

Employment rates of disabled people, by main impairment type

The data shown in this document is an update to Office for Disability Issues (ODI) Disability Equality Indicator B2, employment rates of disabled people by main impairment type(1).

Table 1 shows both the 2010 and 2011 employment rate by main impairment type using the old definition of working age (men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59). Table 2 shows the 2011 employment rate by main impairment type for both men and women aged 16 to 64.

The trend shows that for the disabled population there have consistently been substantial disparities in employment outcomes between impairment types. For example, the employment rates for disabled people with depression or anxiety and those with severe or specific learning disabilities have been significantly lower than the employment rates for disabled people with most other types of impairment.

Note: The estimates in tables 1 and 2 are based on relatively small sample sizes and as such are presented as ranges which are confidence intervals at the 95 per cent level. The larger the confidence interval the greater the uncertainty around the true value of the employment rate estimates.

All figures have been estimated using latest weighting variables, in line with the latest population estimates published by Office for National Statistics.

Definition: Employment rates cover both employees and self employed people. Respondents who experience multiple difficulties are asked to identify their main impairment.

Respondents who report a current disability consistent with the Equality Act (EA) 2010 are defined as disabled. The non disabled population refers to all those not classified as EA disabled. From 1 October 2010, provisions in the EA replaced the majority of provisions in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Data Source: Labour Force Survey, Quarter 2

1 <http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/roadmap-to-disability-equality/indicators.php>

Table 1: Employment rates by types of impairment for men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 in Great Britain

	Percentage employed 2010 lowest estimate	Percentage employed 2010 highest estimate	Percentage employed 2011 lowest estimate	Percentage employed 2011 highest estimate
Problems with arms or hands	43.4	51.7	47.2	55.8
Problems with legs or feet	40.3	46.3	40.3	46.2
Problems with back or neck	41.8	46.9	42.4	47.6
Difficulty in seeing	33.9	51.2	31.1	48.6
Difficulty in hearing	35.6	55.5	44.8	64.2
Severe disfigurement, skin conditions, allergies	59.6	74.2	64.0	80.0
Chest or breathing problems, asthma, bronchitis	59.8	65.1	57.9	63.8
Heart, blood pressure, circulation	56.5	62.0	59.8	65.6
Stomach, liver, kidney, digestive problems	56.3	64.2	55.4	63.8
Diabetes	63.9	70.5	63.2	70.1
Depression, bad nerves or anxiety	28.0	34.3	24.8	31.1
Epilepsy	36.0	48.9	31.7	44.6
Severe or specific learning difficulties	10.1	19.0	7.7	16.7
Mental illness, phobia, panics, nervous disorders	12.9	19.3	11.5	17.7
Progressive illness not included elsewhere	40.2	47.8	44.5	52.1
Other health problems or disabilities	49.4	55.3	55.2	61.2

Table 2: Employment rates by types of impairment for all aged 16-64 in Great Britain

	Percentage employed 2011 lowest estimate	Percentage employed 2011 highest estimate
Problems with arms or hands	41.7	49.4
Problems with legs or feet	37.4	42.8
Problems with back or neck	39.7	44.6
Difficulty in seeing	29.0	45.1
Difficulty in hearing	44.2	62.7
Severe disfigurement, skin conditions, allergies	64.3	80.1
Chest or breathing problems, asthma, bronchitis	54.3	60.0
Heart, blood pressure, circulation	55.8	61.3
Stomach, liver, kidney, digestive problems	52.5	60.5
Diabetes	58.7	65.4
Depression, bad nerves or anxiety	24.5	30.6
Epilepsy	31.6	44.4
Severe or specific learning difficulties	7.6	16.4
Mental illness, phobia, panics, nervous disorders	11.2	17.2
Progressive illness not included elsewhere	41.0	48.0
Other health problems or disabilities	52.4	58.0