# Maine Workers with Disabilities 2022 Data Update

# Text, Notes and Sources

| TAB | TEXT and HOVER BOX NOTES *[in italics]* |
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| About Maine Workers with Disabilities | The Maine Workers with Disabilities web page and interactive tables were developed in response to the desire among members of Maine’s disability community for more information, specific to Maine, about employment status and services for people with disabilities.  This CWRI web page brings together information from the Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) and information collected by agencies serving people in Maine. It presents multiple views of a population that is defined and measured in different ways; and provides context and meaning to a diverse set of descriptors.   The target audience for this data is members of Maine’s disability community such as people with disabilities, advocates, and service providers; as well as policymakers, employers and other stakeholders.  Data Note: The ACS is the primary source of data for this website. Data visuals and downloadable spreadsheets contain pooled estimates utilizing 5-years of ACS data collection. Pooled estimates are more precise with lower margins of error compared to 1-year estimates. 2022 data are the most recently available 5-year estimates, with 2023 5-year estimates scheduled to be released at the end of 2024. |
| Age | From 2018 through 2022, just over 213,000 persons with one or more disabilities resided in Maine, equal to almost 16 percent of its civilian non-institutionalized population of about 1.35 million. This proportion was higher than that of the United States, where an estimated 12.9 percent of residents had a disability.  In Maine and the U.S., the age distribution of civilian noninstitutionalized population with disabilities differs from the general population (with and without disabilities), with higher shares of persons over 64 and lower shares in cohorts 64 or younger. In Maine, 42 percent of the population with disabilities is over 64 years of age, nearly [two times the comparable share of the general population (21.5%)](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S0101?q=Age%20and%20Sex&g=040XX00US23&moe=false).  In Maine and the U.S., about half of residents with a disability are of working age (18 to 64 years).  *Unless otherwise specified, “working-age adult” is defined as a civilian, non-institutionalized resident age 18 to 64.*  Source: 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS), Table C18108. |
| County | Within Maine, counties with the highest shares of residents with disabilities are Piscataquis, Washington, Aroostook, and Somerset.  Source: 2018-2022 ACS, Table S1810. |
| Disability Type | From 2018 through 2022, an estimated 16 percent of Maine’s working-age population had one or more disabilities. Thirty-five percent of these individuals were employed, compared to 81 percent of the working-age population without a disability.  The likelihood of working varies widely by type of disabling condition. Persons with hearing and vision difficulties are more likely to be employed than those with other disabilities.  *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. As a result, the sum of estimated residents in each category exceeds the total population of persons with disabilities.*  Sources: 2018-2022 American Community Survey, Table S1810, and IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org). |
| Education | Educational attainment is positively associated with both employment and earnings. Among Maine adults ages 25 and older, approximately 49 percent of those with a disability have some post-secondary education, compared to 67 percent of adults with no disability; only 20 percent have a four-year college degree or higher, compared to 38 percent of adults without disabilities.  *Educational attainment is measured among persons 25 years and older.*  Source: 2018-2022 ACS, Table S1811 |
| Labor Force | Adults with disabilities are less likely to be employed than adults with no disability. Fewer than half work or seek work. From 2018 through 2022, almost 38 percent of working-age Mainers with disabilities were employed compared to 81 percent of those with no disability. The unemployment rate among Maine adults with disabilities was 10.6 percent while it was 3.3 percent for adults without disabilities.  Source: 2018-2022 ACS, Table C18120 |
| Full-Time/ Part-time | Workers with disabilities are less likely to work at full-time, year-round jobs than other workers.  Source: 2018-2022 ACS Table C18121. |
| Median Earnings | Workers with disabilities tend to earn less than those with no disability. From 2018 to 2022, median earnings of Maine workers with disabilities were $26,734 in a twelve-month period, compared median earnings of $41,412 among Maine workers with no disability. The earnings gap between Maine and U.S. was more pronounced among earners with disabilities. The median for Maine earners with disabilities was around $2,648 less than the comparable national median, compared to a gap of $1,901 between earners without a disability in Maine and the U.S.  *Median earnings in the past twelve months for civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older with earnings.*  Source: 2018-2022 ACS, Table B18140. |
| Poverty | From 2018 through 2022, 44 percent of working-age Mainers with a disability lived in or near poverty (defined as within 199 percent of the federal poverty threshold). This share was more than twice the share of Mainers with no disability (16 percent).  Among employed adults with disabilities, rates of poverty and near poverty were lower. Still, 22 percent of Maine workers with a disability lived in or near poverty compared to 12 percent of workers with no disability.  *Poverty thresholds are used for calculating all official poverty population statistics. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau and reported in the Federal Registry by the Department of Health and Human Services. 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.”*  Source: Estimates calculated by CWRI derived from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 12 (IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org) using 2018-2022 ACS estimates |
| Health Insurance | Among Maine adults, the rate of health insurance coverage is comparable to the U.S. regardless of disability status. In both Maine and the U.S. adults with disabilities are more likely to have public health coverage than private insurance.  *For reporting purposes, 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.*  Source: 2018-2022 ACS, Table B18135 |
| SSA programs | People with disabilities and their families may receive income support from two programs administered by the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA): Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).  While SSDI and SSI target different populations, there is some program overlap. In 2022, the share of Maine residents receiving disability benefits of any kind from SSDI and/or SSI was 9 percent of resident population age 18 to 64, compared to 5.4 percent nationally.  *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: Social Security Administration, SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2022, Tables 10, and 16; and the Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program, 2022, Tables 67 and 68. |
| SSDI Recipients | Since peaking in 2013, the number of Maine workers receiving SSDI has slightly declined by about 10,000, to approximately 49,400 in 2022. The share of recipients who had benefits withheld due to substantial work or terminated upon return to work has increased.  *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: Social Security Administration, Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program, 2022, Table 56. |
| SSI Recipients | In Maine and the U. S. the number of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients (total blind and disabled, all ages) and the share of recipients who work has generally remained consistent since 2013. Compared to the nation, a larger share of Maine SSI recipients work.  *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: Social Security Administration, SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2022, Table 41. |
| Job Seekers | In July 2015 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) superseded the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Transition from WIA to WIOA in program year 2016 represents a series break in statistics describing job seekers.  Nearly six hundred and thirty job seekers with disabilities received employment services at Maine’s One-Stop CareerCenters in 2022. That number represents 9 percent of total participants who received career and training services under WIOA.  Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, WIOA Performance Result, Wagner-Peyser Act. |
| MDOL Rehab Services | In July 2015 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) superseded the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Transition from WIA to WIOA in program year 2016 represents a series break in statistics describing job seekers.  In 2022, 561 individuals receiving services from the Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) became employed. In addition to these cases, almost 6,000 other individuals received an array of different services and successfully accomplished milestones including completion of work-based learning experiences, pre-employment services, career exploration, and other training and education programs. BRS serves clients from a wide age range and provides a variety of services that are in preparation for employment with an increased focus on serving youth with disabilities under WIOA.  Source: Maine Department of Labor Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. |
| MaineCare | MaineCare Coverage for Workers with Disabilities allows low-income workers with disabilities to earn more while retaining health care coverage. Average annual enrollment in MaineCare for workers with disabilities has, in general, steadily increased in recent years.  Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence. |
| Notes | Civilian noninstitutional refers to people residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia who are not active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces or are confined to, 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 and reported in the Federal Registry by the Department of Health and Human Services. The 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.”  For reporting purposes, 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 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.  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.)**  In 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau stopped formulating three-year ACS estimates. Consequently, five-year estimates are now employed. Though less current than one-year estimates, the larger sample used to formulate five-year estimates produces a more precise snapshot of Maine’s relatively small population of residents with disabilities. ACS data is sample based and subject to sampling variability.  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. |