Labor Force Participation Rates
Measuring workforce engagement
Labor Force Participation Rates
Monthly percentage values, seasonally adjusted, through November 2017

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Annotated Chart Notes

Labor Force Participation Rates

Monthly percentage values, seasonally adjusted, through November 2017

- **Youth 16-24**
- **Men 25-54**
- **Women 25-54**
- **Mature 55+**

The percentage of the age 16+ population (within each subgroup shown) working or actively looking for work.

- *Prime-age men (25-54 years old)*
  - 96.1% in Aug. 1969

- *Prime-age women (25-54 years old)*
  - 55.1% in Jun. 1975

- *Youth aged 16-24*
  - 55.4% in Oct. 2009

- *Mature 55+ years old*
  - 39.9% in Nov. 2017

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Overall Labor Force Participation Rate

Yearly averages of monthly values* (Percent)

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics & Congressional Budget Office

*Labor force participation rate data through 2016, with CBO forecast covering 2017-2027
The fraction of the age 16+ population working or actively looking for work.

Overall Labor Force Participation Rate
Yearly averages of monthly values* (Percent)

- 62.2% in 1977
- Peaked at 67.1% in 1997
- The CBO forecasts the rate will drop to 60.9% by 2027

See PowerPoint file for CBO Forecast source.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics & Congressional Budget Office
*Labor force participation rate data through 2016, with CBO forecast covering 2017-2027

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What Do You Think?

1. What is the labor force participation (LFP) rate definition? (See slide 5)

2. To which demographic group do you belong? In January 2008, what was the approximate value of the LFP rate for your group? (See slide 2)

3. For the periods shown in the LFP rate chart by subgroup, what can you say about the trend for participation among men aged 25-54? Women aged 25-54? Youth aged 16-24? (See slide 3)

4. How would you describe the trend in the overall LFP rate since January 1998? (See slide 4)

5. How does the trend in the LFP rate for the mature 55+ subgroup compare before and after the Great Recession (Dec. 2007 – Jun. 2009)? (See slide 3)

Watch a video about U.S. labor force participation rates at FRBSF.org