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Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month

OCTOBER 13, 2016

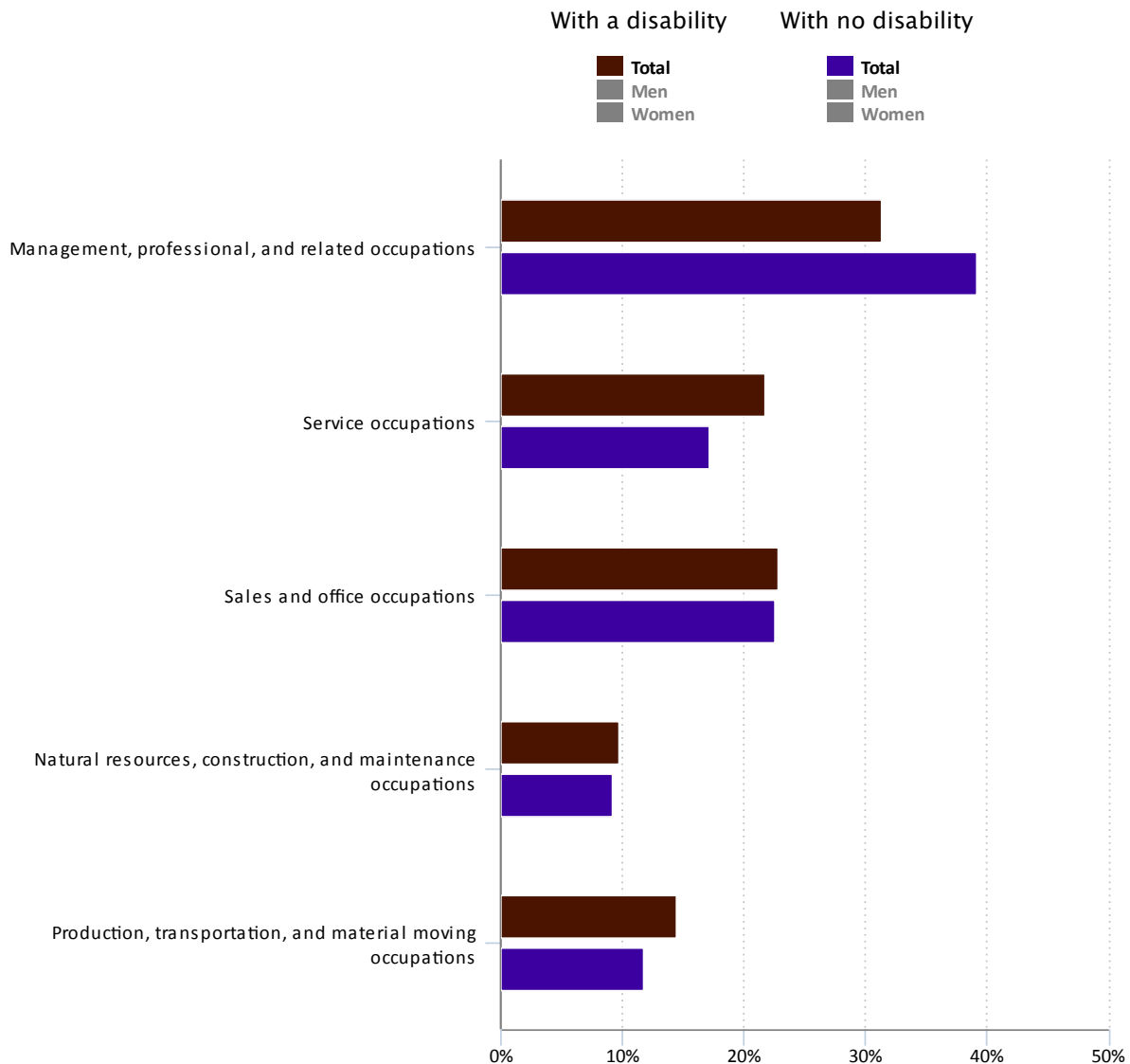
October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which seeks to celebrate the many work contributions of Americans with disabilities and to educate the public on the employment difficulties they often face.

In 2015, there were about 5.2 million people with disabilities employed in the United States. While the largest share of employed people with disabilities worked in management, professional, and related occupations (31.3 percent), this was smaller than the share of people with no disabilities employed in these same occupations (39.2 percent). Employed people with disabilities were more heavily concentrated in service occupations and in production, transportation, and material moving occupations than their counterparts with no disabilities.

[CHART IMAGE](#)

[CHART DATA](#)

Percentage distribution of employed people by occupation, disability status, and sex, 2015 annual averages



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Highlights from the 2015 data:

- People with disabilities were about 3 times more likely than those without a disability to be age 65 and over.
- For all age groups, the employment—population ratio was much lower for people with a disability than for those without a disability.
- Unemployment rates were higher for people with a disability than for those without a disability among all educational attainment groups.
- 32 percent of workers with a disability were employed part time, compared with 18 percent of workers without a disability.
- Workers with a disability were more likely to be self-employed than those with no disability.

These data are from the [Current Population Survey](#). For more information, see "Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics — 2015" ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)). The employment—population ratio is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population that is employed. To learn more, see our page on [people with a disability](#).

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Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *The Economics Daily*, Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/celebrating-national-disability-employment-awareness-month.htm> (visited October 26, 2016).

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