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Investigation of data relating to blind and partially sighted people in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey: October 2011 – September 2014

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February 2015

1. 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 2011 to July–September 2014.

1.2 Changes in the way LFS defines disability

Since the quarter April-June 2014 there have been minor changes to the way that people are defined as disabled in the LFS dataset. Depending on how participants respond to questions on health, disability and how these impact on their ability to carry out daily activities and their work they are now categorised in the dataset as either:

- 1) Equality Act Disabled
- 2) Not Equality Act Disabled

In practice however, this should make very little difference to the number of people identified as 'long term disabled with a seeing difficulty'. In future reports however, we shall refer to people who are 'long term disabled with a seeing difficulty' as 'Equality Act disabled with a seeing difficulty'.

1.3 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 (44.9% per cent) for people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty.

A 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 two 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

1.4 Implications for interpreting the statistics

The two sets of statistics should not, therefore be regarded as contradictory. The higher employment statistic of 44.9% percent 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 44.9% 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 Network 1000 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).

1.5 Summary of the main findings

1.5.1 Findings for individual quarters

Comparison of employment rates over 12 quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

- Looking first at the quarterly figures from October 2011 to September 2014 it appears that there were greater fluctuations in the employment rate of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty than the other groups over this period*
 - The other groups were: other long term disabled; not disabled; all people of working age
 - *When interpreting these figures, please note that our confidence range for estimates based on data from one quarter is within +/- 4,000 (for further explanation, please refer to the explanation in section 3.2). For example, our estimated figure for "Percent Employed: Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty" for July-September 2014 is 50,011. This gives us 95% confidence that the true figure is between 46,011 and 54,011.2. In percentage terms this gives us an estimate between 41.4% and 48.5%. Therefore any interpretations of fluctuations in the employment percentages should be treated cautiously.

1.5.2 Findings based on data aggregated over 12 quarters

The following statistics are based on data aggregated over 12 quarters to the end of September 2014.

Proportion of the working age population long term disabled with a seeing difficulty

- 0.29% of the working age population were long term disabled with a seeing difficulty. When the working age population was broken down into 4 age groups, the proportion within each age group that was long term disabled with a seeing difficulty was:
 - 0.18% aged 16-25
 - 0.21% aged 26-44
 - 0.35% aged 45-54
 - 0.56% aged 55-64

Proportions in employment

- The proportions of people in employment (including self employed) were:
 - 44.9% - Long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 49.4% - Other long term disabled
 - 78.3% - Not disabled
 - 72.8% - All people of working age

This represents a reduction in employment rates for people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty of 3.9% since September 2010. For all people of working age there has been a 0.2% reduction in employment rates over the same period.

- At all ages, people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty were less likely than the general population to be employed.
- The age breakdown of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty who were employed compared with all people in that age group was:
 - Ages 16-25: 27.8% compared with 52.8%
 - Ages 26-44: 48.3% compared with 80.4%
 - Ages 45-54: 54.6% compared with 85.2%
 - Ages 55-64: 45.5% compared with 69.0%

Educational qualifications and employment status

- Overall, fewer people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty had a degree or above when compared to people without a disability:
 - 18.8% compared with 29.2%
- People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty were twice as likely as people without a disability to have no qualifications:
 - 16.3% compared with 6.5%
- For people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty **and** people without a disability the higher the qualifications held the more likely they were to be in employment. However, even with a degree, people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty were far less likely than people without a disability to be employed - the proportions in employment, by level of academic attainment were:
 - Degree or above
 - 63.7% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 87.2% - all people of working age without a disability
 - A level and below degree level:
 - 59.3% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 85.9% - all people of working age without a disability
 - GCSE level and 'other':

- 45.4% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
- 74.7% all people of working age without a disability
- No qualification:
 - *% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 57.3% all people of working age without a disability

* The number was too small for statistical reliability. However, it is notable that 22.9% of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty and with no qualifications were neither employed nor unemployed, which suggests that they were economically inactive.

- Looking **only** at those people **in employment**, there was little or no difference in the qualifications levels of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty and the rest of the working age population:
 - Degree or above
 - 26.6% - all people with a seeing difficulty
 - 23.8% - other long term disabled
 - 31.4%% - all people of working age
 - A level and below degree level:
 - 10.2% - all people with a seeing difficulty
 - 10.9% - other long term disabled
 - 9.9% - all people of working age
 - GCSE level and 'other':
 - 57.7% - all people with a seeing difficulty
 - 58.2% - other long term disabled
 - 53.6% all people of working age
 - No qualification:
 - *% - all people with a seeing difficulty
 - 7.1% - other long term disabled
 - 5.0% - all people of working age

*The number was too small for statistical reliability, although it is likely to be around 5%

Proportions ILO unemployed

- The proportions of people ILO unemployed were:
 - 9.0% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 7.2% other long term disabled
 - 5.9% not disabled
 - 6.1% 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 0.6% increase in the proportion ILO unemployed over the same period.

- People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty in the 26-44 age group were twice as likely to be ILO unemployed as the rest of the population of the same age: 10.1% compared with 5.1%
 - For people long term disabled with seeing difficulty in the other age groups, the sample sizes for ILO unemployed were too small for statistical reliability
- Young people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty aged 16-25 were less likely than the rest of the population of the same age to be in education or employment: 57.2% compared to 78.2%
 - **42.8%*** of young people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty aged 16-25 appear to have been **NEET** (not in employment, education or training), compared to 21.7% of 16-25 year olds in the general population

*This includes young people ILO unemployed, long term sick or disabled, and categorised as 'other' which in some cases could mean that they were in training. The proportion in the general population who were 'other' was 7.6%.

- People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty were more likely than the general population to be unemployed for 12 months or more. The proportions of people who had been unemployed for 12 months or more were:
 - 44.4% - long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 47.3% - other long term disabled
 - 32.0% - not disabled
 - 35.3% - all people of working age

Long term sick or disabled

- The proportions of people of working age long term sick or disabled were:
 - 25.8% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 25.9% other long term disabled
 - 0.1% not disabled
 - 4.9% all people of working age
- People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty aged 26 and over were more likely to be long term sick or disabled compared to the rest of the population of the same age. The percentages long term sick or disabled were:
 - Ages 26-44: 24.9% compared with 3.2%
 - Ages 45-54: 29.0% compared with 7.2%

- Ages 55-64: 32.7% compared with 11.9%
- **People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty were more than twice as likely as the rest of the working age population to have given up work for health reasons: 37.6% compared to 15.7%**

Retired from paid employment

- The proportions of people of working age retired from paid work were:
 - 3.2% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 2.6% other long term disabled
 - 1.3% not disabled
 - 1.6% all people of working age

More information about people in employment

- People with a seeing difficulty were in a wide range of occupations. The occupational groups of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty, compared to the whole of the working age population were:
 - Managers, directors and senior officials: **8.7%** vs 9.9%
 - Professional occupations: **15.2%** vs 20.1%
 - Associate professional and technical occupations: **16.0%** vs 14.3%
 - Administrative and secretarial occupations: **12.4%** vs 10.2%
 - Skilled trade occupations: **9.4%** vs 11.0%
 - Caring, leisure and other service occupations: **7.3%** vs 9.3%
 - Sales and customer service occupations: **10.9%** vs 7.8%
 - Process, plant and machine operatives: **7.4%** vs 6.4%
 - Elementary occupations: **12.7 %** vs 11.0%
- The majority of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty who were in employment were employed in the private sector.
- There was no difference in the proportion of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty employed in the private and public sectors compared to the whole of the working age population
 - The proportions of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty employed in the private sector compared with the rest of the population were: 76.5 vs 76.7%
 - The proportions of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty employed in the public sector, compared with the rest of the population were: 23.5% vs 23.3%
- The majority of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty who were in employment were in full-time employment.

- People long term disabled with a seeing difficulty were less likely than the working population as a whole to be in full-time employment. The proportions in full-time employment were:
 - 66.5% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 68.0% other long term disabled
 - 76.1% not disabled
 - 75.1% all people of working age

- The gross monthly pay of people long term disabled with a seeing difficulty in employment appears to be similar to the rest of the working age population, although it is important to note that the overall response rate to this question was very low.
 - The proportions whose gross monthly pay was £1,999.99 or less was:
 - 60.7% long term disabled with a seeing difficulty
 - 64.4% other long term disabled
 - 55.4% not disabled
 - 56.5% all people of working age

2. Introduction

This report provides the results of an analysis of data obtained from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey in relation to blind and partially 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 2011 and September 2014.

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 a quarterly basis on behalf of the UK government. For example, data relating to that collected from the Labour Force Survey for the quarter July-September 2014 was from 95,950 respondents. Within that quarterly sample there were 443 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. 1457

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 210, and the number who identified themselves as having seeing difficulties was reduced to a prevalence of 662 of the 57,343 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)'.
3. Respondents were able to choose as many from this list as appropriate. This was the question used in ascertaining whether respondents had seeing difficulties.
4. 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.
5. 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**.
6. 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**'.

7. 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’.

Since the quarter April-June 2014, the variable DISCURR has been removed and replaced with the variable DISEA. This variable has the following options: 1=Equality Act Disabled and 2=Not Equality Act Disabled. Taking the original definitions from Meager and Carta, Equality Act Disabled has now been used to represent those who are long term disabled.

The UK Government provide the following definition of Equality Act Disabled from the 2010 Equality Act.

“You’re disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

- ‘substantial’ is more than minor or trivial - eg it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed
- ‘long-term’ means 12 months or more - eg a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection”

In the January-March quarter, both the variable DISCURR and DISEA were available, which allows us to make some comparison of the two definitions of disability and assess how comparable they are. The results of this are shown in the table below. Using the original variable DISCURR, 24.6% of the participants would have been identified as long term disabled, whilst using the variable DISEA this would have been lower at 22.6%. These changes should be remembered when interpreting the results in this report and also in making comparisons with previous reports. The variable DISEA was only used for two of the quarters, and therefore when looking at the data which has been aggregated over 12 months it will have minimal impact. However, it should be particularly noted that the findings in Section 4 are based on the quarter June-September 2014 which does use the new definition of disability. For this, and future quarters, it is likely to mean that a small proportion of those respondents who would have previously been in our constructed category of “long term disabled with a seeing difficulty” will move into the alternative category of “not disabled with a seeing difficulty”. However, we think it unlikely that this will have a significant effect on the overall numbers of people identified as disabled due to a seeing difficulty.

Comparison of DISCURR and DISEA definitions of Disability: January-March 2014

	Using variable DISCURR (N)	Using variable DISCURR (%)	Using variable DISEA (N)	Using variable DISEA (%)
Number of participants identified as "Long term disabled"	12,576,846	24.6	11,520,627	22.6%
Number of participants identified as "Not disabled"	38,503,699	75.4%	39,470,419	77.4%
Total	51,080,545	100.0%	50,991,046	100.0%

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 population that the response would be applicable to). Caution should be taken when interpreting these figures. With this dataset, only 210 people of working age identified sight difficulties as their main health problem.

3.2 Aggregating twelve quarters of the LFS (from October 2011 to September 2014)

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

3.3 Report structure and interpreting the findings

The findings are presented mainly in tables. The first four tables present data for specific quarters. Aggregated data from twelve quarters (October 2011 – September 2014) is used in Table 5 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 recommended threshold of 3,000. If more confident estimates are to be made 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, replacing 20% of households who are dropped. 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 a three year 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:

- There are higher estimated numbers of this group compared to the registered working age population.
- 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.
- 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).

3.4 List of Tables:

Table 1 Economic activity of those of a working age – July-September 2014	17
Table 2. Economic activity of those of a working age – July-September 2014	17
Table 3. Economic activity of those of a working age – July-September 2014	18
Table 4. Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2011 until July-September 2014) for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age population (Labour Force Survey)	20
Table 5. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	22
Table 6. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 16 - 25 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	23
Table 7. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 26 - 44 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	23
Table 8. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 45 - 54 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	24
Table 9. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 55-64 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	24
Table 10. Duration of ILO unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	25
Table 11. Economic Activity of Long-term disabled with a seeing difficulty / not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	26
Table 12: People in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time: qualifications of people with a seeing difficulty - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	27
Table 13 Economic Activity of all people with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	27
Table 14. Economic Activity of Long-term disabled without a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	28
Table 15. Economic Activity of whole population (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014	28

Table 16. People in employment (employee or self-employed) whether in full time or part time employment - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014 28

Table 17. People in employment (employee or self-employed) whether in permanent or temporary employment - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014 29

Table 18. People in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time: Occupations of people with a seeing difficulty - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014 30

Table 19. People NOT in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time: Last/most recent occupations of people with a seeing difficulty - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014 31

Table 20. People in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time): Whether people with a seeing difficulty are employed in the public or private sector - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014 32

Table 21: People NOT in employment: Reason for leaving last job- Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014 33

Table 22: People in employment: Gross monthly pay of people with a seeing difficulty. Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014 34

3.5 List of Figures:

Figure 1. Comparison of Employment Rates over the 12 most recent quarters for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age population 19

Figure 2. Comparison of Employment Rates over the 12 most recent quarters for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty, those disabled with a seeing difficulty and all working age population 21

4. Findings – for individual quarters

Table 1 Economic activity of those of a working age – July-September 2014

Activity	Sight difficulties main health problem (N)	Sight difficulties main health problem (%)	Whole data set (N)	Whole data set (%)
In employment	78,691	58.5%	28,755,557	74.5%
ILO unemployed**	4,150	3.1%	1,991,882	5.1%
Inactive	51,605	38.4%	7,872,628	20.3%
Total (Weighted)	134,446	100.0%	38,620,067	100.0%

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

** 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 2. Economic activity of those of a working age – July-September 2014

Activity	Sight difficulties main health problem (N)	Sight difficulties main health problem (%)	Whole data set (N)	Whole data set (%)
Employee	65,885	49.0%	24,778,626	64.2%
Self Employed	12,806	9.5%	3,976,931	10.3%
Government employment and training programmes	*	*	119,160	0.3%
Unpaid family member	*	*	71,497	0.19%
ILO Unemployed	*	*	1,991,882	5.2%
Economically inactive – looking for work	*	*	292,509	0.8%
Economically inactive – wanting work	13,276	9.9%	1,896,012	4.9%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	35,260	26.2%	5,493,450	14.2%
Total (Weighted)	134,446	100.0%	38,620,067	100.0%

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

Table two combines together all of those who reported that their sight was their main health problem. Subsequent tables separate those who would consider themselves to be disabled by their sight problem (as defined by the questions asked in the labour force survey) and those who would not in the two categories “long term disabled with a seeing difficulty” and “not disabled with a seeing difficulty”.

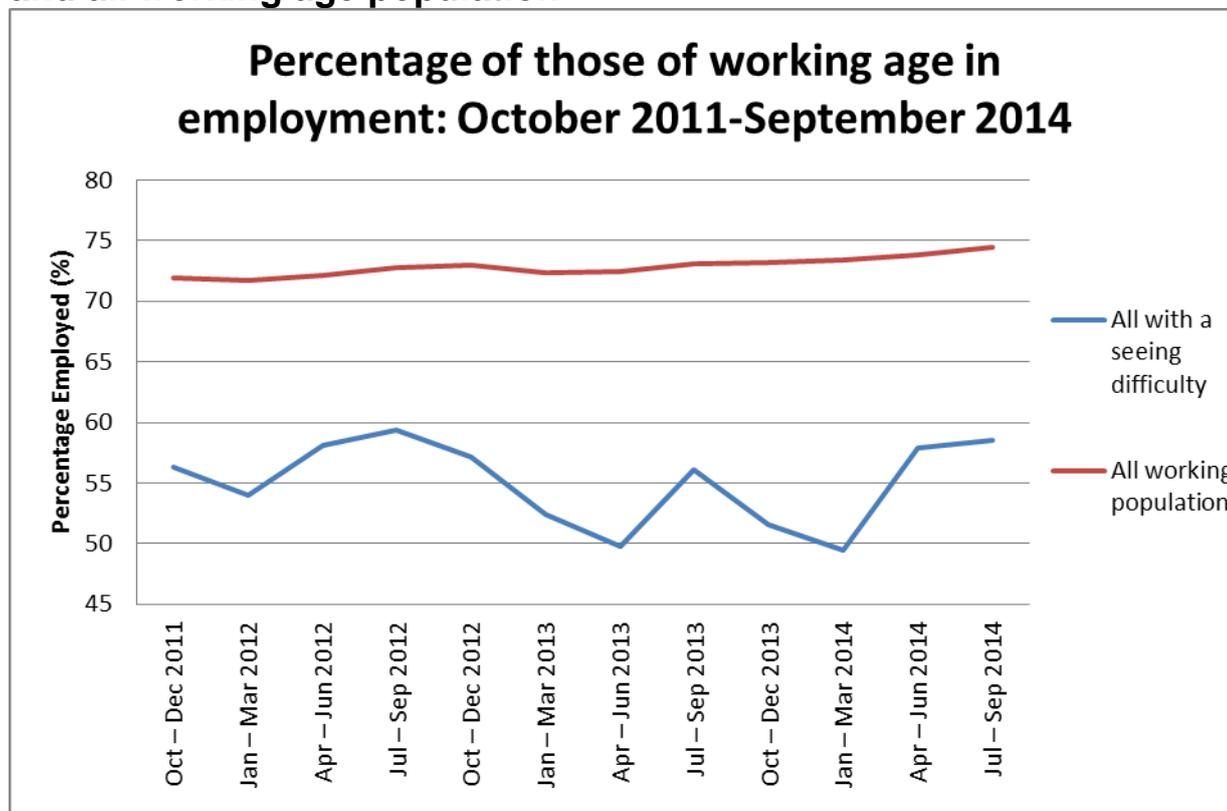
Table 3. Economic activity of those of a working age – July-September 2014

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	47.4%	79.1%	58.5%	46.8%	79.8%	74.5%
ILO unemployed	*	*	*	1.2%	4.9%	5.2%
Retired from paid work	*	*	*	2.3%	1.2%	1.5%
Long term sick or disabled	52.4%	*	0.4%	28.7%	0.1%	4.8%
Other/inactive	32.6%	*	0.3%	15.7%	11.5%	14.1%
Total (N) (Weighted)	87,212	47,234	134,446	6,194,005	32,291,616	38,620,067

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

5. Aggregation of twelve quarters

Figure 1. Comparison of Employment Rates over the 12 most recent quarters for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty and all working age population

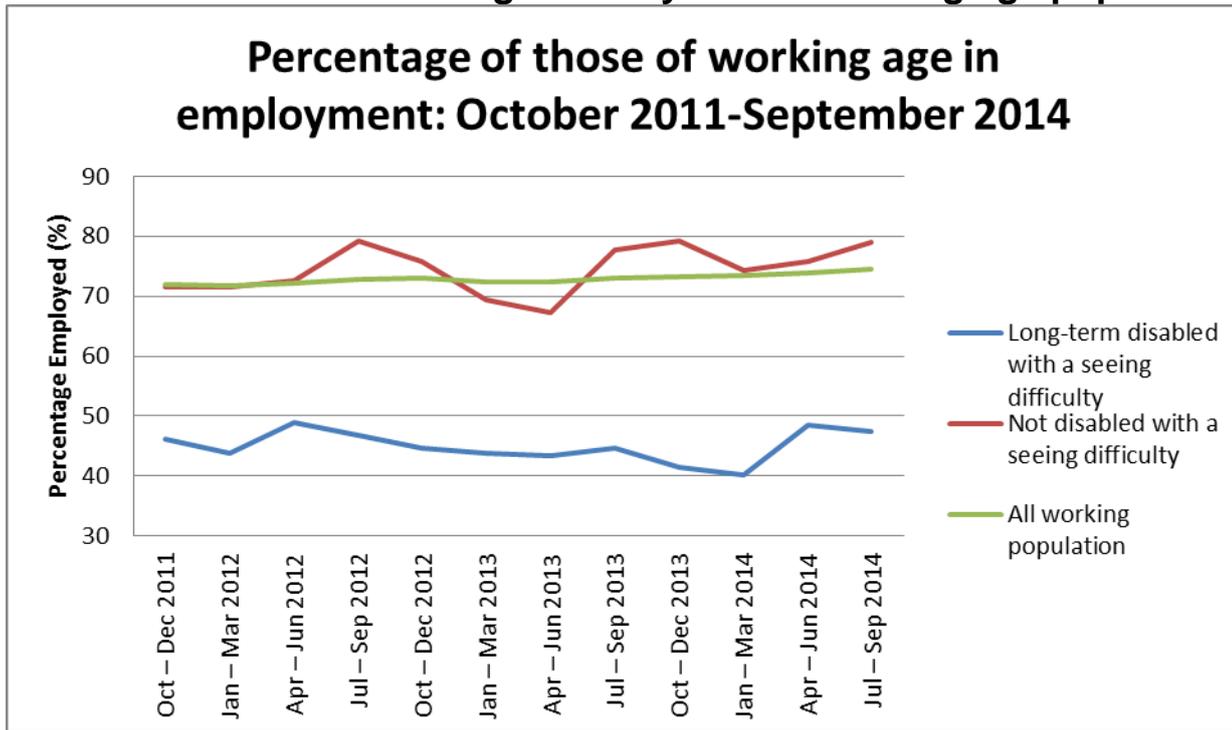


This chart presents estimates over the past 12 quarters and shows the percentage of those surveyed through the Labour Force Survey who reported that they were in employment. The figures are re-presented as a table below. It compares all of those in each quarter who were identified as having a seeing 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 4. Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2011 until July-September 2014) 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 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
Oct – Dec 2012	44.6	75.7	57.2	51.7	78.2	73.0
Jan – Mar 2013	43.9	69.3	52.4	51.3	77.5	72.3
Apr – Jun 2013	43.4	67.3	49.8	48.3	77.9	72.4
Jul – Sep 2013	44.7	77.8	56.1	47.5	78.7	73.1
Oct – Dec 2013	41.4	79.3	51.6	47.9	78.8	73.2
Jan – Mar 2014	40.1	74.3	49.4	48.1	78.9	73.4
Apr – Jun 2014	48.6	75.8	57.9	46.0	79.1	73.8
Jul – Sep 2014	47.4	79.1	58.5	46.8	79.8	74.5

Figure 2. Comparison of Employment Rates over the 12 most recent quarters for those who describe themselves as having a seeing difficulty, those disabled with a seeing difficulty and all working age population



6. Findings – aggregated for twelve quarters

Table 5. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

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	37.1%	61.5%	45.6%	41.5%	67.9%	62.9%
Self employed	7.8%	12.8%	9.6%	7.9%	10.4%	9.9%
ILO unemployed	9.0%	6.6%	8.2%	7.2%	5.9%	6.1%
Government employment and training programmes	*	*	*	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%
Student	5.0%	6.7%	5.6%	3.0%	6.6%	5.9%
Economically inactive – looking for work	*	*	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Economically inactive – wanting work	*	*	0.0%	1.8%	0.7%	0.9%
Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work	*	*	0.0%	1.9%	1.1%	1.2%
Retired from paid work	3.2%	*	3.8%	2.6%	1.3%	1.6%
Long term sick or disabled	25.8%	*	16.9%	25.9%	0.1%	4.9%
Looking after family home	6.9%	*	6.1%	7.1%	5.6%	5.9%
Total (N) (Weighted)	111,255	58,891	170,146	7,037,870	31,152,871	38,360,887

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 6. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 16 - 25 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

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	27.8%	43.4%	34.2%	36.4%	54.9%	52.8%
ILO unemployed	*	*	17.1%	15.1%	12.0%	12.4%
Student	29.4%	33.2*	31.0%	21.1%	25.9%	25.4%
Long term sick or disabled	*	*	*	15.4%	0.05%	1.7%
Other	*	*	*	12.0%	7.1%	7.6%
Total (N) (Weighted)	14,576	10,323	24,899	870,763	7,160,913	8,056,575

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 7. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 26 - 44 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

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	48.3%	84.9%	61.3%	54.5%	84.9%	80.4%
ILO unemployed	10.1%	6.9%	9.0%	7.9%	4.6%	5.1%
Student	*	*	*	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%
Long term sick or disabled	24.9%	*	16.1%	21.5%	0.1%	3.2%
Other	13.7%	*	10.9%	15.0%	9.2%	10.1%
Total (N) (Weighted)	34,556	18,896	53,452	2,312,624	13,692,149	16,058,225

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 8. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 45 - 54 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

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	54.6%	91.1%	66.3%	58.2%	93.5%	85.2%
ILO unemployed	*	*	7.1%	6.1%	3.6%	4.2%
Long term sick or disabled	29.0%	*	19.8%	30.3%	0.1%	7.2%
Retired	*	*	*	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%
Other	*	*	6.0%	4.9%	2.4%	3.0%
Total (N) (Weighted)	29,429	13,772	43,201	1,942,321	6,471,630	8,457,153

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 9. Economic activity of those of a working age, aged 55-64 aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

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	45.5%	72.4%	54.6%	45.0%	81.1%	69.0%
ILO unemployed	*	*	*	4.3%	3.3%	3.7%
Long term sick or disabled	32.7%	*	*	35.3%	0.2%	11.9%
Retired	12.1%	*	13.9%	10.2%	11.0%	10.8%
Other	*	*	*	5.2%	4.3%	4.6%
Total (N) (Weighted)	28,953	14,789	43,742	1,699,558	3,427,811	5,171,111

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 10. Duration of ILO unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

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	55.6%	*	58.3%	52.7%	68.0%	64.7
12 months or more	44.4%	*	41.7%	47.3%	32.0%	35.3
Total (Weighted)	10,036	3,955	13,991	510,098	1,842,390	2,366,479

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 11. Economic Activity of Long-term disabled with a seeing difficulty / not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Employment status and category	Degree or above (%)	A-level and below degree level (%)	GCSE level and other (%)	No qualification	Total weighted (%)
Employed – long term disabled with a seeing difficulty	63.7%	59.3%	45.4%	*	44.9%
ILO Unemployed – long term disabled with a seeing difficulty	*	*	9.1%	*	8.8%
Something else – long term disabled with a seeing difficult	26.9%	*	45.6%	77.1%	46.2%
N (weighted) – long term disabled with a seeing difficulty	20,689 (18.8%)	8,561 (7.8%)	63,071 (57.2%)	17,965 (16.3%)	110,285 (100.0%)
Employed – no disability	87.2%	85.9%	74.7%	57.3%	78.2%
ILO Unemployed – no disability	3.3%	3.6%	7.1%	10.7%	5.9%
Something else – no disability	9.5%	10.5%	18.2%	32.1%	15.9%
N (weighted) –	8,977,070 (29.2%)	2,747,881 (8.9%)	17,051,888 (55.4%)	1,987,043 (6.5%)	30,763,882 (100%)

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 12: People in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time: qualifications of people with a seeing difficulty - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Qualification	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 (%)
Degree or above (%)	26.6%	33.0%	29.6%	23.8%	32.5%	31.4%
A-level and below degree level (%)	10.2%	8.4%	9.4%	10.9%	9.8%	9.9%
GCSE level and other (%)	57.7%	56.1%	57.0%	58.2%	52.9%	53.6%
No qualification	*	*	4.1%	7.1%	4.7%	5.0%
Total (weighted %)	49,557	43,257	92,813	3,440,592	24,071,297	27,604,703

Table 13 Economic Activity of all people with a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

	Degree or above (%)	A-level and below degree level (%)	GCSE level and other (%)	No qualification	Total weighted (%)
Employed	72.2%	68.9%	54.4%	18.2%	55.0%
Unemployed	7.0%	6.3%	8.7%	8.2%	8.1%
Something else	20.9%	24.7%	36.9%	73.6%	36.9%
N (weighted)	38,052	12,610	97,226	20,758	168,646

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 14. Economic Activity of Long-term disabled without a seeing difficulty (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

	Degree or above (%)	A-level and below degree level (%)	GCSE level and other (%)	No qualification	Total weighted (%)
Employed	73.3%	64.9%	50.4%	18.9%	49.4%
Unemployed	4.9%	5.0%	8.2%	6.9%	7.2%
Something else	21.8%	30.1%	41.4%	74.2%	43.4%
N (weighted)	1,118,003	577,001	3,975,268	1,299,216	6,969,489

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 15. Economic Activity of whole population (by education) – Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Economic activity status	Degree or above (%)	A-level and below degree level (%)	GCSE level and other (%)	No qualification %	Total weighted (%)
Employed	85.6%	82.2%	70.0%	41.9%	72.8%
Unemployed	3.5%	3.8%	7.3%	9.2%	6.1%
Something else	10.9%	14.0%	22.7%	48.9%	21.1%
N (weighted)	10,160,005	3,348,334	21,189,500	3,319,035	38,016,874

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 16. People in employment (employee or self-employed) whether in full time or part time employment - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Employment hours	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	66.5%	78.3%	72.0%	68.0%	76.1%	75.1%
Part time	33.5%	21.7%	28.0%	32.0%	23.9%	24.9%
N (weighted)	50,523	44,021	94,544	3,495,376	24,435,092	28,025,012

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 17. People in employment (employee or self-employed) whether in permanent or temporary employment - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Employment hours	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 (%)
Permanent	91.5%	94.1%	92.7%	93.7%	93.8%	93.8%
Temporary (not permanent)	8.5%	5.9%	7.3%	6.3%	6.2%	6.2%
N (weighted)	41,312	36,236	77,548	2,912,860	21,121,149	24,111,556

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 18. People in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time: Occupations of people with a seeing difficulty - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Occupation	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 (%)
Managers, directors and senior officials	8.7%	10.0%	9.0%	10.2%	10.1%	9.9%
Professional occupations	15.2%	21.8%	16.8%	20.3%	19.8%	20.1%
Associate professional and technical occupations	16.0%	13.9%	12.5%	14.4%	14.2%	14.3%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	12.4%	9.6%	10.9%	10.4%	10.5%	10.2%
Skilled trades occupations	9.4%	*	11.1%	10.8%	10.9%	11.0%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7.3%	*	11.1%	8.9%	9.1%	9.3%
Sales and customer service occupations	10.9%	7.6%	9.0%	7.9%	8.0%	7.8%
Process, plant and machine operatives	7.4%	*	7.2%	6.3%	6.4%	6.4%
Elementary occupations	12.7%	10.7%	12.4%	10.8%	11.0%	11.0%
N (weighted)	50,058	43,584	3,459,029	24,327,737	27,880,407	28,440,047

Table 19. People NOT in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time: Last/most recent occupations of people with a seeing difficulty - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Occupation	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 (%)	Other long-term disabled (%)
Managers, directors and senior officials	*	*	*	6.1%	6.2%	6.2%
Professional occupations	*	*	11.9%	8.3%	12.1%	10.8%
Associate professional and technical occupations	*	*	*	8.2%	10.4%	9.7%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	14.5%	*	12.4%	8.7%	11.6%	10.7%
Skilled trades occupations	*	*	11.5%	12.8%	7.4%	9.2%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	*	*	*	11.5%	11.0%	11.1%
Sales and customer service occupations	14.1%	*	12.6%	11.7%	14.2%	13.3%
Process, plant and machine operatives	*	*	9.5%	10.2%	5.7%	7.2%
Elementary occupations	19.6%	*	20.3%	22.6%	21.5%	21.8%
N (weighted)	28,280	10,474	38,754	1,669,978	3,409,048	5,117,780

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 20. People in employment (employee or self-employed, full time or part time): Whether people with a seeing difficulty are employed in the public or private sector - Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Public or private sector employer	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 (%)
Private sector	76.5%	77.6%	77.0%	74.7%	77.0%	76.7%
Public sector	23.5%	22.4%	23.0%	25.3%	23.0%	23.3%
N (weighted)	49,527	43,990	93,517	3,468,236	24,300,163	27,861,916

Table 21: People NOT in employment: Reason for leaving last job- Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Reason for leaving last job	Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled with seeing difficulty (%)	All people with a seeing difficulty (%)	Not disabled and without a seeing difficulty (%)	All people of working age (%)	Total (%)
Dismissed	*	*	*	4.0%	3.1%	3.4%
Made redundant/ took voluntary redundancy	14.9%	*	13.8%	15.2%	17.6%	16.8%
Temporary job which came to an end	11.3%	*	11.6%	7.4%	13.1%	11.2%
Resigned	*	*	*	5.3%	10.1%	8.5%
Gave up work for health reasons	37.6%	*	28.6%	41.3%	3.1%	15.7%
Retired	*	*	12.6%	6.1%	8.5%	7.8%
Gave up work for family or personal reasons	*	*	10.3%	13.2%	27.4%	22.6%
Education or training	*	*	*	1.8%	8.5%	6.3%
Left work for some other reason	*	*	*	5.7%	8.7%	7.7%
N (weighted)	27,607	10,116	37,723	1,600,224	3,274,176	4,912,123

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

Table 22: People in employment: Gross monthly pay of people with a seeing difficulty. Aggregated over 12 most recent quarters from October 2011 to September 2014

Pay band	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 (%)
£1-1249.99	35.3%	*	29.1%	38.1%	30.2%	31.2%
£1250-£1999.99	25.4%	*	24.9%	26.3%	25.2%	25.3%
£2000-£2749.99	*	*	14.6%	16.6%	18.8%	18.5%
£2750-£3999.99	*	*	19.6%	12.3%	14.9%	14.6%
£4000+	*	*	*	6.8%	11.0%	10.5%
N (weighted)	12,195	9,729	21,924	820,690	546,5223	6,307,837

* = not sufficiently high for publication (less than 3,000)

The data for this table was taken from the variable GROSS99 (Gross pay last time). This data was converted using the variable GRSPRD (Gross pay period) to calculate a gross monthly pay for each respondent. When interpreting this table, the small number of respondents to this question should be noted. The reasons for the limited number of responses are unclear, although intuitive explanations could be that the respondents considered the questions too intrusive, or that they did not have the relevant information available. It should also be noted that included within gross pay are additional payments such as bonuses and tax credits.