

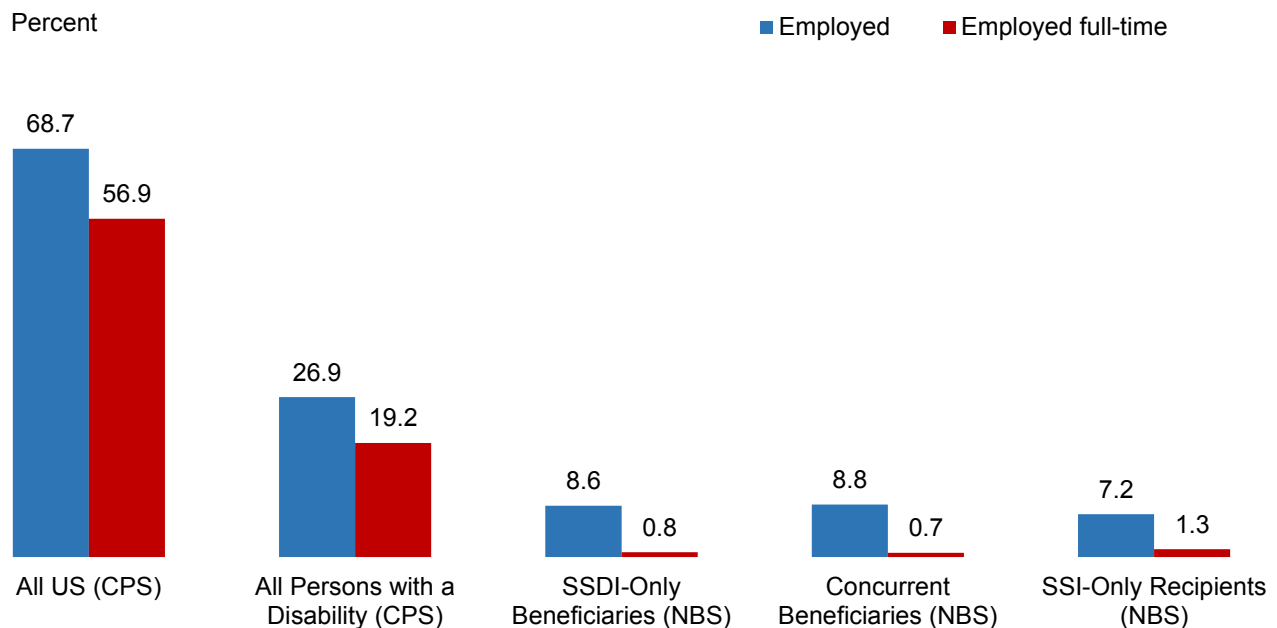
National Beneficiary Survey

Interesting Facts from SSA's National Beneficiary Survey (NBS)

How much do SSA disability beneficiaries work? Comparisons to national data

- About 9 percent of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries and concurrent beneficiaries and 7 percent of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients work, compared to 27 percent of working-age persons with a disability and almost 70 percent of the working-age US population.
- Of those employed, relatively few SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients work full-time (35 hours or more per week). Among those working, less than one in ten SSDI-only and concurrent beneficiaries work full time. A higher percentage (less than two in ten) of employed SSI-only recipients work full-time. Among all employed working-age persons with a disability, seven in ten work full time, and for all working-age individuals, eight in ten work full time.

Employment rate and full-time work of SSA disability beneficiaries, compared to the working-age US population and working-age persons with a disability*



*SSA disability beneficiaries includes SSDI beneficiaries and SSI adult disabled and blind recipients, ages 18-64. Working-age US population and persons with a disability includes individuals ages 16-64. Persons with a disability are identified in the Current Population Survey (CPS) by a set of six questions asking about physical, mental, or emotional conditions that cause serious difficulty with their daily activities. Individuals are classified as having a disability if they respond "yes" to any of the questions. This is different from SSA's definition of disability, which requires that beneficiaries be unable to work above the Substantial Gainful Activity level for at least one year.

The employment questions in the NBS and CPS are similar, but not exactly the same. Employed persons in the CPS are those who did any work as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family member's business during the survey reference week. In the NBS, employed individuals are those who worked at a job or business for pay or profit at the time of the interview.

Source: Statistics for the US population and persons with a disability are from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics' analysis](#) of Census Bureau Current Population Survey data for 2015. The statistics for SSA beneficiaries are from the 2015 NBS.

If you have comments or ideas for future Fact Sheets, please contact us at NBS.Fact.Sheets@ssa.gov.
For more information about the NBS, please visit <http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/nbs.html>.