

Econ 323

Economic History of the U.S.

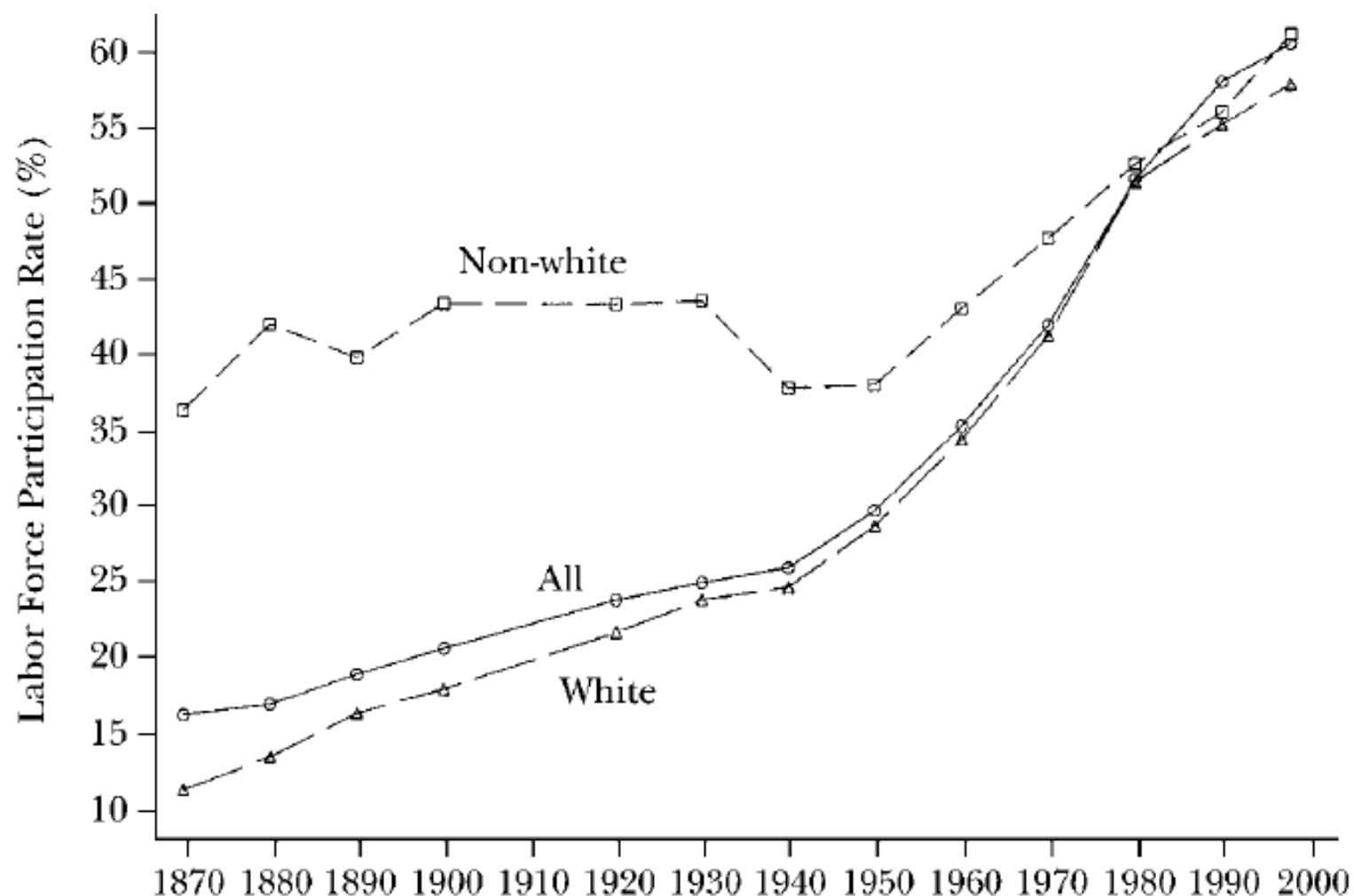
Prof. Eschker

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Today's Topics

- Chicago Video
- Immigration
- Costa Reading: “The Rise of Women’s Paid Labor”
 - Labor Force Participation Rate
 - Women’s work in different eras
 - Type of jobs
 - Explanations for changes
 - Supply or Demand important?

Labor Force Participation Rates by Race, United States, 1870–1999



Note: Rates for 1890–1980 are from Goldin (1990, p. 17). Rates for 1870 and 1880 were estimated from the integrated public use micro census samples (Ruggles and Sobeck, 1997). Rates for 1990 and 1999 are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

Labor Force Participation Rates by Marital Status, United States and Great Britain

United States							Great Britain			
Year	Age	Married	Single	Age	Married	Single	Year	Age	Married	Unmarried
1880	15+	4.6	37.6	15–64	5.8	35.1				
1890		4.6	40.5							
1900		5.6	43.5		5.9	46.7	1911	15–64	9.9	66.0
1920		9.0	46.4		9.2	51.3	1921		9.0	67.0
1930		11.7	50.5				1931		10.6	69.6
1940		13.8	45.5		13.4	50.1				
1950		21.6	50.6		22.5	52.5	1951		23.6	72.3
1960		30.6	47.5		32.7	50.5	1961		32.6	71.8
1970	16+	39.5	51.0		42.1	47.1	1973		48.2	62.3
1980		50.1	61.5	16–59	56.3	62.9	1981	16–59	60.0	75.0
1990		57.6	66.4		68.9	68.8	1990		71.0	71.0
1998		61.8	68.1		72.6	72.8	1998		74.0	67.0

Notes: The United States figure for 1880 for women age 15+ and the figures for American women age 15–64 and 16–59 are compiled from the micro-census samples (Ruggles and Sobeck, 1997) and the Current Population Survey (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1998). No figure is given for 1910 because this census enumerated unpaid family workers and is therefore not consistent with the others. Figures for women age 15+ and 16+ for 1890–1900 and for 1920–1980 are from Goldin (1990, p. 17). Those for 1990 and 1998 are from Handbook of U.S. Labor Statistics (1999). The numbers for Great Britain for 1911–1973 are from Matthews, Feinstein, and Odling-Smee (1982, pp. 563–65). The figures for 1981 and 1990 are from graphs in various issues of *Social Trends* and are therefore not precisely calculated. The numbers for 1990 and for 1998 are for married/cohabitating and not married/not cohabitating. The 1998 figures are from the Office for National Statistics website.

Women's Labor Force Participation Rates

- U-shaped

Women's work

- 1820-1890 Mill work
 - 1890-1950 Clerical/teachers/nurses
 - 1950-1970 Married women & part time
 - 1970-today “careers”
-
- Sweden and public sector

Explanations for increased LFPR of Married Women

- Supply
- Demand