

July 2021 Current Population Survey (CPS) Disability Supplement

Division of Labor Force Statistics

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CPS Disability Data

- Disability questions were added to the Current Population Survey (CPS) in June 2008, and data by disability status have been published monthly since February 2009.
- Disability data were added to the Employment Situation news release with the publication of January 2010 data.
- These data are directly comparable with other employment data from the CPS, although data are not seasonally adjusted.



CPS Disability Supplement (1 of 3)

- The disability supplement was conducted twice before, in May 2012 and July 2019.
- The goal of the supplement is to collect data that will increase our understanding of the labor market challenges facing persons with a disability.
- Such data are necessary to improve policies and programs designed to help those with a disability.



CPS Disability Supplement (2 of 3)

- With the aforementioned goal in mind, the disability supplement was designed to gather data in specific areas related to the employment of persons with disabilities and to:
 - ▶ Learn more about the low labor force participation rates for persons with disabilities
 - ▶ Better understand the use of and satisfaction with current programs designed to prepare persons with disabilities for employment



CPS Disability Supplement (3 of 3)

- ▶ Learn more about the work history of persons with disabilities
- ▶ Identify the different types of barriers to employment persons with disabilities experience
- ▶ Determine the types of workplace accommodations that assist persons with disabilities
- ▶ Measure the use of financial assistance programs among those with disabilities and whether these programs affect the likelihood of working



Labor force concepts measured by the CPS

- **EMPLOYED:** persons who did any work for pay or profit, or who were temporarily absent from their jobs.
- **UNEMPLOYED:** persons who are not employed, are available for work, and have actively searched for a job in the past 4 weeks or are on temporary layoff.
- **NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE:** persons who are neither employed nor unemployed.



Not employed persons

- A large portion of those with a disability are not employed.
- This includes both unemployed persons as well as those who are not in the labor force.
- Some supplement questions were asked of this combined group; this presentation will refer to this group as **NOT EMPLOYED**.



Persons With A Disability: Barriers To Employment, Types of Assistance, And Other Labor-Related Issues— July 2021

NEWS RELEASE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT, TYPES OF ASSISTANCE, AND OTHER LABOR-RELATED ISSUES — JULY 2021

In July 2021, 43.7 percent of persons with a disability who were not working reported some type of barrier to employment, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was down from 47.5 percent in July 2019, the last time the supplement was conducted. A person's own disability, lack of education or training, the need for special features at the job, and lack of transportation were among the barriers reported. Among persons with a disability who were employed, over half experienced some difficulty completing their work duties because of their disability.

This information was obtained from a supplement to the July 2021 Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that provides statistics on employment and unemployment in the United States. The July 2021 supplement, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Chief Evaluation Office, collected information about barriers to employment, prior work experience, career and financial assistance, requested changes to the workplace, and related topics for persons with a disability. This supplement was conducted twice before, in May 2012 and July 2019. Data in this news release reflect the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the labor market. For more information about the disability supplement, see the Technical Note.

Selected Characteristics of Persons with a Disability

In July 2021, 32.2 million persons in the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over had a disability. Persons with a disability tend to be older than those with no disability, reflecting the increased incidence of disability with age. In July 2021, 49.6 percent of persons with a disability were age 65 and over, compared with 17.5 percent of those with no disability. (See table 1.)

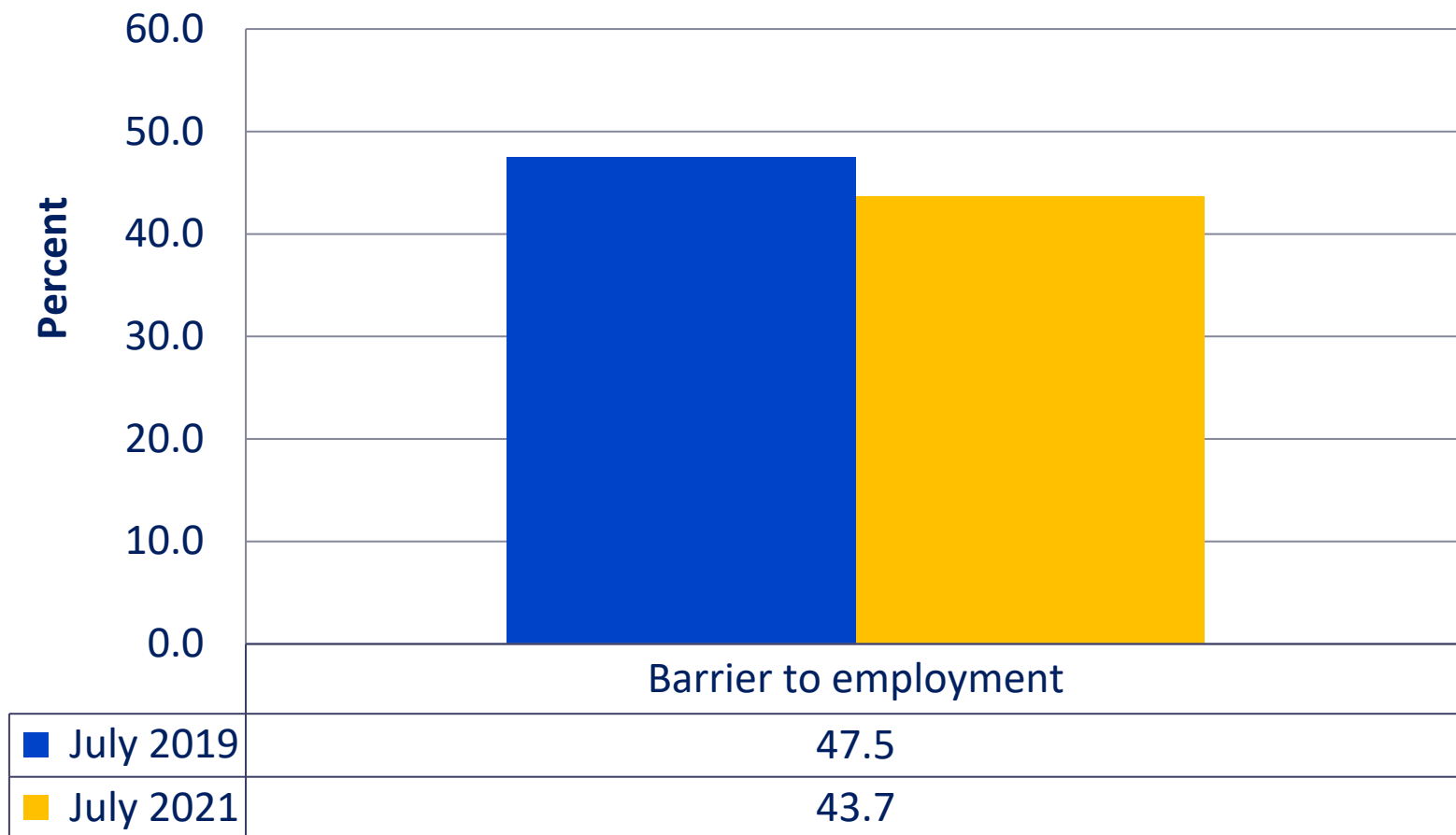
Women made up a greater proportion of persons with a disability than men in July 2021 (53.8 percent, compared with 46.2 percent), partly reflecting the greater life expectancy of women.

By educational attainment, 21.1 percent of persons age 25 and over with a disability had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 41.0 percent for persons with no disability.

In July 2021, 19.4 percent of persons with a disability were employed, which was less than one-third of the employment-population ratio for persons with no disability (64.9 percent). In part, this reflects the older age profile of persons with a disability. However, the employment-population ratio was much lower among persons with a disability for all age groups.



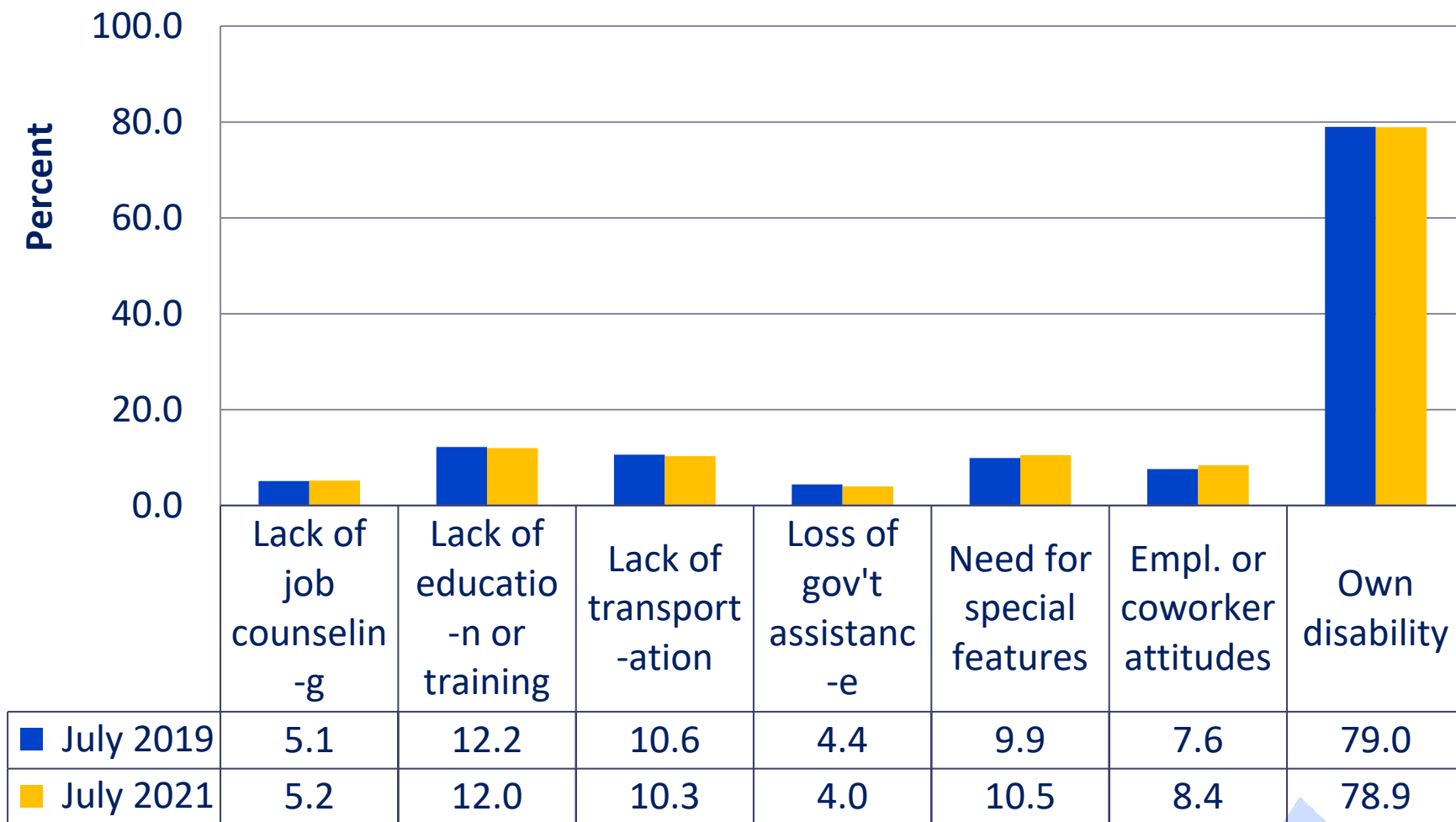
Persons with a disability who were not employed with a barrier to employment



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



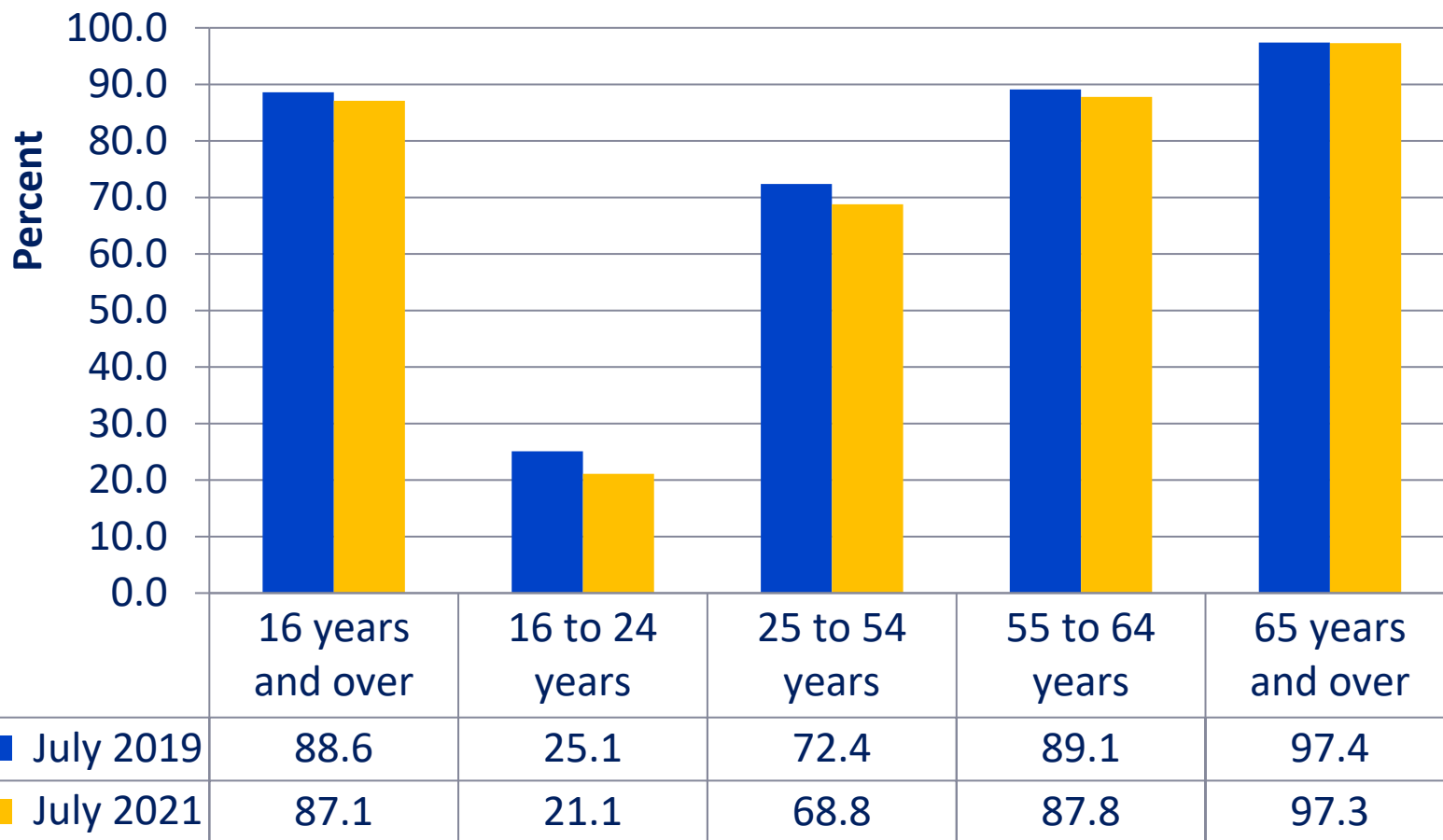
Persons with a disability who were not employed by type of barrier to employment



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



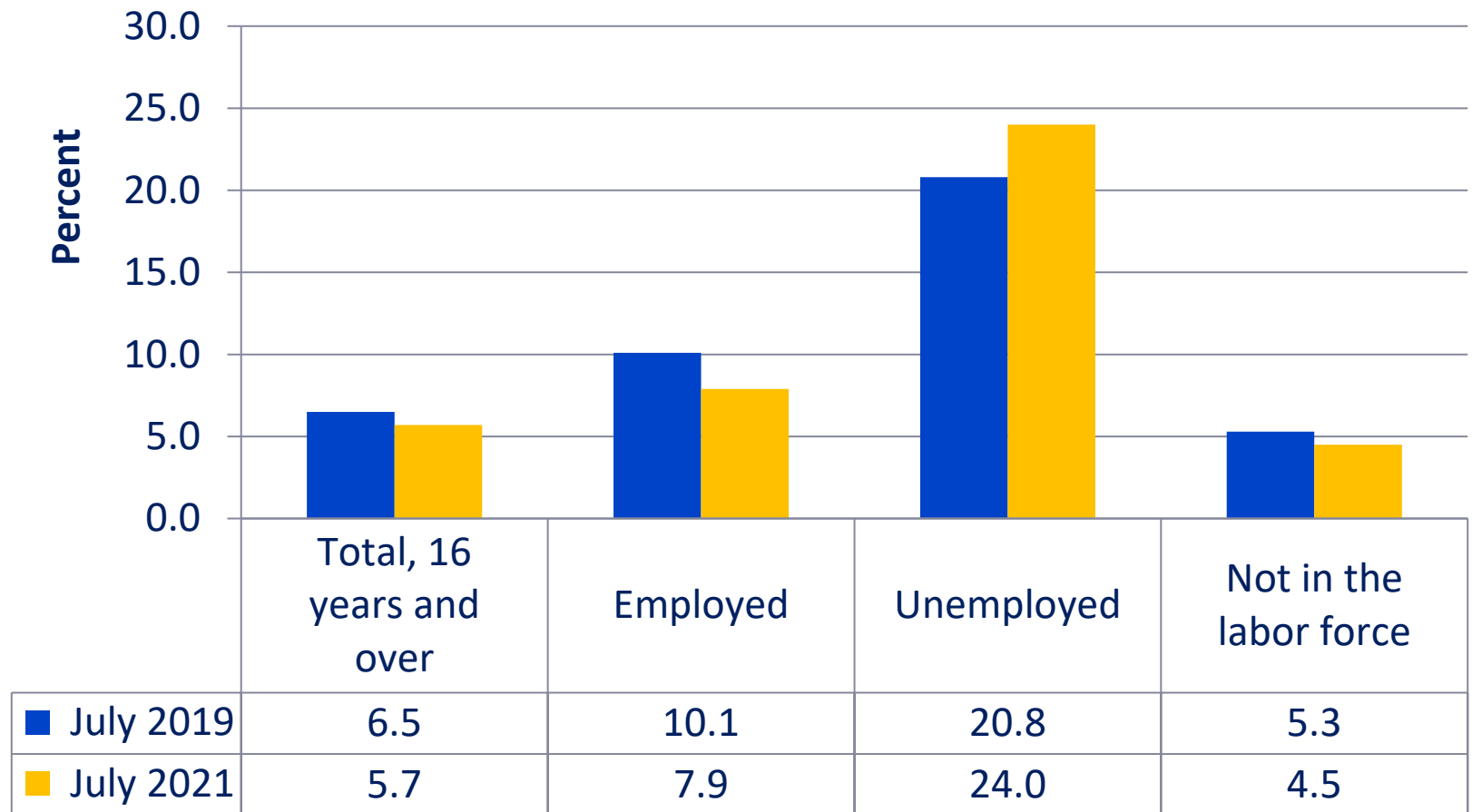
Persons with a disability who were not in the labor force, but had worked before



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



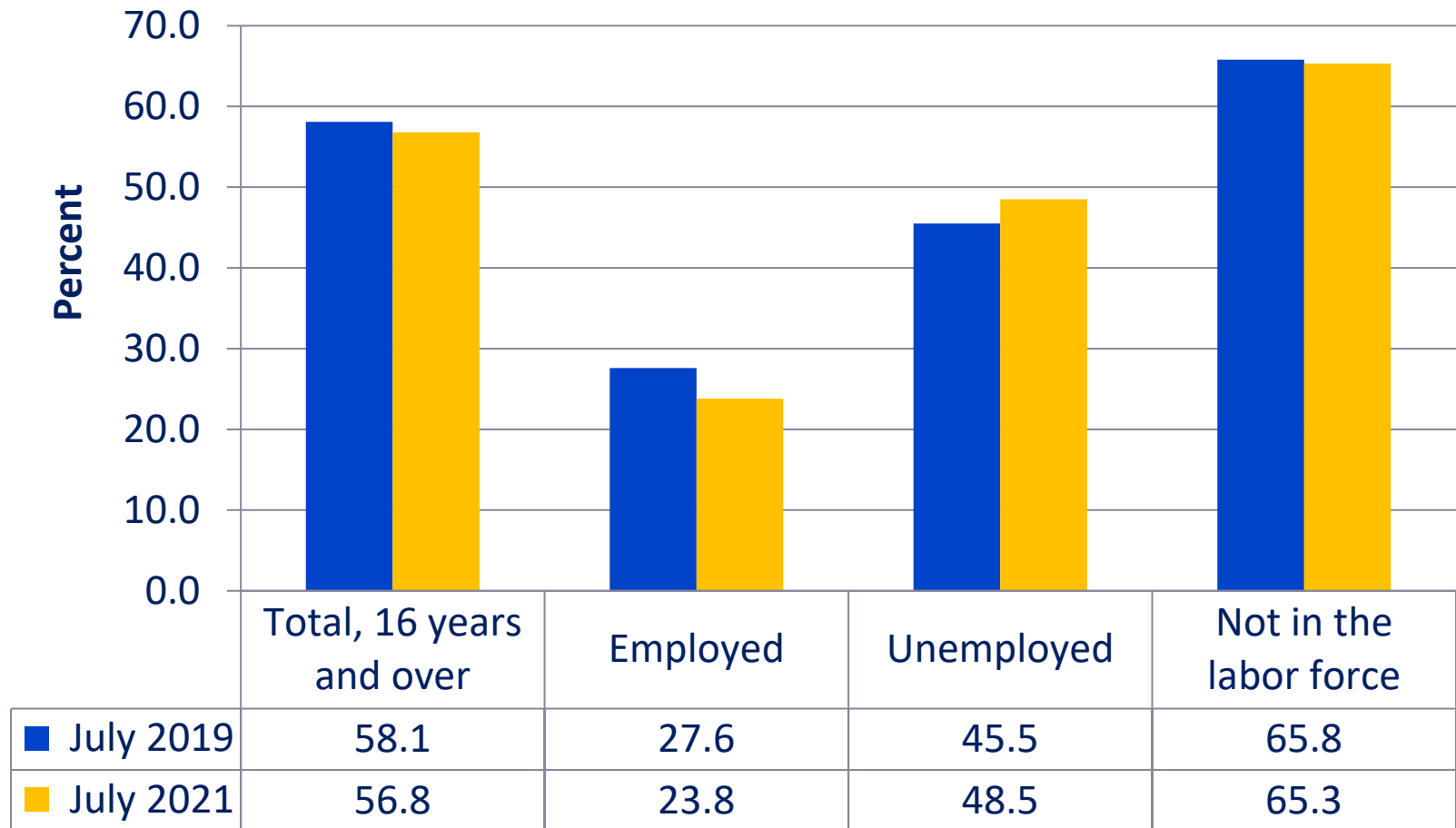
Persons with a disability who received career assistance by employment status



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



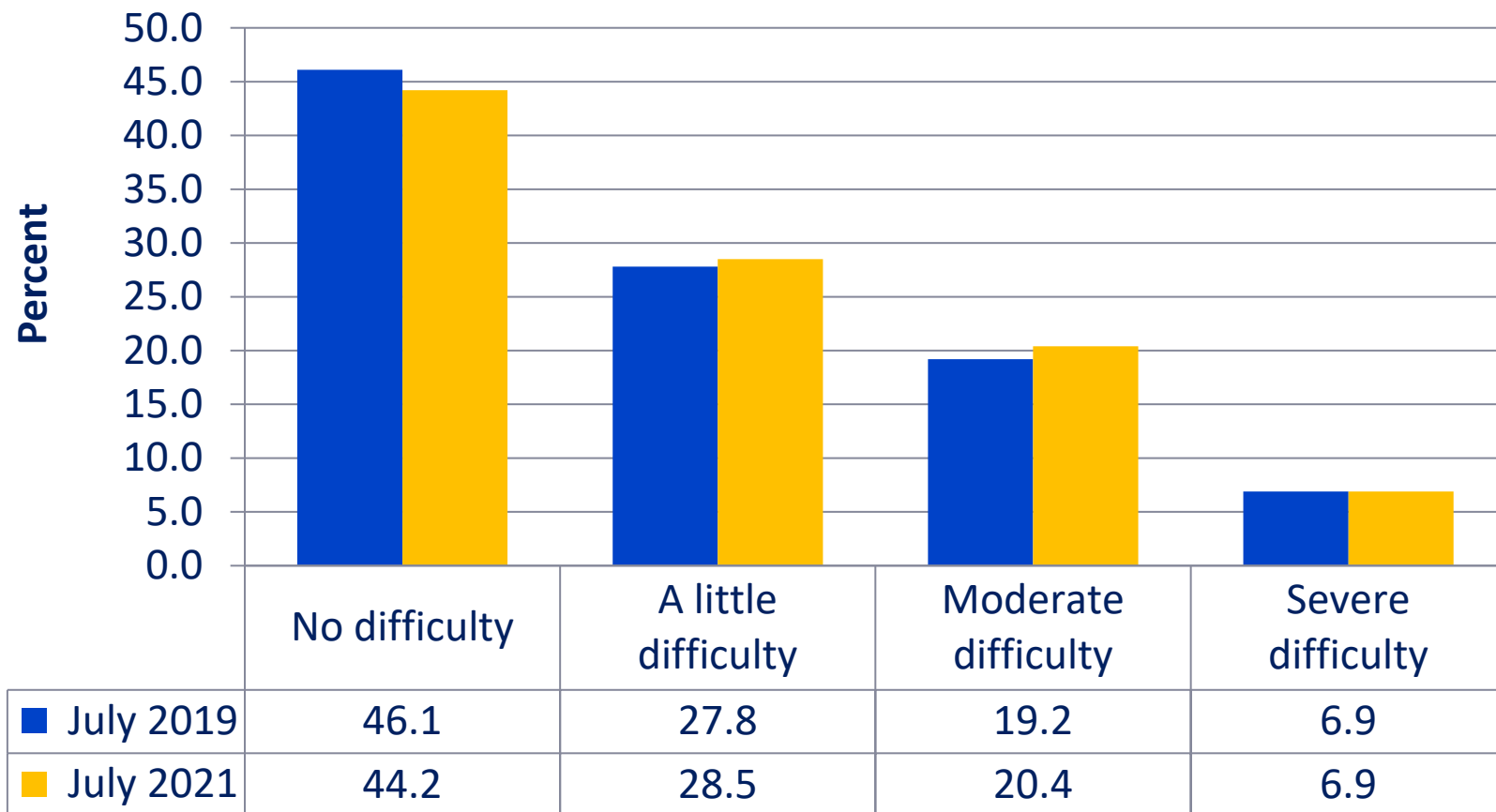
Persons with a disability who received financial assistance by employment status



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



Employed persons with a disability by level of disability-related difficulty with work duties



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



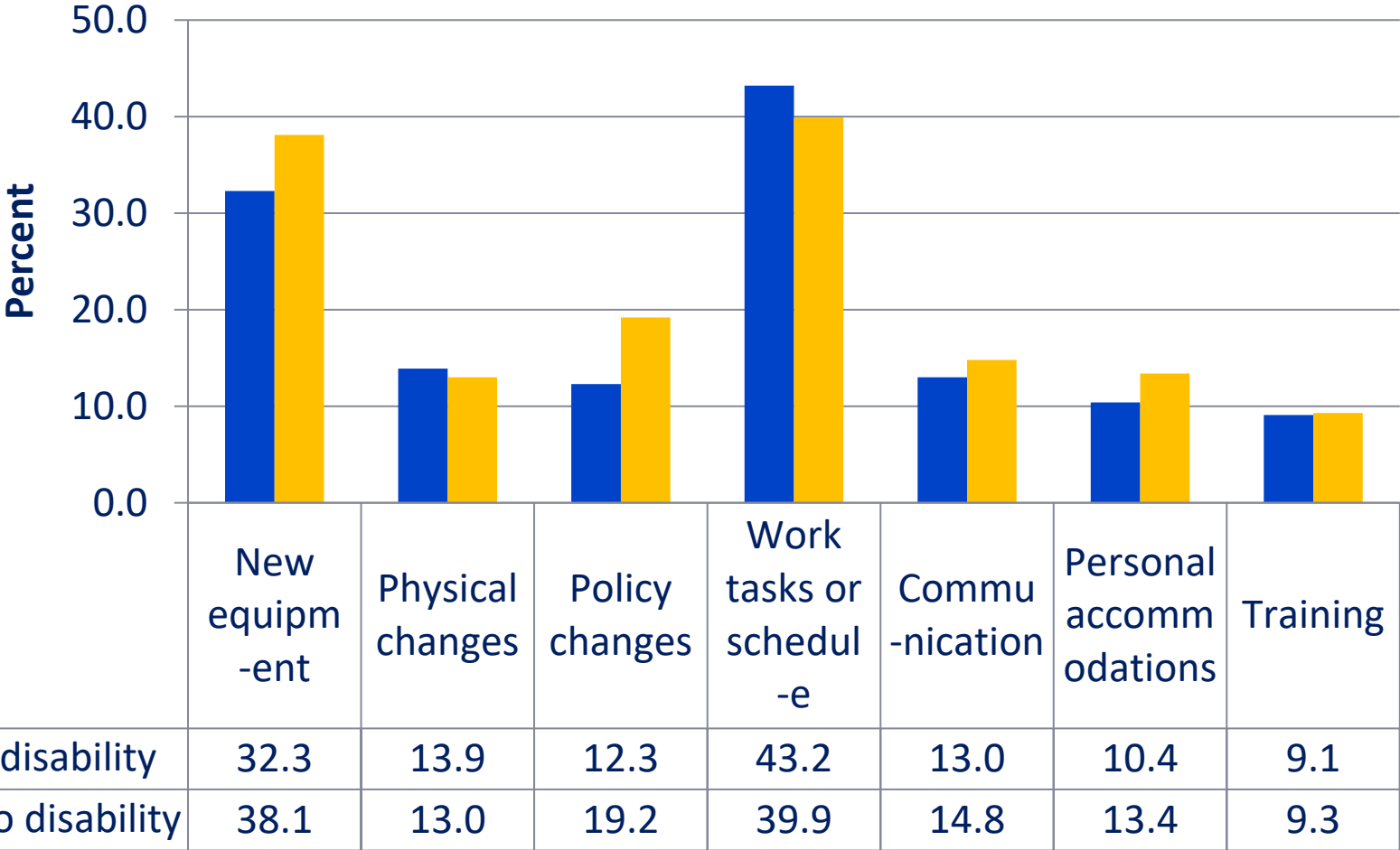
Employed persons who requested a change in workplace by disability status, July 2021



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



Employed persons who requested a change in workplace by disability status and type of workplace change requested, July 2021



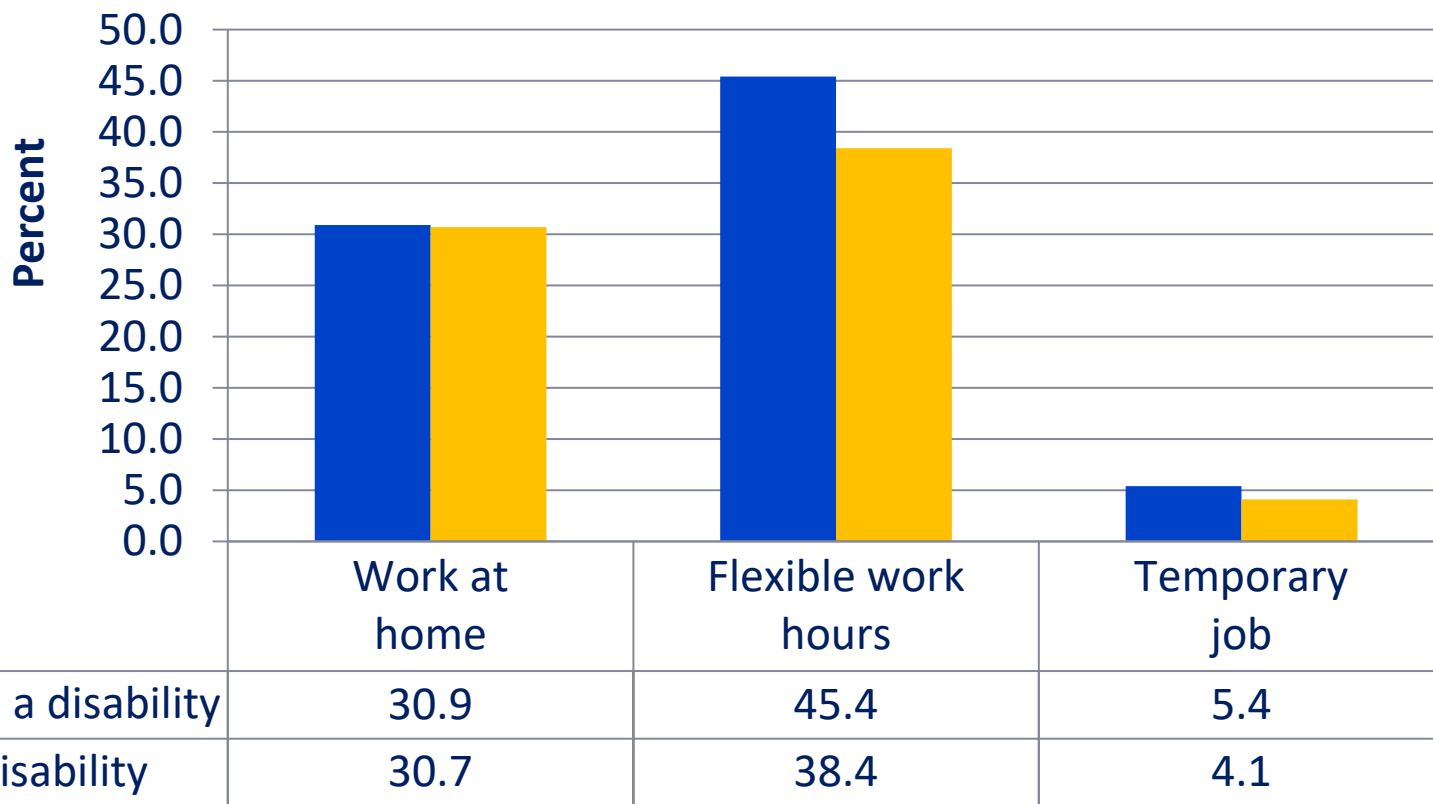
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



Commuting method of employed persons by disability status

- Most employed persons commuted to work using their own vehicle, regardless of disability status.
 - ▶ 73 percent of persons with a disability
 - ▶ 78 percent of persons with no disability
- A similar proportion of those with disabilities and those with no disabilities commuted using a bus or train.

Work at home, flexible hours, temporary jobs by disability status, July 2021



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



CPS Disability data online

- [Persons With A Disability: Barriers To Employment, Types of Assistance, And Other Labor-Related Issues—July 2021](#)
- [More on Disability](#)
 - ▶ Monthly data
 - ▶ Annual news release
 - ▶ Special publications
 - ▶ Charts
 - ▶ Articles

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