

REALTIME FILE

NTIDE-Lunch & Learn Webcast
March 5, 2021

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Institute on Disability.

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>> KAREN VOLLE: Betty, why don't you go ahead and turn your camera on
again. I'll get ready to go live right now.
>> DENISE ROZELL: Before you go, the agenda says 15 for me, is that right.
>> KAREN VOLLE: Yeah.
>> DENISE ROZELL: I'm setting my clock.
>> KAREN VOLLE: That's right.

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>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: welcome to today's nTIDE. I'm Andrew Houtenville
from the University of New Hampshire. One tip for just a point of
interest, the woman that's speaking in the introduction, her name is
Melissa Mandrell, she is related to Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell
sisters. I think they are cousins. Bit of entertainment here. So some
Zoom tips. You recall that you can choose the speakers that you use,
and you can also select to show subtitles or even view the full transcript
as the captions. Just a little bit about nTIDE, it's first Friday of
every month, it coincides with the release of the nTIDE report, which
is a press release. And it is a -- nTIDE leverage and learn is a joint

of the Kessler Foundation, University of New Hampshire and AUCD. Today's program is our different than The Standard program, we'll do the numbers and then we have a round table, a round table of interviews with artists and follow that up with a Q&A session. John, I'll turn it over to you.

>> JOHN O'NEILL: Thank you, Andrew. Next slide. The monthly, as Andrew said, nTIDE is a monthly report, it's a press release with an infographic where we look at the employment statistics, and it uses data from the jobs report, which is a product of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and it comes out on the first Friday of every month. Next slide. The data is pulled from the current population survey, which is fielded, I think, in the early part of the month. And it's the source of the unemployment rate, which the media pays much attention to. We don't pay much attention to it because it's -- it's a statistic that can -- it's hard to know what if the unemployment goes up or down, it's hard to know why that is the case. Anyway, it is data on civilians, aged 16 to 64. Not living in institutions.

The data has been available since 200098 onward. That was the year -- 2008 onward, that was the year the Census Bureau added the six disability statistics or the six disability questions, I should say, and it was a long time getting the Bureau of Labor statistics and the U.S. government to agree to add some questions about disability. Prior to that, there was only one fairly -- question on disability. That was the case for a number of years.

The data is not seasonally adjusted. That's why we compare to -- typically compare to the same year -- the same month in the last year.

But since the on set of COVID, we have been focusing primarily on month to month statistics. So that's what we'll be looking at today. Andrew, I'll hand it back to you.

>> ANDREW HOUTENVILLE: Thank you, John. I've been told my audio is a bit fuzzy, I'll try to be very clear.

So we will look at the percentage employed, the employment to population ratio. We'll look back to the -- around the great recession, we see -- this goes up until last March, March of 2020, just before the pandemic started to really kick off. So you can see a decline during the great recession for people with and without disabilities. You can see people with disabilities were kind of slower to start to recover. Really you can make an argument people with disabilities really didn't start to recover from 2016 and 2017. At that period, we actually saw that this gap between the two lines, the employment gap between people with disabilities and without disabilities actually narrows, one of the first times I've ever seen anything like that. That's when the economy was at full employment and really going -- starting to go strong. We were still in full employment during March -- during 2018 and 2019, but the gain started to flatten out for people with disabilities.

Now, this brings up to March, where it was 31.7 percent for people with disabilities, people without disabilities was 73.5.

Yes, I'm getting a note. Don't forget to project. Okay. I will project.

So 73.5 for people without disabilities. If we add in the first month of the pandemic, when it was really when the shutdown started to occur, the employment of people with disabilities dropped from 31.7 to 26.3 percent for people without disabilities, it dropped from 73.5 to 63.2. Percentage-point wise, the drop was bigger for people without disabilities, but percentage-wise, as a percentage of the previous month, the jump is actually slightly higher for -- the decline is slightly higher for people without disability -- people with disabilities.

So then we'll add in some successive months. June we start to see a real -- June and July, we start to see some increase, although it's tapering off for people with disabilities, and really we see that people with disabilities have really had a slow rise, by the time we get to December, this is December, November, December, we start seeing a decline for people without disabilities, and this might be the California shutdown. California, a couple of other big states, we started seeing the results of Thanksgiving and the holiday season kicking in.

For January, we see another decline for both people with and without disabilities. Here comes the new month, latest month is February of this past month.

Here we see a rise for people without disabilities and a slight rise for people with disabilities.

I've also put in what it looked like last February. Last February. And as you can see, we are still a bit away from last February. There really hasn't been much progress in the last -- boy, almost since the middle of the summer and the fall. This is the fall period. Really hasn't been much progress for people with disabilities. People without disabilities, the same thing. There's not much progress since the fall. And that could be potentially attributed to the lack of any real progress in terms of the spread until very, very recently. These estimates are for early February, so some of the gains we have seen recently in the last couple of weeks don't register in this data. The survey is fielded in the second week.

So that's the employment to population situation. The percentage employed. Really hasn't been a lot of progress. Really makes us -- you know, we are optimistic it increased a little bit. That could be sampling variation. With the vaccines spread, and the spread of the vaccination program, with the recent decline in cases, we are really hoping to see that this increases a bit. Although I wouldn't expect it to increase until a lot of the restrictions on certain employment, certain economic activities are removed.

All right. So that's February. Let's look at the labor force

participation rate. The labor force participate rate is the percentage who are employed or the percentage who are employed or on furlough or looking for work. People with disabilities, you can see the great recession for people with and without disabilities. In march of 2020, before the pandemic, it was at 34.9 for people with disabilities. Here we see the -- up until this February. This most recent month. Really, why I like to show this graph, it shows that people with disabilities have really been -- remained active in the labor force over this whole period of time. I think that's a good thing from a social participation perspective. However, also could be indicating a degree of stress that people with disabilities couldn't leave the labor market. They had to either continue at work or remain on furlough.

So it's kind of a mixed bag, but I think all in all, I'd rather see it stay the same or increase over the time in the pandemic than decline. I think for people without disabilities. I'll turn it over to Denise, I'm a minute over, Denise. Take it away.

>> DENISE ROZELL: Okay. First slide -- next slide, Andrew. Hi, everybody, I'm Denise Rozell, we'll start as we always do with the federal policy update. This is a lot of what I told you I thought was coming last month, and didn't come, and so now here we are. Still looking at the same things.

The COVID release plan, which is working its way through Congress, it has passed the house and literally in the Senate right now, and they have a whole ton of amendments that they are working their way through. It's something called -- the call it votarama. That's a Washington insider term, because in order to get there, they have a ton of amendments they have to vote on, and we'll see what happens. There's a lot of stalling tactics going on, et cetera, but ultimately the bill will probably pass. A couple of things to know about it. First one is there is 9-point -- still, knock on wood, there is \$9.3 billion in there in an FNET bump. In other words, more money for home and community based services under-Medicaid. That will be a big deal for keeping people living in the community. If you want to do any call i