

Statistics on disability and employment

Many organizations have conducted research and gathered data to inform policy and decision-making about disability, employment and accessibility. The following is a collection of statistics that you may see referenced as part of the #AbleTo campaign.

- 46,700 students with disabilities registered at post-secondary institutions in Ontario
[Ontario Chamber of Commerce Accessibility Report](#)
- Almost 3.8 million Canadians, or 13.7 percent of the population, identified themselves as having a disability in 2012, up 12.4 percent from 2001.
[The Conference Board of Canada](#)
- The employment rate in 2011 for those with disabilities was 49.5 percent versus 73.9 percent for those without.
[The Conference Board of Canada – Business Benefits of Accessible Workplaces](#)
- People with disabilities are three times more likely than people without disabilities to be unemployed or out of the labour force. This gap has persisted and remained unchanged for over a decade.
[The Conference Board of Canada – Business Benefits of Accessible Workplaces](#)
- Unemployment rates are as high as 70 to 90 percent for people with the most severe forms of mental illness.
[Mental Health Commission of Canada](#)
- There are close to half a million job-ready Canadians with disabilities. Half of those Canadians have post-secondary education.
[SenseAbility](#)
- There is an economic benefit to hiring workers with disabilities that ranges from two to seven times the cost of accommodating the worker.
[Mental Health Commission of Canada](#)
- Eighty-seven percent of respondents to a survey on consumer attitudes said they agreed or strongly agreed that they would prefer to give their business to companies that employ people with disabilities.
[The Conference Board of Canada - Business Benefits of Accessible Workplaces](#)
- Statistics Canada found that in organizations with accessible employment practices, staff retention was 72 percent higher among people with disabilities.
[Statistics Canada](#)
- Ninety percent of people with disabilities did as well or better in their jobs than co-workers without disabilities.
[The Conference Board of Canada - Business Benefits of Accessible Workplaces](#)
- Eighty-six percent of employees with disabilities rated average or better in attendance.
[The Conference Board of Canada - Business Benefits of Accessible Workplaces](#)
- Seventy-eight percent of Canadians are more likely to buy a product or service from a business that hires people with disabilities.
[Ontario Disability Employment Network \(ODEN\)](#)