

Early Retirement:  
The End of an Era?

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Institute for Work & the Economy

October 22-23, 2009

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**GO EAGLES!!  
BEAT NOTRE DAME!**

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Dora Costa, The Evolution of Retirement,  
University of Chicago Press, 1998, p. 8

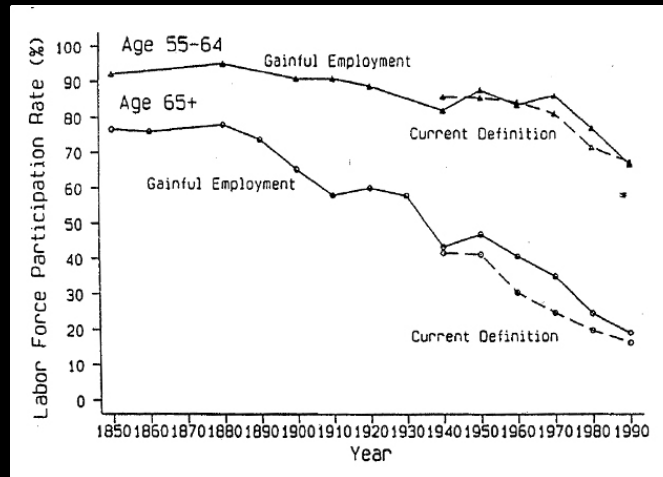


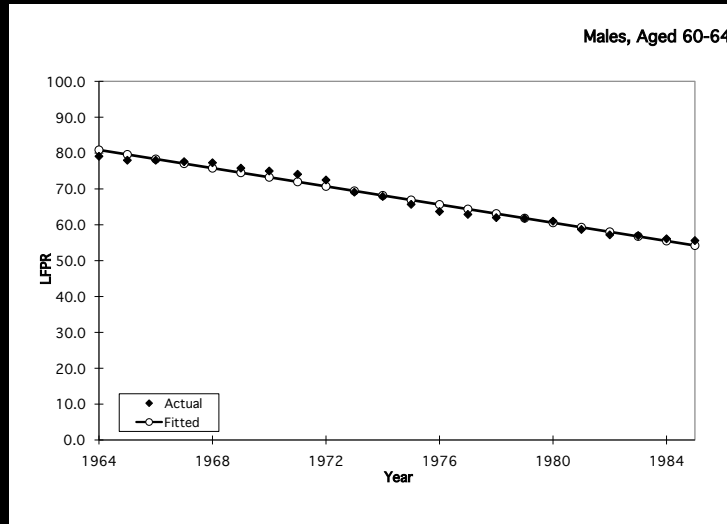
Fig. 2.1 Labor force participation rates of men aged sixty-five or over and men aged fifty-five to sixty-four

Labor Force Participation Rates:  
Men, by age

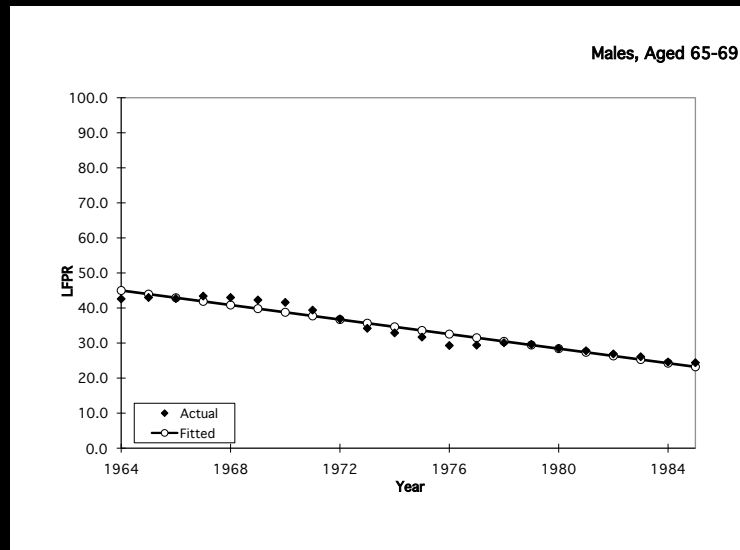
	55	60	62	65	68	70	72
Year							
1950	90.6	84.7	81.2	71.7	57.7	49.8	39.3
1960	92.8	85.9	79.8	56.8	42.0	37.2	28.0
1970	91.8	83.9	73.8	49.9	39.4	30.1	24.8
1975	87.6	76.9	64.4	39.4	23.7	23.7	22.6
1980	84.9	74.0	56.8	35.2	24.1	21.3	17.0
1985	83.7	71.0	50.9	30.5	20.5	15.9	14.9
% Change	-8%	-16%	-37%	-57%	-64%	-68%	-62%
1950-1985							

Source: BLS

### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964-1985



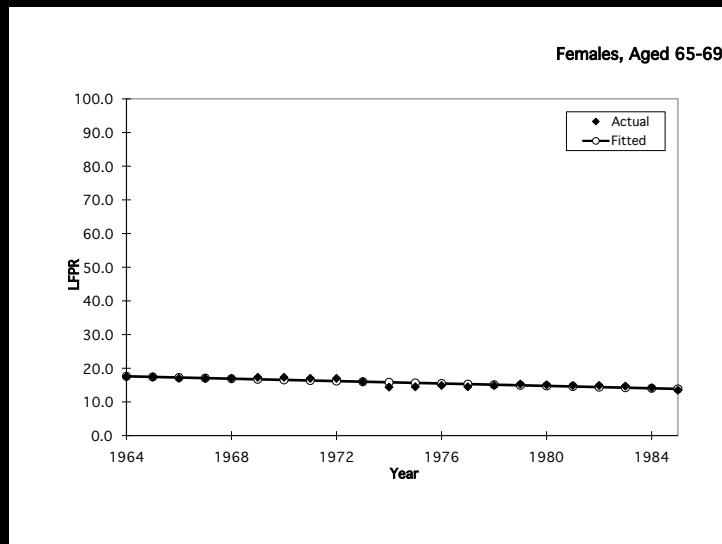
### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964-1985



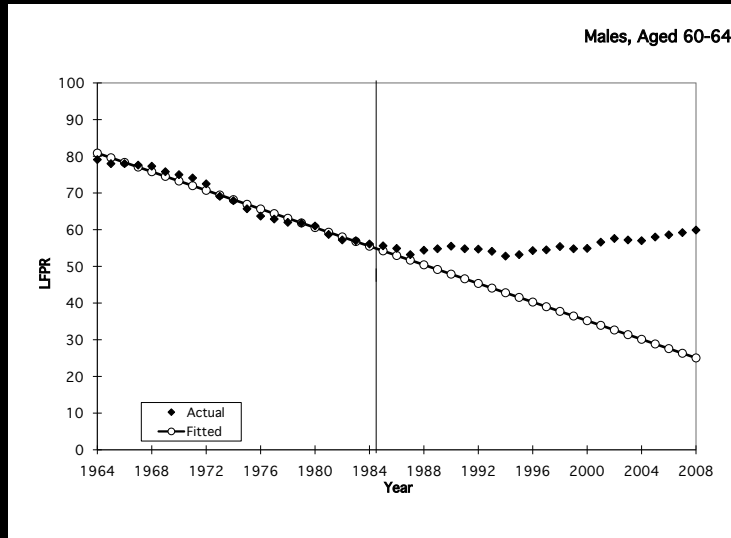
### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964-1985



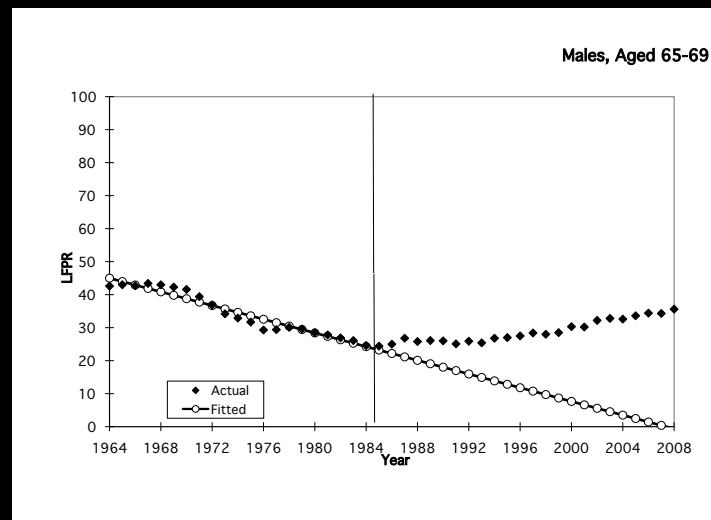
### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964-1985



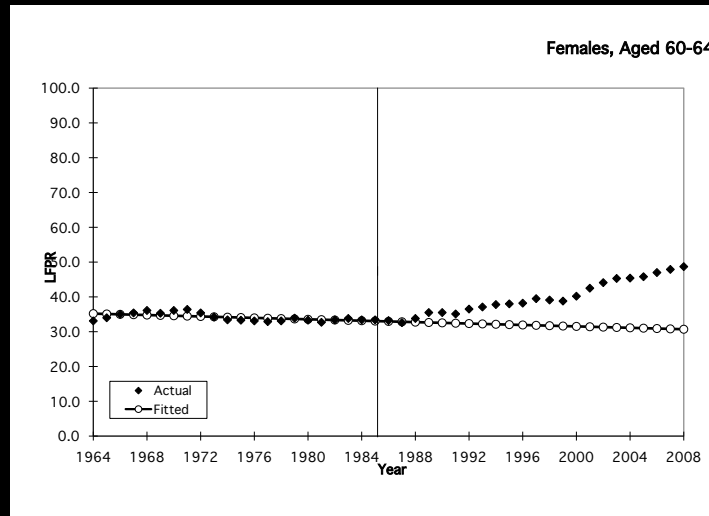
### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964 – 2008



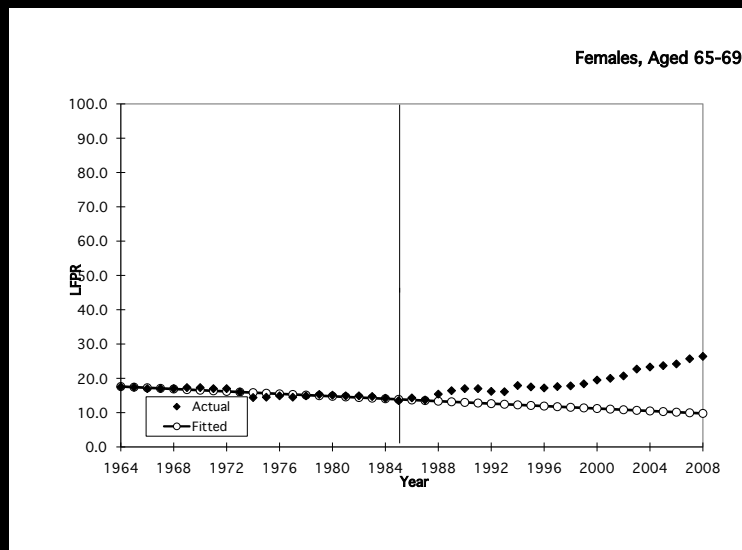
### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964-2008



### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964 – 2008



### Labor Force Participation Rates: Actual and Fitted Values 1964 – 2008



### Labor Force Participation Rates: Men, By Age

	55	60	62	65	68	70	72
Year							
1950	90.6	84.7	81.2	71.7	57.7	49.8	39.3
1960	92.8	85.9	79.8	56.8	42.0	37.2	28.0
1970	91.8	83.9	73.8	49.9	39.4	30.1	24.8
1975	87.6	76.9	64.4	39.4	23.7	23.7	22.6
1980	84.9	74.0	56.8	35.2	24.1	21.3	17.0
1985	83.7	71.0	50.9	30.5	20.5	15.9	14.9
<b>% Change</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-37%</b>	<b>-57%</b>	<b>-64%</b>	<b>-68%</b>	<b>-62%</b>
1950-1985							

	55	60	62	65	68	70	72
Year							
1985	83.7	71.0	50.9	30.5	20.5	15.9	14.9
1990	85.3	70.5	31.9	31.9	23.4	17.1	16.4
1995	81.1	68.9	51.3	33.5	22.4	20.6	16.0
2000	79.8	66.2	53.0	35.9	28.1	20.2	18.5
2005	80.6	67.7	57.7	39.7	32.2	23.8	21.6
2008	83.8	68.9	56.6	43.7	29.8	24.1	22.0
<b>% Change</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>48%</b>
1985-2008							

Source: BLS

### Labor Force Participation Rates: Women, By Age

	55	60	62	65	68	70	72
Year							
1970	52.6	44.0	36.1	22.1	15.0	12.2	8.6
1975	51.6	41.0	32.9	19.5	12.3	9.0	7.8
1980	52.8	41.3	31.8	20.8	10.8	9.0	7.3
1985	55.5	41.9	31.5	16.2	12.1	9.0	8.2
<b>% Change</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
1970-1985							

	55	60	62	65	68	70	72
Year							
1985	55.5	41.9	31.5	16.2	12.1	9.0	8.2
1990	59.8	44.8	34.9	20.6	15.2	11.7	8.0
1995	62.2	47.8	34.8	21.5	14.8	10.2	9.5
2000	65.2	51.5	38.7	23.2	16.6	10.9	10.8
2005	69.8	55.7	44.6	28.3	20.6	16.7	11.8
2008	71.3	59.4	48.0	32.6	22.3	17.1	14.6
<b>% Change</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>78%</b>
1985-2008							

Source: BLS

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