

One should view the comparison of some labor force participation (LFP) rate estimates for 2022 to earlier years with caution. The estimates shown here are constructed using Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates by demographic characteristic. However, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics [noted](#) that using the 2020 census estimates would mean that the population estimates for some demographic characteristics would have been significantly different in 2021. In particular, the 2020 census revealed a smaller population age 70 and older than the population estimates used in the CPS. Because this population group has a low LFP rate, the LFP rate for the civilian population 16 and older (and the population 55 and older) was likely to have been somewhat higher than the CPS population estimates would have indicated in the years prior to 2022. For example, [Robertson and Willis](#) estimated that the overall LFP rate for the fourth quarter of 2019 (not seasonally adjusted) would have been 0.2 percentage points higher than the published estimate using the CPS data.

The published overall LFP rate in the fourth quarter of 2022 is 62.1 percent, and the change since the fourth quarter of 2019 using the CPS population estimates is  $-1.1$  percentage points. However, using Robertson and Willis's adjusted LFP rates for 2021 and earlier, the actual change is closer to  $-1.3$  percent. For the population 55 and older, the change in the LFP rate since 2019 using the CPS data is  $-1.5$  percentage points. Using Robertson and Willis's adjusted LFP rates for 2021 and earlier, the actual change is closer to  $-2.1$  percent. This larger 0.6 percentage point difference is because the 70-and-older population makes up a much larger share of the 55-and-older population than it does of the 16-and-older population. Also, note that the LFP rate estimates for the prime-age population (aged 25–54) are not affected.