

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF THE UNITED STATES

Introduction

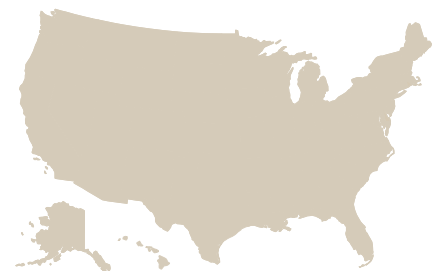
Organizations striving to be employers-of-choice in different countries around the world need access to current information about the economic, social, political, and demographic characteristics of the countries where their employees live and work.

The Country Profile Series focuses on statistics that can guide decision-making at the workplace: workforce highlights, economic highlights, and population highlights. This Country Profile is part of a set of resources about the United States available on the website of the Global Perspectives Institute: www.bc.edu/agingandwork.

Sponsored by:



In collaboration with:



Workforce Highlights

- 🌐 49% of the total United States population is in the labor force.¹
- 🌐 The labor force is projected to slightly increase from 141.0 million in 2000 to 191.8 million in 2050 (with annual growth rate of 0.6%).²
- 🌐 The December 2007 unemployment rate was 5.0%.³
- 🌐 In December 2007, the average hours worked per week by American employees (working either part-time or full-time) in the private sector was 33.8.⁴
- 🌐 In 2006, 16.3% of the labor force was part-time.⁵
- 🌐 10.5% of the total civilian employed labor force reported being self-employed in 2004.⁶
- 🌐 As noted in Figure 1, 49% of the United States population is in the labor force, compared to 51% in Canada and 41% in Mexico.^{1,7}

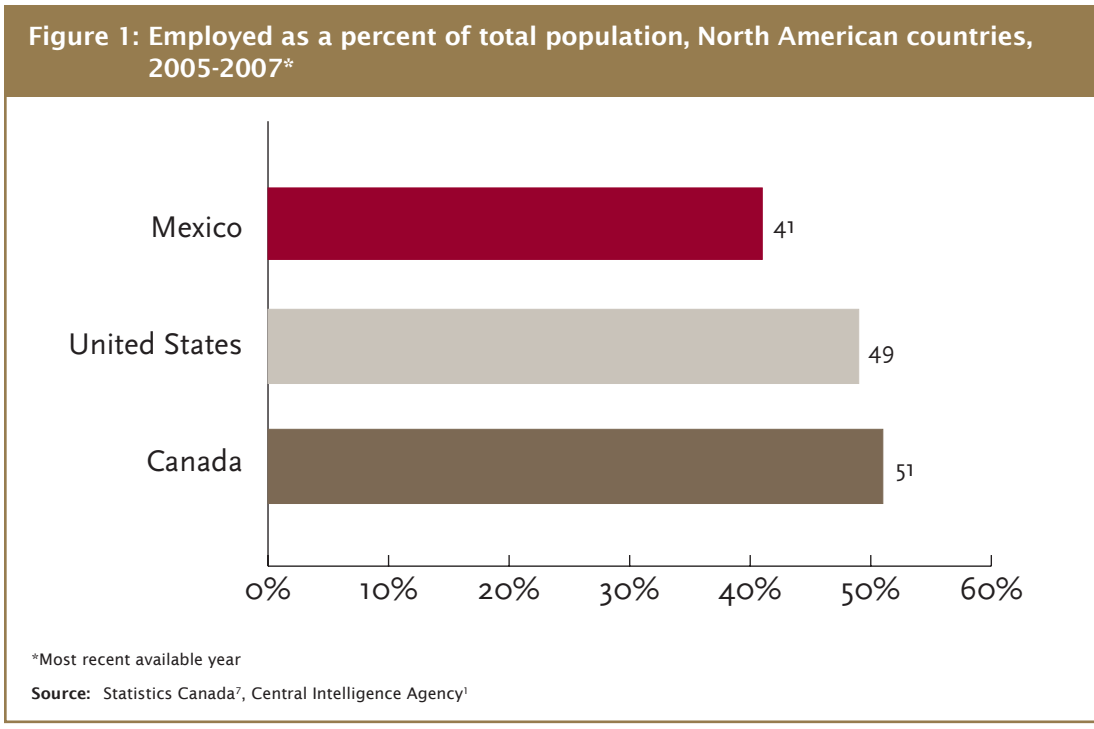
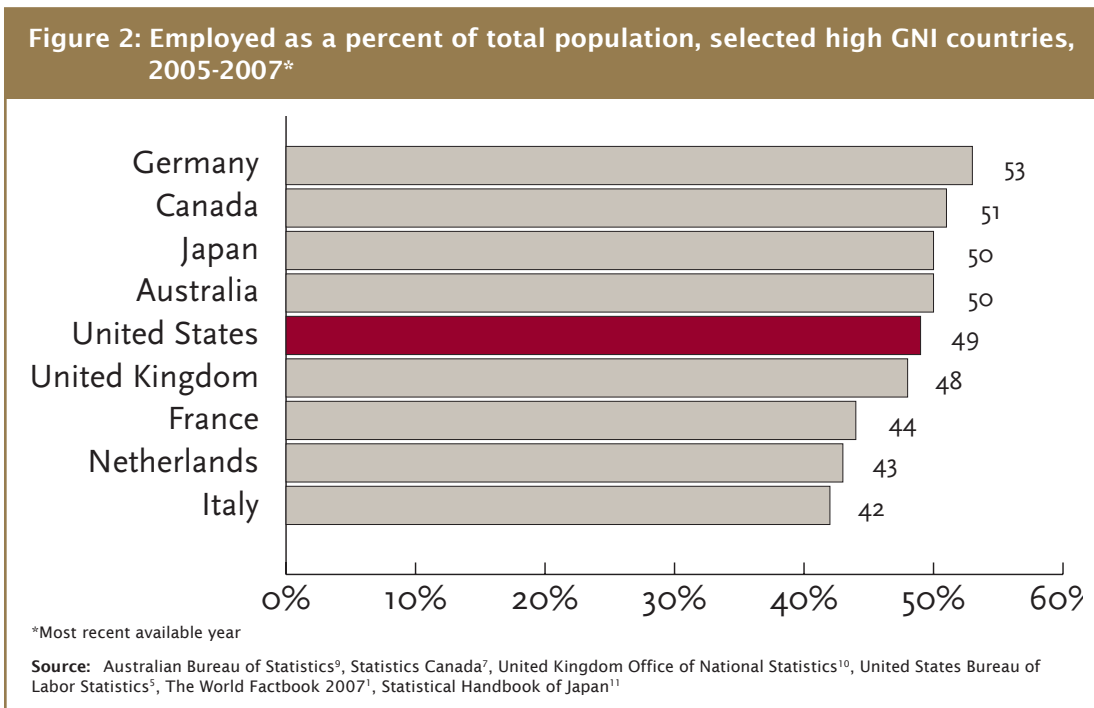
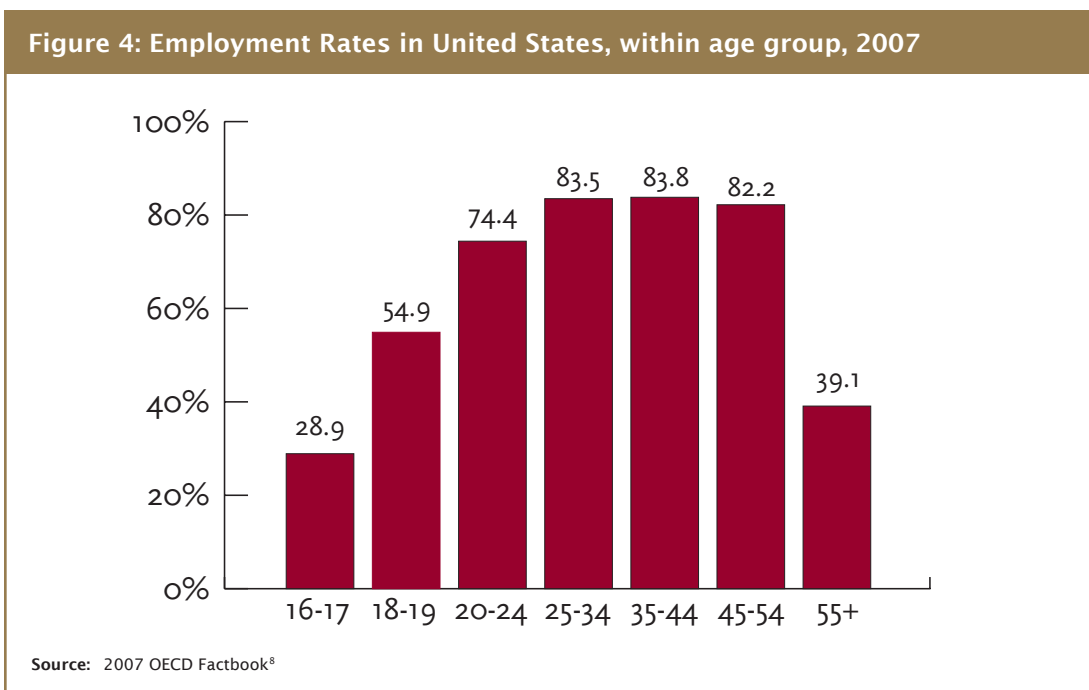
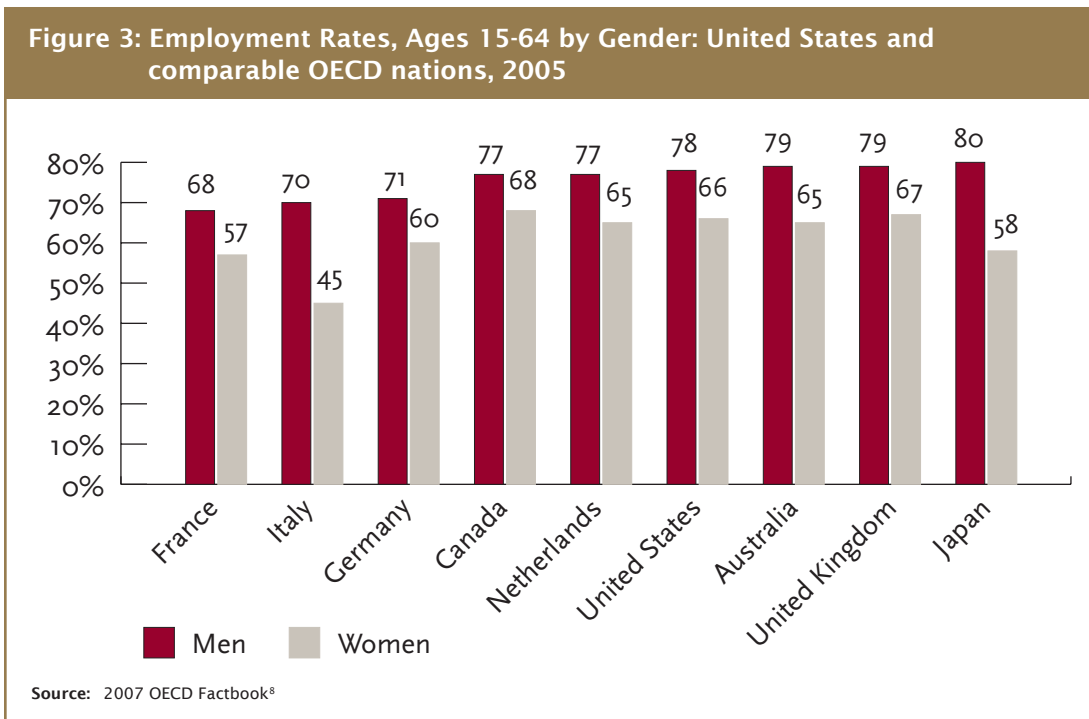


Figure 2 compares the rate of employment as a percent of the total population in the United States with other countries with high gross national incomes. The employment rates of the countries included in Figure 2 range from 42% in Italy to 53% in Germany.

“(Gross national income is GDP less net taxes on production and imports, less compensation of employees and property income payable to the rest of the world plus the corresponding items receivable from the rest of the world (in other words, GDP less primary incomes payable to non-resident units plus primary incomes receivable from non-resident units).”⁵ OECD Factbook



🌐 The employment rates among persons aged 15-64 years are presented in Figure 3. 78 percent of men and 66 percent of women in this age group are employed in the United States.⁸



The information presented in Figure 5 compares the employment rates for each age group with Canada and South Mexico. In 2007, the employment rate for people age 55-59 was lowest in Mexico (60.9%) and highest in the United States (72.0%).¹²

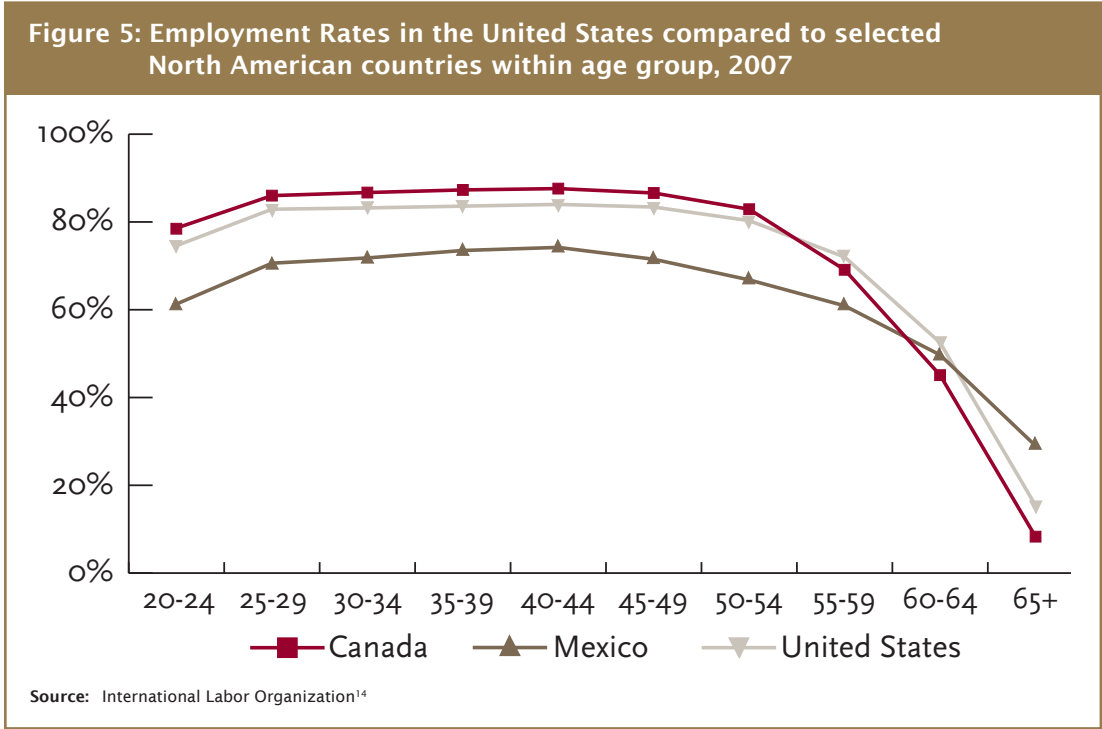


Figure 6 compares the 2007 employment rates for the different age groups in the United States with the projected rates for 2020. As noted, the employment rates among people aged 55 and older are anticipated to increase over the next 13 years.¹²

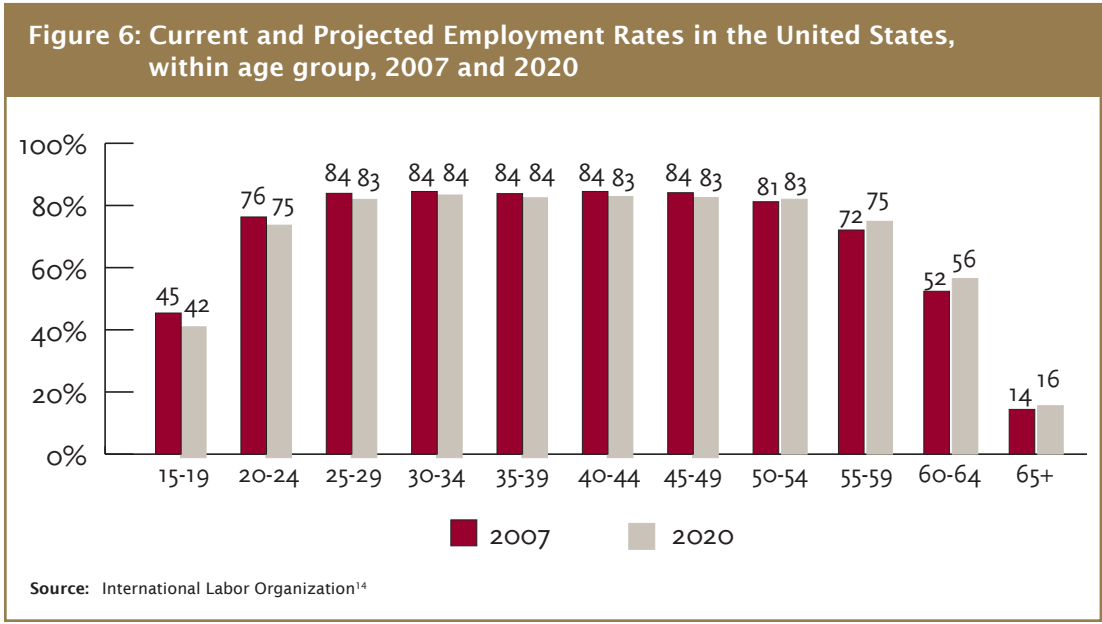
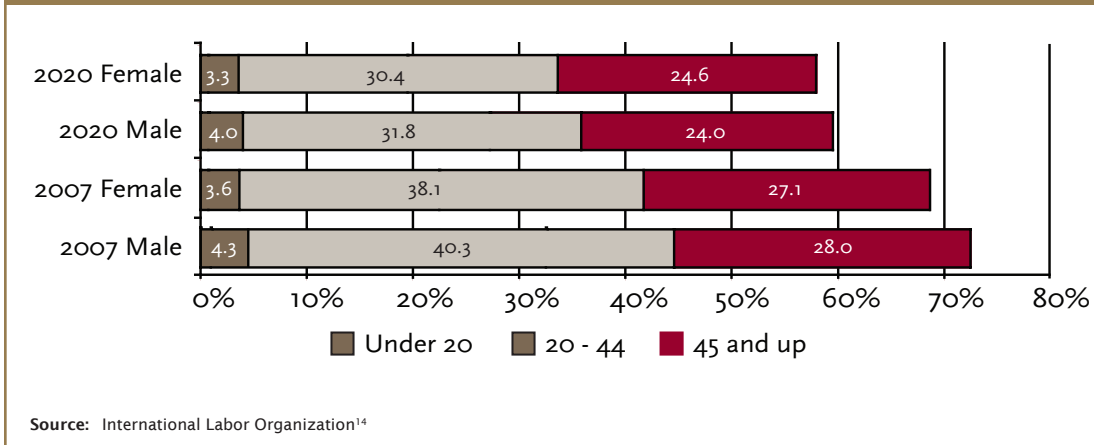


Figure 7: Current and Projected Percentage of the Population in the US Labor force, within age groups, 2007 and 2020



Economic Highlights

- 🌐 The 2006 estimate of the gross national product per capita in the United States was \$43,500.⁸
- 🌐 The gross domestic product of the United States grew by 3.9 percent in 2004 and 3.2 percent in 2005.⁸
- 🌐 The United States debt as a percentage of GDP has fluctuated over the past 15 years, lowest at 55.2 in 2000 and highest at 71.9 in 1993.⁵

Figure 8: GDP Growth in the United States, 1990 - 2005

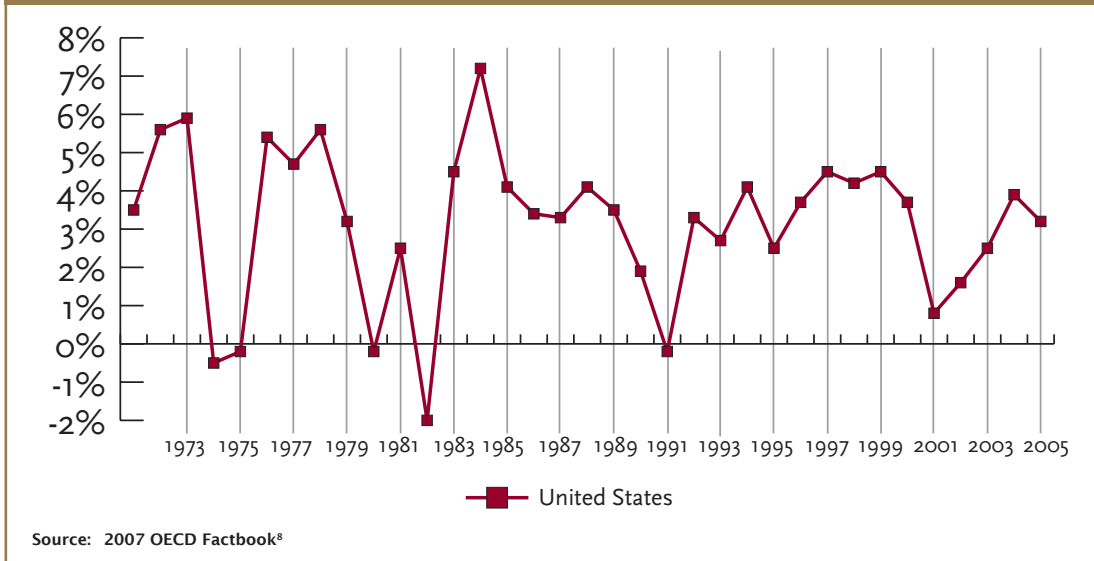
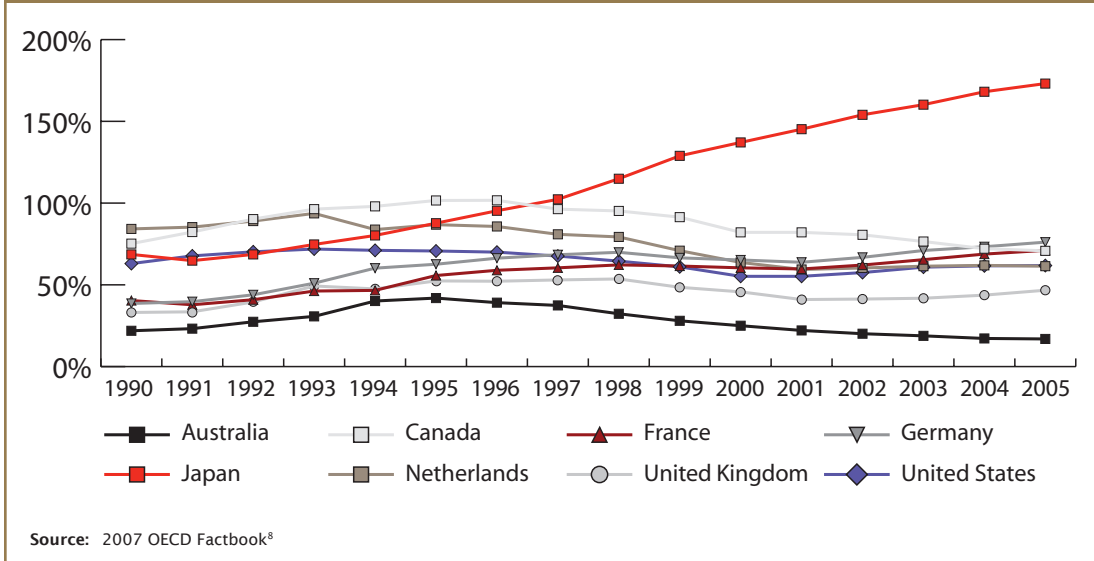


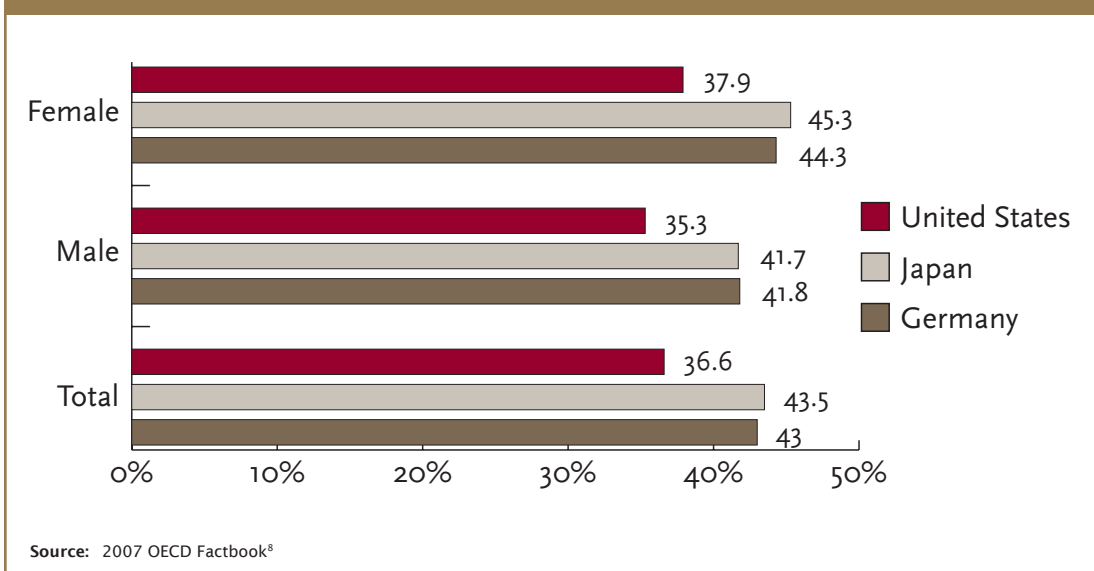
Figure 9: National debt as a percentage of GDP, selected high GNI countries, 1990-2005



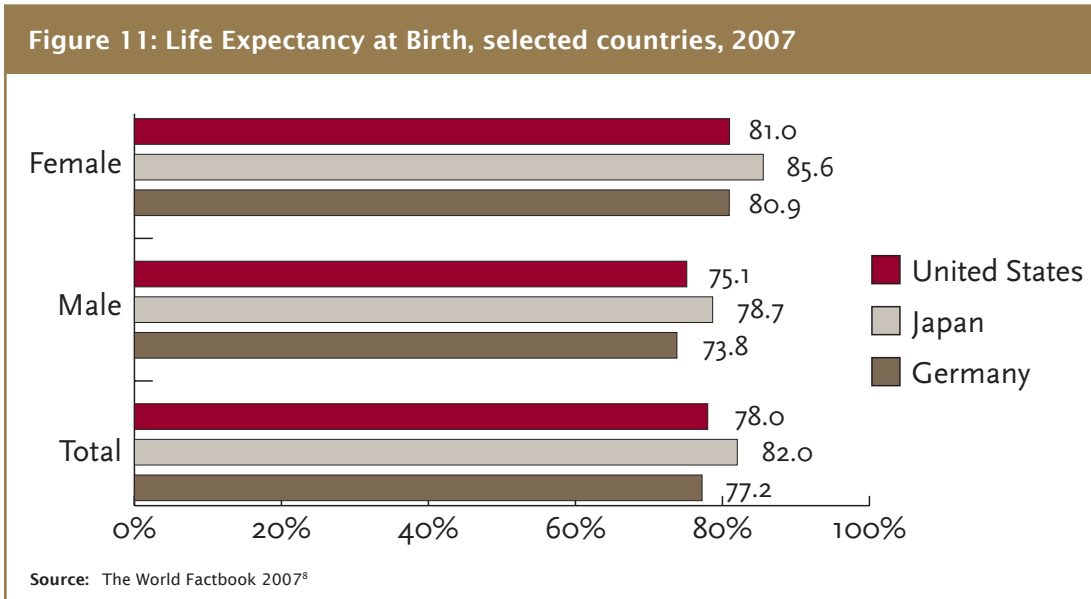
Demographic Highlights

- 🌐 In 2007, the United States population was 301,139,947.¹
- 🌐 The median age of the United States population in 2007 was 36.6 years, or 35.3 years for men and 37.9 years for women.¹

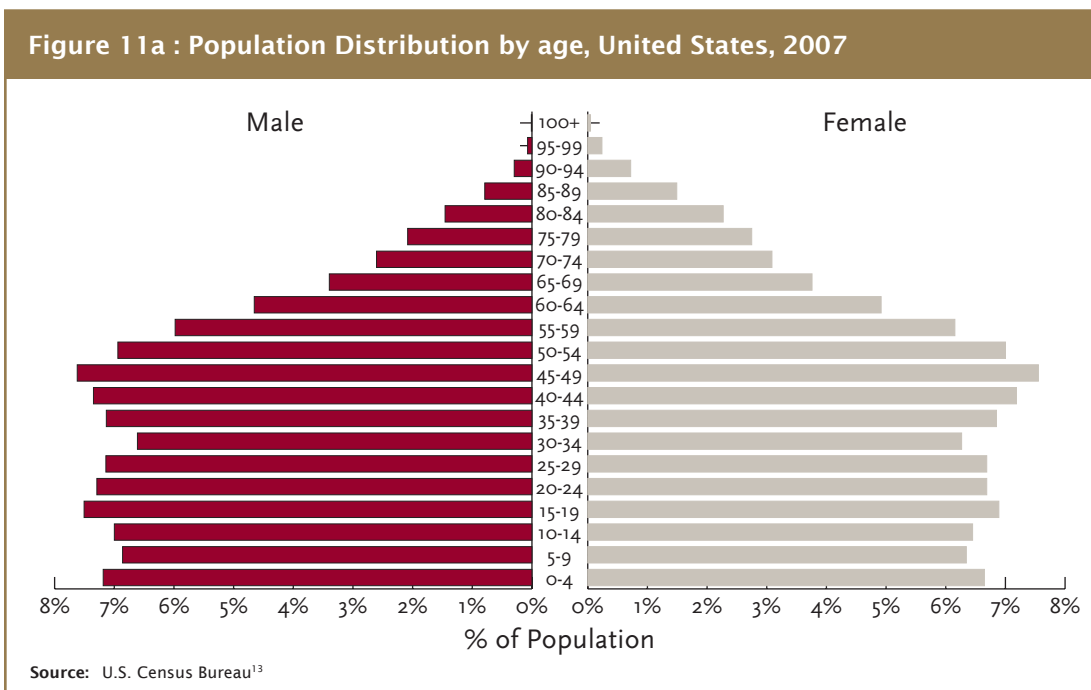
Figure 10: Median Age, selected countries, 2007



- The life expectancy at birth for the United States population was 78.0 years in 2007, 75.1 years for men and 80.97 years for women.¹



- Eighty-one percent of the population was white, 12.9 percent was black, and 4.2 percent was Asian, with the remaining population being of Amerindian, Alaskan, Hawaiian, or Pacific islander native descent.¹
- The fertility rate in the United States was 2.09 children per woman as of 2007.¹
- In the United States, 10.7 percent of the male population and 14.3 percent of the female population is 65 or older.¹³



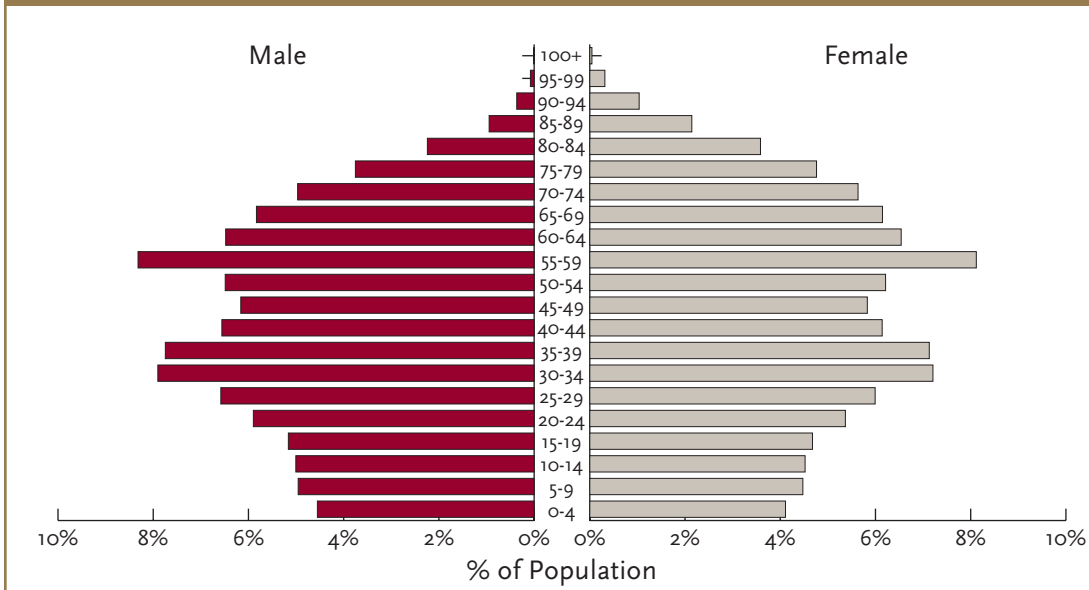
In comparison:

In Japan, 18.2 percent of the male population and 23.7 percent of the female population is 65 or older.

In France, 13.7 percent of the male population and 18.5 percent of the female population is 65 or older.

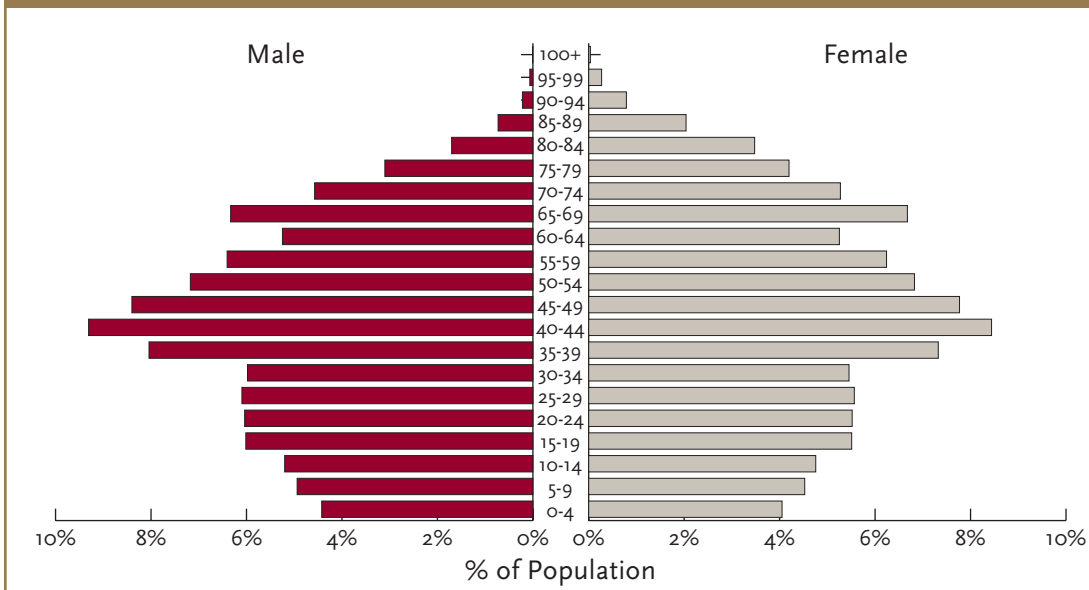
In Germany, 16.7 percent of the male population and 22.8 percent of the female population is 65 or older.

Figure 11b: Population Distribution by age, Japan, 2007



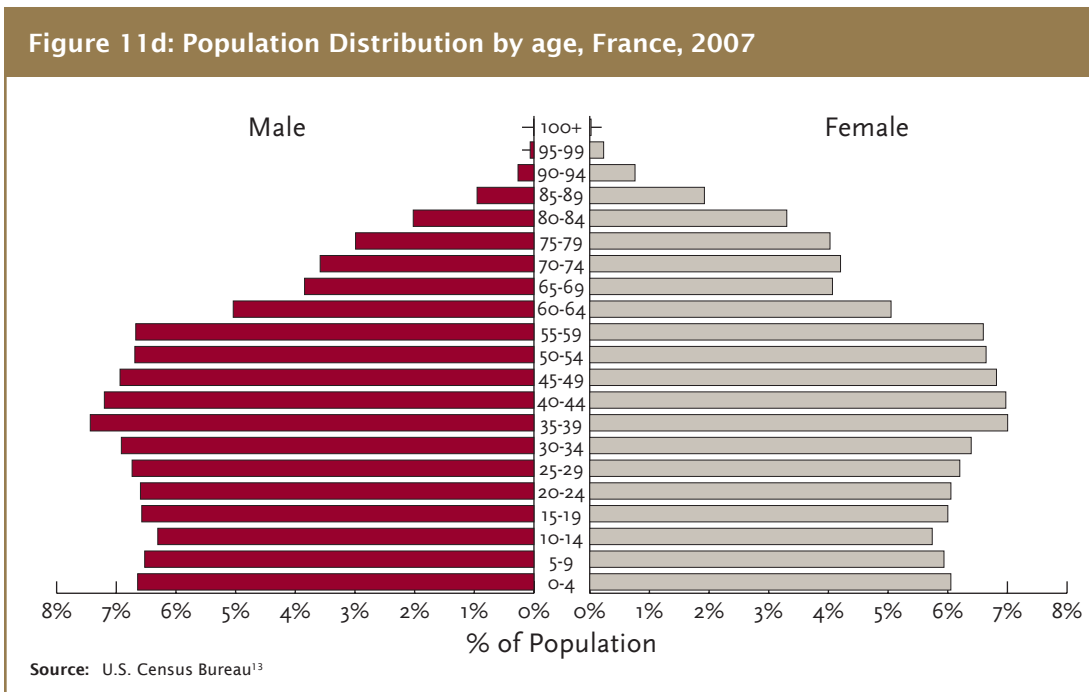
Source: U.S. Census Bureau¹³

Figure 11c: Population Distribution by age, Germany, 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau¹³

- Based on current population distributions, the United States expects less rapid population aging than countries with comparable GDP, such as Japan, France, and Germany.¹³



About the Institute

Established in 2008 by the Center on Aging & Work, the Global Perspectives Institute is an international collaboration of scholars and employers committed to the expansion of the quality of employment available to the 21st century multi-generational workforce in countries around the world.

The Global Perspectives Institute focuses on innovative and promising practices that might be adopted by employers and policy-makers.

The Institute's research, publications, and international forums contribute to:

- a deeper understanding of the employment experiences and career aspirations of employees of different ages who work in countries around the world;
- informed decision making by employers who want to be employers-of-choice in different countries; and
- innovative thinking about private-public partnerships that promote sustainable, quality employment.

Country Profile Team

Tay McNamara,
Research Director
Vanessa Careiro,
Research Assistant
Daniel Mak,
Research Assistant

Global Perspectives Institute

Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes,
Director
Ariane Ollier-Malaterre,
Associate Director

Matt Flynn,
Policy Perspectives Team Leader
Michael Smyer,
Employer Perspectives
Team Leader
Celina Pagani-Tousignant,
Corporate Liaison

References

- ¹ Central Intelligence Agency, United States of America. (n.d.). *The World Factbook 2007*. Retrieved June 12, 2007 from www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html
- ² Toosi, M. (2002). A century of change: the U.S. Labor force, 1950-2050. *Monthly Labor Review*, 125 (May), 15-28.
- ³ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*. Retrieved January 11, 2008 from <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost>.
- ⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2008). *The Employment Situation: December 2007*. Retrieved January 11, 2008 from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empisit.pdf>
- ⁵ Bureau of Labor Statistics, (n.d.). Retrieved January 11, 2008 from <http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm#tables>
- ⁶ Karoly, L. A., & Zissimopoulos, J. (2004). Self-employment among older U.S. workers. *Monthly labor review*: 24-47. Retrieved January 11, 2008 from <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2004/07/art3full.pdf>
- ⁷ Statistics Canada (n.d.). Retrieved October 14, 2007 from <http://www.statcan.ca/>
- ⁸ OECD. (n.d.). *OECD Factbook 2007— Economic, Environmental, and Social Statistics*. Retrieved June 12, 2007 from <http://stats.oecd.org/>
- ⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. (n.d.) Retrieved October 14, 2007 from <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/>
- ¹⁰ United Kingdom Office of National Statistics. Retrieved October 14, 2007 from <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>
- ¹¹ Statistics Bureau & Statistical Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. (n.d.). *Statistical Handbook of Japan*. Retrieved October 14, 2007 from <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/handbook/>
- ¹² International Labor Organization. Retrieved October 14, 2007 from <http://www.ilo.org/>
- ¹³ United States Census Bureau. Retrieved October 14, 2007 from <http://www.census.gov>

The Center on Aging & Work at Boston College, funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is a unique research center established in 2005. The Center works in partnership with decision-makers at the workplace to design and implement rigorous investigations that will help the American business community prepare for the opportunities and challenges associated with the aging workforce. The Center focuses on flexible work options because these are a particularly important element of innovative employer responses to the aging

workforce. The studies conducted by the Center are examining employers' adoption of a range of flexible work options, the implementation of them at the workplace, their use by older workers, and their impact on business and older workers.

The Center's multi-disciplinary core research team is comprised of more than 20 social scientists from disciplines including economics, social work, psychology, and sociology. The investigators have strong expertise