

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [China Is Facing a Moment of Truth About Its Low Retirement Age](#)

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Tweet: China is aging rapidly and local government pension systems are under extreme stress; retirement ages will likely hike quickly as pension funds are depleted. @WSJecon

Summary: China has one of the lowest retirement ages among major economies. Under a policy unchanged since the 1950s, it allows women to retire as early as at age 50 and men at 60. Now, local governments are running out of money just as a wave of retirees hits. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security estimates that more than 40 million Chinese—more than the population of Canada—will retire over the five-year period ending in 2025. The working-age population—usually defined in China as those between 16 and 59—is expected to drop by 35 million in the same period, illustrating the lack of young people to make up for the shortfall in older workers. In February, a reform that threatens to cut into retirees' medical benefits drew protests in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

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Primary Topic: Demographics

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