Investigation of data relating to blind and partially sighted people in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey: October 2009 – September 2012

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1. Executive summary

1.1 Background

The statistics presented in this report provide the results of an analysis of data from the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) that was carried out for RNIB by researchers from University of Birmingham. The report presents estimates of the employment status and economic circumstances of people identified as being disabled due to a seeing difficulty, based on data aggregated over 12 quarters from October - December 2009 to July-September 2012.

1.2 Comparison with other employment research

The statistics on employment and other economic activity rates of blind and partially sighted people presented in this report differ significantly from those in other key reports published on the RNIB website, most notably the Network 1000 reports (Douglas et al, 2006; 2009). Far **lower** rates of employment among the blind and partially sighted population were found in the Network 1000 survey compared to the rates found in the current, as well as in previous, studies of the Labour Force survey (Meager and Carta, 2008). While the Network 1000 survey found that only a third (34 per cent) of registered blind and partially sighted people were in employment, the LFS figure is just under a half (47 per cent) for people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty.

**The reason for this discrepancy is that the two studies use different criteria for identifying the blind and partially sighted population:**

* **Network 1000** is based on a representative sample of people who are ***registered*** as blind or partially sighted. This means:
* There are ***objective*** criteria for defining the population as blind or partially sighted
* People in this population can be regarded as having a ***severe*** visual impairment
* The **Labour Force Survey** relies on ***self reported*** measures to identify a person as having a seeing difficulty, using a series of questions, starting with: ‘Do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last for more than a year?’
* Although the questions are designed to identify those people who can be regarded as disabled due to a seeing difficulty according to the DDA definition, they still rely on participants to answer the questions accurately
* The population of people with a seeing difficulty in the Labour Force survey covers a wider range of sight loss than in the Network 1000 survey and includes people whose sight loss would not be eligible for registration, but which is still of sufficient severity to affect their everyday lives:
* In the analyses of the Labour Force Survey the population was divided into 2 groups:
* People who through self report are defined as **long term disabled with a seeing difficulty.**
* **Included** in this population are people with the most severe sight loss (i.e. the same population as in Network 1000) and **in addition**, those who may not be eligible for registration but their sight loss still impacts on their ability to work or the job they can do
* People who through self report are defined as not disabled, but who have a seeing difficulty
* These people state that their sight loss does not affect the type of work they can do or the number of hours they can work
* We would not expect anybody in this group to be eligible for registration

1.3 Implications for interpreting the statistics

The two sets of statistics should not, therefore be regarded as contradictory. The higher employment statistic of 47 per cent from the LFS applies to a wider population of people disabled with seeing difficulties including many who would not be eligible for registration as blind or partially sighted. (The sub-group of people in the LFS who were 'not disabled with a seeing difficulty' are not included in the 47 per cent because by self definition, their sight difficulty does not affect their everyday lives or work.)

The lower employment statistic of 34 per cent from NW1000 applies to the **registered** blind and partially sighted population, i.e. people with the most **severe** visual impairment. This can be regarded as a sub-group contained within the LFS population. We know from both the first LFS report (Meager and Carta, 2008) and the Network 1000 survey that people with the most severe visual impairment have the most difficulty in finding and in retaining work.

Further information on comparing the different sources of evidence can be found in Clements and Douglas (2009).

1.4 Summary of the main findings

The following statistics are based on data aggregated over 12 quarters to the end of September 2012.

* The proportions of people in employment (including self employed) were:
* 46.9% - Long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
* 50.6% - Other long term disabled
* 77% - Not disabled
* 71.7% - All people of working age
* This represents a reduction in employment rates for people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty of 1.9% since 2010. For all people of working age there was a 1.3% reduction in employment rates over the same period.
* The proportions of people ILO unemployed were:
* 9% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
* 6.7% other long term disabled
* 6.4% not disabled
* 6.5% all people of working age
* This represents an increase of 1.7% since 2010 in the proportion of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty defined as International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployed. For all people of working age there was a 1% increase in the proportion ILO unemployed over the same period.
* The proportions of people of working age long term sick or disabled were:
	+ 25.8% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
	+ 26.0% other long term disabled
	+ 0.1% not disabled
	+ 5.2% all people of working age
* The proportions of people of working age retired from paid work were:
* 4.5% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
* 2.8% other long term disabled
* 1.3% not disabled
* 1.6% all people of working age
* The age breakdown of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty who were employees\* compared with all people in that age group was:
* Ages 16-25: 30.5% compared with 46.2%
* Ages 26-44: 47.7% compared with 69.4%
* Ages 45-54: 44.5% compared with 67.8%
* Ages 55-64: 28.1% compared with 51.8%

\* Self employed excluded as some sample sizes too small for statistical reliability)

* The age breakdown of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty who were ILO unemployed\* compared with all people in that age group was:
* Ages 26-44: 10.9% compared with 5.1%
* Ages 45-54: 9.9% compared with 4.2%

\* Ages 16-25 and 55-64 excluded as sample sizes for long term disabled with seeing difficulty too small for statistical reliability)

* **This finding indicates that people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty in the 26-44 and 45-54 age groups were twice as likely to be ILO unemployed as the rest of the population of the same age**
* People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty were far more likely than other groups to be unemployed for 12 months or more - the proportions of people who had been unemployed for 12 months or more were:
* 51.7% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
* 43.8% - other long term disabled
* 29.8% - not disabled
* 32.7% - all people of working age
* People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty with no qualifications are far less likely than the general population to be employed - the proportions employed, by level of academic attainment were:
* Degree or above
* 68.2% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
* 85.3% - all people of working age
* A level and below degree level:
	+ 56.8% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
	+ 76.1% - all people of working age
* GCSE level and 'other':
* 42.1% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
* 66.9% all people of working age
* No qualification:
* 15.7% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
* 41.4% all people of working age
* The range of occupations of people with a seeing difficulty is similar to the rest of the population. Compared with the general population the occupational groups of people with a seeing difficulty are:
	+ Managers, directors and senior officials:
		- 8% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 9.9% all people of working age
	+ Professional occupations
		- 16.6% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 18% all people of working age
	+ Associate professional and technical occupations:
		- 12.3% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 13.4% all people of working age
	+ Administrative and secretarial occupations:
		- 12.8% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 10.8% all people of working age
	+ Skilled trade occupations:
		- 9.2% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 10.8% all people of working age
	+ Sales and customer service occupations:
		- 9.3% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 8.8% all people of working age
	+ Process, plant and machine operatives:
		- 10.5% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 6.7% all people of working age
	+ Elementary occupations:
		- 14.6% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
		- 12.4% all people of working age
	+ Personal service occupations:
		- 8.2% all people with a seeing difficulty\*
		- 9.1% all people of working age

\*The proportion of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty could not be reported separately as the sample size is too small for statistical reliability

2. Introduction

This report provides the results of an analysis of data obtained from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey in relation to blind and visually sighted people. A breakdown of the type of information which can be accessed from the survey is presented, and this is supplemented by detailed tables relating to Economic Activity between October 2009 and September 2012.

## 3. Method

This report relates to an investigation of the data contained within the quarterly Labour Force Survey, and the type of information which can be derived from it that may be of use to RNIB.

3.1 Identifying people with a visual impairment in the Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a large scale survey carried out on behalf of the UK government. For example, data relating to that collected from the Labour Force Survey for the quarter July-September 2012 was from 99,901 respondents. Within that quarterly sample there were 510 people who answered ‘yes’ to the question ‘do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last more than a year?’ *and* also identified seeing difficulties (while wearing spectacles or contact lenses) as their main health problem. 1735 people answered ‘yes’ to the question ‘do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last more than a year?’, *and* identified seeing difficulties as a health problem (although many identified more than one health problem).

On closer inspection of the data, it was observed that a number of the people included in the survey were retired. It was therefore decided to only include people in our analysis who are of working age (16-65 for men and 16-60 for women). This meant our total number of those who identified seeing difficulties as their main health problem was reduced to 295, and the number who identified themselves as having seeing difficulties was reduced to 744 of the 59,879 respondents of working age.

The procedure for categorising respondents' disabilities used by Meager and Carta (2008) in their report ‘Labour market experiences of people with seeing difficulties’ was adopted in this analysis. To summarise, their approach was:

1. Respondents were asked the question ‘do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last more than a year?’
2. Those who responded ‘yes’ were asked what type of health problems they have. They were able to choose from a list of 17 categories, one of which was ‘difficulty in seeing (while wearing spectacles or contact lenses)’. Respondents were able to choose as many from this list as appropriate. This was the question used in ascertaining whether respondents had seeing difficulties.
3. Respondents who had answered yes for question 1 were also asked if they could identify their main health problem, of which ‘difficulty in seeing (while wearing spectacles or contact lenses)’ was an option. This is the question used in ascertaining those respondents whose main health problem was seeing difficulties.
4. Respondents would then be asked if these health problem(s) or disability(ies) (when taken singly or together) substantially limit their ability to carry out normal day-to day activities. Normal day-to-day activities are defined as ‘those which are carried out by most people on a daily basis’. If the respondent answered yes to this question, and/or they had already identified that they have one or more specific health problem, then they are recorded as having a **current disability** as defined by the **Disability Discrimination Act.**
5. People whose health problem(s) or disability(ies) are expected to last more than a year are also asked the following questions:

‘Does this health problem affect the kind of work that you might do?’

‘…or the AMOUNT of paid work that you might do?’

If the respondent fulfils either (or both) of these criteria they are defined as having a ‘**work-limiting disability’.**

Those people who meet the criteria for either current DDA or work-limiting definitions of disability are defined as having a **‘current long-term disability.**

These categories of disability are pre-coded in the dataset, under the variable ‘DISCURR’ with the options 1 = DDA disabled and work-limiting disabled, 2 = DDA disabled, 3 = Work-limiting disabled only, 4 = Not disabled. Categories 1-3 were combined by Meager and Carta (2008) to create the category ‘long-term disabled’.

There are over 700 variables within the survey, many of which would be of interest to RNIB in their work (through a univariate and multivariate analysis). These include variables on:

* economic activity
* demographics
* household structure
* mobility of workforce
* government training schemes
* whether working in private or public sector
* employment status (e.g. full or part time work, temporary or permanent work)
* length of time in current employment
* redundancy
* transport as a barrier to employment
* method for travelling to work
* sickness from work
* number of hours worked
* employment pattern
* second job
* whether seeking or not seeing work
* under-employment
* details of unemployment (duration, methods of seeking work, job search)
* benefit entitlement
* education and training
* current study
* income

As an example of the type of information which can be derived from this dataset, details are given of respondent economic activity. There are three different variables included in the dataset – each of varying level of detail. Figures are given for those who identified sight difficulties as their main health problem, and then for those of the whole data set (to serve as a comparison). Within the dataset there is a weighting variable which converts the data so that it is representative of the whole population (therefore the numbers are scaled up to give estimates of the number of people in the labour force that the response would be applicable to). Caution should be taken when interpreting these figures. With this dataset, only 295 people of working age identified sight difficulties as their main health problem.

3.2 Aggregating twelve quarters of the LFS (from October 2009 to September 2012)

These smaller samples are why Meager and Carta decided to combine 12 quarters of data (according to the Office of National Statistics own recommendations). Due to the consistency between the quarterly datasets, it is possible to regularly re-run the analysis upon the release of each quarter’s data. It should be noted that the Labour Force Survey operates using a panel design. Within each survey there are five approximately equal waves of respondents, with a wave being dropped at the end of their fifth quarter of participation. This means that for each survey, there is an 80% overlap with the previous quarter. Therefore, when aggregating the data, the same household is included on multiple occasions. To take account of this, the Office of National Statistics recommends averaging the data over four quarters (i.e. a given year). On the basis of this they suggest the following estimated figures (following weighting) for sufficient statistical confidence in order to use estimates for publication:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Minimum Publication Level | 95 per cent confidence interval |
| One quarter | 10,000 | +/-4,000 |
| Four quarters | 6,000 | +/-2,640 |
| Eight quarters | 4,000 | +/-1,600 |
| 12 Quarters | 3,000 | +/-1,200 |
| 16 Quarters | 2,000 | +/-800 |

Report structure and interpreting the findings

The findings are presented mainly in tables. The first six tables present data for specific quarters. Aggregated data from twelve quarters (October 2009 – September 2012) is used in Table 6 onwards.

It is important to consider the ‘confidence’ we have in the estimates presented in the tables. Some of the data in the tables are presented in percentages, and so to aid interpretation, those figures which are *not* sufficiently high to be used as confident estimates in publication (following the ONS recommendations described above) are marked with an asterisk. The sample sizes for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty for a given quarter is approximately 300-400. In spite of the undoubted strengths of the LFS probability-based sample, this is a relatively small sub-sample and has a limited associated confidence. As noted above, statisticians from the Office of National Statistics recommend aggregating data when looking at minority groups.

Therefore, our confidence in the estimates is increased substantially through aggregating the data, but even with 12 quarters aggregated together, it should be remembered that some of our estimates are below the recommend threshold of 3,000. If making public statistics from the labour force survey, it may be necessary to collapse categories further – for example, percentage employed versus percentage not in employment.

It is important to note that although the panel design does have a longitudinal element, with the same household being surveyed five times, the tables and graphs which show successive quarters are based upon a series of snap-shot surveys, with a new wave of 20% of households entering the sample each quarter. It should also be noted that employment rates typically follow seasonal variations.

The process of aggregating quarters is used to increase confidence in the figures derived from the LFS. Of course, while confidence is increased we become less specific about the time period of the estimates, i.e. the aggregated estimates for 12 quarters gives us estimates for three period.

For the purpose of this report, it was decided to calculate the following estimates by looking only at those who had identified sight difficulties as their **main** health problem (following the model offered by Meager and Carta, 2008). Whichever interview question is used to define the visually impaired group, the analysis is based upon participants’ *self-described* disabilities (in this case, those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty). If we compare this to employment estimates generated through other surveys which sampled people who were registered as sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind) (e.g. Network 1000) we would highlight the following likely differences:

1. There are higher estimated numbers of this group compared to the registered working age population.
2. The sample drawn from the Labour Force Survey is likely to *include* people who have less severe visual impairment than those who are registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired.
3. The sample drawn from the Labour Force Survey is more likely to *exclude* people who have significant additional complex needs compared with those who are registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired (in particular those who would describe another disability as their ‘primary’ disability).

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4. Findings – for individual quarters

Table Economic activity of those of a working age July-September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Frequency – Sight difficulties main health problem(N) | Percent – Sight difficulties main health problem(%) | Frequency whole data set (N) | Percent whole data set (%) |
| In employment | 108,999 | 59.4% | 27,871,919 | 72.6% |
| ILO unemployed\* | 13,058 | 7.1% | 2,561,127 | 6.7% |
| Inactive | 61,414 | 33.5% | 7,937,350 | 20.7% |
| Total (Weighted) | 183,471 | 100.0% | 38,370,396 | 100.0% |

\* ILO (International Labour Organisation) define unemployment as those without a job, who have sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks or out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start in the next two weeks. (UK National Statistics)

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age July-September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Frequency – Sight difficulties main health problem(N) | Percent – Sight difficulties main health problem(%) | Frequency whole data set (N) | Percent whole data set (%) |
| Employee | 86,584 | 47.1% | 24,106,555 | 62.8% |
| Self Employed | 22,415 | 12.2% | 3,765,364 | 9.8% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | 158,615 | 0.4% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | 65,991 | 0.2% |
| ILO Unemployed | 13,058 | 7.1% | 2,561,127 | 6.7% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | 294,705 | 0.8% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 18,998 | 10.4% | 1,947,330 | 5.1% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 39,565 | 21.6% | 5,470,709 | 14.3% |
| Total (Weighted) | 183,471 | 100.0% | 38,370,396 | 100.0% |

\* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 10,000)

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age April-June 2012, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008))

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employed | 49.6% | 72.5% | 58.1% | 50.4% | 77.5% | 72.1% |
| ILO unemployed | 9.0% | \* | 9.9% | 7.2% | 6.3% | 6.4% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | \* | 0.7% | 0.3% | 0.4% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | \* | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | \* | 0.7% | 0.9% | 0.8% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | \* | \* | \* | 4.0% | 3.2% | 3.4% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 9.8% | \* | 9.2% | 8.5% | 10.3% | 10.0% |
| Retired from paid work | \* | \* | \* | 2.9% | 1.2% | 1.6% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 22.8% | \* | 14.3% | 25.2% | 0.1% | 5.1% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 123,370 | 73,899 | 197,269 | 7,516,105 | 30,484,307 | 38,197,681 |

\* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 10,000)

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age July – September 2012, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008))

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employed | 46.8% | 79.2% | 59.4% | 51.1% | 78.2% | 72.8% |
| ILO unemployed | 7.4% | 6.7% | 7.1% | 7.3% | 6.5% | 6.7% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | \* | 0.8% | 0.3% | 0.4% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | \* | 0.3% | 0.2% | 6.7% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | \* | 0.8% | 0.7% | 0.7% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | \* | \* | 5.7% | 4.2% | 3.1% | 3.3% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 11.7% | \* | 7.7% | 8.3% | 9.7% | 9.4% |
| Retired from paid work | \* | \* | 5.5% | 2.8% | 1.2% | 1.5% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 21.9% | 0.0% | 13.4% | 24.5% | 0.1% | 4.9% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 112,155 | 71,316 | 183,471 | 7,473,613 | 30,543,371 | 38,200,455 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 10,000)

5. Aggregation of twelve quarters

Figure . Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2009 until July-September 2012) for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age population (Labour Force Survey)

This chart presents estimates over the past 12 quarters and shows the percentage of those surveyed through the Labour Force Survey who reported that they were in employment. The figures are re-presented as a table below. It compares all of those in each quarter who were identified as having a seeing difficulty (sight difficulties were identified as their main health problem, combining those who were classified as long-term disabled and those who were not disabled) with the percentage employed across the whole population.

Table . Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2009 until July-September 2012) for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age population (Labour Force Survey)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter** | **Percent Employed:****Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty** | **Percent Employed:****Not disabled with seeing difficulty** | **Percent Employed:****All people with a seeing difficulty** | **Percent Employed:****Other long-term disabled** | **Percent Employed:****Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty** | **Percent Employed:****Total** |
| **Oct - Dec 2009** | 46.6 | 77.1 | **59.2** | 49.5 | 77.3 | **72.1** |
| **Jan - Mar 2010** | 49.2 | 76.0 | **59.6** | 50.3 | 76.5 | **71.4** |
| **Apr - Jun 2010** | 47.0 | 73.9 | **58.6** | 50.0 | 77.1 | **71.6** |
| **Jul - Sep 2010** | 47.1 | 84.5 | **62.6** | 50.9 | 77.9 | **72.4** |
| **Oct – Dec 2010** | 49.1 | 85.1 | **63.1** | 51.1 | 77.5 | **72.1** |
| **Jan – Mar 2011** | 50.0 | 76.2 | **61.2** | 51.3 | 77.0 | **71.8** |
| **Apr – Jun 2011** | 46.8 | 77.6 | **61.7** | 50.7 | 77.0 | **71.8** |
| **Jul – Sep 2011** | 44.6 | 77.7 | **59.5** | 51.0 | 77.1 | **71.9** |
| **Oct – Dec 2011** | 46.2 | 71.6 | **56.3** | 50.8 | 77.2 | **71.9** |
| **Jan – Mar 2012** | 43.9 | 71.5 | **54.0** | 50.7 | 77.0 | **71.7** |
| **Apr – Jun 2012** | 49.0 | 72.5 | **58.1** | 50.4 | 77.5 | **72.1** |
| **Jul – Sep 2012** | 46.8 | 79.2 | **59.4** | 51.1 | 78.2 | **72.8** |

Figure . Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2009 until July-September 2012) for those who are not disabled with a seeing difficulty, those who are long-term disabled with a seeing difficulty, and all working age population (Labour Force Survey) 6. Findings – by aggregated for twelve quarters

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey (for reference, this can be compared to page 33 of Meager and Carta (2008))

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employee | 39.7% | 63.3% | 49.4% | 42.9% | 67.1% | 62.3% |
| Self employed | 7.2% | 12.8% | 9.5% | 7.7% | 9.9% | 9.4% |
| ILO unemployed | 9.0% | 7.5% | 8.4% | 6.7% | 6.4% | 6.5% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | \* | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | \* | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | \* | 0.5% | 1.0% | 0.9% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | \* | \* | 2.4% | 2.2% | 1.9% | 1.9% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 3.5% | 4.9% | 4.1% | 3.9% | 6.4% | 5.9% |
| Retired from paid work | 4.5% | \* | 4.1% | 2.8% | 1.3% | 1.6% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 25.8% | \* | 15.1% | 26.0% | 0.1% | 5.2% |
| Looking after family home | 5.8% | \* | 4.9% | 6.7% | 5.6% | 5.8% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 111,387 | 77,796 | 189,183 | 7,497,288 | 30,625,476 | 38,311,947 |

**\*** = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 7. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 16-25**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employee | 30.5% | 46.1% | 38.2% | 35.5% | 47.4% | 46.2% |
| Self employed | \* | \* | \* | 1.7% | 2.5% | 2.4% |
| ILO unemployed | \* | \* | 13.0% | 14.8% | 11.4% | 11.7% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | \* | 1.4% | 0.6% | 0.7% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | \* | \* | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | \* | 3.0% | 2.4% | 2.5% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | \* | \* | \* | 5.9% | 4.8% | 5.0% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | \* | \* | 15.4% | 16.6% | 19.3% | 19.0% |
| Long term sick or disabled | \* | \* | \* | 14.3% | 0.04% | 1.5% |
| Looking after family home | \* | \* | \* | 5.6% | 11.4% | 10.8% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 13,527 | 12,533 | 25,921 | 867,595 | 7,912,688 | 8,806,343 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 8. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 26-44**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employee | 47.7% | 73.7% | 59.5% | 47.9% | 73.4% | 69.4% |
| Self employed | \* | \* | 8.1% | 7.1% | 10.3% | 9.8% |
| ILO unemployed | 10.9% | \* | 9.1% | 7.7% | 5.1% | 5.1% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | \* | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | \* | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | \* | 1.1% | 0.6% | 0.7% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | \* | \* | \* | 1.8% | 0.7% | 0.9% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | \* | \* | \* | 2.3% | 1.8% | 1.9% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 20.7% | \* | 11.3% | 21.7% | 0.1% | 3.4% |
| Looking after family home | 8.9% | \* | 7.2% | 9.8% | 7.6% | 8.0% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 34,351 | 28,369 | 62,720 | 2,460,904 | 13,627,451 | 16,151,075 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 9. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 45-54**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employee | 44.5% | 69.4% | 54.6% | 47.0% | 75.2% | 67.8% |
| Self employed | \* | 19.3% | 12.2% | 9.4% | 13.8% | 12.7% |
| ILO unemployed | 9.9% | \* | 8.2% | 5.1% | 3.9% | 4.2% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | \* | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | \* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | \* | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | \* | \* | \* | 1.5% | 0.7% | 0.9% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | \* | \* | \* | 2.0% | 1.4% | 1.5% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 27.7% | \* | 16.5%\* | 28.0% | 0.2% | 7.4% |
| Looking after family home | \* | \* | \* | 5.7% | 3.9% | 4.4% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 30,504 | 20,797 | 51,301 | 2,214,474 | 6,341,324 | 8,607,099 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

**Table 10. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 55-64**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employee | 28.1% | 51.1% | 35.2% | 34.8% | 61.2% | 51.8% |
| Self employed | 9.1% | \* | 11.7% | 9.1% | 16.1% | 13.5% |
| ILO unemployed | \* | \* | \* | 3.6% | 3.7% | 3.7% |
| Government employment and training programmes | \* | \* | \* | 0.2% | \* | 0.1% |
| Unpaid family member | \* | \* | \* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | \* | \* | \* | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | \* | \* | \* | 1.9% | 1.4% | 1.6% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | \* | \* | \* | 2.3% | 2.7% | 2.5% |
| Retired from paid employment | 13.4% | \* | 14.3% | 9.8% | 10.8% | 10.5% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 37.1% | \* | 25.7% | 33.4% | 0.2% | 12.7% |
| Looking after family home | \* | \* | \* | 4.2 | 3.2% | 3.6% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 35,908 | 15,961 | 51,869 | 1,990,417 | 3,334,168 | 5,376,454 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 16-25

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employed | 31.7% | 50.2% | 40.4% | 37.7% | 54.4% | 52.6% |
| Unemployed | \* | \* | 14.8% | 16.8% | 13.3% | 13.7% |
| Student | \* | 27.8% | 24.0% | 19.9% | 25.3% | 24.7% |
| Looking after family and home | \* | \* | \* | 5.7% | 4.3% | 4.5% |
| Long term sick or disabled | \* | \* | \* | 14.1% | 0.04% | 1.6% |
| Something else | \* | \* | \* | 5.8% | 2.7% | 3.0% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 13,668 | 12,242 | 25,910 | 854,884 | 7,263,060 | 8,143,854 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 26-44

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employed | 54.0% | 84.3% | 67.6% | 54.4% | 84.0% | 79.4% |
| Unemployed | 10.9% | \* | 9.1% | 8.2% | 5.4% | 5.9% |
| Student | \* | \* | \* | 0.9% | 1.4% | 1.3% |
| Looking after family and home | 8.8% | \* | 7.2% | 9.7% | 7.7% | 8.0% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 20.6% | \* | 11.3% | 21.5% | 0.1% | 3.4% |
| Retired | \* | \* | \* | 1.7% | \* | 0.3% |
| Something else | \* | \* | \* | 3.6% | 1.5% | 1.8% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 34,522 | 28,168 | 62,690 | 2,484,925 | 13,555,771 | 16,103,386 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 45-54

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employed | 50.8% | 83.7% | 64.4% | 53.0% | 89.1% | 79.8% |
| Unemployed | 10.6% | \* | 10.7% | 5.7% | 4.2% | 4.6% |
| Student | \* | \* | \* | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Looking after family and home | \* | \* | \* | 5.8% | 3.9% | 4.4% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 27.0% | \* | 15.9% | 28.6% | 0.2% | 7.5% |
| Retired | \* | \* | \* | 3.0% | 0.4% | 1.1% |
| Something else | \* | \* | \* | 3.7% | 2.0% | 2.5% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 31,256 | 22,039 | 53,295 | 2,167,371 | 6,339,763 | 8,560,429 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Economic activity (using categories from Network 1000 survey) of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey – Aged 55-64

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Employed | 40.6% | 69.7% | 49.9% | 43.3% | 78.2% | 64.8% |
| Unemployed | \* | \* | 6.4% | 4.4% | 4.3% | 4.4% |
| Student | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* | 0.1% |
| Looking after family and home | \* | \* | \* | 4.2% | 3.3% | 3.6% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 31.3% | \* | 21.2% | 32.8% | 0.2% | 12.7% |
| Retired | 15.2% | \* | 15.3% | 11.5% | 10.3% | 10.6% |
| Something else | \* | \* | \* | 3.7% | 3.9% | 3.8% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 32,945 | 15,662 | 48,607 | 2,021,507 | 3,296,435 | 5,366,549 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Duration of unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment duration | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Less than 12 months | 48.3% | 69.4% | 55.0% | 56.2% | 70.2% | 67.3% |
| 12 months or more | 51.7% | \* | 45.0% | 43.8% | 29.8% | 32.7% |
| Total (Weighted) | 10,052 | 5,890 | 15,541 | 500,901 | 1,966,452 | 2,483,295 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Duration of ILO unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment duration | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | Not disabled with seeing difficulty(%) | All people with a seeing difficulty(%) | Other long-term disabled(%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty(%) | Total(%) |
| Less than 12 months | 48.3% | 69.4% | 56.1% | 56.2% | 70.2% | 67.3% |
| 12 months or more | 51.7% | \* | 43.9% | 43.8% | 29.8% | 32.7% |
| Total (Weighted) | 10,052 | 5,890 | 15,942 | 500,896 | 1,966,452 | 2,483,290 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Economic Activity of Long-term disabled with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Degree or above (%) | A-level and below degree level (%) | GCSE level and other (%) | No qualification | Total weighted (%) |
| Employed | 68.2% | 56.8% | 42.1% | 15.7% | 45.6% |
| Unemployed | \* | 9.3% | 11.8% | \* | 9.7% |
| Student | \* | \* | \* | \* | 3.0% |
| Looking after family home | \* | \* | \* | \* | 6.6% |
| Long term sick or disabled | \* | \* | 24.0% | 44.3% | 24.2% |
| Retired | \* | \* | \* | \* | 6.0% |
| Something else | \* | \* | \* | \* | 4.9% |
| N (weighted) | 20,174 | 33,108 | 36,921 | 23,247 | 113,450 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Economic Activity of all people with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Degree or above (%) | A-level and below degree level (%) | GCSE level and other (%) | No qualification | Total weighted (%) |
| Employed | 74.6% | 66.0% | 55.3% | 24.5% | 58.7% |
| Unemployed | \* | 7.8 | 11.3% | \* | 9.1% |
| Student | \* | \* | \* | \* | 4.2% |
| Looking after family home | \* | \* | 5.8% | \* | 4.9% |
| Long term sick or disabled | \* | 11.2% | 14.4% | 43.6% | 15.2% |
| Retired | \* | \* | \* | \* | 5.0% |
| Something else | \* | \* | \* | \* | 2.9% |
| N (weighted) | 42,744 | 57,753 | 62,239 | 25,849 | 187,585 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . Economic Activity of whole population (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Degree or above (%) | A-level and below degree level (%) | GCSE level and other (%) | No qualification | Total weighted (%) |
| Employed | 85.3% | 76.1% | 66.9% | 41.4% | 71.8% |
| Unemployed | 4.0% | 5.7% | 9.54% | 10.2% | 7.0% |
| Student | 2.6% | 7.3% | 6.56% | 6.8% | 5.9% |
| Looking after family home | 3.3% | 3.5% | 7.6% | 13.3% | 5.8% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 1.0% | 3.3% | 5.4% | 21.3% | 5.2% |
| Retired | 1.7% | 2.0% | 1.5% | 3.4% | 5.2% |
| Something else | 2.1% | 2.0% | 2.6% | 3.6% | 1.9% |
| N (weighted) | 9,140,400 | 12,259,143 | 12,723,271 | 3,734,748 | 2.4% |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table . People in employment (employee or self employed) whether in full time or part time employment aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%) | Not disabled with a seeing difficulty (%) | All people with a seeing difficulty (%) | Other long-term disabled (%) | Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%) | Total (%) |
| Full time | 71.6% | 79.5% | 75.8% | 69.1% | 76.0% | 75.0% |
| Part time | 28.4% | 20.5% | 24.2% | 30.9% | 24.0% | 25.0% |
| N (weighted) | 52,558 | 59,338 | 111,896 | 3,824,301 | 23,637,716 | 27,573,913 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 20 shows that blind and partially sighted people tend to be more likely to be employed full-time than others in the labour force with long-term disabilities. One possible explanation for this finding is that included within the group of ‘other long-term disabled’ will be those whose disabilities mean they are unable to work full-time hours (e.g. if they have a physical disability which is linked to fatigue or pain). It is also encouraging to see that of the blind and partially sighted people who are working, a high proportion have secured fulltime employment (75.8%). Indeed this proportion is approximately the same as that in the population as a whole (75.0%). Nevertheless this figure needs to be seen in context – a much higher proportion of blind and partially sighted people are not in employment. This may suggest that blind and partially sighted people may find it particularly difficult to secure part-time or casual work (and this may be reflected in the particularly low employment rate amongst those with no qualifications – Table 17). However, Table 21 provides little evidence of different occupation profiles between blind and partially sighted and the general populations.

Table . Additional table giving most recent occupations of people with a seeing difficulty [DDA disabled and ALL people with a seeing difficulty]. Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2009 – September 2012

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%) | Not disabled with a seeing difficulty (%) | All people with a seeing difficulty (%) | All working population (%) |
| Managers, directors and senior officials | 8.0% | 12.6% | 10.2% | 9.9% |
| Professional occupations | 16.6% | 18.6% | 17.5% | 18.0% |
| Associate professional and technical occupations | 12.3% | 13.1% | 12.7% | 13.4% |
| Administrative and secretarial occupations | 12.8% | 9.0% | 11.0% | 10.8% |
| Skilled trade occupations | 9.2% | 10.4% | 9.8% | 10.8% |
| Personal service occupations | \* | 9.7% | 8.2% | 9.1% |
| Sales and customer service occupations | 9.3% | \* | 7.8% | 8.8% |
| Process, plant and machine operatives | 10.5% | 8.7% | 9.6% | 6.7% |
| Elementary occupations | 14.6% | 11.8% | 13.3% | 12.4% |
| N (weighted) | 42,936 | 39,809 | 82,745 | 18,341,590 |

\* = not sufficient for publication (less than 3,000)

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