

Employment Activity

Table 19.
Employment, by program and employment status (in percent)

Activity	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Has ever worked for pay					
Yes	83.2	93.5	75.3	66.5	100.0
No	16.8	6.5	24.7	33.4	...
Employed in 2014					
Yes	10.6	11.4	11.9	8.5	85.3
No or unknown	89.4	88.6	88.1	91.5	14.7
Employed at interview					
Yes	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2	100.0
No	91.7	91.4	91.2	92.8	...
Did not seek work in past 4 weeks	86.0	87.0	82.5	85.8	...
Sought work in past 4 weeks	5.7	4.4	8.6	7.0	...

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

Table 20.
Employment, by age (in percent)

Activity	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30-49	50 or older
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,049	2,146	867
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	1,212,222	3,379,015	8,305,498
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	9.4	26.2	64.4
Has ever worked for pay				
Yes	83.2	49.0	76.6	90.9
No	16.8	50.9	23.4	9.1
Employed in 2014				
Yes	10.6	23.0	13.4	7.7
No or unknown	89.4	77.0	86.6	92.3
Employed at interview				
Yes	8.3	17.1	9.5	6.4
No	91.7	82.9	90.5	93.6
Did not seek work in past 4 weeks	86.0	66.0	81.9	90.6
Sought work in past 4 weeks	5.7	16.8	8.5	3.0

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Table 21.
Employment rates, by program and beneficiary subgroup (in percent)

Subgroup	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Total	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2
Age				
18–24	17.2	16.5	18.4	17.0
25–39	13.3	15.3	15.3	10.6
40–54	8.2	10.5	6.7	4.2
55 or older	5.9	6.6	5.5	3.7
General health				
Excellent or very good	21.8	21.6	29.7	18.4
Good or fair	9.3	10.0	8.5	8.3
Poor or very poor	3.6	4.8	2.5	1.0
Education level				
Less than high school	4.9	6.8	3.8	3.4
High school diploma or GED	10.7	10.9	11.3	10.0
More than high school	7.9	7.0	12.6	9.4
Self-reported condition causing limitation				
Intellectual disability	17.9	23.5	18.5	13.6
Sensory disorder	5.0	4.4	7.4	4.8
Mental illness	8.4	10.6	9.1	4.6
Musculoskeletal disorder	4.4	5.2	4.7	1.5
Circulatory system disorder	4.0	3.6	4.6	5.0
Age at disability onset				
Under 18	15.8	22.9	15.1	12.0
18–24	10.6	14.1	6.5	9.5
25–39	5.4	7.7	4.3	1.5
40–54	6.7	6.7	8.1	5.6
55 or older	3.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Difficulty with—				
Getting along with others	8.0	9.5	8.4	5.5
Concentrating	7.5	8.0	9.0	5.7
Coping with stress	6.7	7.7	8.4	4.0
Bathing or dressing	4.7	5.2	4.2	4.0
Getting around outside the home	5.9	6.3	7.0	4.4

NOTE: GED = General Educational Development certificate.

Table 22.
Recently employed beneficiaries' employment activities, capacity, and supports, by program (in percent)

Activity, capacity, or support	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	683	275	161	247
Number (weighted)	1,529,385	905,134	258,262	365,989
Percentage (weighted)	11.9	12.3	13.3	10.2
Worked fewer hours or earned less than was able				
Yes	29.2	32.4	27.6	22.3
No	56.7	53.6	54.6	66.0
Unknown	14.1	14.0	17.8	11.7
Reason for working fewer hours or earning less than able (among those who answered yes to the previous question) ^a				
Wanted to keep cash benefit	38.7	39.8	47.1	27.4
Wanted to keep Medicare or Medicaid	42.2	45.0	46.7	28.3
Health	27.4	29.6	31.6	16.0
Taking care of children or others	27.1	23.9	48.1	20.2
Didn't want to work more	13.9	15.1	11.9	11.3
Enrolled in school or training	8.3	4.6	6.9	22.8
Other	11.2	8.2	13.7	19.4
None indicated	13.6	13.6	3.8	22.3
Support that could boost earnings (among recently employed) ^a				
Better job skills	28.0	23.8	29.6	37.1
Help finding a better job	31.4	24.7	38.9	42.7
Flexible work schedule	25.3	22.4	31.9	28.0
Reliable transportation to or from work	21.9	18.3	29.4	25.5
Help with personal care	10.1	9.2	13.9	9.6
Help caring for children or others	8.8	6.5	14.6	10.5
Special equipment or devices	1.5	1.7	(X)	1.5
Other	8.8	10.5	8.0	5.0
None indicated	43.8	46.2	43.7	37.8

NOTES: Recently employed refers to beneficiaries employed at interview or in 2014.

(X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Multiple responses possible.

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Table 23.

Employment activities and expectations, by program and employment status (in percent)

Activity or expectation	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
One or more of the below	48.8	46.4	54.1	50.8	100.0
Employment activity ^a					
One or more of the below	16.4	15.8	19.8	15.8	100.0
Working at interview	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2	100.0
Worked in 2014	10.6	11.4	11.9	8.5	85.3
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.7	4.4	8.6	7.0	...
Employment service and training activity ^a					
One or more of the below	11.4	9.1	16.2	13.3	24.1
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.8	1.4	3.8	5.3	...
Used employment-specific service in 2014	8.8	7.7	13.3	8.4	23.0
Used employment or other service in 2014 to get a job or to increase income	2.9	2.0	4.4	4.1	10.3
Goal or expectation ^a					
One or more of the below	45.2	42.4	49.4	48.6	91.7
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	37.2	34.0	41.8	41.3	62.7
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years ^b	25.3	23.1	30.1	27.4	83.1
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years ^c	11.2	9.2	12.5	14.4	22.2
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	28.1	24.2	34.5	32.8	65.8
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	16.7	13.8	19.4	21.2	29.3

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

c. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

Table 24.
Employment activities and expectations, by impairment (in percent)

Activity or expectation	All beneficiaries	Beneficiaries reporting—		
		Musculoskeletal impairments	Mental impairments	Intellectual disability
One or more of the below	48.8	39.8	53.4	50.8
Employment activity ^a				
One or more of the below	16.4	11.1	18.1	24.2
Working at interview	8.3	4.4	8.4	17.9
Worked in 2014	10.6	6.6	11.7	20.1
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.7	4.3	7.0	3.7
Employment service and training activity ^a				
One or more of the below	11.4	8.8	17.0	18.9
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.8	2.5	4.0	4.3
Used employment-specific service in 2014	8.8	6.8	14.2	16.2
Used employment or other service in 2014 to get a job or to increase income	2.9	1.9	3.8	3.3
Goal or expectation ^a				
One or more of the below	45.2	35.9	49.1	45.8
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	37.2	28.8	41.0	41.9
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years ^b	25.3	17.8	24.8	28.5
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years ^c	11.2	6.5	9.5	4.0
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	28.1	20.9	31.0	24.8
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	16.7	12.4	16.7	6.6

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

c. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

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Table 25.
Employment activities and expectations, by age (in percent)

Activity or expectation	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
One or more of the below	48.8	76.9	60.9	39.8
Employment activity ^a				
One or more of the below	16.4	39.0	21.2	11.2
Working at interview	8.3	17.1	9.5	6.4
Worked in 2014	10.6	23.0	13.4	7.7
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.7	16.8	8.5	3.0
Employment service and training activity ^a				
One or more of the below	11.4	26.6	15.0	7.7
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.8	10.8	3.3	1.5
Used employment-specific service in 2014	8.8	17.1	11.5	6.4
Used employment or other service in 2014 to get a job or to increase income	2.9	9.2	4.7	1.3
Goal or expectation ^a				
One or more of the below	45.2	72.9	58.1	35.9
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	37.2	65.6	49.5	28.1
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years ^b	25.3	49.9	32.4	18.9
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years ^c	11.2	24.1	15.4	7.5
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	28.1	57.5	37.9	19.9
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	16.7	34.1	23.5	11.4

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

c. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

Table 26.
Employment-related characteristics of beneficiary subgroup (in percent)

Characteristic	Work-oriented ^a	Used employment services in 2014	Ever worked for pay	Disability prevents work ^b	Median hourly reservation wage ^c (\$)
Total	45.2	8.8	83.2	90	10.50
Age					
18–24	74.5	18.8	40.9	66.0	8.50
25–39	66.6	15.5	64.6	78.1	9.95
40–54	48.5	9.1	83.7	91.2	11.00
55 or older	33.8	5.5	92.7	94.7	12.00
General health					
Excellent or very good	65.1	17.5	67.8	72.6	10.00
Good of fair	51.2	8.7	81.1	88.2	10.00
Poor or very poor	32.8	6.6	89.7	95.6	12.00
Education level					
Less than high school	36.8	5.0	75.6	92.3	10.00
High school diploma or GED	47.5	9.4	82.2	89.0	10.00
More than high school	49.9	11.5	92.1	89.2	12.02
Self-reported condition causing limitation					
Intellectual disability	45.8	16.2	46.8	92.6	9.00
Sensory disorder	37.8	10.9	78.3	88.6	10.00
Mental illness	49.1	14.2	81.9	90.7	10.50
Musculoskeletal disorder	35.9	6.8	91.6	94.1	11.50
Circulatory system disorder	37.3	7.3	90.1	96.6	13.00
Age at disability onset					
Under 18	56.8	13.5	46.8	80.2	9.00
18–24	59.1	13.4	83.2	83.5	10.00
25–39	43.1	7.9	91.7	90.7	10.00
40–54	39.0	5.6	95.0	94.2	12.00
55 or older	35.5	7.4	97.4	97.2	10.00
Difficulty with—					
Getting along with others	45.9	12.5	79.4	90.6	10.00
Concentrating	43.7	9.8	80.6	91.1	11.00
Coping with stress	44.4	10.6	81.6	91.5	10.34
Bathing or dressing	33.8	8.0	81.0	95.1	11.25
Getting around outside the home	39.1	9.9	79.1	92.4	11.00

NOTE: GED = General Educational Development certificate.

- Work-oriented beneficiaries are those who indicated that their personal goals included getting a job, moving up in a job, or learning new job skills or who saw themselves working for pay in the next 2 years or the next 5 years.
- Percentage among beneficiaries not working at time of interview.
- The hourly reservation wage is the lowest hourly wage for which the respondent would be willing to work. Only nonproxy respondents who were not working at interview and were either seeking work or indicated a nonhealth reason for not working were asked the hourly reservation wage question.