Investigation of data relating to blind and partially sighted people in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey

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# Summary

This report provides the results of an investigation into the data which can be 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.

# Introduction

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.

## *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 January-March 2010 was from 114,493 respondents. Within that quarterly sample there were 802 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. 2,216 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 314, and the number who identified themselves as having seeing difficulties was reduced to 831 of the 67,955 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 706 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 for). Caution should be taken when interpreting these figures. With this dataset, only 314 people identified sight difficulties as their main health problem.

## *Aggregating twelve quarters of the LFS (from October 2007 to September 2010)*

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, you are including the same household 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 are presents data for specific quarters. Aggregated data from twelve quarters (October 2007 – September 2010) 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 (Based upon above definitions: Long-term disabled with seeing difficulty estimate of 110,000; All people with a seeing difficulty estimate of 180,000; Registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired estimate of 68,000).
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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# Findings – for individual quarters

Table Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, 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 | 107,129 | 59.6% | 27,314,015 | 71.8% |
| ILO unemployed | 14,912 | 8.3% | 2,458,855 | 6.5% |
| Inactive | 57,747 | 32.1% | 8,262,635 | 21.7% |
| Total (Weighted) | 179,788 | 100.0% | 38,035,505 | 100.0% |

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, 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 | 89,719 | 49.9% | 23,565,805 | 62.0% |
| Self Employed | 17,410 | 9.7% | 3,564,155 | 9.4% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0\* | 0.0% | 127,971 | 0.3% |
| Unpaid family member | 0\* | 0.0% | 56,084 | 0.1% |
| ILO Unemployed | 14,912 | 8.3% | 2,458,855 | 6.5% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 1,444\* | 0.8% | 272,962 | 0.7% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 15,696 | 8.7% | 2,029,662 | 5.3% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 40,607 | 22.6% | 5,960,011 | 15.7% |
| Total (Weighted) | 179,788 | 100.0% | 38,035,505 | 100.0% |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, 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 | 89,719 | 49.9% | 23,565,805 | 62.0% |
| Self-employed | 17,410 | 9.7% | 3,564,155 | 9.4% |
| Government employment and training programme | 0\* | 0.0% | 127,971 | 0.3% |
| Unpaid family worker | 0\* | 0.0% | 56,084 | 0.1% |
| ILO unemployed | 14,912 | 8.3% | 2,458,855 | 6.5% |
| **Economically Inactive – looking for work** |  |  |  |  |
| Student | 0\* | 0.0% | 130,052 | 0.3% |
| Looking after family, home | 0\* | 0.0% | 45,555 | 0.1% |
| Temporarily sick or injured | 0\* | 0.0% | 13,819 | 0.0% |
| Long-term sick or disabled | 0\* | 0.0% | 10,216 | 0.0% |
| Other reason | 0\* | 0.0% | 54,402 | 0.1% |
| No reason given | 1,444\* | 0.0% | 18,918 | 0.0% |
| **Economically inactive – wanting work:** |  |  |  |  |
| Waiting results of job application | 0\* | 0.0% | 15,218 | 0.0% |
| Student | 550\* | 0.3% | 436,093 | 1.1% |
| Looking after family, home | 3,509\* | 2.0% | 551,895 | 1.5% |
| Temporarily sick or injured | 1,296\* | 0.7% | 96,249 | 0.3% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 8,836\* | 4.9% | 638,447 | 1.7% |
| Believes no jobs available | 432\* | 0.2% | 50,191 | 0.1% |
| Not yet started looking | 1,073\* | 0.6% | 61,096 | 0.2% |
| Does not need or want employment | 0\* | 0.0% | 26,252 | 0.1% |
| Retired from paid work | 0\* | 0.0% | 30,828 | 0.1% |
| Other reason | 0\* | 0.0% | 122,609 | 0.3% |
| No reason given | 0\* | 0.0% | 784\* | 0.0% |
| **Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work:** |  |  |  |  |
| Waiting results of job application | 0\* | 0.0% | 7,307\* | 0.0% |
| Student | 4,647\* | 2.6% | 1,894,218 | 5.0% |
| Looking after family, home | 11,187 | 6.2% | 1,630,433 | 4.3% |
| Temporarily sick or injured | 0\* | 0.0% | 62,976 | 0.2% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 17,430 | 9.7% | 1,390,587 | 3.7% |
| Believes no jobs available | 0\* | 0.0% | 15,408 | 0.0% |
| Not yet started looking | 0\* | 0.0% | 20,437 | 0.1% |
| Does not need or want employment | 0\* | 0.0% | 155,967 | 0.4% |
| Retired from paid work | 6,242\* | 3.5% | 562,587 | 1.5% |
| Other reason | 551\* | 0.3% | 139,643 | 0.4% |
| No reason given | 550\* | 0.3% | 80,448 | 0.2% |
| Total (Weighted) | 179,788 | 100.0% | 38,035,505 | 100.0% |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age January-March 2010, 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 | 40.3% | 65.0% | 49.9% | 43.1% | 66.6% | 62.0% |
| Self employed | 8.9%\* | 11.0%\* | 9.7% | 7.2% | 9.9% | 9.4% |
| ILO unemployed | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Unpaid family member | 8.6%\* | 7.9%\* | 8.3% | 6.4% | 6.5% | 6.5% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 1.3%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.8%\* | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.7% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 12.0% | 3.7%\* | 8.7% | 12.7% | 3.5% | 5.3% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 29.0% | 12.5%\* | 22.6% | 29.2% | 12.3% | 15.7% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 109,670 | 70,118 | 179,788 | 7,417,698 | 30,438,019 | 38,035,505 |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age July – September 2010, 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 | 42.4% | 73.0% | 55.6% | 43.2% | 67.9% | 62.9% |
| Self employed | 4.7%\* | 11.5%\* | 7.6% | 7.7% | 10.0% | 9.5% |
| ILO unemployed | 0.7%\* | 0.8%\* | 0.7%\* | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Unpaid family member | 10.9% | 5.2%\* | 8.5% | 6.4% | 6.6% | 6.5% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 0.5%\* | 1.9%\* | 1.1%\* | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.8% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 14.7% | 0.0%\* | 8.4% | 12.5% | 3.5% | 5.3% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 26.1% | 7.6%\* | 18.2% | 28.8% | 10.9% | 14.5% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 106,685 | 80,123 | 186,808 | 7588374 | 30349101 | 38124283 |

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

# Aggregation of twelve quarters

Figure . Comparison of Employment Rates over the last 12 quarters (October-December 2007 until July-September 2010) 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 2007 until July-September 2010) 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 2007** | 57.6 | 85.4 | **70.2** | 50.4 | 80.4 | **74.7** |
| **Jan - Mar 2008** | 58.6 | 85.4 | **70.2** | 50.4 | 80.1 | **74.7** |
| **Apr - Jun 2008** | 52.5 | 77.9 | **62.4** | 50.3 | 79.5 | **74.1** |
| **Jul - Sep 2008** | 52.2 | 77.9 | **62.4** | 50.3 | 79.5 | **74.1** |
| **Oct - Dec 2008** | 47.1 | 80.5 | **60.3** | 50.8 | 79.1 | **73.9** |
| **Jan - Mar 2009** | 47.3 | 79.5 | **60.1** | 49.6 | 78.2 | **72.8** |
| **Apr - Jun 2009** | 45.2 | 81.2 | **58.9** | 49.5 | 77.4 | **72.3** |
| **Jul - Sep 2009** | 45.1 | 75.0 | **57.0** | 49.4 | 77.7 | **72.4** |
| **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** |

# Findings – by aggregated for twelve quarters

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, 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 | 41.6% | 69.7% | 52.8% | 42.9% | 68.6% | 63.7% |
| Self employed | 7.2% | 9.7% | 8.2% | 7.2% | 9.8% | 9.3% |
| ILO unemployed | 7.3% | 5.3% | 6.5% | 5.7% | 5.5% | 5.5% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.5%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Unpaid family member | 0.04%\* | 0.06%\* | 0.04%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 0.9%\* | 1.0%\* | 0.9%\* | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.7% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 13.4% | 3.5%\* | 9.4% | 12.6% | 3.2% | 5.0% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 29.2% | 10.6% | 21.7% | 30.3% | 11.8% | 15.3% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 114,221 | 76,551 | 190,772 | 7,072,165 | 30,612,869 | 37,875,806 |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 41.6% | 69.7% | 52.8% | 42.9% | 68.6% | 63.7% |
| Self-employed | 7.2% | 9.7% | 8.2% | 7.2% | 9.8% | 9.3% |
| Government employment and training programme | 0.5%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Unpaid family worker | 0.04%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.04%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| ILO unemployed | 7.3% | 5.3% | 6.5% | 5.7% | 5.5% | 5.5% |
| **Economically Inactive – looking for work** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Student | 0.2%\* | 1.0%\* | 0.5%\* | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Looking after family, home | 0.1%\* | 0.05%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Temporarily sick or injured | 0.1%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.1% | 0.02% | 0.03% |
| Long-term sick or disabled | 0.1%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.05%\* | 0.1% | 0.0%\* | 0.02% |
| Other reason | 0.1%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| No reason given | 0.2%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.1% | 0.04% | 0.05% |
| **Economically inactive – wanting work:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Waiting results of job application | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.04%\* | 0.04% | 0.04% |
| Student | 0.5%\* | 0.8%\* | 0.6%\* | 0.5% | 1.1% | 1.0% |
| Looking after family, home | 1.3%\* | 1.3%\* | 1.3%\* | 1.7% | 1.3% | 1.4% |
| Temporarily sick or injured | 0.4%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.8% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 10.1% | 0.1%\* | 6.1% | 8.6% | 0.05% | 1.7% |
| Believes no jobs available | 0.2%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Not yet started looking | 0.3%\* | 0.4%\* | 0.4%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Does not need or want employment | 0.0%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.04%\* | 0.1% | 0.05% | 0.05% |
| Retired from paid work | 0.1%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.1% | 0.05% | 0.1% |
| Other reason | 0.4%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.5% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| No reason given | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* |
| **Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Waiting results of job application | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.01%\* | 0.01% | 0.01% |
| Student | 2.4%\* | 2.6%\* | 2.5% | 1.9% | 5.04% | 4.4% |
| Looking after family, home | 4.9% | 3.8%\* | 4.5% | 4.8% | 4.2% | 4.3% |
| Temporarily sick or injured | 0.2%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.8% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 17.1% | 0.0%\* | 10.2% | 18.9% | 0.1% | 3.6% |
| Believes no jobs available | 0.1%\* | 0.05%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.05% | 0.02% | 0.03% |
| Not yet started looking | 0.1%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.07% | 0.07% | 0.1% |
| Does not need or want employment | 0.3%\* | 0.5%\* | 0.4%\* | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| Retired from paid work | 3.4% | 2.9%\* | 3.2% | 2.7% | 1.2% | 1.5% |
| Other reason | 0.5%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.4%\* | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| No reason given | 0.1%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Total (Weighted) | 114,225 | 76,559 | 190,784 | 7,074,163 | 30,612,879 | 37,877,826 |

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

**Table 9. Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – Aged 16-18**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 30.0%\* | 28.2%\* | 29.2%\* | 24.4% | 34.4% | 33.5% |
| Self employed | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.8%\* | 0.5% | 0.6% |
| ILO unemployed | 1.6%\* | 3.0%\* | 2.2%\* | 2.4% | 1.6% | 1.7% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Unpaid family member | 12.7%\* | 25.3%\* | 17.9%\* | 15.6% | 12.8% | 13.1% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 2.0%\* | 8.4%\* | 4.7%\* | 2.9% | 3.3% | 3.2% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 10.9%\* | 10.2%\* | 10.6%\* | 13.6% | 10.5% | 10.8% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 42.8%\* | 24.9%\* | 35.4%\* | 40.2% | 36.6% | 36.9% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 4,394 | 3,106 | 7,500 | 209,780 | 2,134,489 | 2,351,769 |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 19-25

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 42.0% | 62.6% | 52.6% | 43.7% | 63.0% | 61.0% |
| Self employed | 1.2%\* | 3.0%\* | 2.1%\* | 2.1% | 3.3% | 3.2% |
| ILO unemployed | 1.5%\* | 0.6%\* | 1.0%\* | 1.2% | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Unpaid family member | 11.3%\* | 7.9%\* | 9.5%\* | 13.0% | 9.6% | 10.0% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 3.5%\* | 5.1%\* | 4.3%\* | 1.7% | 1.2% | 1.2% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 13.4%\* | 4.8%\* | 9.0%\* | 12.0% | 4.3% | 5.1% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 27.1%\* | 16.0%\* | 21.4% | 26.1% | 18.0% | 18.8% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 8,698 | 9,263 | 17,961 | 574,435 | 5,188,502 | 5,780,898 |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 26-39

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 45.5% | 76.0% | 58.9% | 48.1% | 74.0% | 70.6% |
| Self employed | 6.7%\* | 8.1%\* | 7.3% | 6.0% | 9.5% | 9.0% |
| ILO unemployed | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.0%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Unpaid family member | 10.6%\* | 3.2%\* | 7.4% | 6.9% | 4.7% | 5.0% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 1.1%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.7%\* | 1.0% | 0.5% | 0.6% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 15.1% | 4.8%\* | 10.6% | 13.0% | 2.9% | 4.2% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 20.9% | 7.4%\* | 15.0% | 24.5% | 8.2% | 10.3% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 24,406 | 19,044 | 43,450 | 1,473,329 | 9,934,065 | 11,450,844 |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 40-54

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 46.9% | 74.8% | 58.2% | 46.8% | 75.4% | 68.9% |
| Self employed | 8.7% | 14.4% | 11.0% | 8.4% | 13.4% | 12.3% |
| ILO unemployed | 0.1%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.08%\* | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Unpaid family member | 6.6% | 3.8%\* | 5.5% | 4.9% | 3.4% | 3.8% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 0.7%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.4%\* | 0.6% | 0.3% | 0.4% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 14.7% | 1.2%\* | 9.2% | 12.9% | 1.8% | 4.4% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 22.2% | 5.8%\* | 15.6%\* | 26.1% | 5.4% | 10.1% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 43,137 | 29,525 | 72,662 | 2,884,083 | 9,962,332 | 12,919,077 |

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

Table . Economic activity of those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, 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 | 33.3% | 64.7% | 43.3% | 34.9% | 62.9% | 52.6% |
| Self employed | 8.1%\* | 8.7%\* | 8.3% | 8.5% | 15.6% | 13.0% |
| ILO unemployed | 0.8%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.5%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.06% | 0.08% |
| Government employment and training programmes | 0.1%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Unpaid family member | 4.2%\* | 4.9%\* | 4.4%\* | 2.9% | 3.1% | 3.0% |
| Economically inactive – looking for work | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Economically inactive – wanting work | 10.6% | 4.1%\* | 8.5% | 12.0% | 2.2% | 5.8% |
| Economically inactive – neither wanting nor seeking work | 42.9% | 17.5%\* | 34.9% | 41.1% | 15.7% | 25.0% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 33,585 | 15,613 | 49,198 | 1,930,538 | 3,393,479 | 5,373,215 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – Aged 16-18

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 30.0%\* | 28.2%\* | 29.2%\* | 25.2% | 35.0% | 34.1% |
| Unemployed | 14.3%\* | 28.3%\* | 20.1%\* | 18.3% | 14.9% | 15.2% |
| Student | 42.9%\* | 38.2%\* | 40.9% | 41.0% | 45.2% | 44.8% |
| Looking after family and home | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 1.1%% | 0.8% | 0.9% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 8.8%\* | 0.0%\* | 5.2%\* | 9.5% | 0.02%\* | 0.9% |
| Retired | 1.2%\* | 1.4%\* | 1.3%\* | 0.05%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.01%\* |
| Something else | 2.9%\* | 4.0%\* | 3.3%\* | 4.8% | 4.1% | 4.1% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 4,394 | 3,106 | 7,500 | 209,778 | 2,134,489 | 2,351,767 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 19-25

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 43.2% | 65.6% | 54.8% | 45.9% | 66.4% | 64.3% |
| Unemployed | 12.8%\* | 8.5%\* | 10.6%\* | 14.4% | 10.3% | 10.7% |
| Student | 14.6%\* | 14.4%\* | 14.4%\* | 10.2% | 15.4% | 14.9% |
| Looking after family and home | 9.0%\* | 9.1%\* | 9.0%\* | 7.3% | 5.4% | 5.6% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 14.3%\* | 0.0%\* | 6.9%\* | 17.1% | 0.07% | 1.8% |
| Retired | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.08%\* | 0.01%\* | 0.01%\* |
| Something else | 6.2%\* | 2.4%\* | 4.2%\* | 5.1% | 2.5% | 2.7% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 8,699 | 9,262 | 17,961 | 574,436 | 5,188,503 | 5,780,900 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 26-39

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 52.2% | 84.1% | 66.2% | 54.1% | 83.5% | 79.6% |
| Unemployed | 11.1%\* | 3.2%\* | 7.6% | 7.4% | 5.0% | 5.3% |
| Student | 0.8%\* | 4.2%\* | 2.3%\* | 1.3% | 1.7% | 1.6% |
| Looking after family and home | 10.6%\* | 6.9%\* | 9.0% | 10.9% | 8.3% | 8.6% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 21.8% | 0.0%\* | 12.3% | 22.0% | 0.08% | 2.9% |
| Retired | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.07%\* | 0.01%\* | 0.02%\* |
| Something else | 3.4%\* | 1.6%\* | 2.6%\* | 4.3% | 1.5% | 1.9% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 24,406 | 19,043 | 43,449 | 1,473,329 | 9,934,064 | 11,450,842 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey – aged 40-54

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 55.6% | 89.2% | 69.2% | 55.2% | 88.8% | 81.2% |
| Unemployed | 6.9%\* | 3.8%\* | 5.7% | 5.3% | 3.6% | 4.0% |
| Student | 0.4%\* | 0.0%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| Looking after family and home | 6.3%\* | 4.7%\* | 5.6% | 6.7% | 4.9% | 5.3% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 28.3% | 0.0%\* | 16.8% | 28.6% | 0.1% | 6.6% |
| Retired | 0.2%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.5% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Something else | 2.3%\* | 2.0%\* | 2.2%\* | 3.5% | 1.9% | 2.2% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 43,138 | 29,527 | 72,665 | 2,884,083 | 9,962,332 | 12,919,080 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, 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 | 41.4% | 73.5% | 51.6% | 43.4% | 78.5% | 65.6% |
| Unemployed | 5.4%\* | 5.6%\* | 5.5%\* | 3.5% | 3.5% | 3.5% |
| Student | 0.3%\* | 0.2%\* | 0.3%\* | 0.1%\* | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Looking after family and home | 3.6%\* | 2.6%\* | 3.2%\* | 4.0% | 3.4% | 3.6% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 35.5% | 0.3%\* | 24.4% | 35.6% | 0.2% | 13.2% |
| Retired | 11.5% | 14.4%\* | 12.4% | 9.5% | 10.5% | 10.1% |
| Something else | 2.3%\* | 3.5%\* | 2.7%\* | 3.9% | 3.8% | 3.9% |
| Total (N) (Weighted) | 33,585 | 15,613 | 49,198 | 1,930,538 | 3,393,481 | 5,373,217 |

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

Table . Duration of unemployment for those of a working age aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, 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 | 58.5% | 67.6%\* | 61.5% | 62.6% | 76.5% | 73.7% |
| 12 months or more | 41.5% | 32.4%\* | 38.5% | 37.4% | 23.5% | 26.3% |
| Total (Weighted) | 8,378 | 4,023 | 12,401 | 404,600 | 1,679,942 | 2,096,943 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, 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 | 60.7% | 69.3%\* | 63.5% | 66.7% | 78.1% | 75.9% |
| 12 months or more | 39.3% | 30.7%\* | 36.5% | 33.3% | 21.9% | 24.1% |
| Total (Weighted) | 8,074 | 3,923 | 11,997 | 379,733 | 1,646,005 | 2,037,735 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Degree or above (%) | A-level and below degree level (%) | GCSE level and other (%) | No qualification | Total weighted (%) |
| Employed | 72.1% | 62.8% | 47.0% | 17.1% | 48.9% |
| Unemployed | 4.9%\* | 8.3%\* | 9.7% | 7.7%\* | 8.1% |
| Student | 1.5%\* | 2.9%\* | 4.9%\* | 2.1%\* | 3.2% |
| Looking after family home | 3.6%\* | 6.5%\* | 6.0%\* | 8.9%\* | 6.4% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 10.3%\* | 15.3% | 25.4% | 57.6% | 27.2% |
| Retired | 4.9%\* | 2.5%\* | 3.2%\* | 3.1%\* | 3.3% |
| Something else | 2.7%\* | 1.6%\* | 3.7%\* | 3.5%\* | 2.9% |
| N (weighted) | 18,186 | 32,460 | 37,646 | 25,206 | 113,497 |

\* = 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 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Degree or above (%) | A-level and below degree level (%) | GCSE level and other (%) | No qualification | Total weighted (%) |
| Employed | 78.7% | 70.0% | 59.3% | 25.5% | 61.1% |
| Unemployed | 3.9%\* | 6.9% | 9.0% | 7.9%\* | 7.1% |
| Student | 2.7%\* | 3.9%\* | 4.6%\* | 2.7%\* | 3.7% |
| Looking after family home | 3.3%\* | 5.5% | 6.1% | 9.9% | 5.9% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 4.7%\* | 8.6% | 15.6% | 47.3% | 16.3% |
| Retired | 4.4%\* | 2.9%\* | 2.5%\* | 3.4%\* | 3.2% |
| Something else | 2.3%\* | 2.2%\* | 3.0%\* | 3.3%\* | 2.6% |
| N (weighted) | 39,533 | 57,715 | 61,361 | 30,701 | 189,310 |

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

Table . Economic Activity of whole population (by education) – Aggregated over 12 quarters between October 2007 – September 2010, Labour Force Survey

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Degree or above (%) | A-level and below degree level (%) | GCSE level and other (%) | No qualification | Total weighted (%) |
| Employed | 86.5% | 77.6% | 69.9% | 45.0% | 76.1% |
| Unemployed | 3.3% | 4.8% | 8.0% | 8.8% | 6.0% |
| Student | 2.4% | 7.2% | 6.1% | 6.5% | 5.7% |
| Looking after family home | 3.0% | 3.4% | 7.3% | 13.5% | 5.8% |
| Long term sick or disabled | 1.2% | 3.3% | 5.0% | 19.9% | 5.3% |
| Retired | 1.7% | 1.7% | 1.1% | 2.2% | 1.6% |
| Something else | 1.9% | 2.0% | 2.7% | 4.0% | 2.4% |
| N (weighted) | 8,049,734 | 12,004,413 | 13,172,980 | 4,289,108 | 37,516,236 |

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

# References

Meager and Carta (2008)

Office of National Statistics recommendations regarding aggregation.