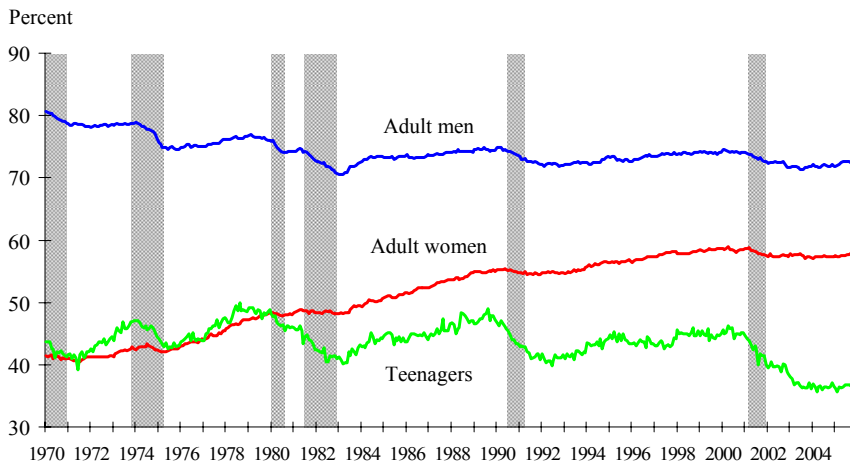


**Chart 5-4. The employment-population ratios for adult men and women have edged up since mid-2003**



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

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Chart 5-4. The employment-population ratios for adult men and women have edged up since mid-2003**

- The employment-population ratio (the proportion of the population that is employed) for adult men has hovered around 72 percent since the early 1980s, with the exception of cyclical declines during recessions. The ratio for adult women—57.6 percent in 2005—rose markedly over the past several decades (although there were also cyclical swings), reflecting the dramatic influx of women into the job market.
- The employment-population ratios for adult men and women declined during the 2001 recession, but have edged up since mid-2003.
- The employment-population ratio for teenagers fell steeply from 2000 to 2003, and has leveled off since. The teen ratio is more cyclically sensitive than that for adults.