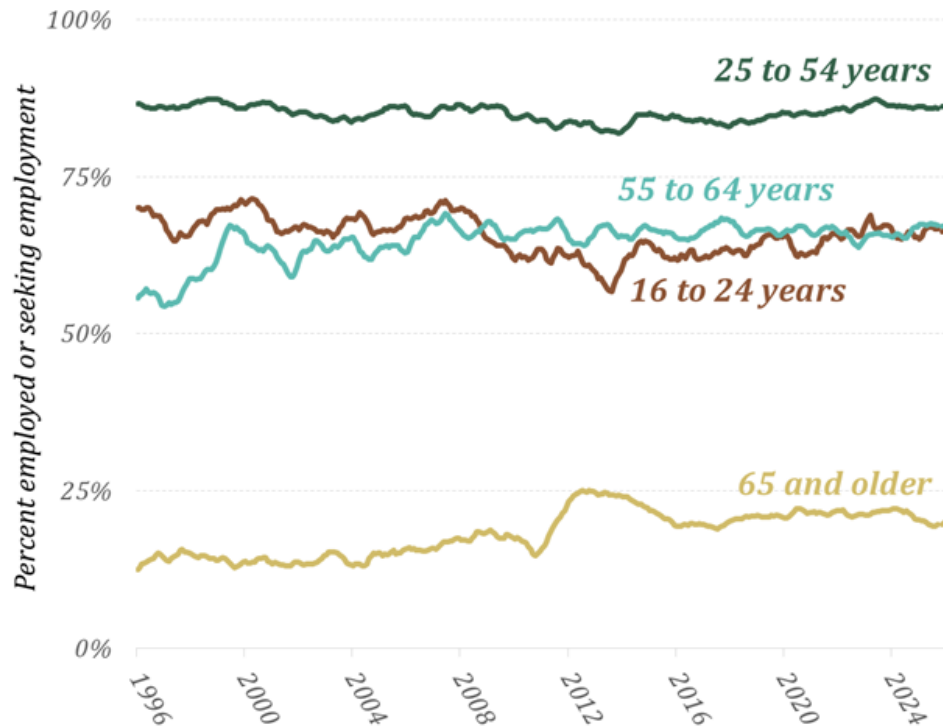


Montana Labor Force Participation Rates by Age

Age-specific rates have either held steady or increased



Source: LFD analysis of U.S. Census CPS data accessed via University of Minnesota IPUMS. Trend lines are 12-month moving averages.



Labor force participation rates in specific age brackets have either increased or held constant in Montana over the last 30 years, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.

Residents in different age brackets do, however, participate in the labor force at different rates. In order to be counted towards the labor force, a person must either be working or looking for work. As of 2025, about 86% of Montana residents in the prime working years of age 25 to 54 were counted as part of it. In comparison, retirement-age residents (65+) made up about 20%.

The [increasing share](#) of residents who are at least age 65 [has lowered Montana's overall labor force participation rate](#) in recent decades. This effect has occurred even though the share of retirement-age adults working or looking for work has increased by about 5 percentage points since 1996.

More analysis on this dynamic and its potential effect on the state's fiscal picture is available in LFD's [2029 Biennium Outlook](#). Prior Charts of the Week also looked at [growth in the number of Montana retirees](#) and provided [a more detailed look at the employment status of Montanans in different age brackets](#) as of 2025.