

Table 4-2 • Labor force participation by people age 55 and over by sex and age, 1990, 2000, and 2004 (numbers in thousands)

Older women (indeed, women of all ages) are less likely than their male contemporaries to be in the labor force. Nevertheless, labor force participation by older women has been increasing. The rise was especially large among women in their late fifties or early sixties—about 10 percentage points between 1990 and 2004.

	<i>In the labor force<sup>1</sup></i>					
	<i>1990</i>		<i>2000</i>		<i>2004</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Women</b>						
Age 55–59	3,059	55.3	4,181	61.2	5,463	65.0
60–64	2,016	35.5	2,219	40.1	3,002	45.4
65–69	941	17.0	969	19.4	1,220	23.3
70–74	365	8.2	472	9.9	560	12.0
75 and over	196	2.7	321	3.5	431	4.3
<b>Men</b>						
Age 55–59	4,014	79.8	4,856	77.1	6,139	77.6
60–64	2,771	55.5	2,718	54.8	3,408	57.0
65–69	1,192	26.0	1,288	30.1	1,490	32.6
70–74	534	15.4	682	17.9	721	19.4
75 and over	307	7.1	469	8.0	576	9.0

<sup>1</sup> Civilian labor force.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Annual Averages for January 1990, Table 3, Annual Averages for January 2000, Table 3, and Annual Averages for January 2004, Table 3.

Table prepared by the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), 2005.