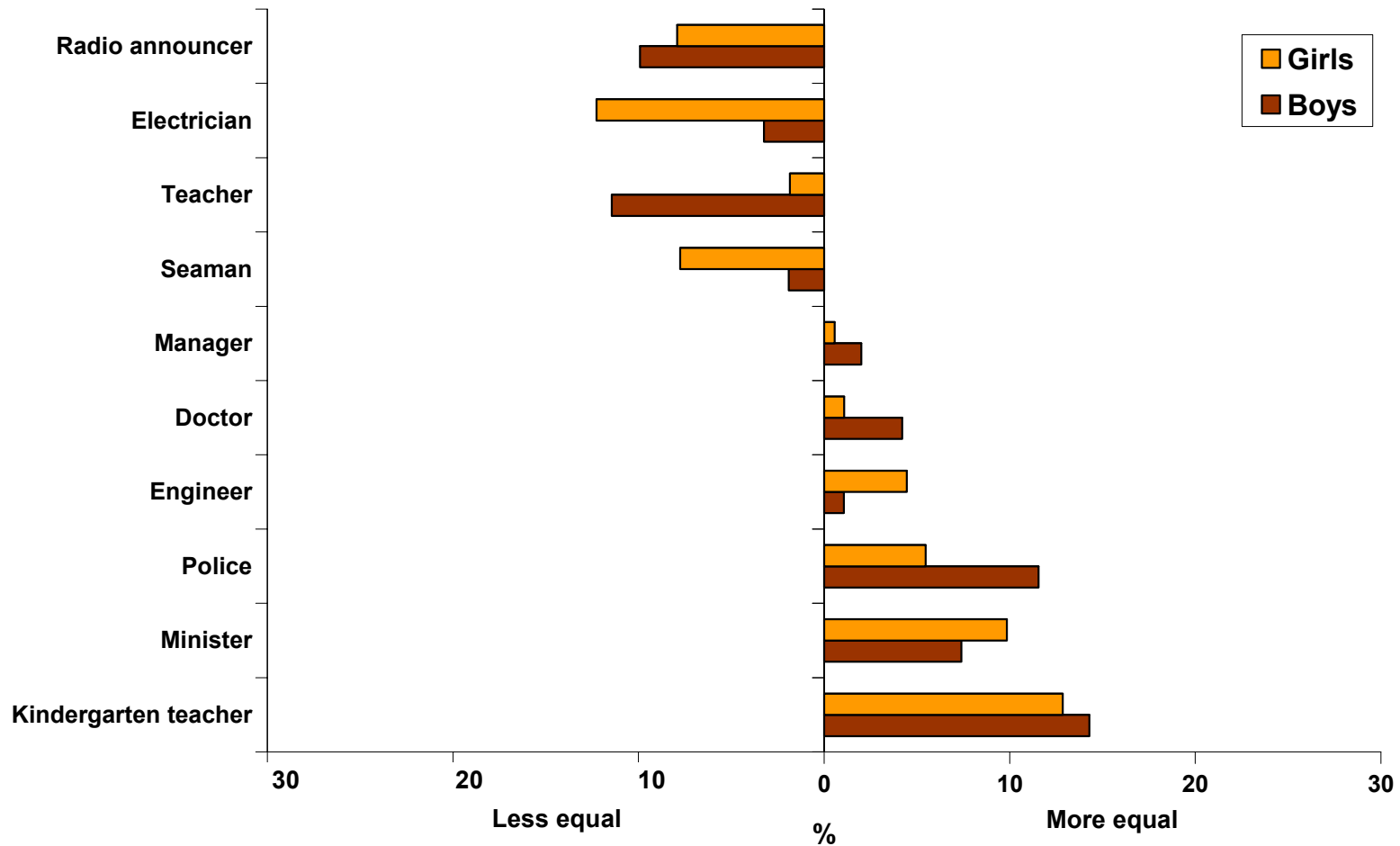
# Percentage rating profession as being for both men and women 1991, by gender



# Percentage rating profession as being for both men and women 2003, by gender



# Changes in the percentage rating profession as being for both men and women 1991-2003

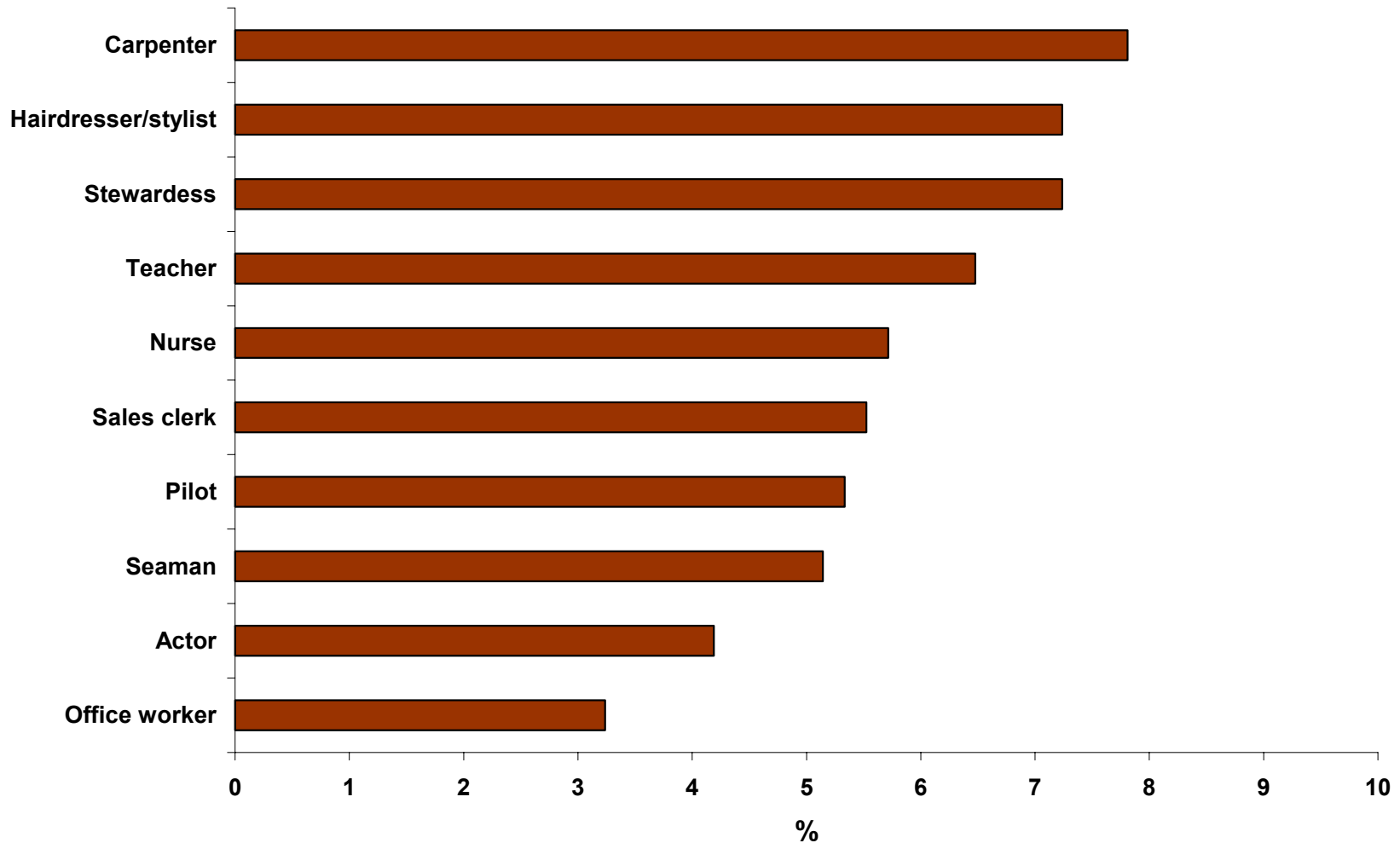


# Your most likely future occupation – asked in 1968

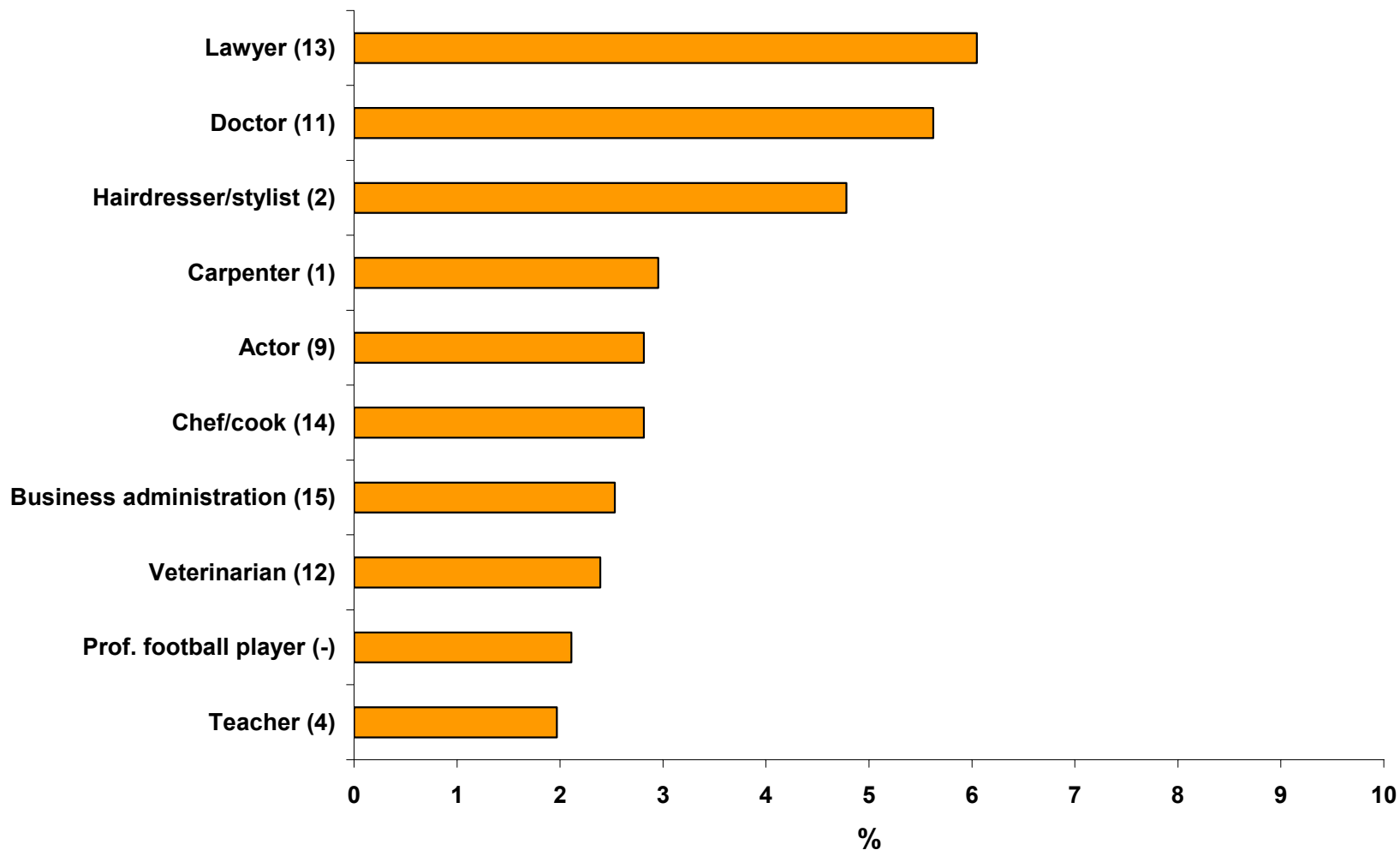
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*Everybody has to have a job when he has become a grown-up and left school. What do you think is most likely to become your future occupation? You do not have to be sure but you can probably think of some occupation that you think will most likely become your occupation. Please write down the answer.*

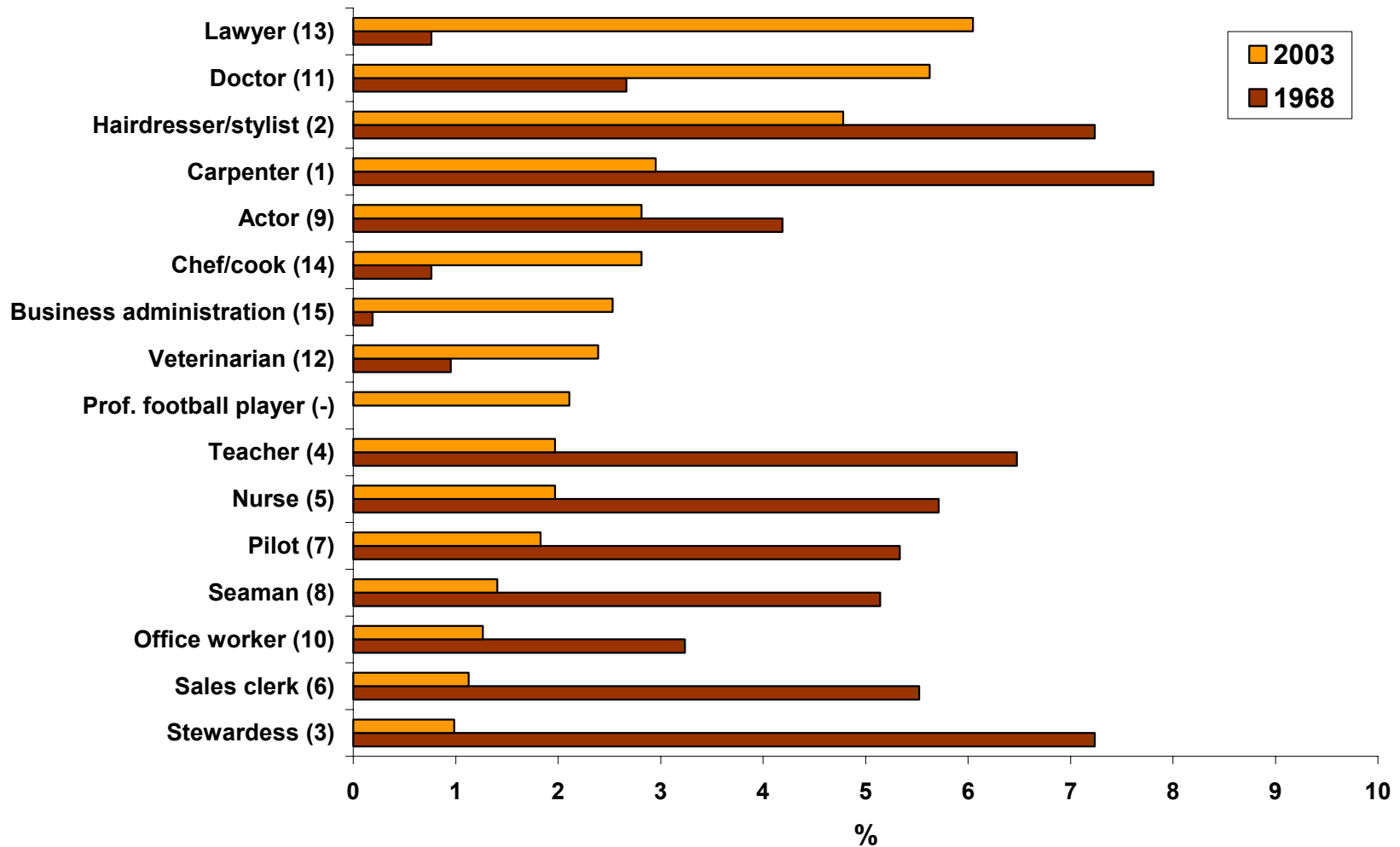
# Top 10 professions mentioned in 1968



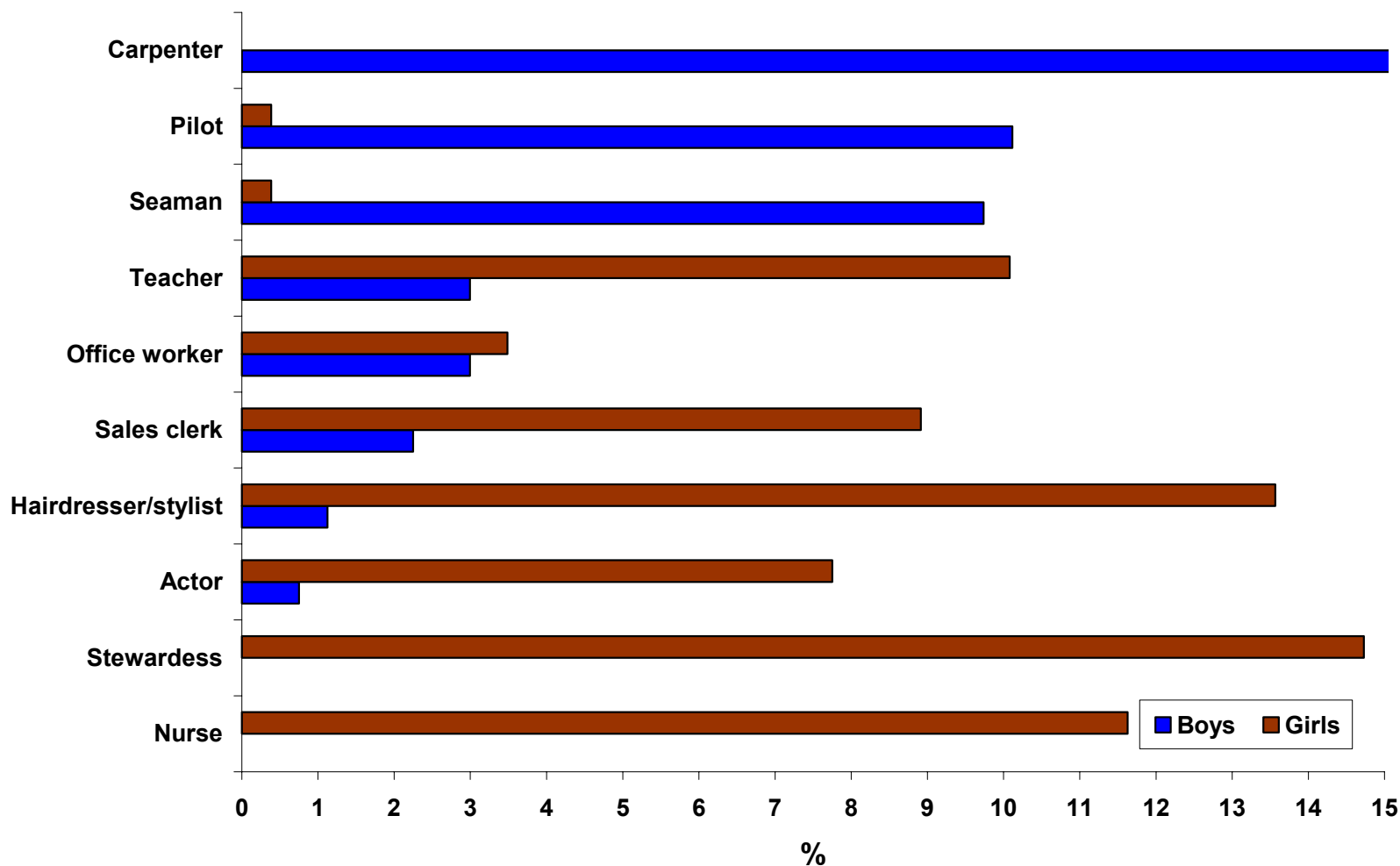
# Top 10 professions mentioned in 2003



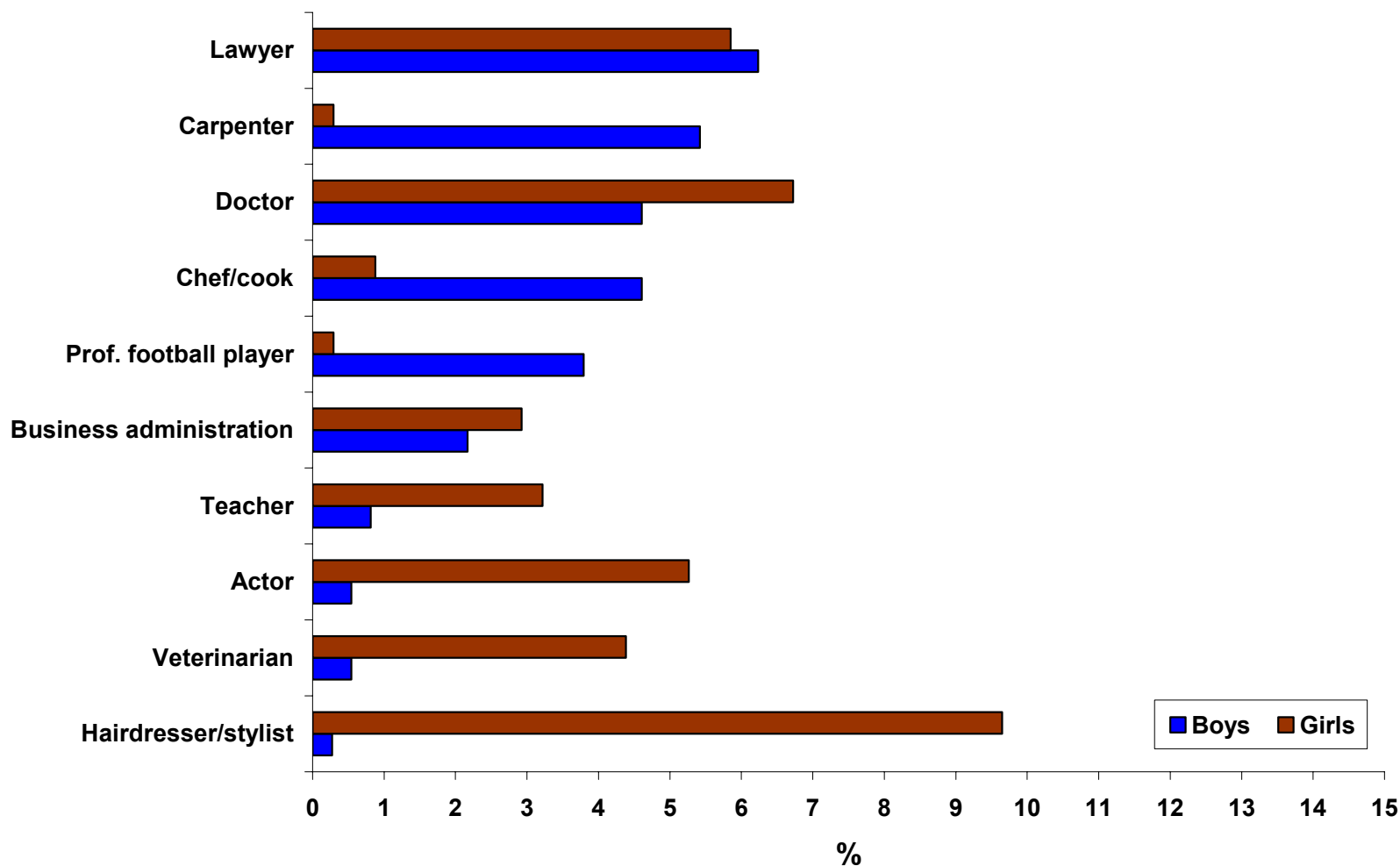
# Changes in the Top 10 list 1968-2003



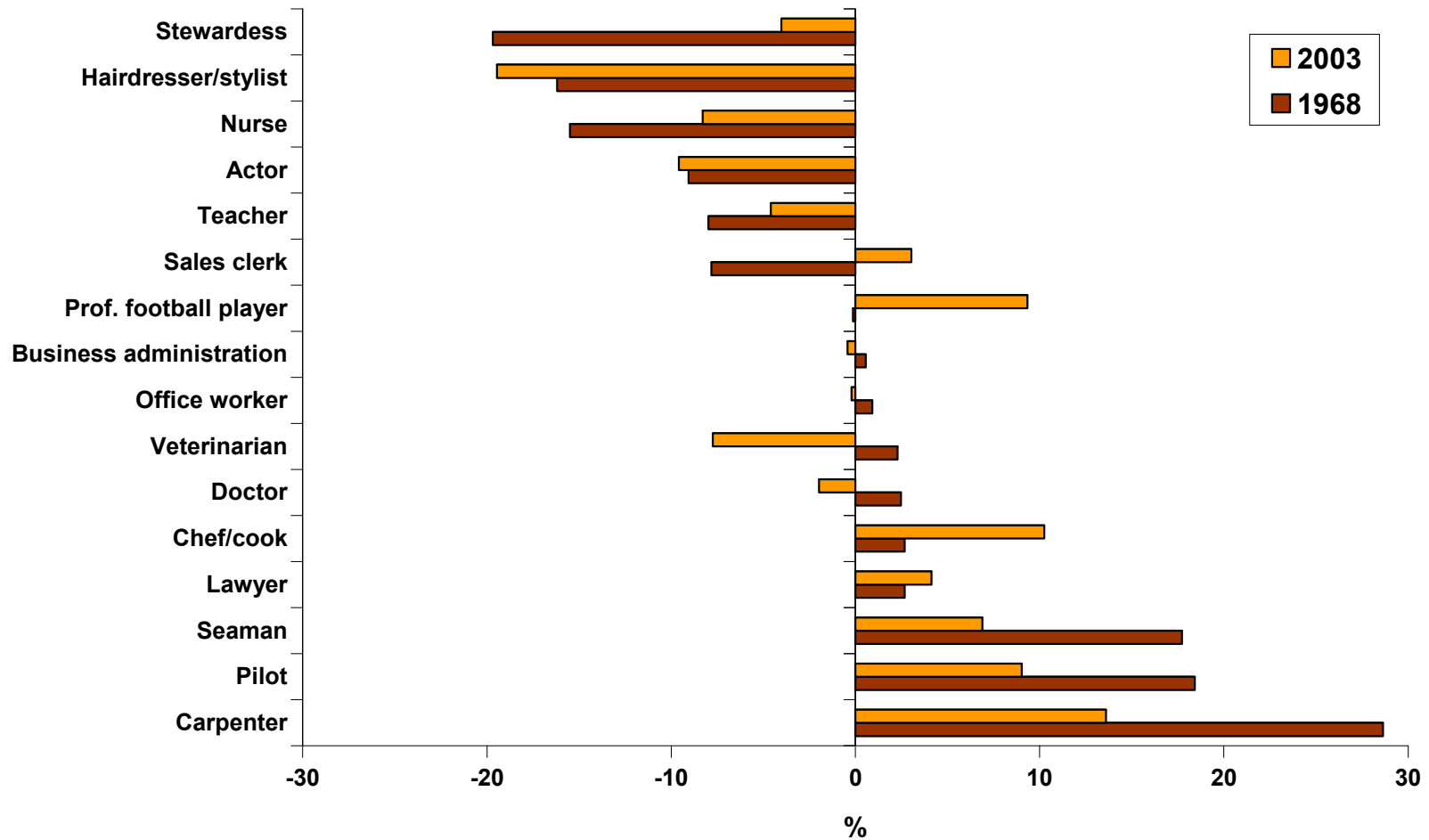
# Top 10 professions mentioned in 1968, by gender



# Top 10 professions mentioned in 2003, by gender



# Changes in the gender difference between top 10 professions 1968-2003

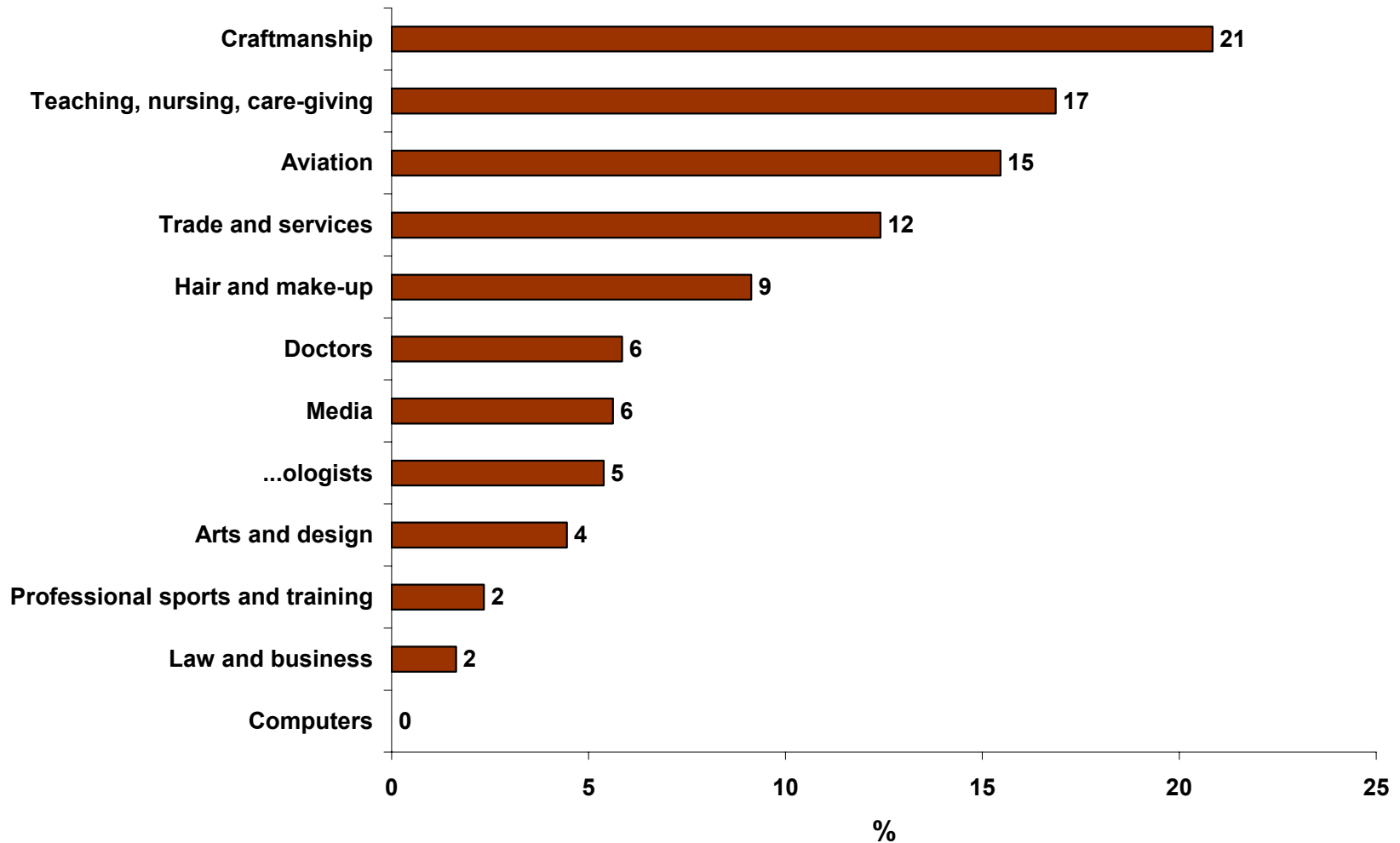


# A rough classification of the top ten list in 1968 and 2003

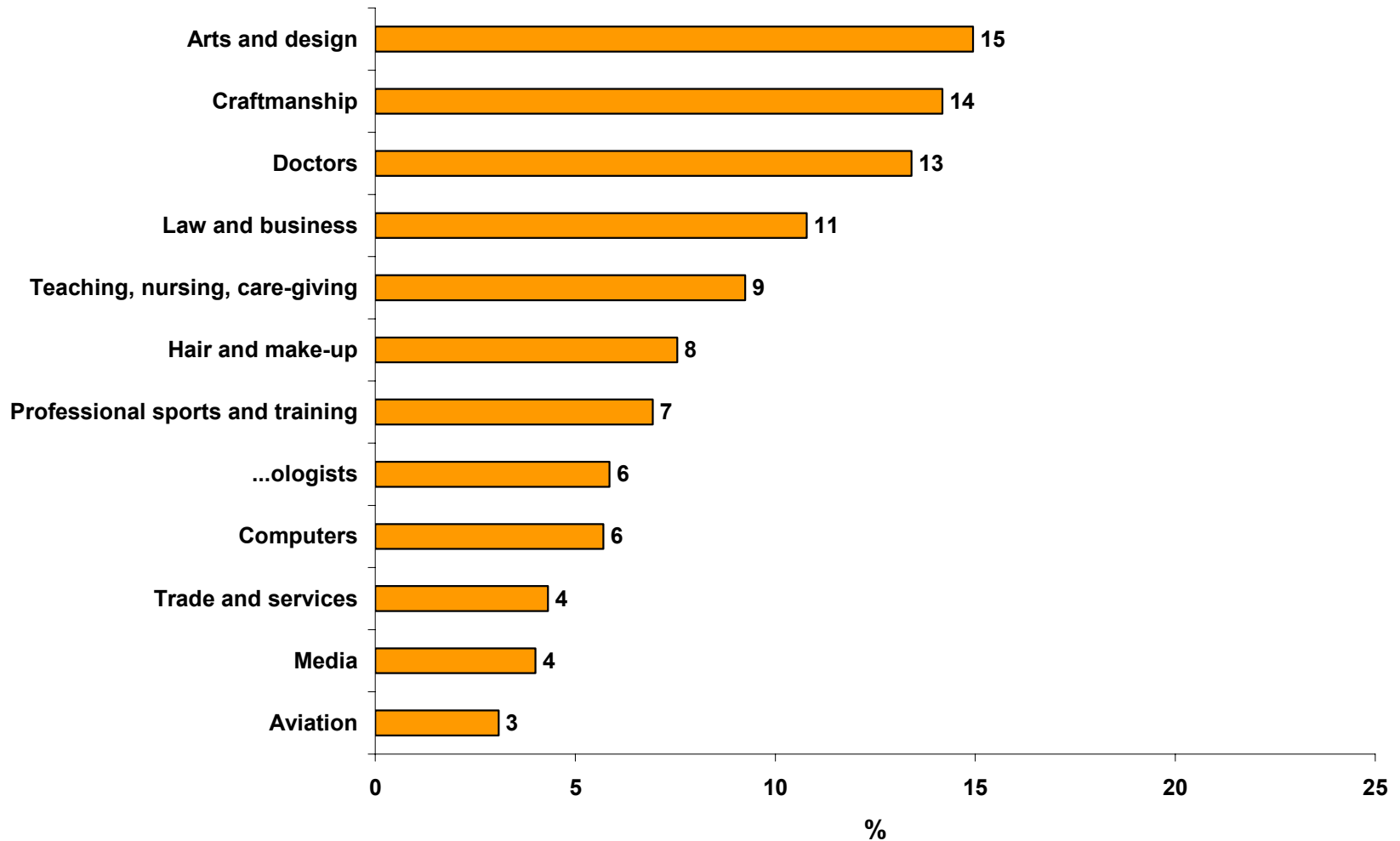
	Boy's professions		Neutral professions		Girl's professions	
	'68	'03	'68	'03	'68	'03
Actor					✓	✓
Hairdresser/stylist					✓	✓
Teacher					✓	✓
Nurse					✓	(✓)
Sales clerk					✓	(✓)
Stewardess					✓	(✓)
Veterinarian	(✓)					✓
Business administration			(✓)	✓		
Doctor			(✓)	✓		
Office worker			✓	(✓)		
Lawyer	(✓)			✓		
Carpenter	✓	✓				
Chef/cook	(✓)	✓				
Pilot	✓	(✓)				
Seaman	✓	(✓)				
Prof. football player		✓				

*Gendered professions being those mentioned more than twice as often by that particular gender*

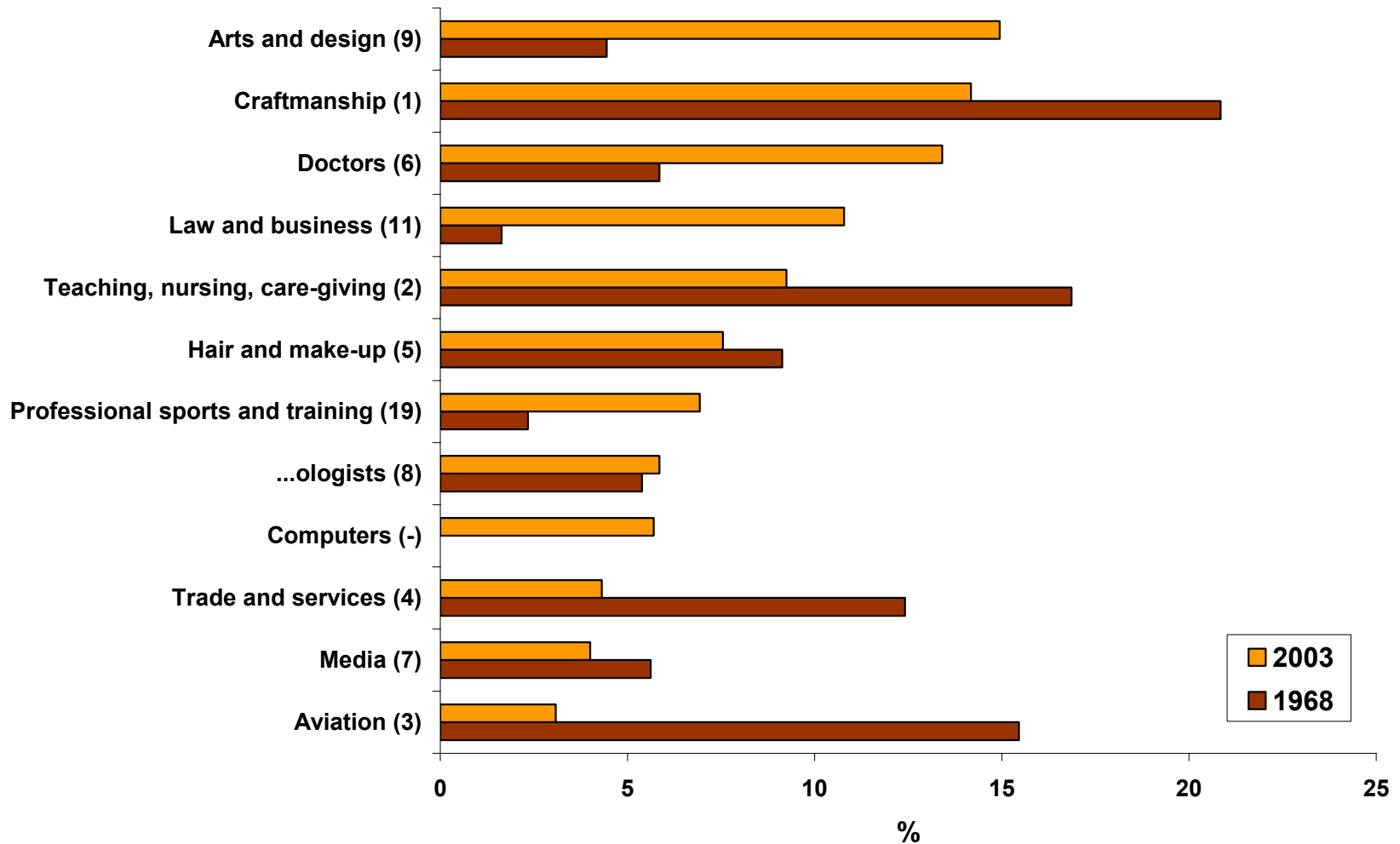
# Job groups as a percentage of those who name a profession in 1968



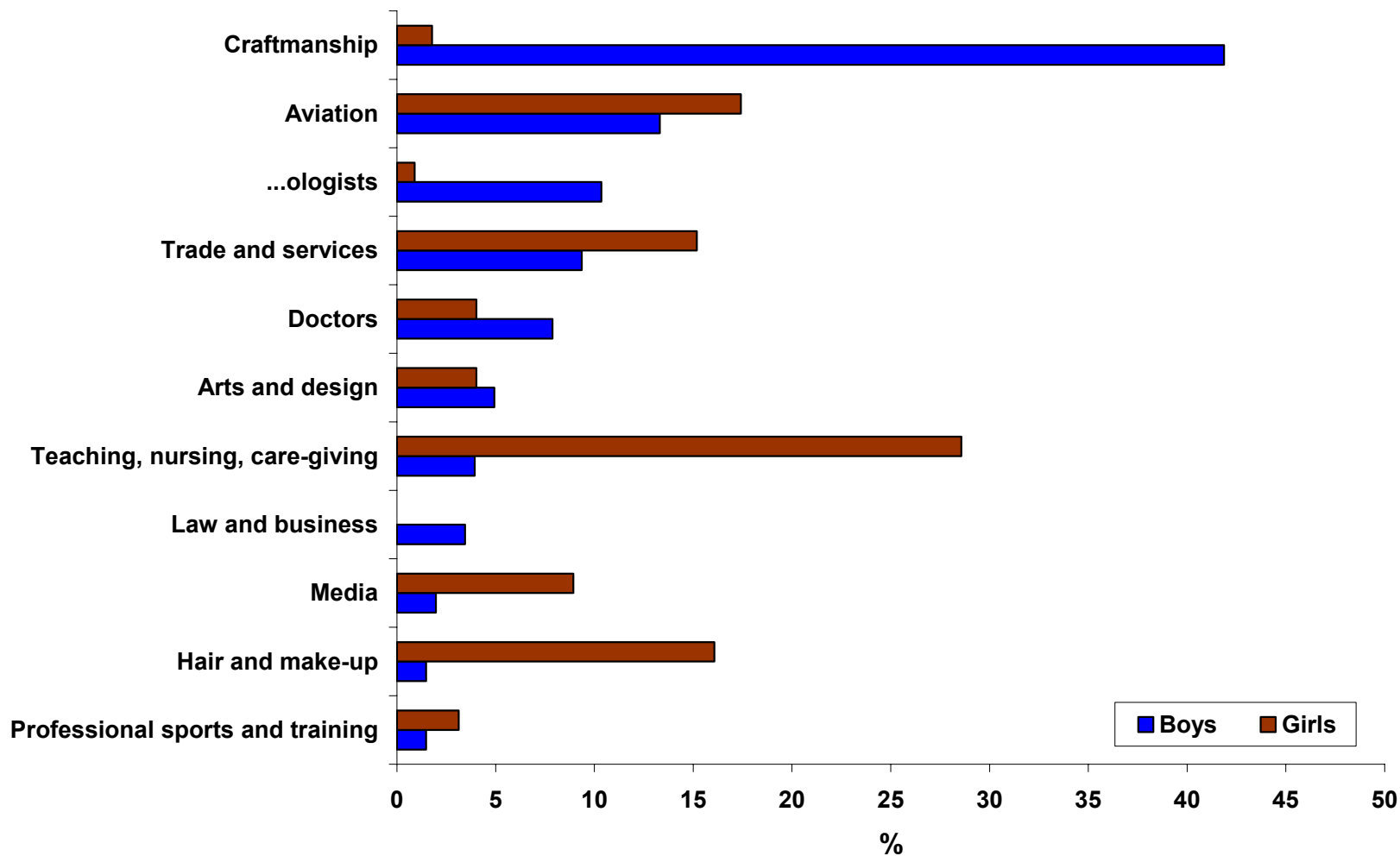
# Job groups as a percentage of those who name a profession in 2003



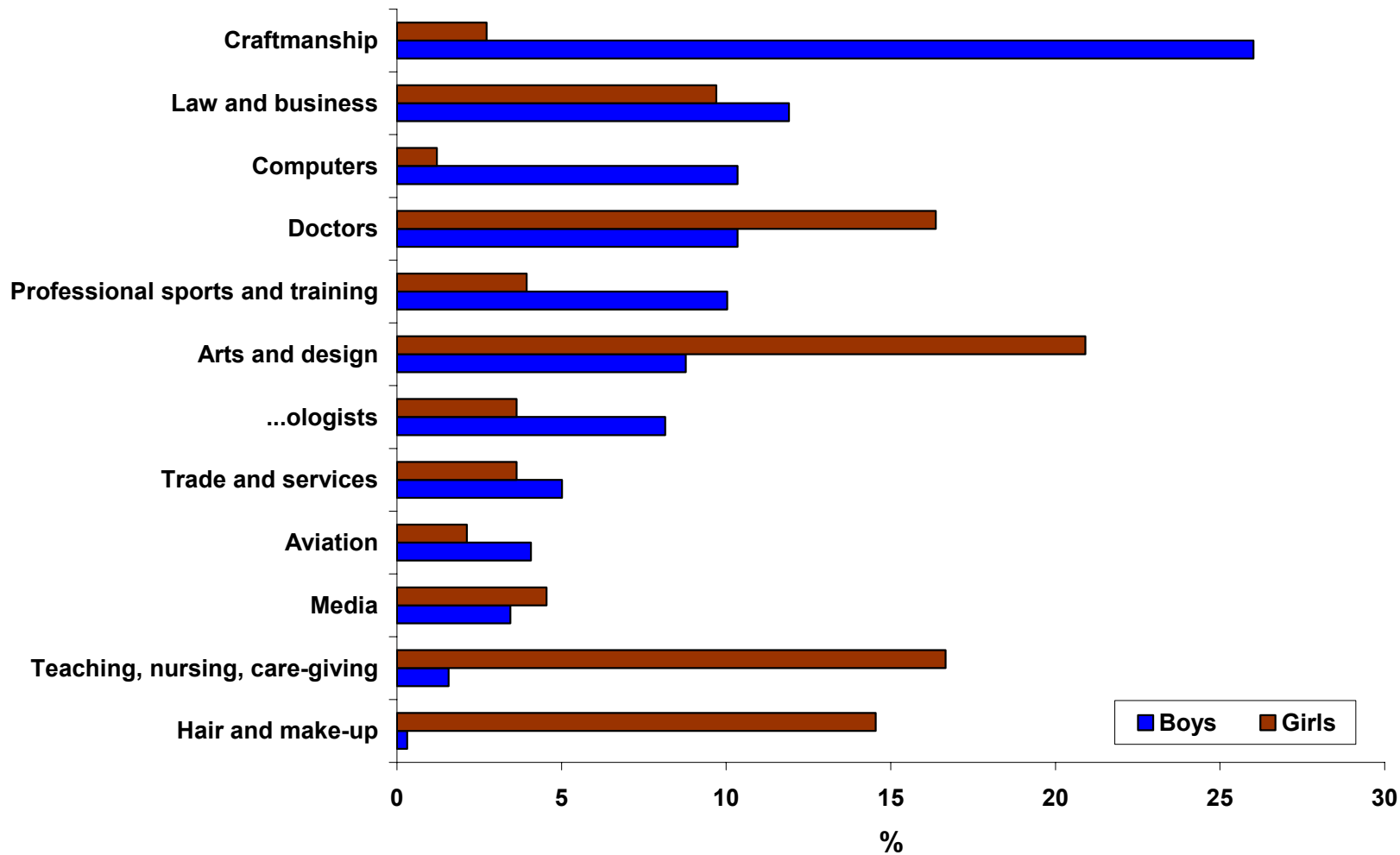
# Changes in job groups percentages between 1968 and 2003



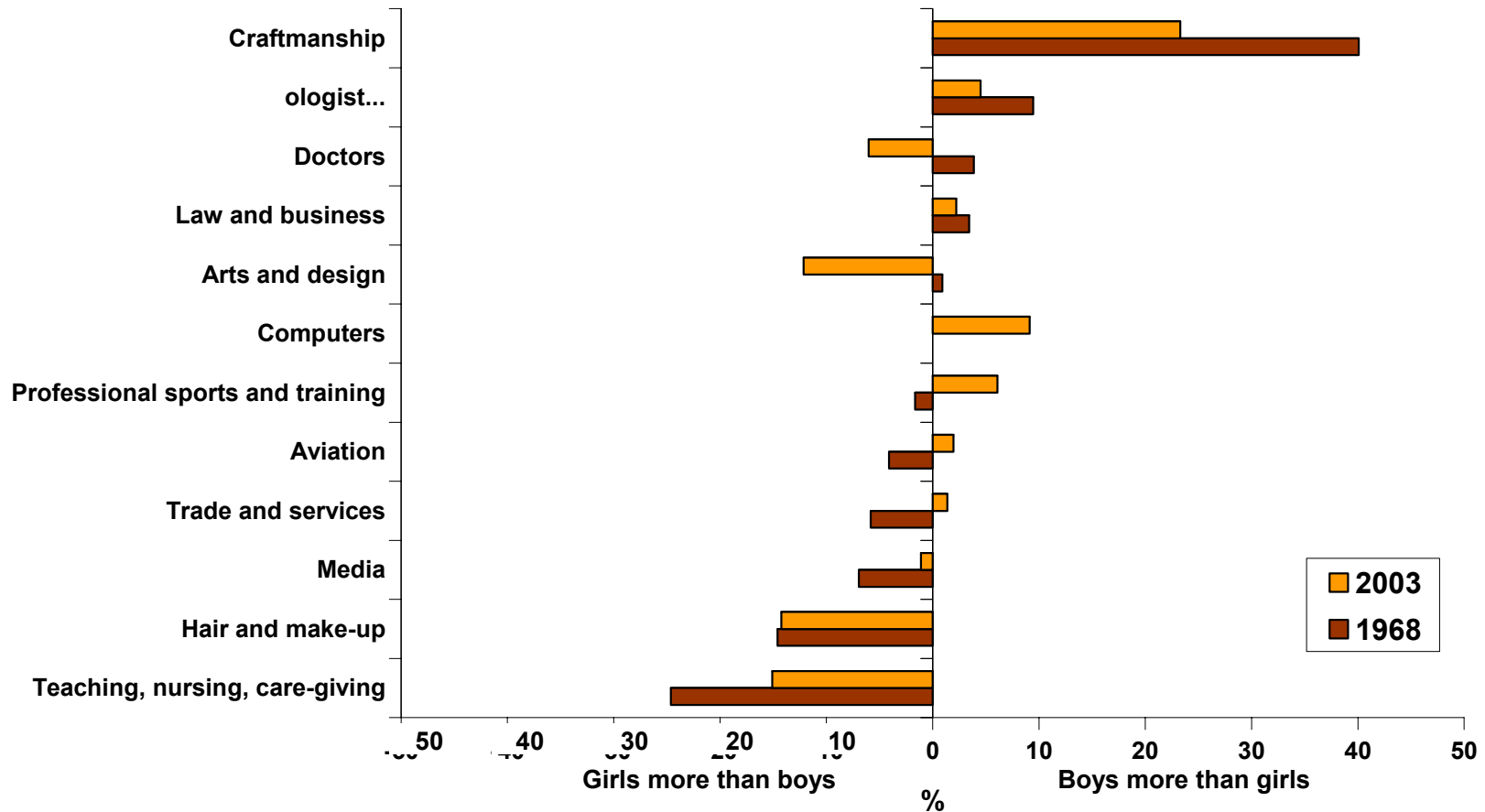
# Job groups in 1968, by gender



# Job groups in 2003, by gender



# Changes in the gender difference between job groups 1968-2003



# A rough classification of the groups in 1968 and 2003

	Boy's professions		Neutral professions		Girl's professions	
	'68	'03	'68	'03	'68	'03
Hair and make-up					✓	✓
Teaching, nursing, care-giving					✓	✓
Arts and design			✓			✓
Aviation			✓	✓		
Doctors			✓	✓		
Trade and services			✓	✓		
Law and business	✓			✓		
Media				✓	✓	
Craftsmanship	✓	✓				
...ologists	✓	✓				
Computers		✓				
Professional sports and training		✓			✓	

*Gendered professions being those mentioned more than twice as often by that particular gender*

# Gender equality achieved?

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Not quite.

At least it seems like young Icelanders of 2003 are thinking about their future along traditional, gendered lines

Perhaps the easiest way would be gender equality á-la Henry Higgins?



Why can't a woman be more like a man?