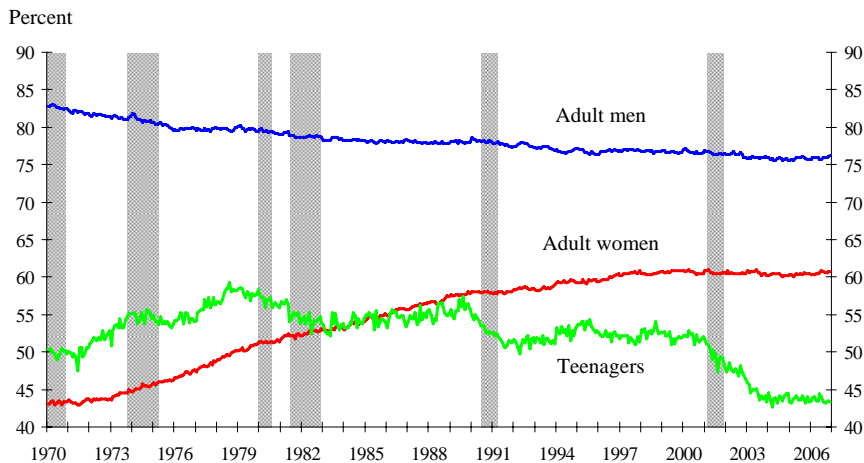


**Chart 5-1. After rising for several decades, the labor force participation rate for women has shown no growth in recent years**



NOTE: Shaded areas represent recessions. Data are seasonally adjusted.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Chart 5-1. After rising for several decades, the labor force participation rate for women has shown no growth in recent years**

- The labor force participation rate for adult women rose dramatically during the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1990s, growth in participation slowed substantially. The participation rate has shown no growth in recent years.
- The participation rate for adult men has drifted down over time.
- The participation rate for teenagers (both sexes, 16 to 19 years old) has trended downward since the late 1970s. From 2000 to 2003, the rate declined sharply. Since 2003, the rate has held fairly steady. The teen rate is more cyclically sensitive than that for adults.