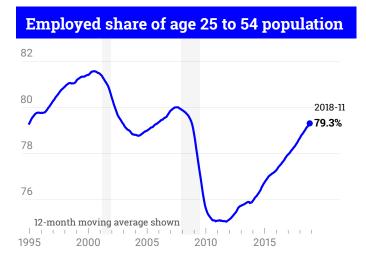
November 2018

Employment



Employment rate trends

During the year ending November 2018, 79.3 percent of people age 25 to 54 were employed, compared to 78.5 percent during the prior year. The employed share of the age group peaked at 82 percent in 1999. If today's 25-54-year-olds were employed at that rate, 3.4 million more would have jobs. In 2010, following the great recession, 74.6 percent of the age group were employed. If current 25-54-year-olds were employed at that rate, 6 million fewer would have jobs.

When the employment rate is high, employers are pressured to keep their employees from leaving because they are harder to replace. Therefore, when the share of the population with jobs is high, workers have more bargaining power and wage growth tends to be stronger. NOTE: these calculations do not include those in the armed forces or institutionalized people.

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