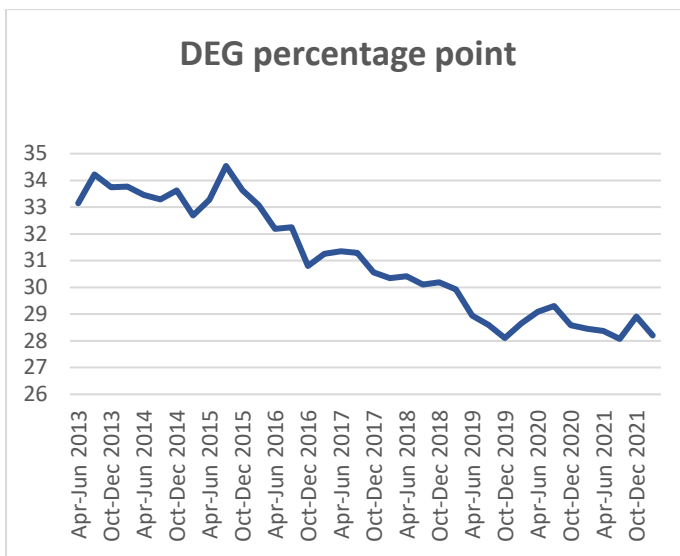
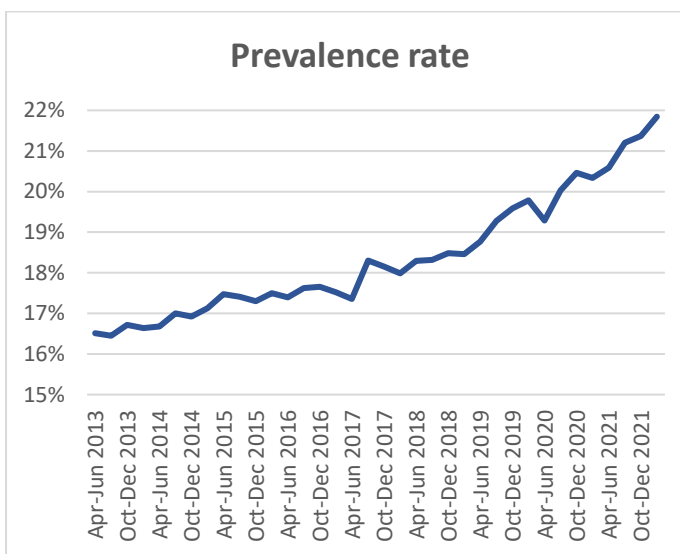


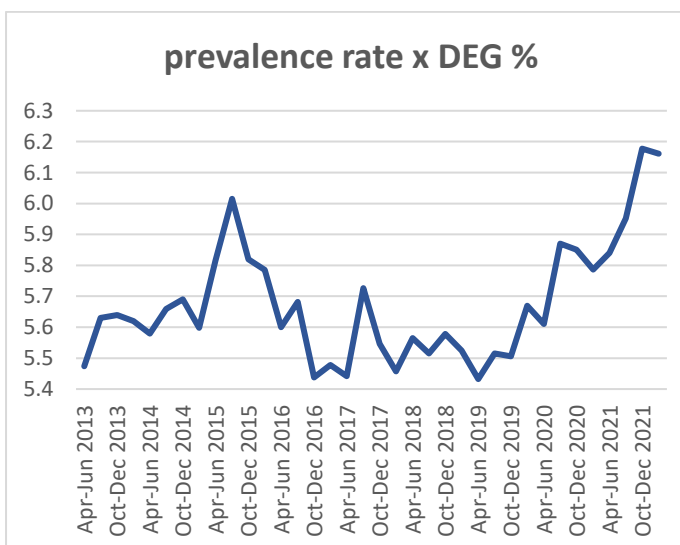
Measuring disability employment disadvantage 2013-2022



The disability employment gap (DEG) is the percentage point difference in the employment rate between non-disabled and disabled people. Its decrease was targeted between 2015 and 2017 and from 2020. The trend has been downwards from 33 to 28 percentage points (a 15% fall). It has not fallen since the fourth quarter of 2019.



The disability prevalence rate is the percentage of working-age people (16-64) who report that they are disabled according to the harmonised definition (based on the Equality Act definition) of a long-term condition which is activity-limiting. It has increased from 16.5% to 21.4% 2013-2021, a 30% increase overall and an annual average increase of 7.5%. Unless caused by an increase in functional impairment (unlikely outside war time or a pandemic), increasing disability prevalence changes the compositional mix of the disabled population towards less severe activity-limitation and greater proximity to employment. This compositional change works to reduce the DEG without any impact on underlying disability disadvantage.



The prevalence-adjusted DEG, or the proportion of the working-age population prevented from working by disability (PWD), is a composite measure which seeks to take account of the impact of a substantial increase in disability prevalence (see panel above) on the DEG. This confounds the use of the DEG as a measure of disability disadvantage. The prevalence-adjusted DEG was stable at an average of 5.6% until the third quarter of 2019 after which it has increased to 6.2%, an 11% increase. The sharp increase from the third quarter of 2020 suggests that some increase in functional impairment or activity-limitation lies behind the stalling in the downward DEG during the pandemic years.