

# New Hampshire Economic Conditions

October 2013

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

“Because We Are *EQUAL* to the Task” is the theme of the October 2013 National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy picked the theme because it reflects the reality that people with disabilities have the education, training, experience and desire to be successful in the workplace.<sup>1</sup>

### New Hampshire’s Disabled Population

There were 153,863 people with a disability living in New Hampshire in 2012. They represented 11.8 percent of the noninstitutionalized population. Disabilities include having difficulty seeing or hearing, and difficulty having speech understood. It also includes difficulties walking, bathing, dressing, eating, preparing meals, going outside the home or doing housework. Conditions and diseases like Alzheimer’s, dementia, autism, cerebral palsy, dyslexia, and frequent depression or anxiousness can be considered disabilities as well.

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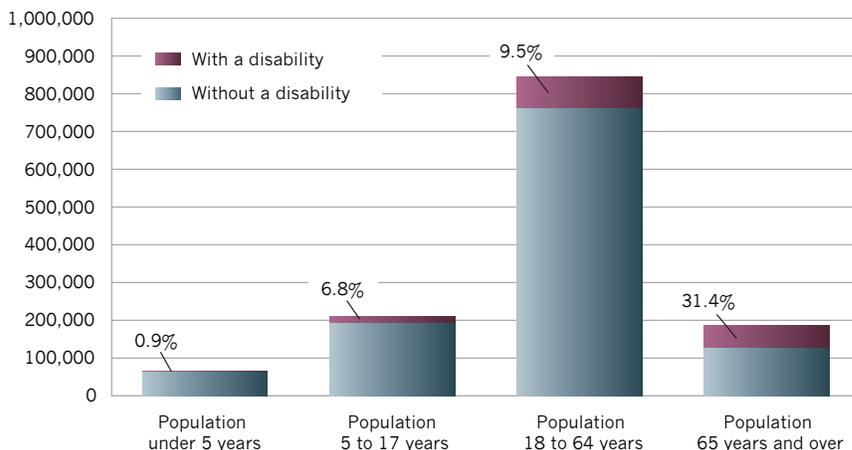
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### New Hampshire Disability Status by Select Age Groups



Source: 2012 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates

Older people were more likely to be affected by a disability than younger residents. Among New Hampshire residents, less than one percent of people under 5 years old had a disability. Almost seven percent of those ages 5 to 17 years had a disability, while over nine percent of individuals ages 18 to 64 years had a disability of some nature. The age group with the largest share of individuals with a disability, 31.4 percent, were those age 65 years and older.

In New Hampshire, males held a slightly higher share of population with a disability than females, 12.0 percent of males versus 11.5 percent of the female population.<sup>2</sup>

Median earnings in the previous 12 months for disabled people with earnings were \$20,990, while those without a disability had median earnings of \$34,201. Disabled males had median earnings of \$23,677, slightly higher than disabled females, who had median earnings of \$18,067.<sup>3</sup>

1. US Department of Labor. News Release 5/23/2013. “US Labor Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy announces theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month October 2013.” <<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20131020.htm>>.
2. American Community Survey, 1-year estimates. Table S1810: Disability Characteristics and Table B18120: Employment Status by Disability Status and Type.
3. American Community Survey Table B18140: Median Earnings In The Past 12 Months (In 2011 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) By Disability Status By Sex for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 16 Years and Over with Earnings.

## Employment Status of Persons with Specific Disabilities

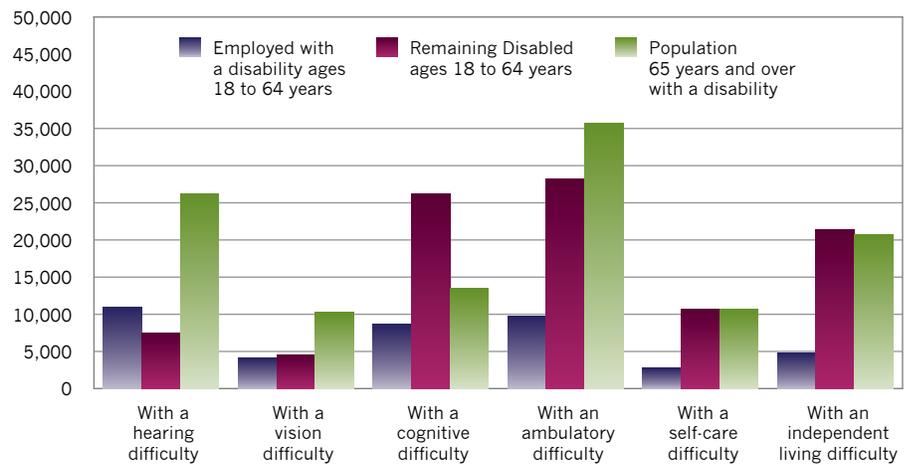
Some disabilities are easily defined and can be tracked. Individuals with multiple disabilities are counted in each disability category that affects them, meaning that individuals may be counted in multiple categories. Assessing specific disability and employment status for those ages 18 to 64 years provides insight into how disabilities affect employability, as persons in that age group are most likely to be labor force participants.

In New Hampshire, there were 844,500 people in this working age cohort. Almost 80,500 of them were affected by some type of disability, or about 9.5 percent of those ages 18 to 64 years. However, over half of all disabled people in the state were in this cohort.

The most common disability among those in this age group was ambulatory difficulty, or serious problems walking or climbing stairs. About 38,000 people in the 18 to 64 years age group had this disability, and among them, almost 10,000 were employed during the year.

Cognitive problems affected about 35,000 disabled persons ages 18 to 64 years in New Hampshire. Cognition is the act of knowing or thinking, and includes people who have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions because of a physical, mental or emotional condition. Over 8,350 people with this disability held a job in 2012.

## Employment Status of Disabled New Hampshire Residents



Source: 2012 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates

Individuals experiencing difficulty doing errands alone, such as going to a doctor’s office or shopping, are in the category of independent living difficulty. More than 26,200 people in New Hampshire ages 18 to 64 years were affected with this condition. Among those with independent living difficulties, 4,800 were employed.

Serious hearing problems affected 18,400 persons, and 13,500 people required the assistance of others to perform self-care activities such as dressing and bathing. Over 11,000 of individuals with serious hearing problems and 2,800 of those with self-care difficulties were employed at some time during the year.

About 8,700 people were blind or had serious vision problems, and almost half of them held a job in 2012.<sup>4</sup>

The theme of the 2013 National Disability Employment Awareness Month is clearly reflected among New Hampshire’s disabled population. The working age cohort, between 18 and 64 years, accounts for over 50 percent of the disabled population. Almost 40 percent of those disabled workers, representing 30,500 disabled individuals, participated in the state’s workforce in 2012.

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4. American Community Survey, 1-year estimates. Table S1810: Disability Characteristics and Table B18120: Employment Status by Disability Status and Type.