



Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick



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This document will cover some of the key findings from the 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) from a New Brunswick perspective. The CSD is based on self-reported information from respondents and the data is intended to be representative of the Canadian population.

Overviewⁱ

In 2012, persons with disabilities (PWDs) represented an estimated:

- 99,540 working-age (ages 15+) New Brunswickers (16.4% of the working-age population in the province, compared to 13.7% at a national level).
- 61,650 typical working-age (ages 15-64) New Brunswickers (12.3% of the typical working-age population in the province, compared to 10.1% at a national level).

Working-Age Population:

Anyone who is 15 years or older.

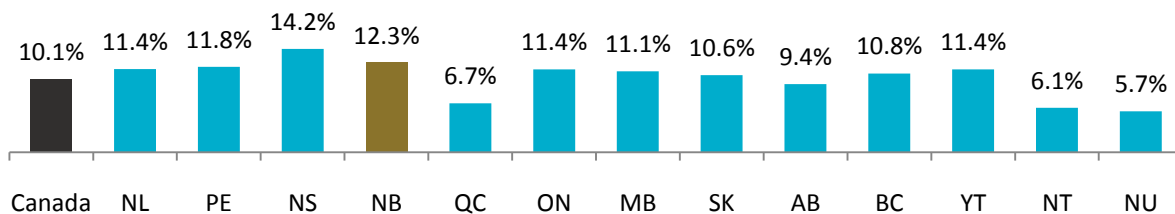
Typical Working-Age Population:

Anyone who is 15 to 64 years old.

Additionally:

- 54.0% of New Brunswick working-age PWDs (47.1% nationally) made under \$20,000 in total income during the reference year, compared to 38.0% of those without a disability (36.6% nationally).ⁱⁱ
- 15,750 typical working-age New Brunswick PWDs in 2012 reported that their disability made it so they were completely unable to work (representing 25.5% of typical working-age PWDs in the province, compared to 20.8% at a national level).

Percentage of the Typical Working-Age Population (Ages 15-64) with a Disability



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All statistics relating to the labour force status of PWDs from the CSD focus only on the typical working-age population (ages 15 to 64). In 2012, typical working-age PWDs had much lower participation and employment rates and a much higher unemployment rate than the general population:

- The participation rate for PWDs in New Brunswick was 49.4% (51.5% age-standardized), compared to 53.6% (55.5% age-standardized) nationally, 79.2% for New Brunswickers without disabilities and 75.7% for the total New Brunswick population.
- The employment rate for PWDs was 41.2% (43.0% age-standardized), compared to 47.3% (47.7% age-standardized) nationally, 71.4% for New Brunswickers without disabilities and 67.9% for the total New Brunswick population.
- The unemployment rate for PWDs was 16.6% (17.6% age-standardized), compared to 11.8% (14.3% age-standardized) nationally, 9.8% for New Brunswickers without disabilities and 10.3% for the total New Brunswick population.

In the Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), **age standardization** is usually used by adjusting the age distribution in order to match to the age composition of the Canadian population.

This allows for more meaningful comparisons between populations who have different age compositions (for example, persons with disabilities tend to be older than persons without disabilities).

Labour Force Characteristics of the Typical Working-Age PWDs (New Brunswick, 2012)

Characteristic	Persons With Disabilities	Persons Without Disabilities	Total Population
Population ⁱⁱⁱ	61,650	438,020	499,670
Not in labour force	29,260	90,990	120,250
Labour force	28,580	346,430	375,010
Employment	23,850	312,520	336,370
Unemployment	4,730	33,910	38,640
Participation rate	49.4%	79.2%	75.7%
Age standardized participation rate	51.5%	79.7%	76.5%
Employment rate	41.2%	71.4%	67.9%
Age standardized employment rate	43.0%	71.9%	68.6%
Unemployment rate	16.6%	9.8%	10.3%
Age standardized unemployment rate	17.6%	10.2%	10.8%

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- 28.3% of typical working-age New Brunswick PWDs' disabilities were classified as "mild"; this group had labour force characteristics that were more in-line with the general population (68.6% participation rate, 13.2% unemployment rate, etc.).
- 24.3% of typical working-age New Brunswick PWDs' disabilities were classified as "severe", and another 28.8% were "very severe" (representing 14,980 and 17,730 individuals respectively). Relatively few of the individuals who had very severe disabilities participated in the labour force (28.8%).

Labour Force Characteristics of the Typical Working-Age PWDs by Severity of Disability (NB. 2012)

Characteristic	All PWDs	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe
Population	61,650	17,470	11,470	14,980	17,730
Not in labour force	29,260	5,330	5,180	7,380	11,370
Labour force	28,580	11,640	5,780	---	4,600
Employed	23,850	10,100	4,600	5,510	3,630
Unemployed	4,730	1,540	1,180	---	970
Participation rate	49.4%	68.6%	52.7%	47.1%	28.8%
Age standardized participation rate	51.5%	69.1%	56.1%	44.7%	29.0%
Employment Rate	41.2%	59.5%	42.0%	39.5%	22.7%
Age standardized employment rate	43.0%	59.5%	43.5%	38.4%	23.0%
Unemployment rate	16.6%	13.2%	20.5%	---	21.1%
Age standardized unemployment rate	17.6%	16.1%	22.0%	---	19.4%

An individual's severity score increases:

- with the number of disability types;
- with the level of difficulty associated with the disability; and
- with the frequency of the activity limitation.

It is important to understand that the name assigned to each class (severity level) is simply intended to facilitate its use and is not a label or judgement concerning the person's level of disability.

Of the various types of disabilities in the province in 2012 (keeping in mind that PWDs can have more than one type of disability):

- The most common types of disabilities among the typical working-age population were related to pain, flexibility and mobility.
- Participation rates for typical working-age PWDs were lowest among those with memory and development disabilities and highest for those with hearing, pain or seeing related disabilities.
- Unemployment rates were highest for those with learning, mental and/or psychological or seeing disorders.

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Labour Force Characteristics of the Typical Working-Age PWDs by Type of Disability (NB, 2012)

Disability Type*	Population	Not in Labour Force	Labour Force	Age Standardized		
				Particip. Rate	Emp. Rate	Unemp. Rate
All disability types	61,650	29,260	28,580	51.5%	43.0%	17.6%
Developmental	4,490	2,690	---	36.9%	---	---
Dexterity	16,230	9,480	4,720	34.4%	30.0%	---
Flexibility	35,180	19,450	13,540	42.2%	36.2%	15.0%
Hearing	14,190	7,270	6,110	57.3%	51.5%	12.3%
Learning	13,580	7,780	4,660	38.6%	29.5%	23.5%
Memory	12,180	7,440	3,290	35.1%	28.8%	---
Mental and/or psychological	23,650	13,670	8,450	41.2%	31.8%	24.4%
Mobility	33,090	19,220	11,150	37.8%	32.6%	14.9%
Pain	45,880	22,560	20,120	51.8%	42.2%	18.8%
Seeing	12,300	6,120	5,220	48.8%	37.5%	23.1%
Unknown	880	---	---	72.0%	63.9%	---

ⁱ CSD data from Statistics Canada CANSIM tables 115-0002, 115-0005, 115-0006, 115-0007, and 115-0014.

ⁱⁱ Income shares include individuals with no income

ⁱⁱⁱ Significant rounding errors exists at times (Population = Labour Force + Not in Labour Force).

^{iv} Data too unreliable to be published.