



## Arizona Working-Age Population and General Employment Trends

Table 1 describes Arizona’s 2016 working-age (16-64), non-institutionalized population of 4,223,112 persons. To gather information on people with disabilities, the American Community Survey (ACS), administered by the US. Census Bureau, asks six questions on long-lasting conditions and functional impairments. The questions address the presence of a hearing disability, vision disability, cognitive disability, ambulatory disability, self-care disability, and independent living disability. Any person who indicates having at least one of these conditions or functional impairments is coded as having a disability. Cognitive disability, associated with the lowest rate of employment, is defined as serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

These data indicate that in 2016 10.7% of Arizona’s non-institutionalized working-age population, or 4,223,112 persons, had a disability. Almost 5 percent (4.9%) of Arizona’s working-age population (205,820 individuals) had a physical disability; 4.6% (193,707 individuals) had a cognitive disability; 2.0% (84,291 individuals) had a hearing disability; and 1.8% (75,781 individuals) had a visual disability.

<i>Table 1. Working-age adult population in Arizona and the nation 2016*</i>				
	Nation		Arizona	
<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Non-institutionalized population 16-64	205,207,080	100%	4,223,112	100%
Any disability	21,355,284	10.4%	450,777	10.7%
Cognitive	9,323,212	4.5%	193,707	4.6%
Physical <sup>1</sup>	10,147,685	4.9%	205,820	4.9%
Hearing <sup>2</sup>	3,999,090	1.9%	84,291	2.0%
Visual <sup>1</sup>	3,841,187	1.9%	75,781	1.8%

\*Source: Winsor et.al. (2018)

<sup>1</sup> 2015 data

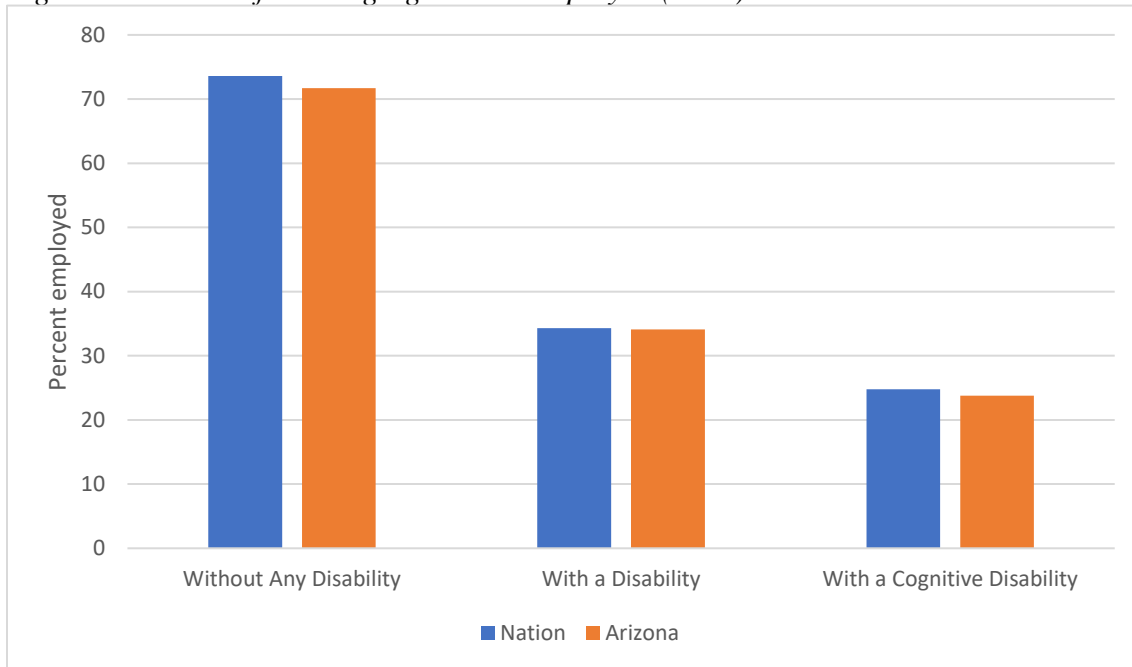
<sup>2</sup> 2013 data for U.S.; 2015 data for Arizona

Over the past decade, Arizona’s unemployment rate ranged from a low of 3.7% in 2007 to a peak of 10.0% in 2011. During 2018, it has hovered between 4.6 and 4.8 percent. There has been substantial variation in unemployment among Arizona’s metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) and counties, with Prescott and Tucson MSAs having the lowest unemployment rates (4.4 and 4.6, respectively), Flagstaff and Sierra-Vista Douglas MSAs with somewhat higher rates of 5.7, and Yuma MSA with the very high unemployment rate of 20.9 percent. During June 2017-July 2018, county unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) ranged between a low of 4.3% in Maricopa County and 19.2% in Yuma County.

### Disability employment trends

Overall, data from the American Community Survey indicates that working-age adults with disabilities are employed at a much lower rate than working-age adults without disabilities. Among those with disabilities, individuals with cognitive disabilities have the lowest rate of employment. ACS data indicate that in 2016 in the nation as a whole, 73.6% of persons with no disability were employed, while only 34.3% of individuals with a disability and 24.8% of individuals with a cognitive disability were employed. Similar disparities exist within Arizona. In Arizona, 71.7% of individuals without a disability were employed; 34.1% of individuals with any kind of disability were employed, and 23.8% of individuals with a cognitive disability were employed (Figure 1).

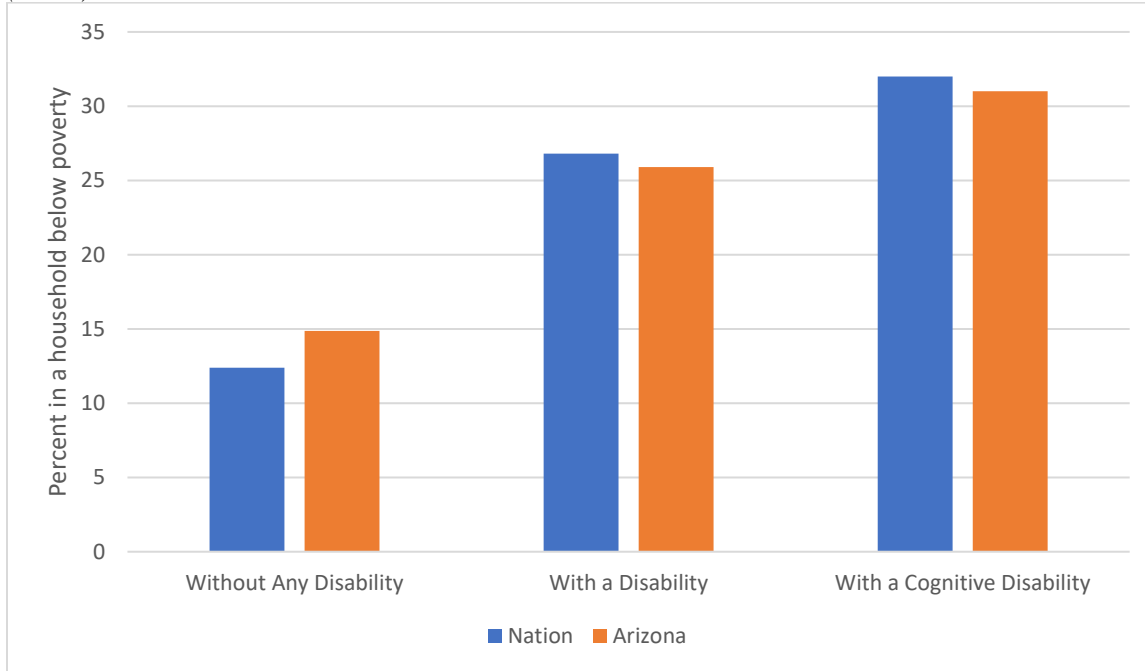
Figure 1. Percent of working-age adults employed (2016)\*



\*Source: Winsor et.al. (2018)

In Arizona, as within the U.S. as a whole, individuals with disability experience poverty at significantly higher rates than individuals without disability. Figure 2 reports the percent of individuals who live in a household that has a household income below the federal poverty line. Overall, the presence of a disability is strongly related to poverty. In the U.S. 12.4% of individuals without a disability lived in a household with income below poverty, opposed to 26% of individuals with disabilities, and 32% of individuals with a cognitive disability. In Arizona, in 2016, 14.87% of individuals with no disability lived in a household with income below the federal poverty line, as did 25.9% of individuals with any disability, and 31% of individuals with a cognitive disability.

Figure 2. Percent of individuals living in a household with an income below the poverty line (2016)\*

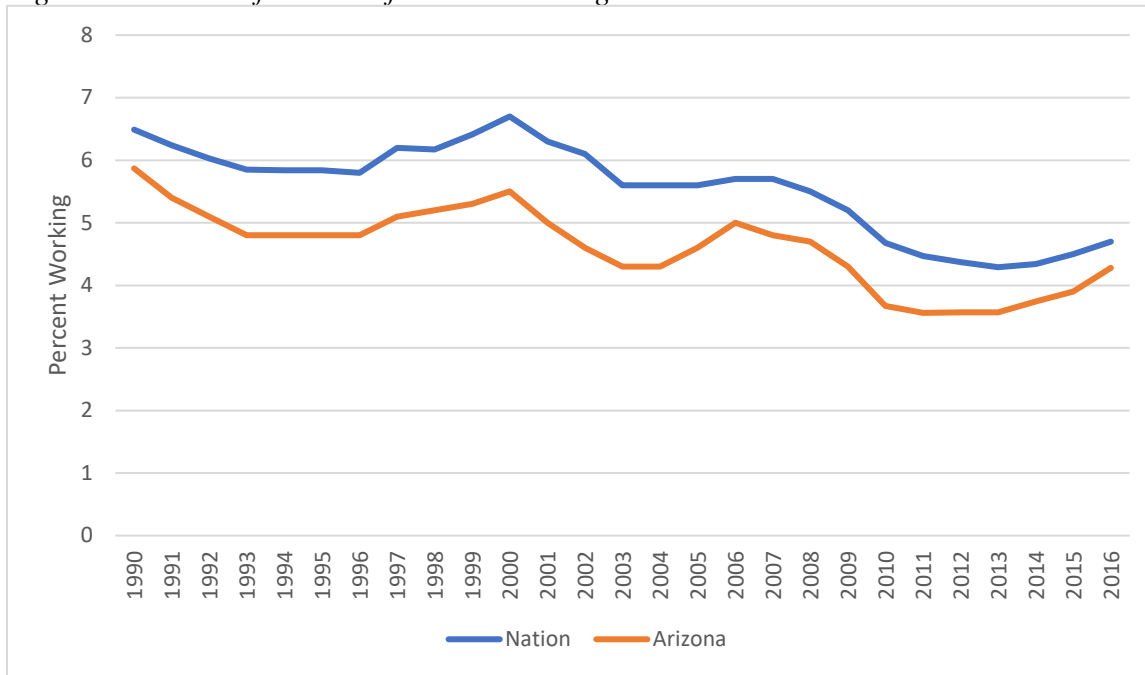


\*Source: Winsor et.al. (2018)

#### *Employment Participation and Use of Work Incentives by Supplemental Security Income Beneficiaries*

The number of individuals who receive SSI and work is small. The percentage of SSI recipients who work has generally declined over the past two decades (Figure 3). In Arizona 4.3% of SSI beneficiaries are employed. Use of work incentives remains a challenge in both Arizona and nationally. In federal fiscal year 2016 in Arizona, out of 103,394 individuals receiving SSI, 8 individuals had a PASS plan and 48 individuals used Impairment Related Working Expenses (Table 4).

Figure 3. Percent of SSI Beneficiaries Working\*



\*Source: Winsor et.al. (2018)

Table 2. SSI recipient employment participation and work incentive use in FY2016

	Arizona	Nation
Total SSI recipients with disabilities	103,394	7,166,244
Number of SSI recipients working	4,424	336,807
Percent of SSI recipients working	4.3%	4.7%
Number with a PASS plan	8	677
Number using Impairment Related Working Expenses	48	3,116

\*Source: Winsor et.al. (2018)

Winsor, J., Timmons, J., Butterworth, J., Migliore, A., Domin, D., Zalewska, A., & Shepard, J. (2018). StateData: The national report on employment services and outcomes. Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion.

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