

Introducing the Commission for Healthier Working Lives



Commission for Healthier
Working Lives



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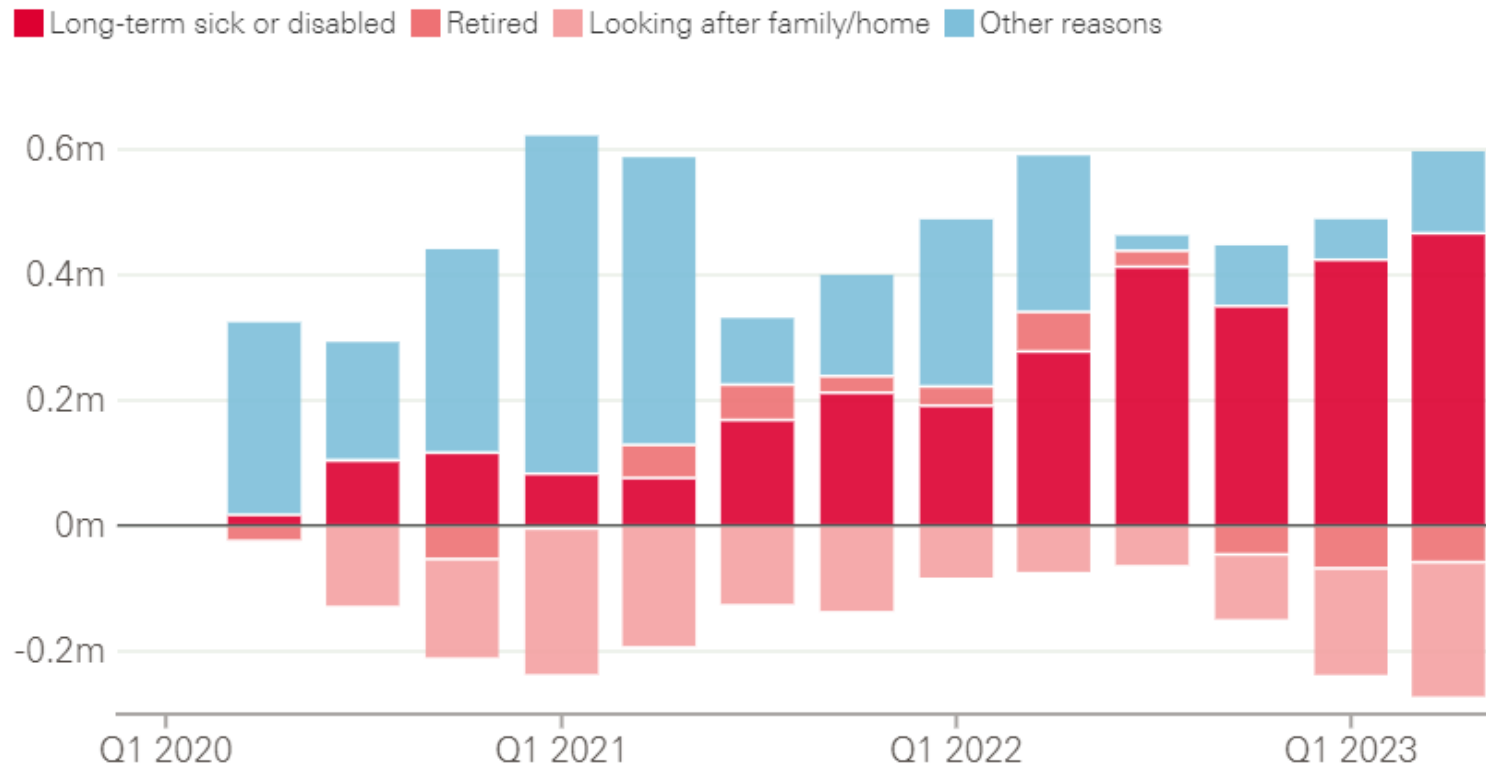


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People with ill health have made up most of the increase in labour market inactivity since 2020

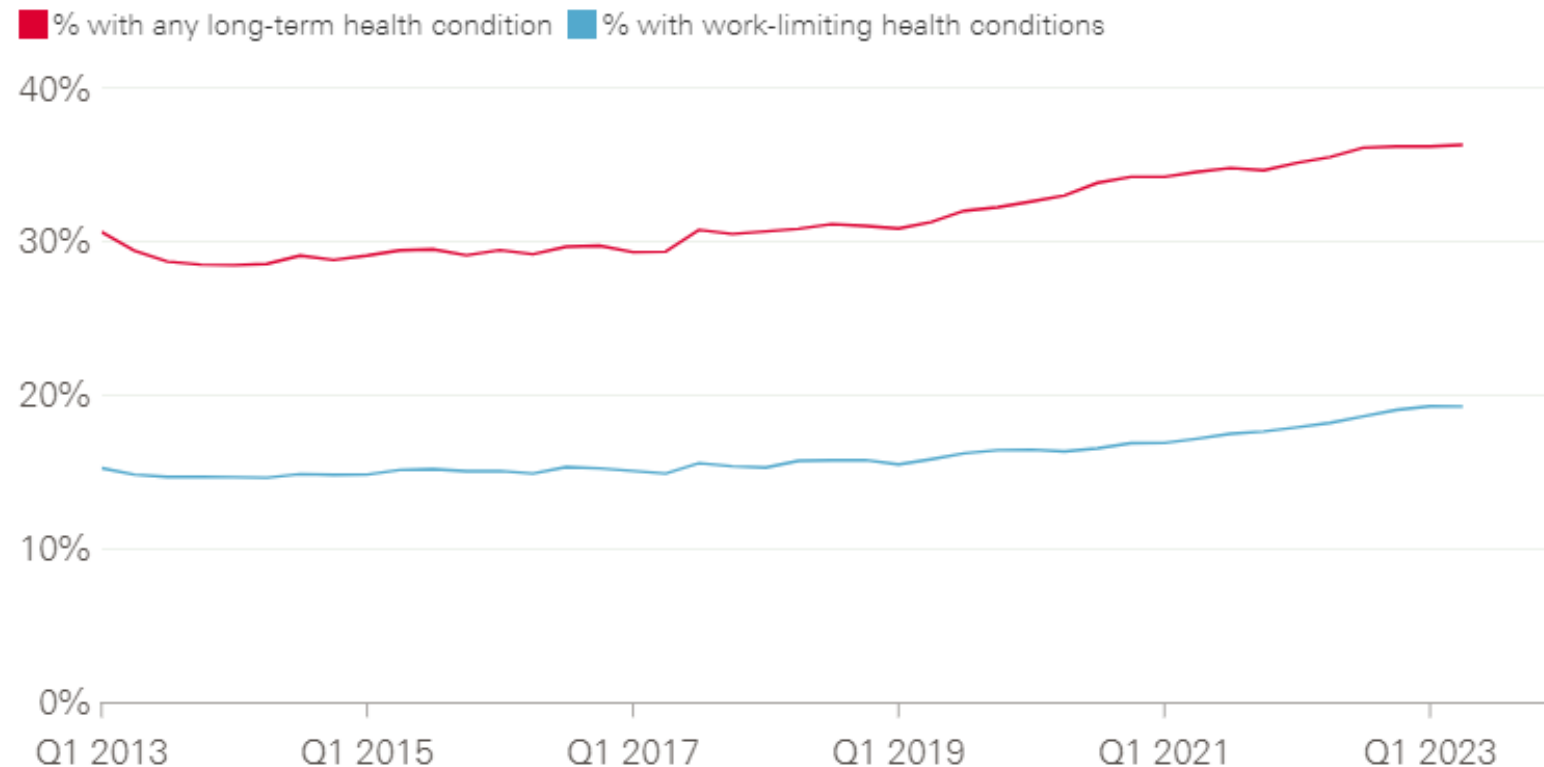
Net change in working age population (16–64 years) who are economically inactive by reason since quarter 1 2020: UK, 2020–23



Source: Health Foundation analysis of the Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2023. Note: Q1 refers to the first quarter (January to March) of each calendar year.

This reflects a longer-term increase in reported health conditions among the working-age population...

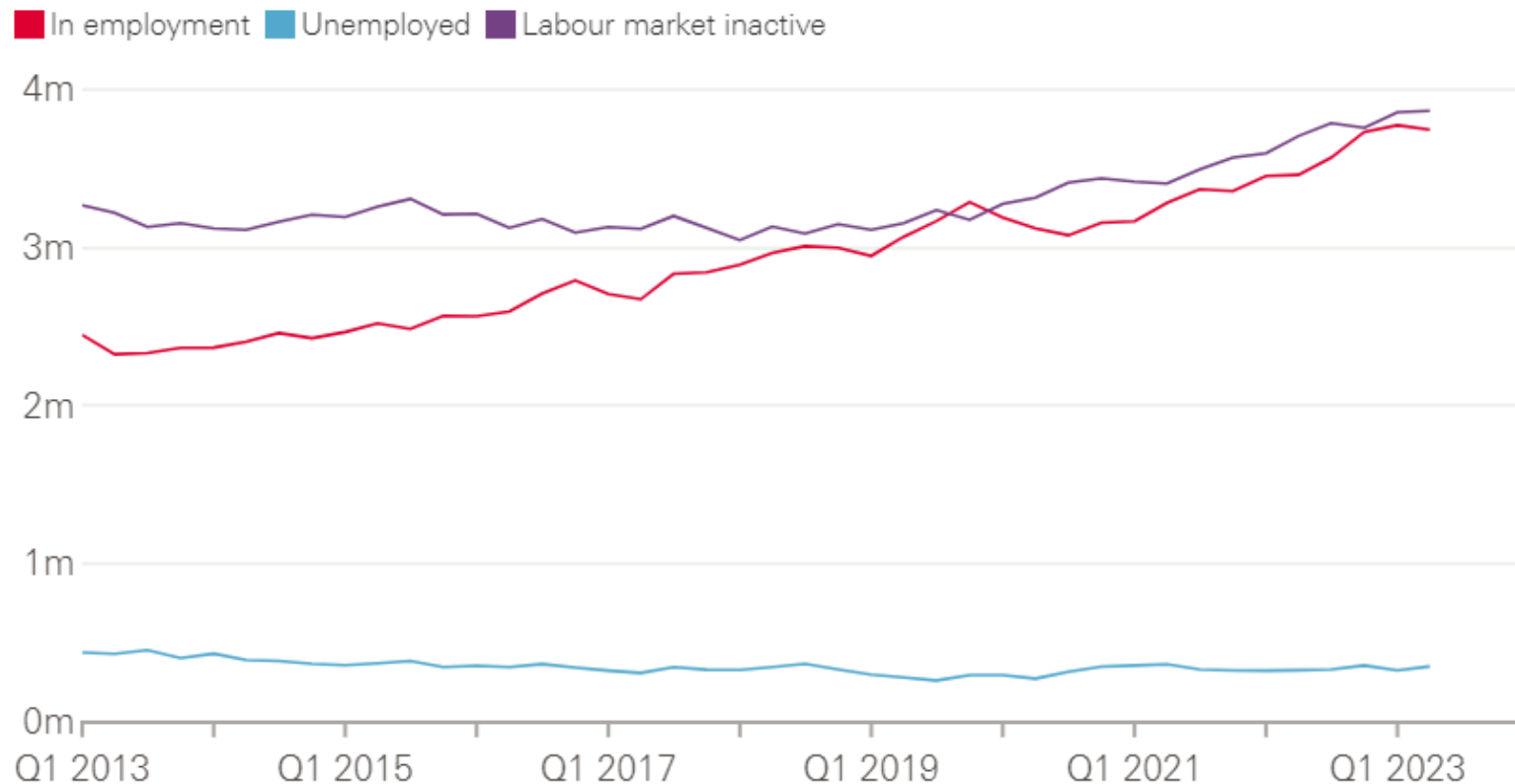
Proportion of working-age (16–64 years) population with long-term health conditions: UK, 2013–23



- Increases across age groups, particularly among younger people
- MSK and mental health are the leading conditions

... which has implications for people in employment as well as those out of work

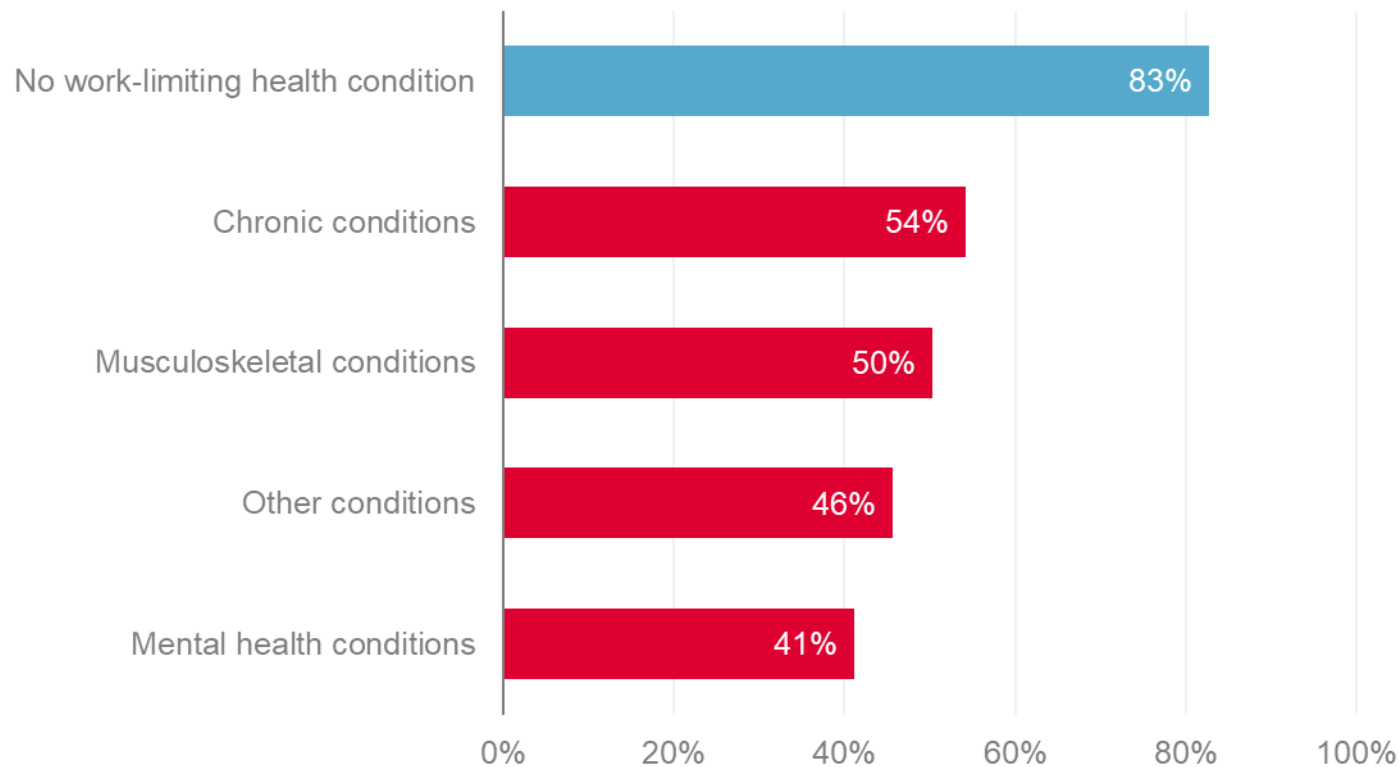
Number of people with work-limiting health conditions by headline labour market status: UK, 2013–23



Source: Health Foundation analysis of the Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2023. Note: Q1 refers to the first quarter (January to March) of each calendar year.

Despite some improvement, there is a persistent health employment gap, with variation by type of condition

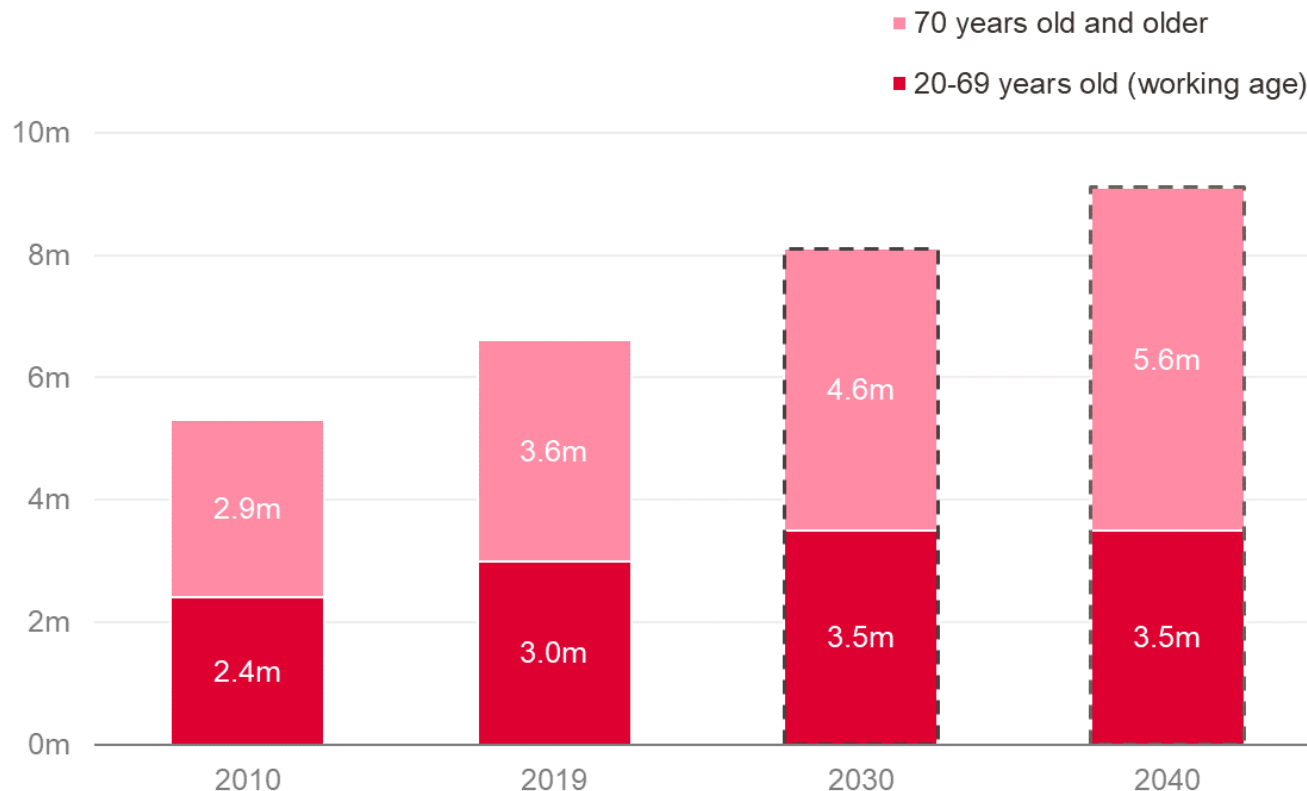
Employment rate by (main) work-limiting health condition
(% aged 16-64): UK, quarter 2 2023



- 36 percentage point headline employment gap in 2023
- Widest gap is still for people with **mental ill health**

Longer term, we project that there will be 0.5 million more working-age people living with major illness by 2030

The estimated number of people living with major illness in England, past and projected, 2010-2040



- 3.5 million with major illness (38%) in 2040 will be aged 20-69, **up by 500,000**
- Further challenges in the context of an ageing population



What is the Commission for Healthier Working Lives?

- Chaired by Sacha Romanovitch OBE
- A diverse group of commissioners – including employers, workers, and health and policy experts
- Supported by:
 - An expert advisory group and THF secretariat
 - A research programme led by the Learning and Work Institute, Institute for Employment Studies, and Royal Society of Public Health
 - A public involvement programme led by ClearView Research



What will the Commission do?

- Produce and share new evidence on work and health, with a focus on inequalities between people and places
- Build a consensus on our working-age health challenges, and the action needed by government, employers, and individuals to address them
- Make policy recommendations based on an understanding of what works and the costs and benefits of change, reporting in Spring 2025



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We want to build consensus, but we know we can't do that alone

Get involved

- Sign up for email updates at: www.health.org.uk/commission-for-healthier-working-lives
- Email us at: commission.secretariat@health.org.uk
- Follow The Health Foundation on X (Twitter) and LinkedIn for updates.

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