# Maine Workers with Disabilities 2023 Data Update

# Text, Notes and Sources

| TAB | TEXT and HOVER BOX NOTES *[in italics]* |
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| About Maine Workers with Disabilities | This section provides a variety of characteristics on workers with and without disabilities. Information primarily is from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS). This is supplemented with some additional information from other agencies. ACS data in visuals and downloadable spreadsheets are pooled 5-year estimates. These provide more information over a longer period, greater accuracy, and less margin of error than 1-year estimates. The most recent available 5-year estimates are for 2019 to 2023. Data from other sources (IPUMS and Wagner-Peyser) are currently available for 2022. |
| Age | Disability rates are correlated to age. The overall rate for Maine is higher than for the nation because of the larger share of elder population. In Maine the 16 percent with a disability is higher than 13 percent nationally. For both the state and the nation, disability rates are lowest among those under 18 and highest among those age 18-64. Age group rates for Maine are similar to the U.S. Source: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table C18108. |
| County  | Disability rates generally are highest in the north and lowest in the south of the state. This is partly related to the share of elder population in those areas. Among all ages, disability rates in Washington, Piscataquis, and Aroostook counties are highest, close to double those in Cumberland and Sagadahoc counties. Among those 18 to 64 years those same three counties have disability rates nearly triple the lowest two.Source: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table S1810. |
| Disability Type | Employment rates for those with a disability are lower than for those without (81 percent). Those with hearing or vision difficulty have higher employment rates than those with other difficulties. Employment rates are lowest for those with self-care, independent living, and ambulatory are lowest.Employment rates: 81% without a disability 38% with a disability* 50% hearing difficulty
* 43% vision difficulty
* 32% cognitive difficulty
* 22% ambulatory difficulty
* 21% independent living difficulty
* 9% self-care difficulty

*Disability status is determined by a positive response to any of six questions on the American Community Survey. Respondents may specify more than one disabling condition. Adding categories together exceeds the total population of persons with disabilities.*Sources: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table S1810, and IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org). |
| Education  | Educational attainment generally is lower for those with a disability. High school diploma attainment is higher in Maine than the nation and college attainment is similar.Among those age 25+, 20 percent of those with a disability attained a bachelor’s degree or higher and 29 percent had some college or an associate’s degree. For those without a disability, 38 and 29 percent had those levels of attainment. Educational attainment in Maine is similar to the U.S. both for those with and without a disability, except that more Maine residents have achieved at least a high school diploma, both among those that do or do not have a disability.*Educational attainment is measured among persons 25 years and older.*Source: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table S1811 |
| Labor Force | Employment and labor force participation rates are lower and unemployment rates are higher for people with disabilities. 38 percent are employed and close to 11 percent are unemployed, compared to 81 and 3.3 percent for those without a disability. For those with and without a disability, these rates are similar to U.S.Source: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table C18120 |
| Full-Time/ Part-time  | Workers with disabilities are less likely to work full-time, year-round jobs than other workers. The share in Maine is lower than for the U.S. primarily because of the larger share of elder population. In Maine there is an even split between those that worked full-time, year-round and those that worked less. Among those without a disability, about two-thirds worked full-time, year-round. These rates are similar to the U.S.Source: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table C18121 |
| Median Earnings  | Median earnings of workers with disabilities are about one-third lower than for of those without a disability, both in Maine and the U.S.In Maine, median earnings for those with a disability were about $26,700 compared to $41,400 for those without a disability.*Median earnings in the past twelve months for civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older with earnings.*Source: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table B18140 |
| Poverty | Poverty rates are higher for people with a disability, whether they are employed or not. For those with a disability, rates in Maine are similar to the U.S. For those without a disability, poverty in Maine generally is lower.Among those with a disability, 23 percent that were employed and 51 percent that were not employed were close to or in poverty. By comparison, 14 and 34 percent not disabled were close to or in poverty. This pattern is similar to the U.S.*Poverty thresholds are used for calculating all official poverty population statistics. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau. Poverty thresholds vary depending on three criteria: size of family, number of related children, and, for 1- and 2-person families, age of householder. For more see:* <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>*For these purposes, individuals with family income below the federal poverty threshold (FPT) are termed “in poverty,” and those with family income between 100 and 199 percent of the poverty threshold are “near poverty.”*Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 12 (IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org) using 2023 5-year ACS estimates  |
| Health Insurance  | Health insurance coverage is similar in Maine to the U.S., regardless of disability status. Adults with disabilities are more likely to have public than private insurance coverage.Among those with a disability, 96 percent have health insurance. Of those, 78 percent have public and 50 percent have private coverage. These rates are similar to the U.S. Among those without a disability, 92 percent have health insurance. Of those, 32 percent have public and 75 percent have private coverage. These rates also are similar to the U.S.*The Census Bureau classifies health insurance coverage as private health insurance or public coverage. Private health insurance is a plan provided through an employer or union, a plan purchased by an individual or TRICARE or other military health care. Public health coverage includes the federal programs Medicare, Medicaid and VA Health Care, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and individual state health plans. People may be covered by more than one type of plan at the same time.*Source: 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, Table B18135. |
| SSA programs  | The U.S. Social Security Administration supports people with disabilities through the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Each targets different populations with a small share eligible for both programs.SSDI and SSI target different populations; some are dually eligible. A total of 81,400 receive these benefits, about 61 percent SSDI, 30 percent SSI, and nine percent both.*SSDI provides cash support to workers who become blind or disabled before reaching retirement age. Participation and payment amount is determined by a worker’s history of contributions into the Social Security system. The SSI program is needs-based, targeting aged, blind and disabled people with low income and limited resources, with or without prior work history.*Source: 2023 Social Security Administration Annual Statistical Report, SSI Program Tables 10, and 16; and SSDI Program, Tables 67 and 68. |
| SSDI Recipients  | The number of workers receiving SSDI has gradually decreased in the last decade. In that period numbers with benefits withheld or terminated because they were working increased.In 2022 there were 49,400 recipients, about 10,000 fewer than a decade earlier. The number that had benefits withheld or terminated more than doubled from close to 400 to nearly 1,100 in that period.*The SSA has instituted measures to support and facilitate the return to work. Work incentives make it possible for SSDI and SSI beneficiaries to work while receiving payments and retaining Medicare or MaineCare coverage.*Source: 2023 Social Security Administration Annual Statistical Report, SSDI Program, Table 56. |
| SSI Recipients  | The share of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who work has changed little since 2013. Compared to the nation, a larger share of Maine recipients work.In 2022 there were 33,200 recipients in Maine, 2,000 of whom worked. At six percent, the share that worked exceeded the U.S. rate of five percent.*The SSA has instituted measures to support and facilitate the return to work. Work incentives make it possible for SSDI and SSI beneficiaries to work while receiving payments and retaining Medicare or MaineCare coverage.*Source: 2023 Social Security Administration Annual Statistical Report, SSI Program, Table 41. |
| Job Seekers  | The number of job seekers with disabilities receiving employment services at Maine CareerCenters varies from year to year. The share of job seekers with a disability has consistently been higher than for the nation.Nearly 630 job seekers that received employment services at Maine CareerCenters in 2022 reported a disability. That was nine percent of the total, similar rate to the prior five years.Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, WIOA Performance Result, Wagner-Peyser Act. |
| Rehab Services  | Vocational rehabilitation accounts for most of those who gained employment with smaller numbers that are visually impaired. Thousands of individuals receive an array of services from the Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, including work-based learning experiences, career exploration, pre-employment services, and other training or education. The number varies from year to year, with upwards of 500 individuals becoming employed.Source: Maine Department of Labor Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. |
| MaineCare  | Enrollment in MaineCare for workers with disabilities has been trending higher. This allows those with low-incomes to earn and retain healthcare coverage.In 2022 nearly 1,400 people with a disability had coverage under the program, up 63 percent from a decade ago and 139 percent from 2003Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence. |
| Notes | Civilian noninstitutional refers to people residing in the U.S. who are not active-duty members of the Armed Forces or living in, institutions or facilities. These institutions or facilities include prisons, jails, other correctional institutions and detention centers, or residential care facilities such as skilled nursing homes.Unless otherwise specified, “working-age adult” is defined as a civilian, non-institutionalized resident age 18 to 64.Disability status is determined by a positive response to any of six questions on the American Community Survey (ACS). Respondents may specify more than one disabling condition. As a result, the sum of estimated residents in each category exceeds the total population of persons with disabilities.Educational attainment is measured among persons 25 years and older (includes persons over age 64).Median earnings in the past twelve months for civilian noninstitutionalized population includes those 16 years and older with earnings (includes earners over age 64).Poverty thresholds are used for calculating all official poverty population statistics. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau. Poverty thresholds vary depending on three criteria: size of family, number of related children, and, for 1- and 2-person families, age of householder. Find information on current poverty guidelines at <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>For these purposes, individuals with family income below the federal poverty threshold (FPT) are termed “in poverty,” and those with family income between 100 and 199 percent of the poverty threshold are “near poverty.”The Census Bureau broadly classifies health insurance coverage as private health insurance or public coverage. Private health insurance is a plan provided through an employer or union, a plan purchased by an individual or TRICARE or other military health care. Public health coverage includes the federal programs Medicare, Medicaid and VA Health Care, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and individual state health plans. People may be covered by more than one type of plan at the same time.SSDI provides cash support to workers who become blind or disabled before reaching retirement age. Participation and payment amount is determined by a worker’s history of contributions into the Social Security system. The SSI program is needs-based, targeting aged, blind and disabled people with low income and limited resources, with or without prior work history.The SSA has instituted measures to support and facilitate the return to work. Work incentives make it possible for SSDI and SSI beneficiaries to work while receiving payments and retaining Medicare or MaineCare coverage. |
| About the Data | Data for Maine Workers with Disabilities are derived from multiple primary and secondary sources. The primary source for descriptive characteristics is the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates the. Five-year estimates are more accurate due to Maine’s relatively small population of residents with disabilities which are less represented in one-year estimates. ACS data is sample based and subject to sampling variability.Custom tabulations of ACS data are from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS-USA, **Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Megan Schouweiler and Matthew Sobek. *IPUMS USA: Version 12.0* [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2022.)**Data on public programs that serve and assist workers with disabilities are derived from state and federal reports. For each section, the latest data available is reported. Some data are from sources that rely on self-disclosure of disability. Self-identification may overstate or understate the incidence of disability, depending on many factors that influence whether an individual identifies as disabled. Sources reliant on self-identification are the ACS and One-Stop CareerCenters. |