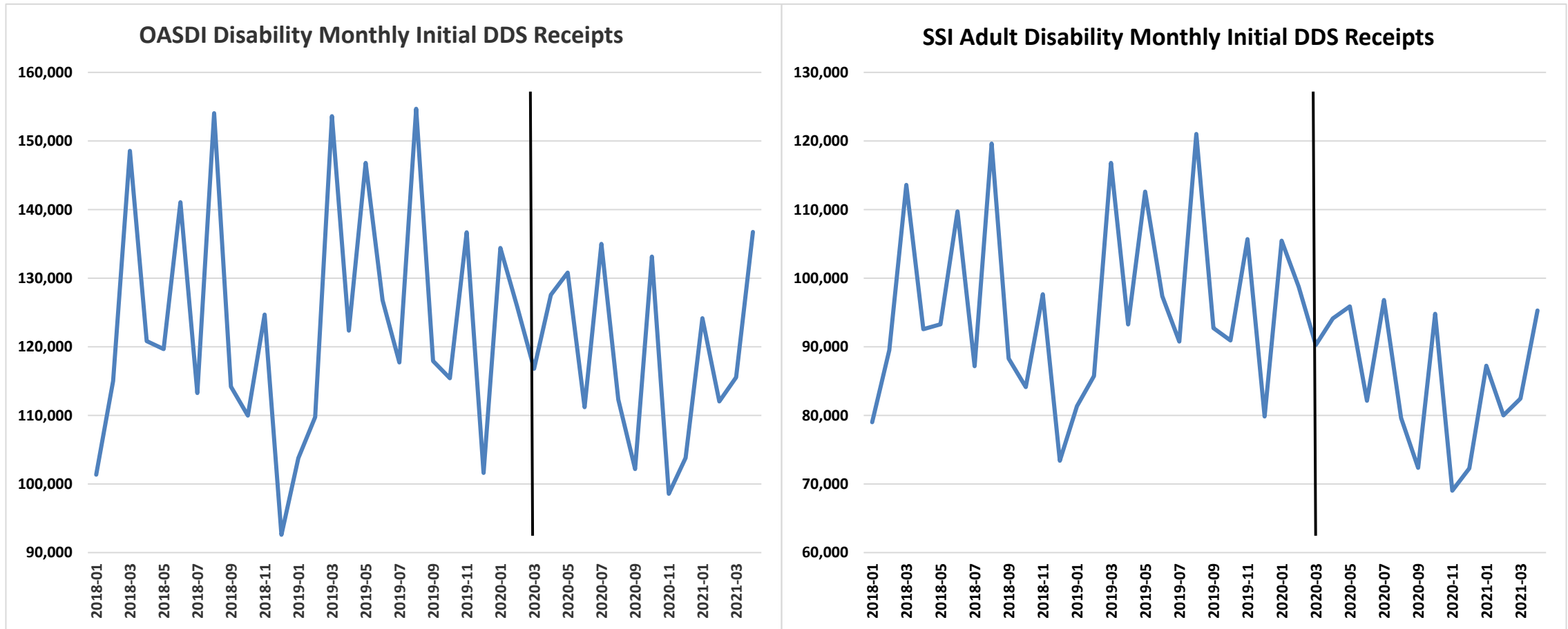


Disability Applications for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income in the 2020-21 Pandemic/Recession

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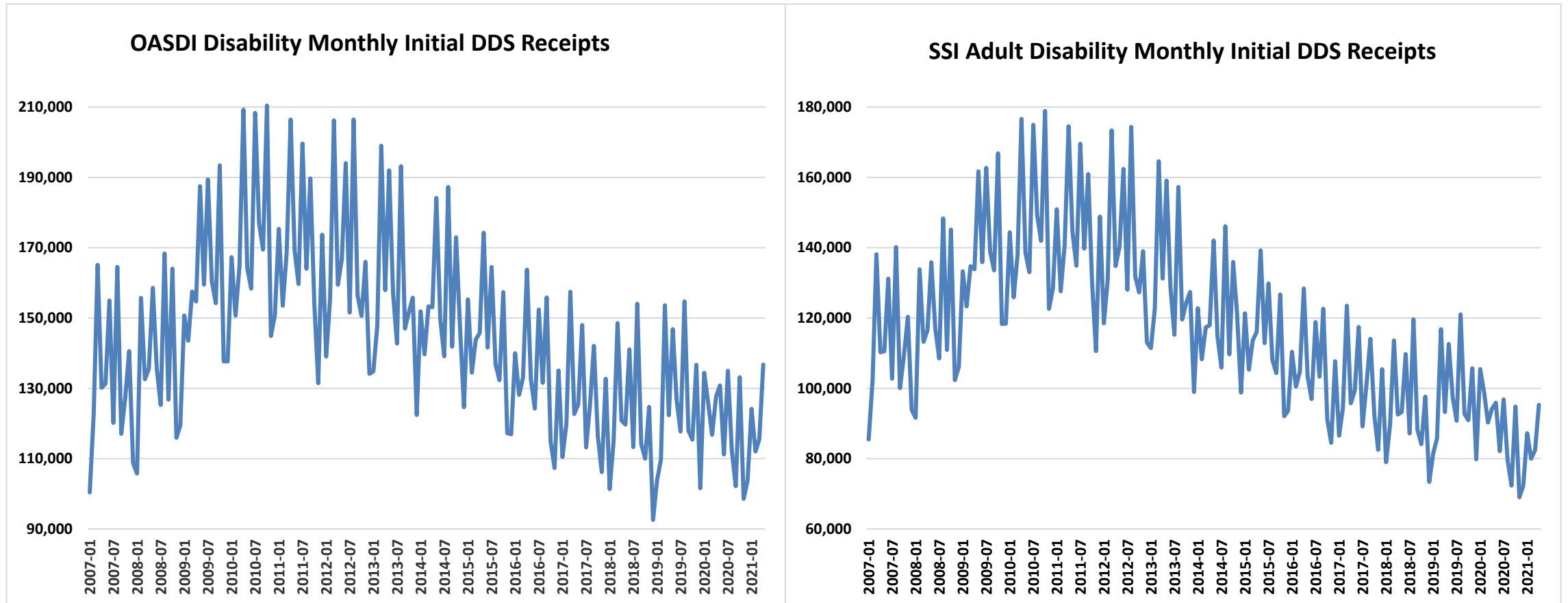
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There has been a perceptible and significant decline in disability applicants in the pandemic/recession starting in March 2020; many factors temporary and permanent have contributed



Data source: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/data/ssa-sa-mowl.htm>

But we must consider this in a longer context: disability applications dropped steadily since 2010, until a slight rise in 2019. So to what extent is the drop in 2020-21 just a continuation of longer term trends?



Data source: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/data/ssa-sa-mowl.htm>

Why the drop in disability applications in recent years? Changing population age distribution, in part.

The share of the adult population at “prime” disability ages (45-64) rose dramatically between 1990 and 2008, as the large baby-boom generation moved from ages 25-44 to ages 45-64.

But since 2008, and through about 2030, the reverse is happening, as the baby-boom generation is now moving to retirement ages.

