

ABSTRACT:

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**Working Horizon and Unemployment Behaviour: Causal
Evidence from Pension Reform**

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This paper estimates the effects of a pension reform on re-employment and participation in active labour market programs for newly unemployed middle-aged and older women well before approaching retirement. Causal estimates are obtained by leveraging a unique reform of the German public pension system, which across a sharp date-of-birth cut-off increased the early retirement age for women by three years. Using duration analysis combined with a regression discontinuity approach on administrative data as well as difference-in-difference and difference-in-discontinuities approaches, I show that this reform substantially increased transition rates from unemployment into self-found re-employment and had no significant effect on participation in active labour market programs such as vocational training measures.