

Chart 1-5. From the onset of the recession to the end of 2005, labor force participation rates were down, except among older workers



NOTE: As defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the recession lasted from March to November 2001.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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- The participation rate of youth 16 to 24 years old fell by about 5 percentage points between March 2001 and December 2005. The rates for men and women ages 25 to 54 years also were down over that period.
- The labor force participation rate for persons 55 years and over has trended up since the early 1990s. From the onset of the recession in March 2001 to December 2005, the rate increased by nearly 5 percentage points.
- While men ages 55 and older are more likely than their female counterparts to participate in the labor force, the increase in the participation rate for women was slightly larger than that for men over the period.