

Employment Activity

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

Activity	All beneficiaries	Program			Beneficiaries employed at interview
		DI only	Concurrent DI and SSI	SSI only	
Has ever worked for pay					
Yes	76.0	83.7	68.0	63.8	100.0
No	23.8	16.1	31.9	35.9	...
Employed in 2018					
Yes	13.1	12.4	17.4	12.4	91.4
No or unknown	86.9	87.6	82.6	87.6	8.6
Employed at interview					
Yes	9.6	9.6	13.0	7.7	100.0
No	90.4	90.4	87.0	92.3	...
Did not seek work in past 4 weeks	84.5	86.0	77.0	85.2	...
Sought work in past 4 weeks	5.9	4.3	10.0	7.1	...
Number (unweighted)	9,092	4,281	1,813	2,998	4,597
Number (weighted)	12,666,165	7,387,330	1,771,690	3,507,145	1,212,138

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

Table 20.
Employment, by age (in percent)

Activity	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30-49	50 or older
Has ever worked for pay				
Yes	76.0	47.2	77.5	79.3
No	23.8	52.0	22.3	20.5
Employed in 2018				
Yes	13.1	24.2	18.5	9.5
No or unknown	86.9	75.9	81.5	90.5
Employed at interview				
Yes	9.6	18.2	14.3	6.6
No	90.4	81.8	85.7	93.4
Did not seek work in past 4 weeks	84.5	67.9	78.8	88.9
Sought work in past 4 weeks	5.9	13.8	6.7	4.5
Number (unweighted)	9,092	1,885	4,292	2,915
Number (weighted)	12,666,165	1,129,444	3,183,724	8,352,997

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

Characteristic	Overall	Program		
		DI only	Concurrent DI and SSI	SSI only
Age				
18–24	18.4	21.7	27.8	16.9
25–39	17.8	22.2	19.5	14.1
40–54	10.7	12.2	15.4	5.2
55 or older	6.1	7.2	5.4	1.5
General health				
Excellent or very good	28.0	29.0	42.6	19.3
Good or fair	10.2	11.1	11.6	7.5
Poor or very poor	3.7	4.1	1.9	3.4
Education level				
Less than high school	6.0	8.5	5.9	3.8
High school diploma or GED	10.9	9.8	17.6	9.8
More than high school	10.5	10.0	14.1	11.0
Self-reported limiting condition				
Intellectual disability	21.5	20.7	28.3	16.7
Sensory disorder	9.7	10.5	4.6	11.5
Psychiatric impairment	8.1	7.4	13.9	6.7
Musculoskeletal impairment	4.9	5.4	3.9	3.7
Circulatory system disease	4.1	4.4	4.3	3.0
Age at disability onset				
Under 18	18.3	20.4	24.1	14.5
18–24	14.0	15.0	15.2	11.7
25–39	6.9	9.2	7.8	2.4
40–54	7.1	8.9	5.5	2.1
55 or older	3.8	4.1	3.3	0.4
Difficulty with—				
Getting along with others	6.8	7.4	6.2	6.3
Concentrating	8.1	7.9	11.9	6.9
Coping with stress	6.6	6.8	8.4	5.4
Bathing or dressing	4.3	4.2	4.8	4.2
Getting around outside the home	7.8	7.7	9.2	7.4
Number (unweighted)				
All beneficiaries	9,092	4,281	1,813	2,998
Beneficiaries employed at interview	4,597	2,237	948	1,412
Number (weighted)				
All beneficiaries	12,666,165	7,387,330	1,771,690	3,507,145
Beneficiaries employed at interview	1,212,138	711,944	229,858	270,335
Beneficiaries employed at interview as a percentage of all beneficiaries (weighted)				
	9.6	9.6	13.0	7.7

NOTE: GED = General Educational Development certificate.

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

Activity, capacity, or support	Overall	Program		
		DI only	Concurrent DI and SSI	SSI only
Worked fewer hours or earned less than was able				
Yes	28.5	22.2	49.3	22.3
No	60.9	70.6	42.8	63
Unknown	10.6	7.2	7.9	14.7
If yes, reason for doing so ^a				
Wanted to keep cash benefit	46.6	55.3	38.7	31.3
Wanted to keep Medicare or Medicaid	50.1	60.3	32.9	40.0
Health	55.7	66.1	27.6	55.3
Taking care of children or others	15.8	20.2	7.2	12.4
Didn't want to work more	14.8	15.2	17.7	10.9
Enrolled in school or training	6.0	6.7	5.3	4.7
Other	4.0	3.3	3.7	6.1
None indicated	23.3	14.3	50.8	20.6
Support that could boost earnings ^a				
Better job skills	37.8	33.4	35.6	42.4
Help finding a better job	36.5	37.5	35.9	36
Flexible work schedule	30.1	30.1	26.4	32
Reliable transportation to or from work	31.0	21.4	50.4	28.1
Help with personal care	13.7	13	7.5	17.6
Help caring for children or others	8.5	8.9	7.5	8.8
Special equipment or devices	4.7	4	2.8	6.2
Other	6.3	7.6	6.1	5.6
None indicated	36.3	37.7	19.4	44.3
Number (unweighted)				
All beneficiaries	9,092	4,281	1,813	2,998
Recently employed beneficiaries	5,707	2,793	1,183	1,731
Number (weighted)				
All beneficiaries	12,666,165	7,387,330	1,771,690	3,507,145
Recently employed beneficiaries	1,759,901	959,084	318,804	482,014
Recently employed beneficiaries as a percentage of all beneficiaries (weighted)	13.9	13.0	18.0	13.7

NOTE: "Recently employed" refers to beneficiaries employed at interview or in 2018.

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	Program			Beneficiaries employed at interview
		DI only	Concurrent DI and SSI	SSI only	
One or more of the below	63.3	58.5	70.0	69.8	100.0
Employment activity ^a					
One or more of the below	18.3	16.3	24.8	19.3	100.0
Working at interview	9.6	9.6	13.0	7.7	100.0
Worked in 2018	13.1	12.4	17.4	12.4	91.4
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.9	4.3	10.0	7.1	0.0
Employment service and training activity ^a					
One or more of the below	18.7	15.3	25.2	22.4	53.6
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.1	1.4	1.8	3.8	...
Used employment-specific service in 2018	16.1	13.2	22.7	18.7	50.4
Used employment or other service in 2018 to get a job or to increase income	5.1	4.3	7.0	5.9	16.9
Goal or expectation ^a					
One or more of the below	59.7	54.8	67.2	66.4	93.0
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	58.4	53.9	64.8	64.3	82.5
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years	25.7	22.7	32.6	28.5	83.2
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years	12.9	9.5	18.8	17.1	30.2
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	29.2	26.2	37.9	31.2	75.5
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	18.2	16.4	23.2	19.5	35.1
Number (unweighted)	9,092	4,281	1,813	2,998	4,597
Number (weighted)	12,666,165	7,387,330	1,771,690	3,507,145	1,212,138

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

a. Multiple responses possible. Excludes "Don't know" and "Refused" responses.

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

Activity or expectation	All beneficiaries	Beneficiaries reporting—		
		Musculoskeletal impairment	Mental impairment	Intellectual disability
One or more of the below	63.3	56.4	66.3	51.2
Employment activity ^a				
One or more of the below	18.3	11.9	17.8	25.4
Working at interview	9.6	4.9	8.1	21.5
Worked in 2018	13.1	9.1	12.6	22.9
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.9	3.8	6.3	2.7
Employment service and training activity ^a				
One or more of the below	18.7	12.1	23.2	32.9
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.1	1.6	2.8	3.9
Used employment-specific service in 2018	16.1	9.7	19.1	31.3
Used employment or other service in 2018 to get a job or to increase income	5.1	4.1	6.6	6.7
Goal or expectation ^a				
One or more of the below	59.7	53.0	61.6	45.8
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	58.4	52.5	60.3	41.9
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years	25.7	15.7	25.3	27.5
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years	12.9	7.0	12.6	5.1
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	29.2	19.0	30.8	25.9
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	18.2	10.9	18.1	6.0
Number (unweighted)	9,092	2,259	3,606	398
Number (weighted)	12,666,165	4,914,283	4,832,203	428,559

a. Multiple responses possible. Excludes "Don't know" and "Refused" responses.

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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	63.3	79.2	72.6	57.5
Employment activity ^a				
One or more of the below	18.3	35.9	25.1	13.3
Working at interview	9.6	18.2	14.3	6.6
Worked in 2018	13.1	24.2	18.5	9.5
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.9	13.8	6.7	4.5
Employment service and training activity ^a				
One or more of the below	18.7	44.1	23.3	13.4
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.1	10.1	1.8	1.1
Used employment-specific service in 2018	16.1	38.5	20.6	11.3
Used employment or other service in 2018 to get a job or to increase income	5.1	11.6	7.1	3.5
Goal or expectation ^a				
One or more of the below	59.7	75.5	68.7	54.2
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	58.4	72.7	67.6	52.8
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years	25.7	48.9	34.1	19.4
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years	12.9	24.6	18.4	9.3
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	29.2	58.9	41.4	20.6
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	18.2	32.9	26.9	12.9
Number (unweighted)	9,092	1,885	4,292	2,915
Number (weighted)	12,666,165	1,129,444	3,183,724	8,352,997

a. Multiple responses possible. Excludes "Don't know" and "Refused" responses.

Table 26.
Indicators of interest in employment, by beneficiary characteristics

Characteristic	Percentage of beneficiaries who—				Median hourly reservation wage ^c (\$)
	Are work-oriented ^a	Used employment services in 2018	Ever worked for pay	Report that a disability prevents work ^b	
All beneficiaries	59.7	16.1	76.0	90.1	13.50
Age					
18–24	78.1	46.1	42.1	69.2	10.00
25–39	71.6	28.3	65.8	82.8	10.00
40–54	65.3	15.2	78.0	91.0	12.00
55 or older	52.3	10.8	80.4	92.8	15.00
General health					
Excellent or very good	76.3	34.2	62.5	74.5	13.00
Good or fair	62.0	17.0	75.8	88.1	12.50
Poor or very poor	52.2	9.8	79.9	95.7	14.00
Education level					
Less than high school	59.2	11.2	61.8	92.1	11.00
High school diploma or GED	57.2	16.2	73.3	89.8	12.00
More than high school	63.8	19.7	91.2	88.8	15.00
Self-reported limiting condition					
Intellectual disability	45.8	31.3	40.0	93.8	10.00
Sensory disorder	47.9	15.5	69.4	94.0	13.50
Psychiatric impairment	61.6	19.1	77.0	91.3	12.00
Musculoskeletal impairment	53.0	9.7	83.5	94.4	15.00
Circulatory system disease	52.9	11.6	82.4	95.2	12.00
Age at disability onset					
Under 18	62.8	32.5	52.6	82.3	11.00
18–24	68.1	21.1	80.9	82.8	10.00
25–39	67.3	13.2	82.3	91.4	14.00
40–54	54.8	10.4	83.4	93.4	14.00
55 or older	49.2	6.3	79.9	94.4	15.00
Difficulty with—					
Getting along with others	63.6	16.1	69.5	92.2	12.00
Concentrating	57.5	17.1	73.3	92.6	13.00
Coping with stress	56.8	16.0	74.2	92.5	12.00
Bathing or dressing	48.6	14.2	74.6	93.7	15.00
Getting around outside the home	54.5	18.2	71.4	93.2	13.50

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.
- Among beneficiaries not working at time of interview.
- The reservation wage is the lowest hourly wage for which the respondent would be willing to work. Excludes proxy respondents.