

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [China's "Demographic Dividend" Appears to be a Myth](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2023/09/19/chinas-demographic-dividend-appears-to-be-a-myth>

Author(s)	Economist Staff
Publication	The Economist
Publication Date	September 19, 2023

**Tweet:** Between 1982 to 2015 China's working-age population grew from 600mm to 1bn; however, LFP dropped from 85% to 70% during the same period. This suggests that a "demographic dividend" didn't drive Chinese growth.

**Summary:** Xin Meng of the Australian National University appears to refute the "demographic dividend" as an explanation for China's economic success. Her analysis showed that between 1982 and 2015 China's working-age population, defined as those aged between 16 and 65, grew from 600m to 1bn. During this same period, however, labour-force participation dropped from 85% to just over 70%. Much of the decline came from those with an urban hukou. Unlike holders of rural hukou, urbanites were subjected to mandatory retirement at the age of 55 for women and 65 for men. Compulsory education and greater university enrolment kept under-25s out of the workforce. Related: Population Aging and Economic Growth: From Demographic Dividend to Demographic Drag? and The Chinese Century Is Already Over and The Neoclassical Growth of China

**Primary Topic:** China

**Topics:** China, Demographics, GDP, Growth, Weekly, Workforce

**Permalink:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/between-1982-to-2015-chinas-working-age-population-grew-from-600mm-to-1bn-however-lfp-dropped-from-85-to-70-during-the-same-period-this-suggests-that-a-demographic-dividend-didnt-drive-chi?view=detail>

### Featured Image

**Link:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/demographic-dividend.png>