

Employment of disabled people in Europe in 2002

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The year 2003 is the European Year of People with Disabilities. The preliminary results of the ad hoc module on employment of disabled people of the Spring 2002 round of the Labour Force Survey provide the following estimates for persons aged 16-64 living in private households in 25 European countries:

- Of those persons aged between 16 and 64 years, 44.6 million – i.e. one in six (15.7%) – stated that they had a long-standing health problem or disability (LSHPD).
- Labour force participation is indeed much lower for the disabled: 78% of the severely disabled aged 16-64 are outside of the labour force as compared to 27% for those without LSHPD. And even among those in the labour force, the unemployment rate is nearly twice as high among the severely disabled as compared to the non-disabled. Only 16% of those who face work restrictions are provided with some assistance to work.
- Overall there is little difference in the prevalence of disability among males and females, while the prevalence rates of LSHPD strongly increase with age. They are higher among those with lower education, among the widowed, divorced and the inactive.
- The percentage of the working-age population with LSHPD varies widely among countries, with the highest percentage (32.2%) found in Finland and the lowest in Romania (5.8%). This wide-ranging spectrum might also reflect differences in how respondents perceived the question. Although utmost attention was paid to translation of the questions, the replies could have been mediated by cultural traits.

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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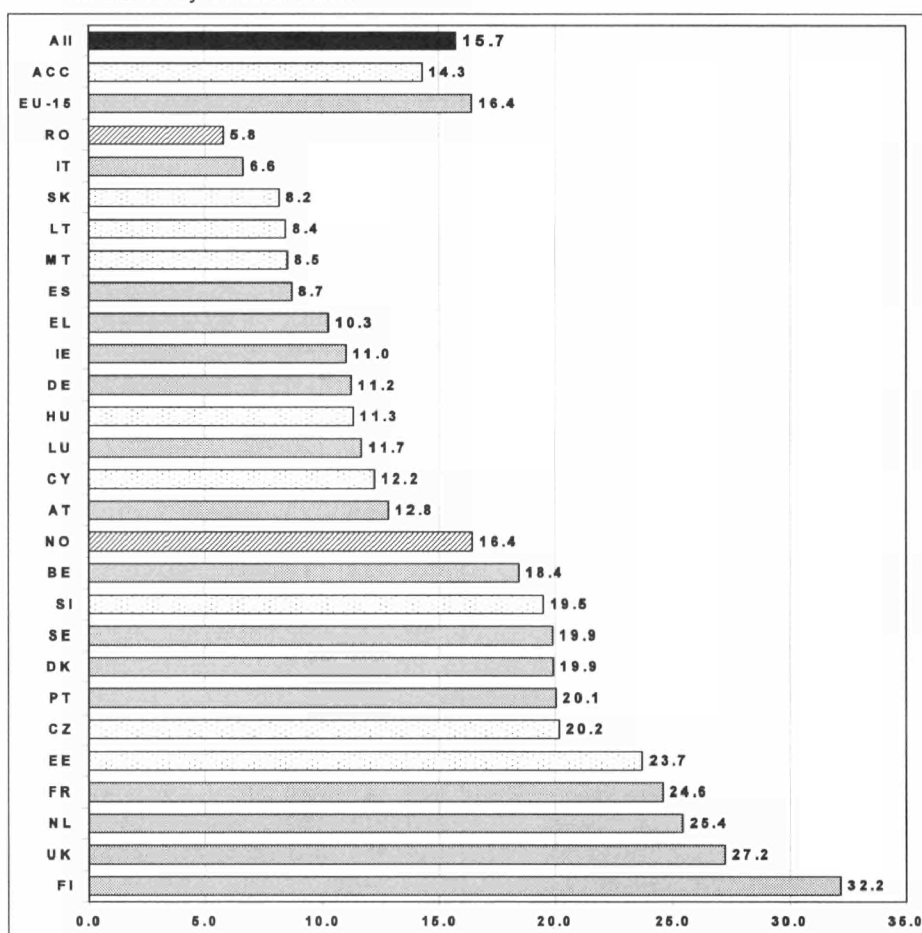


Figure 1: Percentage of population aged 16-64 stating that they have a long-standing health problem or disability (LSHPD)



Table 1: Prevalence of long-standing health problem or disability (LSHPD), EU Member States

	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
Total	18.4	19.9	11.2	10.3	8.7	24.6	11.0	6.6	11.7	25.4	12.8	20.1	32.2	19.9	27.2	
Females	17.9	21.1	10.3	10.6	8.0	24.8	10.5	6.3	9.6	26.4	11.6	21.6	33.6	21.7	27.8	
Males	18.9	18.8	12.2	9.9	9.4	24.3	11.6	7.0	13.7	24.5	14.0	18.5	30.7	18.2	26.7	
By marital status and gender																
Females	Single	12.6	15.2	6.8	5.4	5.6	19.9	7.6	4.4	6.1	21.4	7.3	12.7	23.9	16.5	20.7
	Married	18.8	22.3	10.2	11.5	8.5	25.1	11.2	6.5	9.2	25.8	12.0	23.8	37.0	24.3	28.7
	Widowed	30.1	36.4	22.0	25.9	19.2	45.4	24.0	14.7	29.3	47.1	26.8	46.8	60.5	28.3	48.4
	Divorced	31.8	32.6	17.2	15.6	11.9	38.6	20.8	10.3	15.8	43.9	17.4	23.4	43.8	32.4	37.1
Males	Single	15.2	15.6	8.4	5.5	7.9	18.7	9.8	5.3	7.5	17.9	9.9	14.1	22.9	14.9	21.1
	Married	20.1	19.4	13.7	12.3	10.1	27.7	12.4	7.9	16.0	27.8	16.2	20.3	35.3	21.1	29.0
	Widowed	35.5	38.5	24.9	24.5	18.6	43.2	22.1	16.5	26.4	40.5	22.5	36.1	53.8	34.5	44.7
	Divorced	33.9	31.4	19.2	15.8	16.4	32.9	23.7	9.2	21.0	37.2	18.9	33.2	42.3	24.1	35.3
Total	Single	14.1	15.4	7.7	5.5	6.9	19.3	8.8	4.9	6.9	19.4	8.8	13.5	23.4	15.6	20.9
	Married	19.4	20.8	11.9	11.9	9.3	26.4	11.8	7.2	12.6	26.8	14.0	22.1	36.2	22.7	28.9
	Widowed	31.5	37.0	22.6	25.7	19.1	44.9	23.5	15.0	28.7	45.4	25.9	44.9	59.1	30.0	47.5
	Divorced	32.6	32.1	18.1	15.7	13.5	36.2	21.9	9.8	18.3	41.0	18.0	26.1	43.2	28.7	36.3
By age and gender																
Females	16-24	5.4	10.8	3.2	2.5	2.4	12.7	4.6	1.9	2.5	15.6	4.3	7.5	17.3	11.3	16.0
	25-29	9.4	15.8	4.2	2.9	3.9	16.3	5.4	2.3	6.6	18.5	6.2	9.4	20.6	15.8	18.1
	30-34	11.8	11.5	5.2	4.2	4.4	18.3	7.9	3.1	4.2	20.0	6.7	12.0	22.8	18.9	19.2
	35-39	17.4	17.9	6.8	5.8	5.8	21.7	8.9	3.9	5.6	20.9	7.1	15.9	27.8	21.9	21.0
	40-44	18.2	23.0	8.2	8.1	6.9	24.5	9.5	5.1	9.4	28.2	9.8	20.4	30.9	25.1	25.6
	45-49	23.1	25.1	10.9	10.4	8.6	28.4	13.1	6.8	12.8	28.7	13.6	24.8	34.5	24.9	29.7
	50-54	27.5	27.5	15.4	15.5	12.9	36.1	15.9	9.8	15.2	36.1	18.0	33.6	44.5	28.8	39.2
	55-59	31.6	31.7	20.9	22.1	17.2	39.9	22.0	12.8	18.3	42.5	24.7	44.9	52.5	31.2	46.4
	60-64	30.2	36.6	21.0	31.2	22.9	43.8	26.2	16.1	25.0	40.3	24.1	50.3	66.2	30.6	51.8
Males	16-24	7.0	12.3	3.8	2.7	3.4	11.1	5.3	2.4	4.1	11.8	6.2	8.5	14.3	9.7	15.6
	25-29	10.9	10.1	5.0	3.2	4.3	16.3	7.0	3.3	5.2	15.4	7.3	10.8	18.6	11.6	16.7
	30-34	15.0	11.9	6.3	4.1	5.8	19.1	7.6	3.3	9.1	14.9	10.0	12.0	21.7	14.5	19.0
	35-39	16.1	12.8	7.9	5.7	6.6	19.9	8.4	5.1	8.3	21.8	9.9	14.3	21.8	18.8	20.8
	40-44	20.2	17.3	9.9	7.5	8.4	26.8	10.7	5.8	12.1	26.0	11.3	16.5	25.9	19.7	24.1
	45-49	23.0	22.8	12.5	9.3	10.6	27.9	13.6	7.5	15.6	27.4	15.3	19.6	33.0	19.6	28.8
	50-54	26.1	24.6	17.0	14.6	15.0	34.8	17.6	11.0	24.1	34.3	23.3	27.0	41.1	23.5	36.0
	55-59	32.7	30.2	24.8	20.3	20.4	42.3	23.8	13.7	31.6	40.7	28.4	37.5	52.2	28.6	45.6
	60-64	34.1	33.2	27.7	29.0	27.1	40.7	32.7	17.0	30.9	45.1	26.5	43.7	65.7	29.1	54.4
Total	16-24	6.2	11.6	3.5	2.6	2.9	11.9	5.0	2.1	3.3	13.7	5.2	8.0	15.8	10.4	15.8
	25-29	10.2	13.0	4.6	3.1	4.1	16.3	6.2	2.8	5.9	17.0	6.8	10.1	19.6	13.7	17.4
	30-34	13.4	11.7	5.8	4.1	5.1	18.7	7.7	3.2	6.7	17.4	8.3	12.0	22.2	16.7	19.1
	35-39	16.7	15.2	7.3	5.8	6.2	20.8	8.7	4.5	7.0	21.3	8.5	15.1	24.7	20.3	20.9
	40-44	19.2	20.3	9.1	7.8	7.7	25.7	10.1	5.4	10.8	27.1	10.5	18.5	28.4	22.3	24.9
	45-49	23.0	23.9	11.7	9.9	9.6	28.2	13.4	7.1	14.2	28.0	14.5	22.2	33.7	22.2	29.3
	50-54	26.8	26.0	16.2	15.0	13.9	35.5	16.8	10.4	19.8	35.2	20.7	30.4	42.8	26.1	37.6
	55-59	32.1	31.0	22.9	21.2	18.8	41.1	22.9	13.2	25.3	41.6	26.5	41.4	52.3	29.9	46.0
	60-64	32.1	34.8	24.3	30.1	24.9	42.3	29.4	16.5	27.9	42.7	25.3	47.2	65.9	29.8	53.1
By education and gender																
Females	ISCED 0-2	26.4	29.8	12.1	16.4	11.3	31.5	16.3	8.7	13.5	32.5	14.3	25.7	41.4	22.4	39.8
	ISCED 3	14.3	19.0	10.6	5.9	4.1	22.3	7.2	3.4	7.6	22.8	11.2	9.3	33.0	24.1	23.4
	ISCED 4-6	10.1	15.3	8.0	5.1	3.1	17.6	7.1	2.7	4.2	22.1	8.7	9.0	28.0	18.2	20.3
Males	ISCED 0-2	27.2	23.8	12.5	14.4	13.2	30.2	17.7	9.3	19.3	31.4	17.2	20.9	37.0	19.9	42.1
	ISCED 3	15.2	17.8	14.0	6.4	4.9	23.1	6.9	4.2	12.3	23.2	13.8	8.4	29.0	20.1	25.2
	ISCED 4-6	10.8	15.2	9.4	5.7	3.6	16.5	7.4	3.5	7.6	18.2	11.9	9.0	26.3	13.7	19.4
All	ISCED 0-2	26.8	26.9	12.2	15.4	12.3	30.9	17.0	9.0	16.2	32.0	15.4	23.3	39.0	21.4	40.9
	ISCED 3	14.8	18.4	12.3	6.2	4.5	22.7	7.1	3.8	10.0	23.0	12.6	8.9	30.9	21.7	24.4
	ISCED 4-6	10.4	15.3	8.8	5.4	3.4	17.1	7.3	3.1	6.3	20.0	10.4	9.0	27.2	16.1	19.9
By activity and gender																
Females	Employed	11.5	13.7	6.9	7.0	3.9	21.1	6.2	4.0	6.9	19.2	8.3	17.0	29.2	21.8	20.6
	Unemployed	23.3	18.1	14.0	5.6	4.9	27.5	9.2	3.8	7.8	34.2	15.9	22.1	28.2	21.7	26.9
	Inactive	25.3	44.6	15.4	14.6	12.5	30.3	16.4	8.5	12.8	40.1	17.0	29.9	48.4	21.5	43.6
Males	Employed	13.8	13.6	7.6	6.2	4.3	21.5	7.0	4.6	10.0	20.2	10.3	14.8	25.1	17.5	20.2
	Unemployed	21.6	21.5	17.2	8.0	7.6	25.8	10.7	6.2	11.2	30.6	17.9	20.3	24.2	19.9	28.7
	Inactive	32.4	45.7	27.1	22.5	28.7	33.1	30.1	13.9	27.7	48.6	28.0	33.3	55.5	20.4	58.1
All	Employed	12.8	13.6	7.3	6.5	4.2	21.3	6.7	4.4	8.7	19.8	9.4	15.8	27.1	19.5	20.4
	Unemployed	22.4	19.9	15.8	6.5	6.0	26.6	10.1	4.9	9.3	32.4	17.1	21.2	26.0	20.7	28.0
	Inactive	28.0	45.0	19.7	17.0	17.4	31.3	20.7	10.2	17.7	42.8	20.9	31.1	51.6	21.0	48.7

Table 1: Prevalence of long-standing health problem or disability (LSHPD), acceding, candidate and EFTA countries and geographical aggregates

CZ	EE	CY	LT	HU	MT	SI	SK	NO	RO	EUR12	EU15	ACC	All	
20.2	23.7	12.2	8.4	11.3	8.5	19.5	8.2	16.4	5.8	14.1	16.4	14.3	15.7	Total
21.1	24.2	11.1	8.5	11.3	7.3	19.1	8.2	17.4	6.5	13.9	16.3	14.5	15.6	Females
19.2	23.1	13.4	8.3	11.3	9.7	19.9	8.1	15.5	5.0	14.4	16.5	14.0	15.7	Males
														By marital status and gender
11.4	15.8	4.9	6.8	3.5	7.2	9.8	4.5	11.6	3.5	10.5	12.4	7.4	11.7	Single Females
22.0	26.5	11.6	7.3	12.6	7.1	23.7	8.8	18.2	6.1	13.8	16.2	15.4	15.6	Married
42.6	46.7	36.7	18.8	24.4	19.0	37.3	10.3	32.7	15.5	26.9	29.7	28.5	28.0	Widowed
27.5	28.2	20.7	12.0	15.7	4.3	29.6	19.8	27.5	12.3	24.4	28.3	20.7	27.0	Divorced
13.7	16.3	9.1	7.2	6.0	6.5	13.5	5.7	12.5	2.7	10.9	12.7	9.4	12.0	Single Males
20.7	26.6	14.9	7.5	13.1	11.2	24.9	9.2	15.4	5.8	15.9	18.0	15.6	17.1	Married
36.8	46.0	24.4	24.3	30.0	17.6	44.4	12.5	30.1	16.1	27.8	30.7	26.0	28.7	Widowed
31.1	31.3	21.9	18.4	20.4	16.6	30.6	22.3	27.8	7.4	24.0	27.3	25.1	26.6	Divorced
12.7	16.1	7.1	7.0	4.9	6.8	11.8	5.2	12.1	3.0	10.8	12.5	8.5	11.9	Single Total
21.3	26.6	13.2	7.4	12.8	9.1	24.3	9.0	16.8	6.0	14.8	17.1	15.5	16.3	Married
41.6	46.5	34.5	19.6	25.4	18.5	38.6	11.2	32.3	15.6	27.1	29.9	27.9	28.2	Widowed
28.9	29.3	21.0	14.2	17.5	10.1	30.0	20.2	27.6	10.7	24.3	27.9	22.3	26.8	Divorced
														By age and gender
7.2	9.1	2.1	1.9	1.2	1.7	4.4	1.4	8.1	1.5	8.4	7.6	3.6	6.9	16-24 Females
9.3	11.1	2.4	2.6	2.0	4.5	4.7	2.5	10.3	2.1	10.3	9.2	5.1	8.5	25-29
11.4	15.8	3.9	2.1	3.4	5.4	9.5	4.5	9.3	1.8	8.6	10.5	6.7	9.6	30-34
12.9	21.2	7.4	6.5	3.9	4.1	11.6	5.5	10.3	3.4	10.5	12.4	8.6	11.8	35-39
19.2	13.5	11.9	6.2	10.0	6.8	20.7	8.9	15.4	7.0	12.8	15.1	12.7	14.5	40-44
25.3	26.0	13.1	11.6	17.4	7.5	24.6	11.2	19.2	9.4	15.8	18.1	18.9	17.7	45-49
35.1	37.6	16.0	14.4	26.3	9.1	37.0	19.9	25.4	14.0	21.1	24.1	27.9	24.0	50-54
40.0	46.7	28.4	24.6	28.6	14.5	39.6	18.5	33.8	14.2	25.4	29.1	31.9	28.7	55-59
47.7	52.9	35.1	17.7	17.9	22.8	42.0	16.4	40.8	15.6	26.4	30.2	30.2	29.5	60-64
9.4	9.8	4.4	2.2	1.5	3.7	7.0	2.1	9.5	1.2	5.9	7.6	4.8	6.9	16-24 Males
10.1	11.9	6.4	6.9	2.6	4.3	8.7	2.5	9.9	2.8	7.8	9.3	6.2	8.6	25-29
10.0	15.5	5.3	4.4	3.7	4.8	10.5	3.6	10.3	1.6	9.1	10.8	6.6	9.9	30-34
12.6	17.8	7.3	5.0	5.7	6.7	12.6	7.6	11.8	2.9	10.7	12.5	9.1	11.9	35-39
15.7	23.8	13.5	7.2	10.3	7.5	16.6	7.3	13.3	5.2	13.7	15.5	11.9	14.7	40-44
20.4	25.1	18.9	10.1	15.3	10.6	27.7	11.0	16.5	6.6	16.2	18.2	17.1	17.5	45-49
30.3	35.8	19.0	11.5	24.5	16.2	35.5	15.8	18.7	9.4	21.5	23.8	25.1	23.2	50-54
39.2	44.3	28.6	24.2	31.4	26.6	42.4	24.8	25.7	13.1	27.3	30.4	33.7	29.9	55-59
44.5	52.3	33.6	20.1	24.5	17.3	40.8	18.3	39.3	13.1	29.3	32.9	32.2	32.0	60-64
8.3	9.4	3.2	2.1	1.3	2.7	5.8	1.7	8.8	1.3	5.9	7.6	4.2	6.9	16-24 Total
9.7	11.5	4.3	4.8	2.3	4.4	6.7	2.5	10.1	2.5	7.6	9.3	5.6	8.5	25-29
10.7	15.6	4.6	3.2	3.5	5.1	10.0	4.0	9.8	1.7	8.9	10.7	6.7	9.8	30-34
12.8	19.6	7.3	5.8	4.8	5.3	12.1	6.5	11.0	3.2	10.6	12.5	8.8	11.9	35-39
17.4	18.4	12.7	6.7	10.1	7.1	18.7	8.1	14.3	6.2	13.3	15.3	12.3	14.6	40-44
22.8	25.6	16.0	10.9	16.4	9.1	26.3	11.1	17.9	8.0	16.0	18.2	18.0	17.6	45-49
32.8	36.8	17.5	13.0	25.5	12.6	36.2	17.9	22.1	11.7	21.3	24.0	26.5	23.6	50-54
39.6	45.7	28.5	24.4	29.9	20.3	41.0	21.4	29.9	13.7	26.3	29.8	32.8	29.3	55-59
46.2	52.7	34.4	18.7	20.7	20.2	41.5	17.2	40.1	14.4	27.8	31.5	31.1	30.7	60-64
														By education and gender
31.3	30.6	20.6	13.6	19.2	8.3	29.3	14.8	29.3	8.5	17.3	19.1	21.8	18.7	ISCED 0-2 Females
19.0	22.6	6.7	7.1	8.4	2.1	16.7	6.8	18.0	5.4	12.1	14.7	13.0	13.9	ISCED 3
14.2	23.2	4.5	7.2	4.6	4.1	9.8	2.7	10.5	5.2	10.2	12.3	8.6	11.8	ISCED 4-6
24.0	25.6	21.9	13.2	18.9	11.3	27.6	12.9	27.4	6.5	17.2	19.0	19.2	18.4	ISCED 0-2 Males
19.1	22.1	10.7	6.8	9.1	2.8	18.4	7.6	15.9	4.4	14.0	16.5	13.4	15.3	ISCED 3
14.4	23.1	7.2	6.8	6.5	5.0	13.4	3.5	8.7	4.5	10.2	12.0	9.5	11.5	ISCED 4-6
28.5	27.9	21.2	13.4	19.1	9.8	28.5	14.0	28.4	7.7	17.3	19.0	20.7	18.6	ISCED 0-2 Total
19.1	22.4	8.7	6.9	8.8	2.4	17.6	7.2	16.9	4.9	13.1	15.6	13.2	14.6	ISCED 3
14.3	23.1	5.8	7.0	5.5	4.6	11.4	3.1	9.6	4.9	10.2	12.1	9.1	11.7	ISCED 4-6
														By activity and gender
15.0	19.0	6.7	2.8	2.5	3.3	14.0	2.8	10.8	2.7	10.8	13.0	8.3	12.1	Employed Females
26.5	22.1	13.7	6.1	5.6	5.1	18.9	5.0	13.5	3.9	13.7	15.0	12.8	14.3	Unemployed
30.1	33.3	18.1	19.2	21.4	9.6	28.0	17.2	42.4	11.9	17.9	21.4	23.6	21.1	Inactive
14.0	17.5	9.6	2.9	2.0	5.8	14.4	2.6	9.2	2.4	10.7	12.5	7.9	11.6	Employed Males
29.7	27.1	27.1	6.2	3.4	9.7	30.7	5.5	18.4	2.4	15.9	17.7	12.7	16.3	Unemployed
36.4	37.5	29.6	24.3	31.9	26.7	32.8	25.7	52.4	12.1	27.0	31.0	31.6	29.9	Inactive
14.5	18.3	8.3	2.9	2.3	5.0	14.2	2.7	10.0	2.5	10.7	12.7	8.1	11.8	Employed Total
28.0	24.9	19.6	6.2	4.3	8.0	25.0	5.2	16.1	3.1	14.8	16.4	12.7	15.3	Unemployed
32.3	34.9	21.5	21.2	25.5	13.5	30.1	20.4	46.4	12.0	21.0	24.7	26.6	24.2	Inactive

Table 2: Distribution (%) of population with long-standing health problem or disability (LSHPD). Characteristics of LSHPD and assistance to work

	EU-15	ACC	All		
			F	M	All
Total all LSHPD	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Type of LSHPD					
Arms or hands	6.6	3.8	7.1	5.8	6.4
Legs or feet	11.4	14.0	11.3	12.0	11.7
Back or neck	19.0	17.1	18.8	18.1	18.5
Difficulties in seeing	2.6	4.3	2.6	3.0	2.8
Difficulties in hearing	2.1	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.0
Speech impediment	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Skin conditions	2.6	3.6	2.7	2.5	2.6
Chest or breathing	10.6	6.1	9.9	10.1	10.0
Heart, blood pressure or circulation	12.5	20.6	12.2	15.4	13.8
Stomach, liver, kidney or digestive	5.1	7.1	5.3	5.6	5.4
Diabetes	4.0	4.6	3.6	4.5	4.1
Epilepsy	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3
Mental, nervous or emotional	9.6	7.7	9.5	9.4	9.5
Other progressive illnesses	3.4	2.0	3.8	2.5	3.2
Other LSHPD	8.9	6.2	9.9	6.9	8.4
Cause of LSHPD					
Born with it or birth injury	17.9	10.8	16.5	17.3	16.9
Work-related diseases	13.3	12.8	10.8	15.6	13.2
Work-related accident or injury incl. traffic accidents at work	5.6	3.5	2.8	7.7	5.2
Traffic accident or injury (outside of work)	3.3	2.4	2.7	3.7	3.2
Household, leisure and sports accident or injury	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.9	3.5
Non-work-related diseases	50.2	56.6	55.8	44.8	50.3
Do not know	6.1	10.4	8.4	7.1	7.7
Duration since onset					
Less than 1 year	8.1	5.0	7.7	7.7	7.7
1 =< years < 2	7.8	5.8	7.7	7.4	7.5
2 =< years < 3	8.7	7.4	8.7	8.5	8.6
3 =< years < 5	13.7	13.6	13.9	13.7	13.8
5 =< years < 10	22.2	25.9	22.6	22.4	22.5
>= 10 years	39.4	42.2	39.4	40.3	39.8
% of working persons with LSHPD restriction receiving assistance to work	15.7	11.4	16.5	15.5	15.9
Type of assistance provided to work (All types = 100%)					
Kind of work	37.1	51.5	37.4	40.2	38.9
Amount of work	13.1	33.3	14.7	15.5	15.1
Mobility to get to and from work	6.4	1.6	5.5	6.2	5.9
Mobility at work	2.7	3.3	3.4	2.6	3.0
Support and understanding by superiors and colleagues	14.8	6.1	13.7	13.8	13.8
Other	26.0	4.2	25.2	21.7	23.3
% of non-working persons with LSHPD restriction needing assistance to work	47.7	25.5	40.5	47.2	43.7
Type of assistance needed to work (All types = 100%)					
Kind of work	29.8	57.2	32.1	34.1	33.1
Amount of work	13.5	11.5	15.1	12.9	14.0
Mobility to get to and from work	12.3	6.4	11.9	10.9	11.4
Mobility at work	10.0	5.9	8.6	9.9	9.3
Support and understanding by superiors and colleagues	13.8	6.8	12.2	13.7	12.9
Other	20.5	12.3	20.2	18.5	19.3

Note: 'All' includes also Norway and Romania

Characteristics of disabled people

- Within most countries, the prevalence of LSHPD among women tends to be similar to the rate for men, but is, on average, slightly higher in the Acceding Countries (table 1).

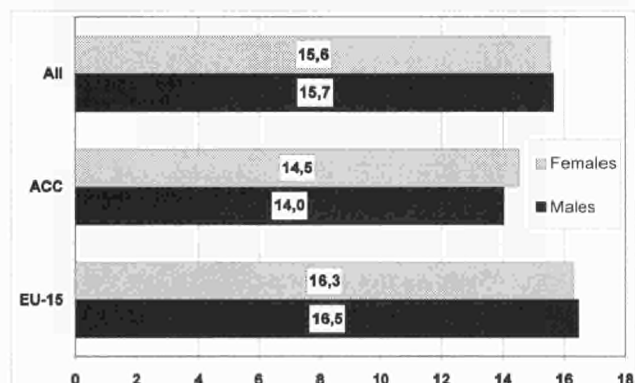


Figure 2: Percentage of population aged 16-64 with a LSHPD by gender

- The rates of LSHPD increase with age in all countries (table 1).

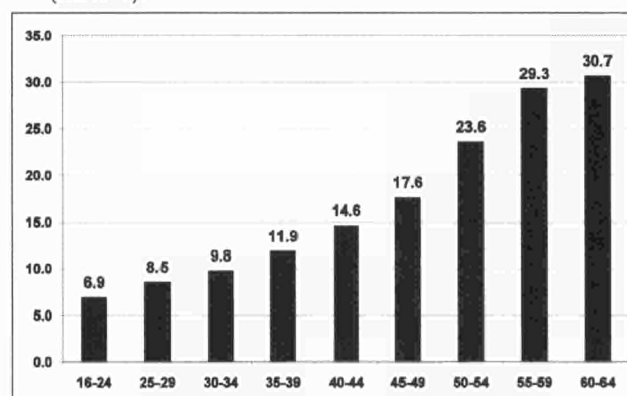


Figure 3: Percentage of population aged 16-64 with a LSHPD by age. All countries

- Since marital status is strongly related with age, it is not surprising that LSHPD rates are lowest for single persons and highest for the widowed, but the rates are also much larger for the divorced than for married persons (table 1).

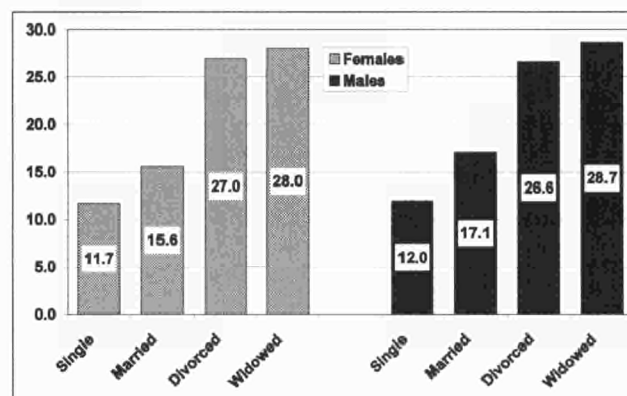


Figure 4: Percentage of population aged 16-64 with a LSHPD by marital status. All countries

- The rates of LSHPD are much higher for persons with a lower level of education, particularly in the Acceding Countries (table 1).

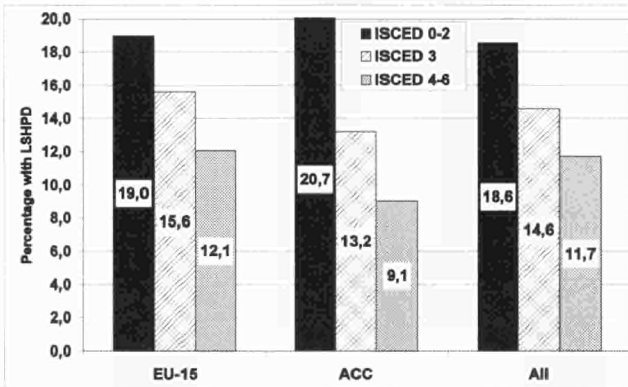


Figure 5: Percentage of population aged 16-64 with a LSHPD by educational level.

- The most common main types of disability are musculoskeletal problems, especially with the back or neck, legs or feet, followed by heart, blood pressure and circulation problems (table 2).

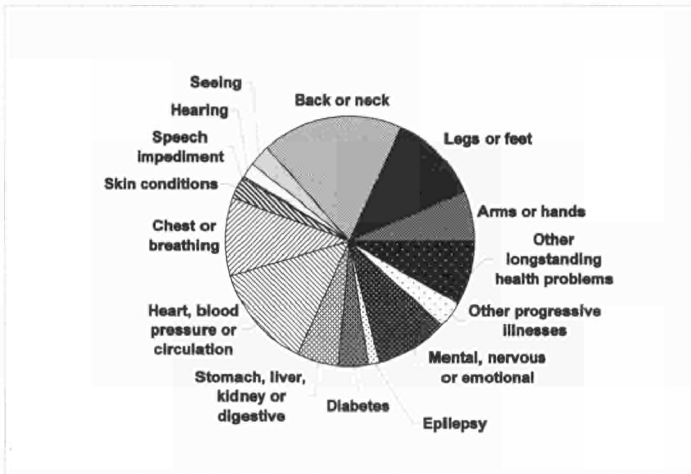


Figure 6: Distribution of population aged 16-64 with LSHPD by type. All countries

- For half of the persons with LSHPD, the cause is non-work related diseases. Only 16.9% have had such a condition since birth; the cause is work-related for 18.4% (13.2% for work-related diseases) (table 2).

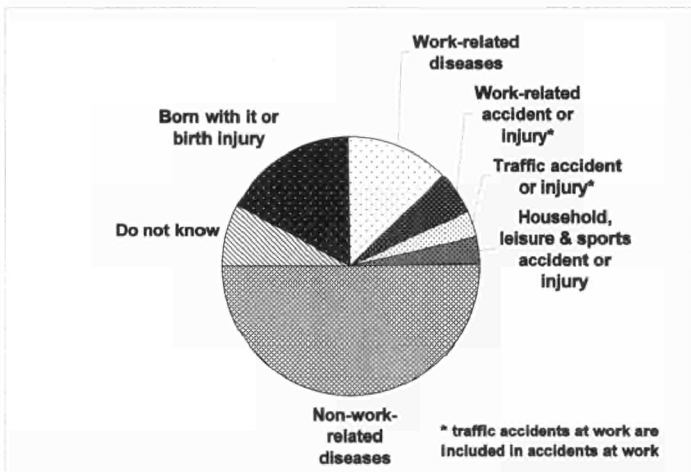


Figure 7: Distribution of population aged 16-64 with LSHPD by cause of LSHPD. All countries

Assistance to work

Questions about assistance to work were asked to disabled persons who stated that they faced some kind of work restriction (as regards the type of work, the amount of work, or mobility to and from work). Those who were working were asked whether some form of assistance was *provided* to work. Those who were not working were asked whether some form of assistance was *needed* to work. (See Explanatory notes).

- Only 15.9% of working persons with LSHDP and facing work restrictions are provided with some assistance to work. However, this percentage masks wide country variations. The assistance provided at work relates mainly to the type of work performed (table 2).

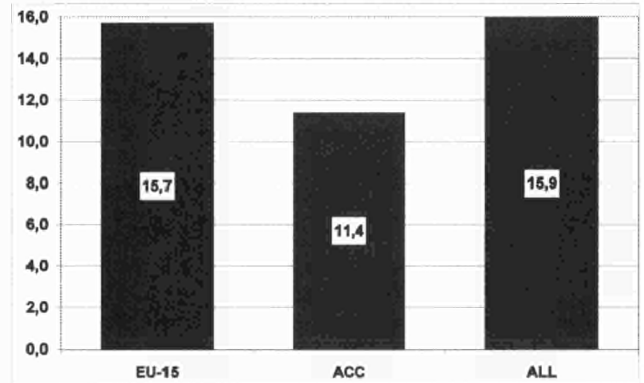


Figure 8: Working persons aged 16-64 facing work restrictions: percentage of those who are provided with some assistance to work.

- 43.7% of non-working persons with LSHDP and facing work restrictions consider that they would need some form of assistance to work. However, this percentage also varies widely among countries. The major type of assistance needed to work also relates to the kind of work performed (table 2).

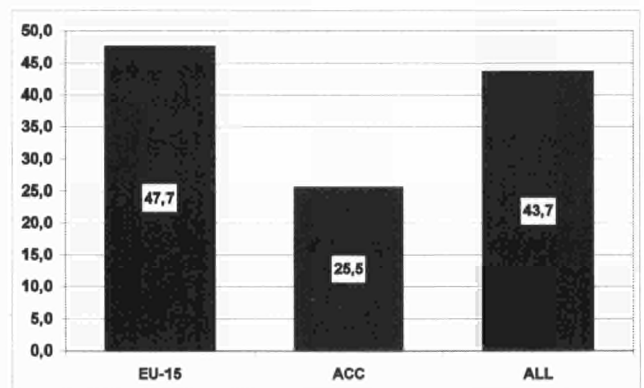


Figure 9: Non-working persons aged 16-64 facing work restrictions: percentage of those who would need some assistance to work.

Table 3: Distribution of the population by LSHPD severity and percentage of the population with specific characteristics in each LSHPD severity group (%)

	EU15	EUR12	ACC	All		
				F	M	All
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Very severe	5.2	5.4	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.7
Severe	4.3	4.4	3.7	4.2	4.0	4.1
Moderate	3.1	2.8	1.3	2.7	2.7	2.7
Mild	6.7	5.6	3.0	5.9	6.0	5.9
Without LSHPD	80.7	81.8	85.7	81.7	81.7	81.6
Employed (%)						
Very severe	18.8	22.5	14.3	18.7	20.3	19.5
Severe	45.7	42.4	35.9	39.7	48.6	44.1
Moderate	67.8	64.4	57.7	59.1	73.7	66.7
Mild	76.6	67.8	69.1	68.3	82.3	75.6
Not disabled	68.0	64.7	66.4	58.1	77.2	67.6
Unemployed (%)						
Very severe	2.8	3.0	3.9	2.6	3.4	3.0
Severe	5.6	5.5	9.3	5.5	6.6	6.0
Moderate	6.2	5.8	6.9	5.4	7.0	6.2
Mild	3.5	3.8	3.9	3.3	3.7	3.5
Without LSHPD	5.3	5.7	6.4	5.5	5.4	5.4
Inactive person (%)						
Very severe	78.4	74.6	81.8	78.7	76.3	77.5
Severe	48.7	52.2	54.8	54.8	44.7	49.8
Moderate	26.0	29.8	35.5	35.5	19.3	27.1
Mild	20.0	28.4	27.0	28.4	14.0	21.0
Without LSHPD	26.7	29.6	27.2	36.4	17.4	26.9
Unemployment rate (%)						
Very severe	12.8	11.7	21.6	12.2	14.2	13.3
Severe	10.9	11.4	20.6	12.1	12.0	12.1
Moderate	8.4	8.3	10.6	8.4	8.6	8.5
Mild	4.3	5.4	5.4	4.6	4.2	4.4
Without LSHPD	7.2	8.1	8.8	8.6	6.5	7.4
ISCED 0-2 (%)						
Very severe	66.1	77.3	43.5	61.4	57.4	59.4
Severe	53.3	68.6	33.6	51.3	49.1	50.2
Moderate	37.4	54.0	23.7	36.8	35.8	36.3
Mild	31.7	47.8	19.1	32.7	28.7	30.7
Without LSHPD	39.6	45.9	21.8	47.7	43.7	45.7
ISCED 4-6 (%)						
Very severe	8.1	6.5	8.6	8.8	8.3	8.5
Severe	13.0	10.2	7.8	13.5	11.2	12.4
Moderate	19.6	16.1	12.6	20.0	18.2	19.0
Mild	23.8	20.6	18.2	23.1	23.5	23.3
Without LSHPD	21.8	20.0	18.1	15.8	14.9	15.3
Aged 16-29 (%)						
Very severe	9.1	8.8	7.2	8.1	10.2	9.1
Severe	10.9	9.1	9.6	10.2	11.1	10.7
Moderate	18.6	15.8	15.4	18.5	18.1	18.3
Mild	19.0	17.6	15.9	19.9	17.4	18.6
Without LSHPD	89.6	90.4	95.2	90.1	90.7	90.4
Aged 50-64 (%)						
Very severe	55.7	58.2	59.5	56.0	55.8	55.9
Severe	49.6	53.4	58.6	50.1	52.0	51.0
Moderate	37.5	40.3	46.5	37.6	39.0	38.3
Mild	38.4	40.5	47.4	38.0	40.6	39.3
Without LSHPD	65.6	67.5	67.9	67.1	71.5	66.5
Married (%)						
Very severe	56.1	60.1	61.3	57.7	56.6	57.2
Severe	61.2	65.9	66.3	61.9	62.4	62.2
Moderate	56.7	60.9	59.3	54.7	59.1	57.0
Mild	59.4	61.4	64.3	57.5	62.2	59.9
Without LSHPD	55.6	56.9	57.1	58.2	54.3	56.2

Note: 'All' includes also Norway and Romania

Restriction levels

- The severity of LSHPD tends to be higher in the Acceding countries than in the EU15 (table 3).

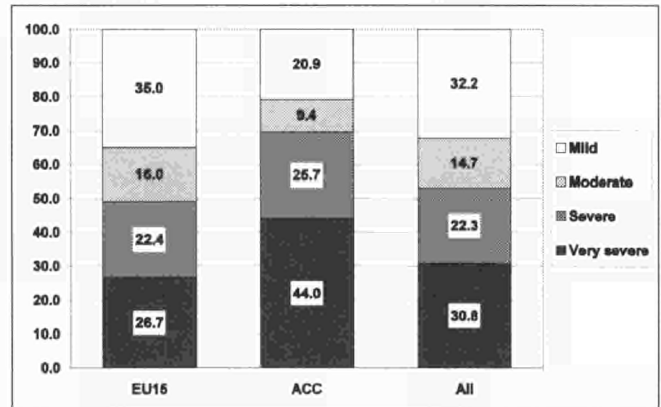


Figure 10: Population aged 16-64 with LSHPD by severity (%).

- The more severe the degree of disability, the lower the participation in the labour force: only 20% of the severely disabled as compared to 68% for those without LSHPD (table 3).

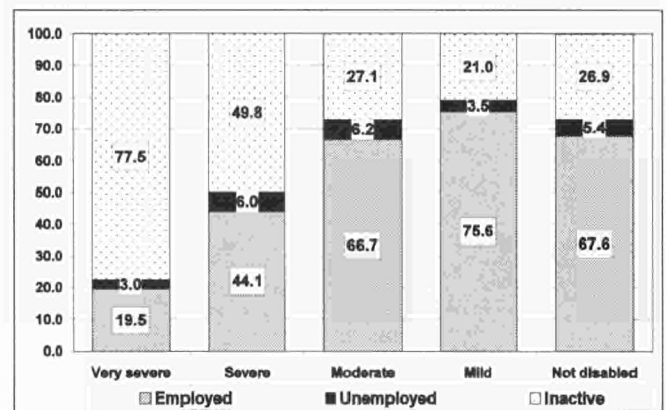


Figure 11: Distribution of population aged 16-64 by severity of disability and activity status (%). All countries

- However, the unemployment rate among the disabled is not higher than that for the non-disabled, possibly because of the 'discouraged worker' effect (table 3). Probably, many disabled persons know or believe that they are very unlikely to get a job, so that they do not even attempt to find one and are therefore classified as inactive.

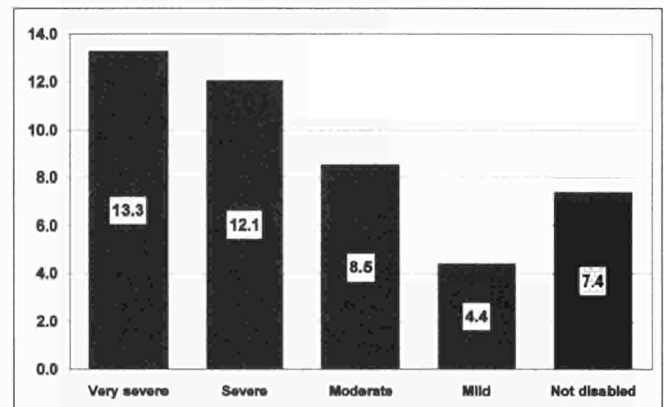


Figure 12: Unemployment rate (%) among the population aged 16-64 with and without LSHPD. All countries

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Explanatory notes

In order to provide data for the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003, the 2002 European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS) contained an ad hoc module concerning the employment of disabled people. As set out by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1566/2001 of 12 July 2001, the module consists of 11 variables dealing with the existence, type, cause and duration of longstanding health problem or disability, work limitations (regarding the kind of work or the amount of work, and mobility problems), and assistance needed or provided to work. Although harmonised, translated questions for the variables were proposed by Eurostat, some rewording was felt necessary at national level, which may have some effect on the comparability of data.

A detailed description of the sampling methods and definitions for the LFS can be found in 'The Labour Force Survey – Methods and Definitions, 2001'.

The preliminary data come from the 15 Member States, 9 Acceding and Candidate Countries (excluding Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland and Turkey) and Norway.

Basic concepts and definitions

All definitions apply to persons aged 16-64 years, living in private households.

Disabled persons were those who stated that they had a longstanding health problem or disability (**LSHPD**) for 6 months or more or expected to last 6 months or more.

Restriction levels: This criterion was constructed from the combination of the three variables on how disabled people are restricted regarding (1) the kind of work and (2) the amount of work that can be done, and (3) mobility to and from work. Possible replies were "Yes, considerably", "Yes, to some extent" and "No".

Very severe disability applies to those who replied "considerably" or "to some extent" to all three questions.

Severe disability applies to respondents who replied "considerably" or "to some extent" to two of the three questions.

Moderate disability applies to those who replied "considerably" or "to some extent" to one of the three questions.

Mild disability applies to those who replied "no" to the three questions, but had a LSHPD.

Assistance needed / assistance provided: Data on the type of assistance provided or needed applies to the sub-populations of disabled persons who answered "considerably" or "to some extent" to the question concerning problems of restriction in the kind of work, the amount of work or limitations in their mobility to and from work:

- For the assistance provided: persons who did some work for pay or profit lasting at least one hour during the reference week or were not working but had a job or business from which they were absent during the reference week.
- For the assistance needed: persons who were not working because they had been made redundant or who either did not have a job or business during the reference week.

Since the questions on LSHPD type, cause and on the type of assistance provided or needed were not compulsory in Germany and, concerning assistance needed, Hungary, EUR12, EU15 and All do not include these countries for the respective results.

The employment and activity related concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation:

Employed persons are those who during the reference week did some work for pay or profit lasting at least one hour, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Family workers are included.

Unemployed persons comprise persons who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were actively seeking work or who had found a job commencing at a later date.

Inactive persons are those who are neither classified as employed nor unemployed.

The unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the active population.

Education

ISCED 0-2: includes all persons with up to lower secondary education or second stage of basic education.

ISCED 3: includes persons with (upper) secondary education.

ISCED 4-6: includes persons with post-secondary non-tertiary education or tertiary education.

Country codes and codes for geographical aggregates applied in this publication: BE (Belgium), DK (Denmark), DE (Germany), EL (Greece), ES (Spain), FR (France), IE (Ireland), IT (Italy), LU (Luxembourg), NL (Netherlands), PT (Portugal), AT (Austria), FI (Finland), SE (Sweden), UK (United Kingdom), EU-15 (European Union), EUR12 (Eurozone); CZ (Czech Republic), EE (Estonia), CY (Cyprus), LT (Lithuania), HU (Hungary), MT (Malta), SI (Slovenia), SK (Slovak Republic), ACC (Acceding Countries), NO (Norway), RO (Romania), All (EU-15, ACC, NO and RO).

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