People with Disabilities and the Economic Impact of Autonomous Vehicles

These findings are the results of an analysis that measures the projected U.S. economic and fiscal impact of the adoption and use of fully autonomous vehicles (AVs) by people with disabilities. The analysis is based on the estimated increase in labor force participation among the disability population, as well as indirect job growth from that participation, stemming from the adoption of AVs.

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION**

In 2021, persons with a disability 16 years and over, had a notable lower workforce participation rate and nearly double the unemployment rate.

The data displayed in this infographic assumes that an AV is a motor vehicle that would allow anyone to travel freely, regardless of the individual’s ability to own a driver’s license or the severity of their disability. The vehicle performs all driving tasks under all conditions, with zero rider attention or interaction required.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT & JOB CREATION**

(All economic impact results reflect Moderate Scenario Year 0)

The adoption of AVs for people with disabilities would have a positive impact on the following indicators:

- **Economic Output**: $1.6t (5.7%)
- **Employment**: 9.1m (4.1%)
- **GDP**: $867b (3.8%)
- **Income**: $416b (2.0%)
- **Fed. Tax Revenue**: $92b (1.9%)

Adoption of AVs would increase Federal Savings under the following scenario:

A moderate employment scenario where there is a 13.5% reduction of unemployed persons with a disability could lead to a reduction of federal spending of $27.8 billion.

In turn, the federal net revenue/savings (tax revenue + savings in SSI and SSDI) is estimated to be approximately $120.7 billion.

Adoption of AVs would bring over $90 billion in federal tax revenue from the following sources:

- **Other revenue sources**
  - $17.3b: Social Ins. Tax—Employer
  - $21.3b: Social Ins. Tax—Employee
  - $40.5b: Personal Income Tax

**Total Federal Tax Revenue**: $92.9b

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Source: Economic Impacts of Removing Transportation Barriers to Employment for Disabled Individuals Through Autonomous Vehicle Adoption (Dec. 2022).