

National Beneficiary Survey

Interesting Facts from SSA's National Beneficiary Survey (NBS)

How many hours do beneficiaries work and what are their wages? How does work activity vary by title?*

- Fewer SSI-only recipients were working at the time of the interview in 2010 than SSDI-only or concurrent beneficiaries (5% compared to 8% and 9% respectively).
- Employed SSI-only recipients worked more hours at their current job than employed SSDI-only or concurrent beneficiaries (an average of 26 hours per week, compared to 19 and 20 hours per week respectively).
- Employed SSDI-only beneficiaries earned higher hourly wages at their current main job than employed SSI-only and concurrent beneficiaries (an average of \$8.86 per hour, compared to \$7.74 and \$6.42 per hour respectively). The federal minimum wage was \$7.25 per hour in 2010.
- Employed SSI-only recipients made more per month at their current main job and were more likely to be earning above substantial gainful activity (SGA) than employed SSDI-only and concurrent beneficiaries, but this was driven by their higher number of hours worked rather than higher wages.
- Almost half (49%) of employed concurrent beneficiaries were working in sheltered workshops, compared to 36% of SSI-only beneficiaries and 37% of SSDI-only beneficiaries. This helps explain why the average hourly wage for concurrent beneficiaries is below minimum wage.

Work Activity By Title Among Those Working in 2010

	All Beneficiaries	SSI-only	SSDI-only	Concurrent
Unweighted number working at interview	1,023	243	527	253
Weighted number working at interview	790,457	160,064	459,291	171,102
Weighted percent working at interview	7.1	5.0 [†]	7.7 [‡]	8.8 [‡]
Of those working at interview:				
Earning above SGA (> \$1,000 per month) (%)	21.0	36.7 [†]	20.1 [‡]	8.9 ^{†‡}
Working in a sheltered workshop (%)	39.3	35.6	37.0	49.1 ^{†‡}
Mean hours per week	20.2	25.7 [†]	18.5 [‡]	19.8 [‡]
Mean hourly wage (\$)	8.11	7.74 [†]	8.86 [‡]	6.42 ^{†‡}
Mean monthly pay (\$)	694.07	937.12 [†]	675.84 [‡]	515.67 ^{†‡}

* Based on data from 2010.

[†] Difference from SSDI-only beneficiaries is significant at the 5% level.

[‡] Difference from SSI-only beneficiaries is significant at the 5% level.