



ADVANCING
DISABILITY INCLUSION
& WORKFORCE
INNOVATION

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

Careers and Business Relations News Brief

June 11, 2023



CSAVR Careers and *Business Relations News Briefs* is a regular series covering The National Employment Team (NET) activities, business relations initiatives, media stories, business research initiatives, webinars, reports, conferences, and employment activities of interest to the membership.

Announcements: June Observances

Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month: an opportunity to spread the word about Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Equal Pay Act: June 10th was the 60th Anniversary of the Equal Pay Act - [Equal Pay Act of 1963](#).
[\[lnks.gd\]](#)

National Flag Day June 14th: the anniversary of the U.S. adopting the official flag of the U.S.

Pride Month: an annual celebration of the many contributions made by the LGBTQ+ community to history, society and cultures worldwide. It is celebrated in the month of June in commemoration of the Stonewall Riots of June 1969.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. [National Items of Interest](#)
 2. [NET Update](#)
 3. [Articles and Events of Interest](#)
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NATIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Month-to-Month nTIDE Numbers (comparing April to May 2023): Based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [Jobs Report \[researchondisability.us2.list-manage.com\]](#) released today, the employment-to-population ratio for working-age people with disabilities (ages 16-64), increased from 35.6 percent in April 2023 to 36.9 percent in May 2023 (up 3.7 percent or 1.3 percentage points). For people without disabilities (ages 16-64), the employment-to-population ratio decreased from 75.1 percent in April 2023 to 75.0 in May 2023 (down 0.1 percent or 0.1 percentage points). *The employment-to-population ratio, a key indicator, reflects the percentage of people who are working relative to the total population (the number of people working divided by the number of people in the total population multiplied by 100).*

“After last month’s fairly large decline in the employment-to-population ratio for people with disabilities, in May we see a rebound in the percentage of people with disabilities who are employed,” reported Megan Henly, PhD, Project Director at the UNH-IOD. “This increase brings the percentage employed close to the previous high observed in December of last year.”

With regard to labor force participation, the labor force participation rate for people with disabilities (ages 16-64) increased from 38.3 percent in April 2023 to 40.2 percent in May 2023 (up 5 percent or 1.9 percentage points). For people without disabilities (ages 16-64), the labor

force participation rate also increased from 77.4 percent in April 2023 to 77.6 percent in May 2023 (up 0.3 percent or 0.2 percentage points). *The labor force participation rate reflects the percentage of people who are in the labor force (working, on temporary layoff, on furlough, or actively looking for work in the last four weeks) relative to the total population (the number of people in the labor force divided by the number of people in the total population multiplied by 100).*

“Consistent with the employment-to-population ratio, the labor force participation of people with disabilities also rebounded,” said [John O’Neill, PhD, \[researchondisability.us2.list-manage.com\]](#) director of the Center for Employment and Disability Research at Kessler Foundation. “Their participation remains strong in spite of the Federal Reserve continuing to raise rates to slow the economy and the looming Federal debt crisis,” he added.

In May, among workers ages 16-64, the 6,097,000 workers with disabilities represented 4.1 percent of the total 150,244,000 workers in the U.S.

Year-to-Year nTIDE Numbers (comparing May 2022 to May 2023): Compared to the same month last year, the labor force participation rate for people with disabilities (ages 16-64) increased from 37.2 percent in May 2022 to 40.2 percent in May 2023 (up 8.1 percent or 3.0 percentage points). For people without disabilities (ages 16-64), the labor force participation rate also increased from 77.2 percent in May 2022 to 77.6 percent in May 2023 (up 0.5 percent or 0.4 percentage points).

Regarding employment, the employment-to-population ratio for working-aged people with disabilities (ages 16-64) increased from 34.3 percent in May 2022 to 36.9 percent in May 2023 (up 7.6 percent or 2.6 percentage points). For working-aged people without disabilities, the employment-to-population ratio also increased from 74.7 percent in May 2022 to 75.0 percent in May 2023 (up 0.4 percent or 0.3 percentage points).

[5 things to know about the country's sizzling hot job market \[npr.org\]](#)

NET UPDATE

Dell Highlights: An interesting and insightful interview with Danielle, our partner at Dell!

[Neuro sighted: Seeing and Supporting Neurodiversity in the Workplace \[issuu.com\]](#) an Interview with Danielle Biddick at Dell

Missouri VRC – Thank You: Thank you to our NET Members and staff in Missouri for sharing this note from a VR Counselor and his customer --- connecting the work with business to Career outcomes for individual VR candidates:

Good afternoon Assistant Director Rutledge,

This past December you sent out an email message about a possible internship opportunity with DELL computers. After confirming with you that it was a paid internship, I encouraged one of the participants I work with to apply.

VR had helped her to earn an associate degree, but she had difficulty finding a job. She went on to work towards her 4-year degree in cyber-security. When I passed on the information you provided about the DELL internship, she applied and was accepted.

She expressed a lot of excitement and enthusiasm towards this position as she will be making \$27.70/hr. (significantly more than she has been making at her current job) and she will be doing the type of work for DELL that she would like to pursue once she has graduated and earned her bachelor's degree. She is also excited about the possibility that DELL may choose to hire her full time once she has earned her degree if she does well during the internship.

She was very appreciative and thanked me for passing on the information about the internship and encouraging her to apply. However, I'm thanking you because I would not have had time to know about the internship if you had not passed on the email to me. I also think it's important for VRC's to share the impact that others are having on the individuals we serve.

Thanks again from both of us!

Thomas Barhorst, VRC

Congratulations to our NET Partners at Sodexo! [Sodexo Listed by Forbes as a 2023 Best Employer for Diversity \[ow.ly\]](#)

VR Workforce Podcast: VR and Project SEARCH: [Join us on the VR Workforce Studio podcast \[bit.ly\]](#) for episode 116 as Betsy Civilette and Rick Sizemore interview Tom Wood and his family about their experience with Project SEARCH. Tom shares how he became involved in the program after high school and the valuable skills he acquired through internships at Winchester Medical Center. Tom's family discusses the transition from high school to adult life and the support they received. The podcast also features Martin Kurylowski, who highlights the broader impact and success stories of Project SEARCH. This inspiring story demonstrates the potential and personal growth individuals with disabilities can achieve through vocational rehabilitation programs. [Listen to the podcast link \[bit.ly\]](#) or find it on your favorite podcast app.

ARTICLES AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

[11 of Amazon's most helpful accessibility features, from Dialogue Boost to Show and Tell \[aboutamazon.com\]](#)

[Help us to Improve NCD.gov – Review the Beta Site \[beta.ncd.gov\]](#)

[DOJ – Accessibility at Post Secondary Institutions \[justice.gov\]](#)

[21 of the Best Films, Books, and Shows Spotlighting Experiences of Disability \[vogue.com\]](#)

[Amie Fornah Sankoh Makes History As First Black Deaf Woman To Earn A Doctorate In Stem \[www-blackenterprise-com.cdn.ampproject.org\]](#)

Blind Health Expo 2023: Friday, December 1 to Saturday, December 2. Save the date for Accessible Pharmacy's 2nd Annual Blind Health Expo! The Blind Health Expo is a completely virtual event and will be held on Friday, December 1 to Saturday, December 2. The Blind Health Expo is the world's largest virtual expo of healthcare information, products, services, and medication for individuals in the blind, low vision, and disability communities.

What to Expect:

FREE to attend and FREE to exhibit.

2-Day Event

Vision Healthcare Awards - nominations open mid-July.

Hundreds of exhibitors

Thousands of attendees

[Click Here to Learn More About the 2023 Expo \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kathy or Inger.