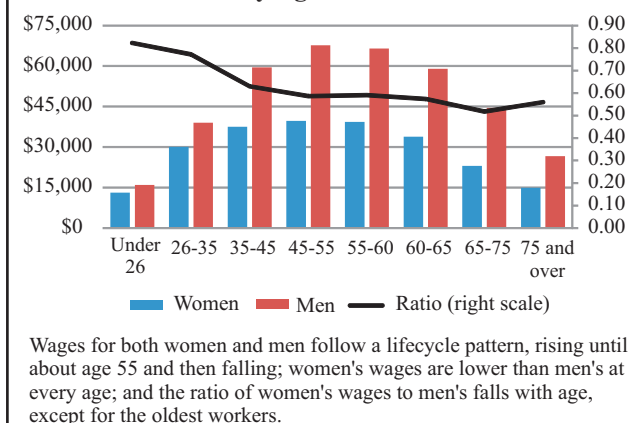


SOI Releases New Data From Form W-2

By James Nunns

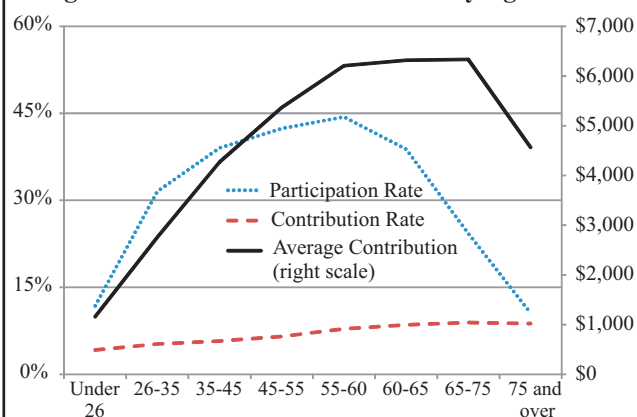
Newly released Form W-2 data from the Statistics of Income Division of the IRS describe in detail the wages and retirement contributions of workers from 2008 through 2010. SOI economists Kevin Pierce and Jon Goyer provide an overview of the data and compare them with (much less detailed) data for prior years in an *SOI Bulletin* article.¹ Three charts illustrate the depth and usefulness of the new data:

Figure 1. Average Wages of Women and Men by Age in 2010



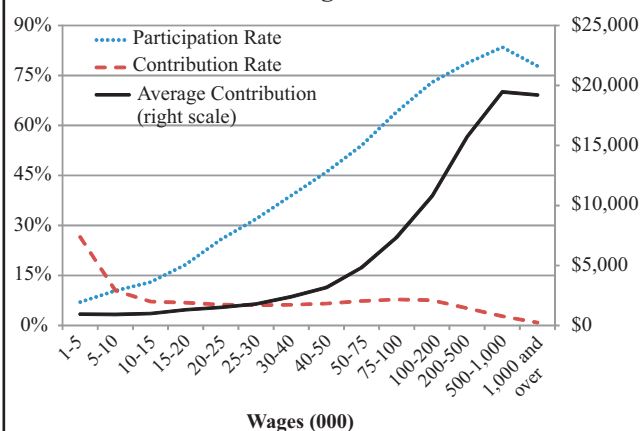
¹Pierce, Kevin and Jon Goyer, "Wage Income and Elective Retirement Contributions from Form W-2, 2008-2010," *Statistics of Income Bulletin*, Summer 2013, available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/13insumbulw2.pdf>. The tables are available at <http://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Individual-Information-Return-Form-W2-Statistics>.

Figure 2. Retirement Contributions by Age in 2010



Participation rates (the percentage of workers making contributions to 401(k)-type plans) rise with age until about age 55, then fall; contribution rates (contributors' contributions as a percentage of wages) rise with age; and contributors' average contributions rise rapidly to about age 55, are essentially flat to age 75, then fall.

Figure 3. Retirement Contributions by Size of Wages in 2010



Participation rates rise rapidly, particularly up to about \$100,000 of wages, tapering only above about \$500,000 of wages; contribution rates fall with wages; and average contributions rise slowly with wages until about \$500,000, then fall slightly.



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