

Employment for People with Disabilities in West Virginia – Fact Sheet

Key Employment Statistics

- **Working-Age Population (18–64)** with a disability: **167,057 individuals** [\[sourceamerica.org\]](https://sourceamerica.org)
- **Total Number of Adults with Disabilities** in WV: **337,766** [\[aoddisabilitycenter.com\]](https://aoddisabilitycenter.com)
- **Employment Rate** for people with disabilities (PWD): **31.3%** [\[aoddisabilitycenter.com\]](https://aoddisabilitycenter.com)
- **Unemployment Rate** for PWD: **10.8%** [\[aoddisabilitycenter.com\]](https://aoddisabilitycenter.com)
- **Labor Force Participation Rate** among PWD: **36.3%** (31.3% employed + 5.0% actively seeking) [\[aoddisabilitycenter.com\]](https://aoddisabilitycenter.com)
- **Non-work Rates by Disability Type** (2022 ACS):
 - Cognitive: 66.4%
 - Hearing: 52.3%
 - Ambulatory: 78.1%
 - Visual: 61.1%
 - Overall non-working: 64.3% [\[sourceamerica.org\]](https://sourceamerica.org)

Major Barriers

- Employment rate for PWD (31%) is far below WV's overall employment (~96% of labor force employed).
- High unemployment (~11%) and over 60% non-participation in workforce.
- Individuals with ambulatory, cognitive, or visual impairments face significant obstacles to integration into the workforce.

Action & Opportunity

- Legislation like **HB 2771** and **HB 2107** could significantly enhance access to employment, increase incomes, and reduce social service dependence.
- Strong policy focus on **inclusive hiring practices, reasonable accommodations, and pay equity** are essential to narrowing the employment gap.