

Number and Share of Older Workers in the Labor Force in all 50 States and the District of Columbia

(Red indicates states that have the greatest share of older workers)

Nationally, workers ages 55 and older are the fastest-growing segment of the labor force, and by 2024, approximately one in five will be ages 55 and older.¹ This chart presents the current proportion of the labor force that is age 55 and older by state in 2015.

State	Total Civilian Population	Total Labor Force Population	Total Labor Force Participation Rate	Total Population Age 55+	Total Labor Force Population Age 55+	Labor Force Participation Rate for Population Age 55+	Proportion of Labor Force Age 55+
United States	250,801,000	157,130,000	62.7%	87,103,000	34,755,000	39.9%	22.1%
Alabama	3,803,000	2,155,000	56.7%	1,402,000	463,000	33.0%	21.5%
Alaska	542,000	363,000	67.0%	165,000	79,000	47.9%	21.8%
Arizona	5,275,000	3,166,000	60.0%	1,839,000	672,000	36.5%	21.2%
Arkansas	2,299,000	1,337,000	58.1%	817,000	274,000	33.5%	20.5%
California	30,523,000	18,984,000	62.2%	9,641,000	3,959,000	41.1%	20.9%
Colorado	4,240,000	2,818,000	66.5%	1,413,000	615,000	43.5%	21.8%
Connecticut	2,873,000	1,892,000	65.8%	1,004,000	468,000	46.6%	24.7%
Delaware	749,000	469,000	62.6%	288,000	109,000	37.8%	23.2%
District of Columbia	554,000	388,000	70.1%	144,000	63,000	43.8%	16.2%
Florida	16,313,000	9,581,000	58.7%	6,367,000	2,260,000	35.5%	23.6%
Georgia	7,783,000	4,763,000	61.2%	2,502,000	935,000	37.4%	19.6%
Hawaii	1,093,000	678,000	62.1%	407,000	170,000	41.8%	25.1%
Idaho	1,248,000	803,000	64.3%	424,000	170,000	40.1%	21.2%
Illinois	10,059,000	6,504,000	64.7%	3,446,000	1,451,000	42.1%	22.3%
Indiana	5,125,000	3,268,000	63.8%	1,825,000	746,000	40.9%	22.8%
Iowa	2,435,000	1,697,000	69.7%	900,000	392,000	43.6%	23.1%
Kansas	2,208,000	1,493,000	67.6%	782,000	344,000	44.0%	23.0%
Kentucky	3,441,000	1,945,000	56.5%	1,215,000	383,000	31.5%	19.7%
Louisiana	3,573,000	2,166,000	60.6%	1,173,000	438,000	37.3%	20.2%
Maine	1,092,000	677,000	62.0%	467,000	200,000	42.8%	29.5%
Maryland	4,716,000	3,179,000	67.4%	1,596,000	724,000	45.4%	22.8%
Massachusetts	5,499,000	3,590,000	65.3%	1,971,000	877,000	44.5%	24.4%
Michigan	7,874,000	4,758,000	60.4%	2,908,000	1,031,000	35.5%	21.7%
Minnesota	4,289,000	3,022,000	70.5%	1,505,000	706,000	46.9%	23.4%
Mississippi	2,281,000	1,280,000	56.1%	798,000	252,000	31.6%	19.7%
Missouri	4,744,000	3,104,000	65.4%	1,706,000	664,000	38.9%	21.4%
Montana	816,000	523,000	64.1%	327,000	137,000	41.9%	26.2%
Nebraska	1,446,000	999,000	69.1%	497,000	233,000	46.9%	23.3%
Nevada	2,256,000	1,435,000	63.6%	761,000	286,000	37.6%	19.9%
New Hampshire	1,084,000	742,000	68.4%	412,000	195,000	47.3%	26.3%
New Jersey	7,090,000	4,535,000	64.0%	2,465,000	1,129,000	45.8%	24.9%
New Mexico	1,607,000	926,000	57.6%	588,000	213,000	36.2%	23.0%

State	Total Civilian Population	Total Labor Force Population	Total Labor Force Participation Rate	Total Population Age 55+	Total Labor Force Population Age 55+	Labor Force Participation Rate for Population Age 55+	Proportion of Labor Force Age 55+
New York	15,837,000	9,663,000	61.0%	5,459,000	2,179,000	39.9%	22.5%
North Carolina	7,792,000	4,796,000	61.5%	2,710,000	1,070,000	39.5%	22.3%
North Dakota	584,000	414,000	70.9%	195,000	95,000	48.7%	22.9%
Ohio	9,124,000	5,683,000	62.3%	3,422,000	1,316,000	38.5%	23.2%
Oklahoma	2,975,000	1,863,000	62.6%	1,034,000	431,000	41.7%	23.1%
Oregon	3,225,000	1,966,000	61.0%	1,209,000	464,000	38.4%	23.6%
Pennsylvania	10,232,000	6,426,000	62.8%	3,932,000	1,585,000	40.3%	24.7%
Rhode Island	855,000	558,000	65.3%	311,000	133,000	42.8%	23.8%
South Carolina	3,823,000	2,294,000	60.0%	1,409,000	501,000	35.6%	21.8%
South Dakota	652,000	454,000	69.7%	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	5,167,000	3,087,000	59.7%	1,866,000	665,000	35.6%	21.5%
Texas	20,531,000	13,049,000	63.6%	6,216,000	2,532,000	40.7%	19.4%
Utah	2,151,000	1,464,000	68.0%	582,000	256,000	44.0%	17.5%
Vermont	515,000	344,000	66.8%	205,000	99,000	48.3%	28.8%
Virginia	6,509,000	4,222,000	64.9%	2,222,000	942,000	42.4%	22.3%
Washington	5,622,000	3,554,000	63.2%	1,989,000	806,000	40.5%	22.7%
West Virginia	1,481,000	785,000	53.0%	610,000	188,000	30.8%	23.9%
Wisconsin	4,554,000	3,089,000	67.8%	1,643,000	690,000	42.0%	22.3%
Wyoming	452,000	307,000	67.8%	159,000	73,000	45.9%	23.8%
*Data unavailable							

Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016). *Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population in states by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, marital status, and detailed age, 2015*. Retrieved 7 June 2017, from <https://www.bls.gov/lau/ex14tables.htm> (Calculation of number of workers 55 and older determined by summing data for workers ages 55 to 64 and 65 and older. Data unavailable for South Dakota); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016). *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, Table 3: Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by sex, age, and race, 2015*. Retrieved 7 June 2017, from <https://www.bls.gov/cps/aa2015/cpsaat03.htm>

Term	Definition
Civilian Population	People age 16 and older who are not in institutions (correctional facilities, long-term care hospitals, and nursing homes) and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.
Labor Force Participation Rate	Percentage of the population that is employed or unemployed and actively seeking employment.

1 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2015, December). Labor force projections to 2024: the labor force is growing, but slowly. *Department of Labor Monthly Labor Review*. Retrieved 7 June 2017, from <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/labor-force-projections-to-2024.htm>