

**DISABILITY RIGHTS COMMISSION
RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT**

DISABILITY BRIEFING: FEBRUARY 2003

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Note: The estimates set out in this briefing are based on the Summer 2002 Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS estimates are not seasonally adjusted and have not been adjusted to take account of recent Census results. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are working towards producing re-weighted LFS estimates based on the 2001 census, which will be available from summer 2003. In the interim, ONS has prepared revised estimates consistent with the 2001 Census, these are published in the First Releases and on the NS website.

http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/Interim_2001-Census-adjusted_LFS_estimates/downloads/LFS_microdata.pdf

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS) Summer 2002 - Great Britain

- **There are 6.9 million disabled people of working age in Great Britain, accounting for nearly one fifth of the working age population.**
- **Some 50 per cent of disabled men of working age are in employment, compared with 87 per cent of non-disabled men. For disabled women the employment rate is less than 50 percent (47%), compared with 76 percent for non disabled women.**
- **Almost half the disabled population of working age in Britain are classified as economically inactive, i.e. out of work, but do not satisfy all the criteria for ILO unemployment, such as those in retirement and those not actively seeking work.**
- **The level of disability increases with age: some 10% of those aged 16-24 years have a current long-term disability compared with 34% of those aged 50 to state pension age.**
- **Asian and Asian British people aged 50+ (44%) and Black and Black British people aged 50+ (43%) generally have higher disability rates than the white population (33%).**
- **There are regional variations in the incidence of disability which may to some extent be due to differences in the age profile of the local population.** Higher than average proportions of disabled people are found in the North East, North West and Merseyside and in Wales and lower ones in the South East of England, London and the East of England.
- **Disabled people are nearly five times as likely as non-disabled people to be out of work and claiming benefits.** There are over 2.8 million disabled people out of work and on benefits: over a million of them would like to work. However, many would not be able to start work straightaway, mainly due to health reasons. They are also more likely to receive in-work benefits.
- **Overall, disabled people are twice as likely as non-disabled people to have no qualifications.** The large differentials are consistent across all age groups.
- **Disabled people are only about half as likely as non-disabled people to be in employment.** There are currently over 3 million disabled people in employment: they make up 12% of all people in employment.
- **Employment rates vary greatly between types of disability.** They are lowest for people with mental illness and learning disabilities.
- **Over a quarter of disabled people are in part-time employment, compared with 23% of non-disabled people.** But the average length of time in continuous full-time employment is slightly higher for disabled people, which may reflect more stable employment patterns.
- **ILO unemployment rates for long-term disabled people are nearly twice as high as those for non-disabled people, 8% compared with 5%.** Their likelihood to be long-term unemployed is also higher.

1. DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE LABOUR MARKET:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 - Great Britain)

(thousands, column per cent)	CURRENT LONG-TERM DISABLED ONLY			
	Long-term disabled ¹ a) or b)	a) DDA-current disabled	b) Work-limiting disabled	Not long-term disabled
All people of working age (000s)	6877	5594	5443	29141
(men 16-64, women 16-59)	19%	16%	15%	81%
per cent women ²	47	48	46	48
per cent with no qualifications	28	29	31	13
on state benefits ³ and not in work (000s)	2861	2578	2719	2568
per cent of population	42	46	50	9
...would like work and available to start in a fortnight (000s)	368	274	329	843
per cent of population	5	5	6	3
In work (000s)	3353	2506	2185	23727
per cent of population	49	45	40	81
per cent of all in work:				
self-employed	13	13	15	11
working part-time	28	29	31	23
in a permanent job	93	94	93	93
average number of years in current employment	8.8	9.0	8.4	7.5
average gross hourly wage (£)	8.7	8.8	8.1	9.8
ILO unemployed (000s)	288	194	248	1276
per cent of population	4	3	5	4
ILO unemployment rate⁴	8	7	10	5
per cent of all ILO unemployed who are ue for a year or more	33	35	34	17
Inactive⁵ (000s)	3235	2894	3010	4137
per cent of population	47	52	55	14

Note: The LFS disability questions were changed in Spring 1997 to take account of the DDA definition; comparisons with earlier quarters should not be made as they would be misleading.

¹ This category includes those with a disability which has a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities (i.e. DDA) or limits kind or amount of work and those known to have a progressive condition. It may exclude some people with progressive conditions and severe disfigurements who feel that these do not limit their work or have a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities.

² Lower numbers reflect the fact that women aged 60-64 are not included in the working-age population.

³ This includes state pension, allowances or National Insurance credits, and excludes child benefit.

⁴ The unemployment rate is the number of ILO unemployed (unemployed, ready to start work in a fortnight, having looked for work in the last four weeks) as a percentage of the total labour force (the sum of all persons in employment or ILO unemployed).

⁵ Not in employment and not seeking work or not available for work.

2. ECONOMIC STATUS OF DISABLED MEN AND WOMEN OF WORKING AGE¹
Estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 – Great Britain)

	Thousands			Per cent		
	Disabled	Not disabled	All	Disabled	Not disabled	All
All						
Economically active, of which	3,624	25,003	28,645	53.0	85.8	79.5
In employment	3,353	23,727	27,080	48.8	81.4	75.2
Unemployed	288	1,276	1,565	7.9	5.1	5.5
Economically inactive	3,235	4,137	7,373	47.0	14.2	20.5
Men						
Economically active, of which	2,016	14,018	16,035	55.8	91.6	84.8
In employment	1,835	13,251	15,086	50.8	86.6	79.8
Unemployed	182	767	949	9.0	5.5	5.9
Economically inactive	1,595	1,277	2,872	44.2	8.4	15.2
Women						
Economically active, of which	1,625	10,985	12,611	49.8	79.3	73.7
In employment	1,519	10,476	11,995	46.5	75.7	70.1
Unemployed	107	509	616	6.6	4.6	4.9
Economically inactive	1,640	2,860	4,500	50.2	20.7	26.3

¹ Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

3. DISABILITY RATES BY AGE AND ETHNIC ORIGIN¹:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 - Great Britain)

Proportion of age group who are long-term disabled (thousands, per cent)

	All aged 16-59/64 ²	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-49 years	50-59/64
All long-term Disabled in GB	6,877 19%	662 10%	996 12%	2,285 18%	2,933 34%
White	6,350 19%	598 11%	898 12%	2,067 18%	2,786 33%
Mixed	42 20%	11 16%	11 19%	15 26%	* *
Asian and Asian British	281 19%	30 8%	47 11%	117 24%	88 44%
Black and Black British	137 18%	18 10%	25 13%	60 18%	35 43%
Chinese	12 7%	* *	* *	* *	* *
Other ethnic Group	49 16%	* *	13 13%	21 19%	13 31%

* = Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

4. EMPLOYMENT AND ILO UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY ETHNICITY:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (summer 2002 – Great Britain)

	<u>Employment rates (%)</u>			<u>ILO unemployment rates (%)</u>		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
Disabled						
All ethnic groups	48.8	50.8	46.5	7.9	9.0	6.6
White	49.8	51.5	47.9	7.3	8.3	6.1
All ethnic minority groups ³	36.4	42.3	30.5	16.5	18.5	13.6
Not disabled						
All ethnic groups	81.4	86.6	75.7	5.1	5.5	4.6
White	83.0	87.9	77.6	4.6	5.0	4.1
All ethnic minority groups	64.3	72.9	55.1	11.5	11.3	11.8

¹ This is based on the standard Census of Population classification of ethnic origin. The numbers in this table do not add up to the total as there is a small proportion of disabled people for whom ethnic origin is not known.

² The numbers in this column do not add up to the total as there is a small proportion of disabled people for whom ethnic origin is not known.

³ This group includes the following ethnic minority groups: Mixed; Asian and Asian British; Black and Black British; Chinese; and other ethnic minority groups.

**5. PROPORTION OF DISABLED PEOPLE WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS BY AGE:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 - Great Britain)**

Proportion of age group who have no qualifications (thousands, per cent)

	All aged 16-59/64	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-49 years	50-59/64 years
<i>All of working age in GB</i>	5551 16%	923 15%	743 9%	1740 14%	2145 25%
Long-term disabled	1897 28%	149 23%	196 20%	546 24%	1007 34%
Not long-term disabled	3654 13%	773 14%	548 8%	1194 11%	1139 20%

Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

**6. PROPORTION OF DISABLED PEOPLE WITH HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS¹ BY AGE:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 - Great Britain)**

	All aged 16-59/64	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-49 years	50-59/64 years
<i>All of working age in GB</i>	8775 25%	807 13%	2517 31%	3534 10%	1916 5%
Long-term disabled	1111 16%	49 8%	187 19%	418 19%	457 16%
Not long-term disabled	7664 27%	758 13%	2331 33%	3116 30%	1459 26%

Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

¹ Higher qualification refer to all qualifications above GCE A level or equivalent.

7. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY TYPE OF MAIN DISABILITY¹:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 - Great Britain)

	Number² with this as main disability (% of all disabled)	Number in employment and employment rate (% of total)	Number on state benefits³ and not in work (% of total)
All long-term disabled in GB	6,877,000 19%	3353,000 49%	2861,000 42%
Problems with ...arms, hands	380,000 6%	178,000 47%	164,000 43%
...legs, feet	751,000 11%	324,000 43%	360,000 48%
...back, neck	1,221,000 18%	586,000 48%	544,000 45%
Difficulty in seeing	116,000 2%	53,000 46%	52,000 45%
Difficulty in hearing	123,000 2%	79,000 64%	29,000 23%
Speech impediment	11 *	* *	* *
Skin conditions, allergies	121,000 2%	84,000 69%	23,000 19%
Chest, breathing problems	861,000 13%	561,000 65%	214,000 25%
Heart, blood pressure	789,000 12%	417,000 53%	275,000 35%
Stomach, liver, kidney, digestion	312,000 5%	172,000 55%	110,000 35%
Diabetes	325,000 5%	212,000 65%	76,000 23%
Mental illness	628,000 9%	132,000 21%	454,000 72%
Epilepsy	159,000 2%	69,000 43%	76,000 48%
Learning difficulties	169,000 2%	43,000 25%	105,000 62%
Progressive illness n.e.c.	299,000 4%	116,000 39%	155,000 52%
Other problems, disabilities	575,000 8%	308,000 54%	199,000 35%

*= Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

¹ This category includes those with a disability which has a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities (i.e. DDA) or limits kind or amount of work and those known to have a progressive condition. It may exclude some people with progressive conditions and severe disfigurements who feel that these do not limit their work or have a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities.

² The numbers in this column do not add up to the total as there is a small proportion of disabled people for whom main disability is not known.

³ This includes state pension, allowances or National Insurance credits, and excludes child benefit.

**8. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICE REGION:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 - Great Britain)**

	Total number of long-term disabled¹ in Government Office Regions (% of local population)	Number in employment and employment rate (% of total number)	Number on state benefits² and not in work (% of total number)
All long-term disabled in GB	6,877,000 19%	3,353,000 49%	2,861,000 42%
North East	392,000 25%	153,000 39%	202,000 51%
North West and Merseyside	914,000 22%	396,000 43%	433,000 47%
Yorkshire and the Humberside	626,000 20%	304,000 49%	264,000 42%
East Midlands	503,000 19%	256,000 51%	199,000 40%
West Midlands	639,000 20%	322,000 50%	262,000 41%
East of England	578,000 17%	334,000 58%	183,000 32%
London	842,000 17%	377,000 45%	368,000 44%
<i>Inner London</i>	370,000 19%	132,000 36%	197,000 53%
<i>Outer London</i>	472,000 16%	245,000 52%	171,000 36%
South East	783,000 16%	467,000 60%	236,000 30%
South West	584,000 19%	345,000 59%	177,000 30%
Wales	393,000 22%	155,000 40%	206,000 53%
Scotland	624,000 20%	243,000 39%	331,000 53%

Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

¹ This category includes those with a disability which has a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities (i.e. DDA) or limits kind or amount of work and those known to have a progressive condition. It may exclude some people with progressive conditions and severe disfigurements who feel that these do not limit their work or have a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities.

² This includes state pension, allowances or National Insurance credits, and excludes child benefit.

9. LABOUR MARKET STATUS AND BENEFIT RECEIPT:
estimates from the most recent Labour Force Survey (Summer 2002 - Great Britain)

	Long-term disabled ¹		Not long-term disabled	
	Number	% of total population	Number	% of total population
Total number	6,877,000	100	29,141,000	100
<u>IN WORK</u>				
Total number	3,353,000	49	23,727,000	81
Not on state benefits²	2,412,000	35	18,110,000	62
Receiving state benefits³	942,000	14	5,617,000	19
<i>Receiving sickness/ disability benefits</i>	<i>210,000</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>134,000</i>	<i>0.5</i>
<i>Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)</i>	<i>53,000</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>*</i>
<u>OUT OF WORK</u>				
Total number	3,524,000	51	5,414,000	19
Not on state benefits	662,000	10	2,846,000	10
Receiving state benefits	2,861,000	42	2,568,000	9
...and would like work	1,113,000	16	1,311,000	4
...and available for work	368,000	5	843,000	3
...and would <u>not</u> like work	1,748,000	25	1,257,000	4
<i>Receiving sickness/ disability benefits</i>	<i>1,958,000</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>200,000</i>	<i>1</i>
...and would like work	653,000	10	80,000	*
...and available for work	125,000	2	29,000	*
...and would <u>not</u> like work	1,305,000	19	120,000	*
<i>Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)</i>	<i>1,299,000</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>42,000</i>	<i>*</i>
...and would like work	447,000	7	22,000	*
...and available for work	77,000	1	10,000	*
...and would <u>not</u> like work	852,000	12	20,000	*

*= Sample size too small for reliable estimate
Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

¹This category includes those with a disability which has a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities (i.e. DDA) and those known to have a progressive condition. It may exclude some people with progressive conditions and severe disfigurements who feel that these do not limit their work or have a substantial adverse impact on their day-to-day activities.

²Includes those who did not state whether they were claiming benefits.

³This includes state pension, allowances or National Insurance credits, and excludes child benefit.

Technical note:

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a continuous, household survey, conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and which provides a wide range of data on labour market statistics and related topics such as training, qualifications, income and disability. The data from the survey are used extensively both within and outside government. The LFS has been running since spring 1992 in its present form although a LFS has been carried out in the UK since 1973.

Each quarter interviews are achieved at about 59,000 addresses with about 138,000 respondents. A core of questions covering household, family structure, basic housing information and demographic details of individuals in the households is included in every survey, together with non-core questions which vary from quarter to quarter.

As with any sample survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability. In general, the larger the group, the more precise (proportionately) is the LFS estimate. Estimates of less than 9,500 are not shown in published analyses of LFS results since they are based on small samples (less than 30 people) and therefore likely to be unreliable.

Disability questions in the LFS:

The LFS classifies disabled people as either:

- i. DDA disabled only
- ii. Work-limiting disabled only
- iii. DDA disabled and work-limiting disabled.

Figures for disabled people in this Briefing are for 'all long term disabled', based on the three categories added together (unless otherwise stated).