

Dependency Ratios In Exercises 13–18, use the information and bar graph below (See Examples 5 and 6.)



The economic dependency ratio is also called the total dependency ratio which consists of old-age dependency and youth dependency, as shown in the bar graph. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935, the United States had a total dependency ratio of 74. Of this, 63 was attributed to youth dependency and 11 to old-age dependency.

13. Why is the total dependency ratio projected to increase from 66 in 2010 to 82 in 2050?
14. Use percent of increase to describe the change in the old-age dependency ratio from 2010 to 2030.
15. What does the bar graph imply about the working-age population from 2010 to 2050?
16. What effects do a rising economic dependency ratio have on a government? Explain your reasoning.
17. The total dependency ratio in 1965 was 95, with a youth dependency of 77 and an old-age dependency of 18. Would the financial burden on the Social Security system be greater in 1965 or 2050? Explain your reasoning.
18. Suppose you are a legislator. How would you propose to fix the imminent financial challenges of the Social Security system?

