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Technical information: (202) 691-6378 • cpsinfo@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/cps

Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • PressOffice@bls.gov

## **PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS — 2015**

In 2015, 17.5 percent of persons with a disability were employed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In contrast, the employment-population ratio for those without a disability was 65.0 percent. The employment-population ratio for persons with a disability edged up in 2015, and the ratio for persons without a disability continued to increase. The unemployment rate for persons with a disability fell to 10.7 percent in 2015, and the rate for those without a disability declined to 5.1 percent.

The data on persons with a disability are collected as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 households that provides statistics on employment and unemployment in the United States. The collection of data on persons with a disability is sponsored by the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy. For more information, see the Technical Note in this news release.

### **Highlights from the 2015 data:**

- Persons with a disability were about three times as likely as those with no disability to be age 65 and over. (See table 1.)
- For all age groups, the employment-population ratio was much lower for persons with a disability than for those with no disability. (See table 1.)
- Unemployment rates were higher for persons with a disability than for those with no disability among all educational attainment groups. (See table 1.)
- In 2015, 32 percent of workers with a disability were employed part time, compared with 18 percent for those with no disability. (See table 2.)
- Workers with a disability were more likely to be self-employed than those with no disability. (See table 4.)

### **Demographic characteristics**

Persons with a disability tend to be older than persons with no disability, reflecting the increased incidence of disability with age. In 2015, 47 percent of persons with a disability were age 65 and over, compared with 15 percent of those with no disability. Women were somewhat more likely to have a

**Table 3. Employed persons by disability status, occupation, and sex, 2015 annual averages**  
 [Percent distribution]

Occupation	Persons with a disability			Persons with no disability		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total employed (in thousands).....	5,193	2,803	2,389	143,641	76,327	67,314
<b>Occupation as a percent of total employed</b>						
Total employed.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	31.3	28.7	34.3	39.2	35.7	43.2
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	14.1	15.4	12.7	16.3	17.2	15.2
Management occupations.....	10.7	12.6	8.4	11.4	13.1	9.6
Business and financial operations occupations.....	3.5	2.7	4.3	4.8	4.2	5.6
Professional and related occupations.....	17.2	13.4	21.6	22.9	18.5	28.0
Computer and mathematical occupations.....	1.9	2.3	1.6	3.0	4.2	1.5
Architecture and engineering occupations.....	1.5	2.4	0.4	2.0	3.2	0.6
Life, physical, and social science occupations.....	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9
Community and social service occupations.....	1.7	1.2	2.4	1.7	1.1	2.4
Legal occupations.....	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.1	1.3
Education, training, and library occupations.....	4.6	2.6	7.0	6.0	3.0	9.5
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations.....	1.9	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.1
Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations.....	4.0	1.9	6.4	6.0	2.8	9.5
Service occupations.....	21.7	17.5	26.7	17.2	14.0	20.9
Healthcare support occupations.....	2.3	0.4	4.6	2.4	0.6	4.4
Protective service occupations.....	2.1	2.8	1.2	2.1	3.1	0.9
Food preparation and serving related occupations.....	6.1	5.0	7.4	5.4	4.7	6.3
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations.....	6.3	7.1	5.4	3.8	4.2	3.3
Personal care and service occupations.....	4.9	2.3	8.0	3.6	1.6	5.9
Sales and office occupations.....	22.9	16.3	30.6	22.6	16.4	29.6
Sales and related occupations.....	10.0	9.2	10.8	10.6	10.1	11.1
Office and administrative support occupations.....	12.9	7.1	19.7	12.0	6.3	18.5
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	9.7	16.6	1.6	9.2	16.5	0.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	1.0	1.4	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.4
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5.0	8.8	0.4	5.1	9.4	0.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	3.7	6.3	0.5	3.4	6.1	0.2
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	14.4	20.8	6.9	11.8	17.3	5.5
Production occupations.....	6.9	9.2	4.3	5.7	7.6	3.5
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	7.5	11.7	2.6	6.1	9.7	2.0

**Table 4. Employed persons by disability status, industry, class of worker, and sex, 2015 annual averages**  
 [Percent distribution]

Industry and class of worker	Persons with a disability			Persons with no disability		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total employed (in thousands).....	5,193	2,803	2,389	143,641	76,327	67,314
<b>Industry as a percent of total employed</b>						
Total employed.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture and related industries.....	3.0	4.2	1.7	1.6	2.2	0.8
Nonagricultural industries.....	97.0	95.8	98.3	98.4	97.8	99.2
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.....	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.2
Construction.....	6.1	10.3	1.2	6.7	11.4	1.3
Manufacturing.....	10.6	13.7	7.0	10.3	13.8	6.4
Wholesale trade.....	2.1	3.0	1.1	2.5	3.2	1.6
Retail trade.....	13.1	12.8	13.4	11.1	10.9	11.4
Transportation and utilities.....	5.3	7.0	3.4	5.2	7.6	2.5
Information.....	1.7	1.9	1.6	2.0	2.3	1.7
Financial activities.....	6.0	5.3	6.9	6.8	6.0	7.7
Professional and business services.....	10.6	11.3	9.7	11.7	13.0	10.3
Education and health services.....	20.6	10.5	32.4	22.7	10.8	36.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	9.5	8.7	10.4	9.3	8.5	10.1
Other services.....	6.2	5.9	6.4	4.8	4.4	5.4
Public administration.....	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.5
<b>Class of worker as a percent of total employed</b>						
Total employed <sup>1</sup> .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wage and salary workers <sup>2</sup> .....	89.9	88.0	92.2	93.7	92.7	94.8
Private industries.....	75.8	76.0	75.5	79.8	81.5	77.9
Government.....	14.2	11.9	16.8	13.9	11.2	16.9
Federal.....	3.1	3.2	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.3
State.....	4.9	3.5	6.7	4.7	3.5	6.0
Local.....	6.2	5.2	7.2	6.8	5.2	8.5
Self-employed workers, unincorporated.....	10.0	12.0	7.6	6.3	7.3	5.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes a small number of unpaid family workers, not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Includes self-employed workers whose businesses are incorporated.