

March 2012

The Employment Situation of Veterans: 2011

Analysis of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Report

On March 20, 2012, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the annual report on the employment situation of veterans for 2011. Data from this report are from the Current Population Survey (CPS) 2011 annual averages, which is taken from the month-to-month unemployment rate published monthly by the BLS. This release also includes additional characteristics, such as those who served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, and those with service-connected disability (from a supplement to the CPS collected in August 2011). Overall, the unemployment rate for veterans in 2011 was 8.3%, which is down from 8.7% in 2010. The unemployment rate for Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) veterans was at 12.1 % in 2011, which is up from 11.5% in 2010. The unemployment rate for those that served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both, was at 11.6% (down from 14.3% in 2010). These rates are not statistically different from the Gulf War era II veterans that served elsewhere (8.6% in 2011 and 11.4% in 2010).

There is not significant variation between the 2011 and 2010 employment situation of veterans, with the exception of the Gulf War era II veterans between the ages of 18-24. The only population which had an overall increase in unemployment was Gulf War era II veterans. Specifically, female veterans ages 18-24 fared worst, followed closely by 18-24 year-old men. Female Gulf War era II veterans ages 25 and over showed a decrease in unemployment rates from 2010 to 2011, while males between the ages of 45-54 showed a decrease from 2010 to 2011. The unemployment rate for 18-24 year-old Gulf War era II veterans was at 30.2%, which is up from 20.9% in 2010 (a 9.3% increase). Young male Gulf War era II veterans had an unemployment rate of 29.1%, up from 21.9% in 2010 (a 7.2% increase). This rate is much higher than the 18-24 year-old nonveteran male rate, which was at 17.6% (an 11.5% difference). Young female Gulf War era II veterans had an unemployment rate of 36.1%, up from 15.3% in 2010 (a 20.8% increase). This rate is more than double the rate of 18-24 year-old nonveteran females, which was at 14.5% (a 21.6% difference).

We compared the overall unemployment rate trend for Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans from January 2006 to February 2012. Over this six-year period, the overall trend in unemployment is slightly upward for both Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans. There have been many variations in the month-to-month changes between unemployment rates especially for the Gulf War era II veterans, however the general tendency is for the unemployment rate of veterans to be higher than nonveterans. Female Gulf War era II veterans, especially, have experienced high unemployment rates in individual months during this six-year period and have a much higher unemployment rate, and steeper increasing trend than female nonveterans.

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans (population 18 and over) in America, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data released on March 20, 2012. These are published data from the CPS, annual averages (not seasonally adjusted), and represent the period 2011 and 2010. The figures summarize the month-to-month annual averages from January 2006 to February 2012.

NOTE: Population is 18 and over; Gulf War era II (September 2001-present), Gulf War era I (August 1990-August 2001), Vietnam era (August 1964-April 1975), Korean War (July 1950-January 1955), World War II (December 1941-December 1946), and other service periods (all other time periods). Veterans who served in more than one wartime period are classified only in the most recent one. Veterans who served during one of the selected wartime periods and another period are classified only in the wartime period. (1) Rates are not shown where base is less than 35,000

TABLE 1: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR ALL VETERANS, 2010-2011

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR:	2010	2011	CHANGE
All Americans	9.4	8.7	-0.7
All Veterans	8.7	8.3	-0.4
Gulf War era II Veterans	11.5	12.1	0.6
Gulf War era I Veterans	7.7	7.0	-0.7
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	8.3	7.6	-0.7
Other Service Periods	8.4	8.0	-0.4
All Nonveterans	9.4	8.7	-0.7

In Table 1, the differences between 2010 and 2011 are small for all veterans and nonveterans.

TABLE 2: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS AND NONVETERANS BY AGE, GENDER, AND RACE, 2011

2011 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR:	GULF WAR ERA II	NONVETERANS	DIFFERENCE
18-24	30.2	16.1	↑ 14.1
25-34	13.0	9.3	3.7
35-44	6.0	7.3	-1.3
45-54	4.1	7.0	-2.9
55-64	7.8	6.5	1.3
65 years and older	-	6.4	-
Male	12.0	9.3	2.7
Female	12.4	8.2	4.2
White	11.4	7.7	3.7
African-American	14.3	15.8	-1.5
Asian	7.1	7.0	0.1
Hispanic	17.0	11.2	5.8

In Table 2, the number of 18-24 year-old unemployed Gulf War era II veterans is much higher than nonveterans (14.1% difference). Also, the number of Hispanic Gulf War era II veterans is higher than Hispanic nonveterans (almost a 6% difference).

FIGURE 1: MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS AND NONVETERANS, 2006-2012

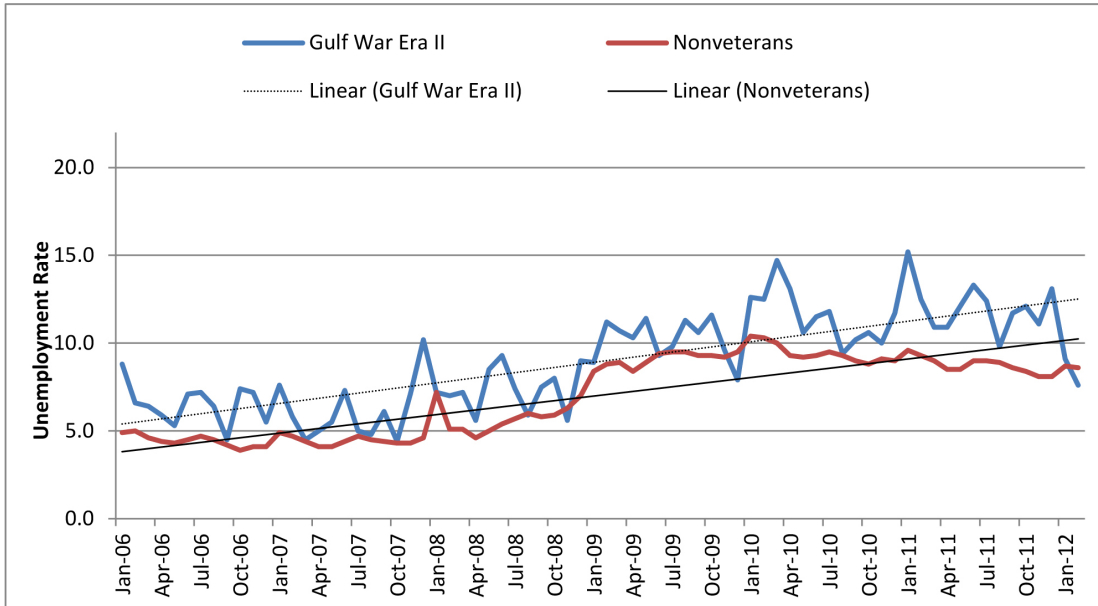


Figure 1 displays the month-to-month unemployment rates for Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans from January 2006 to February 2012. The trend for both the Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans is similar and has slowly increased since 2006.

FIGURE 2 - MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MALE GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS AND NONVETERANS, 2006-2012

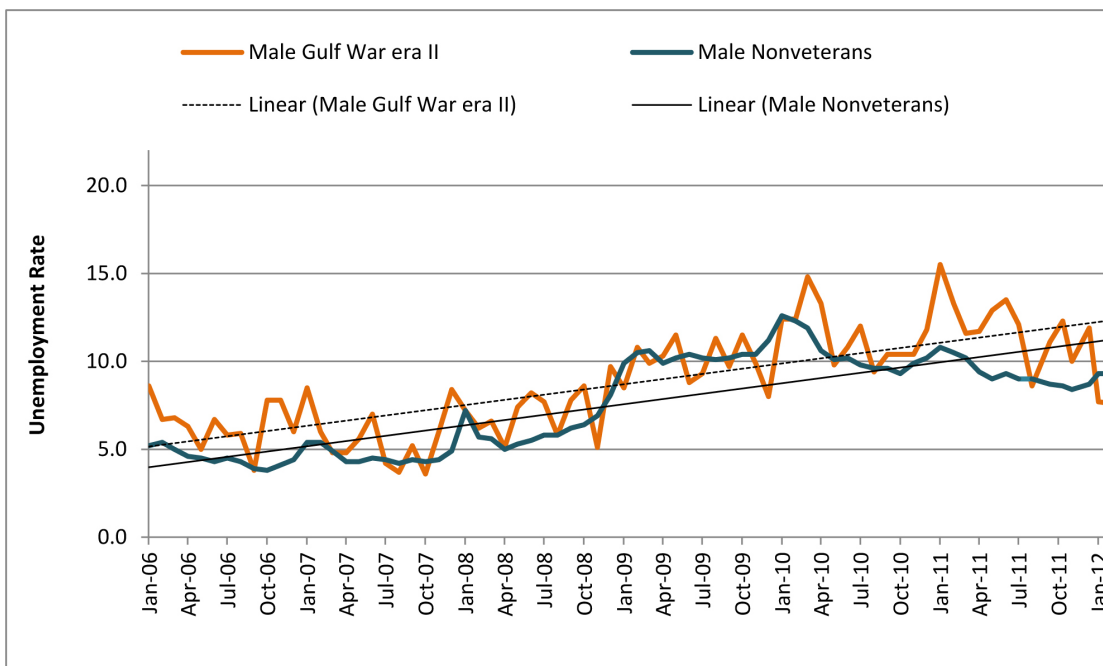


Figure 2 displays the month-to-month unemployment rates for male Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans from January 2006 to February 2012. The trend for both male Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans is similar and has slowly increased since 2006.

FIGURE 3: MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR FEMALE GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS AND NONVETERANS, 2006-2012

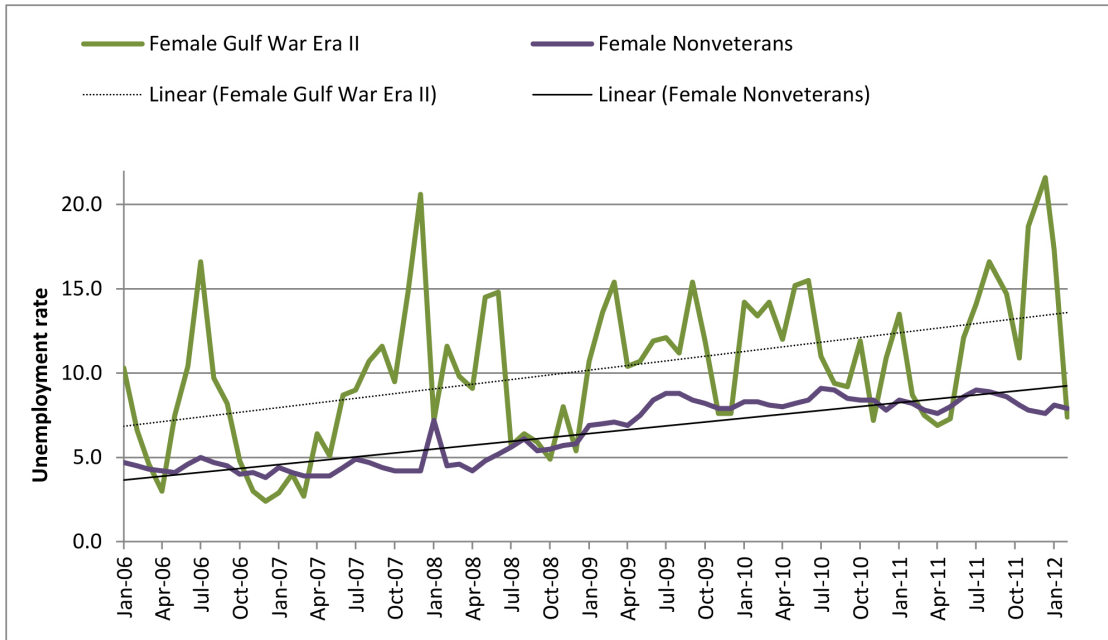


Figure 3 displays the month-to-month unemployment rates for female Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans from January 2006 to February 2012. The trend for both female Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans is similar and has slowly increased since 2006. The female Gulf War era II veteran trend, however, has a slightly higher increase and is much higher compared to female nonveterans.

TABLE 3 – UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS AND NONVETERANS BY AGE, GENDER, AND RACE, 2010- 2011

GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS			
Unemployment Rate For:	2010	2011	Change
18–24	20.9	30.2	↑ 9.3
25–34	13.1	13.0	-0.1
35–44	6.0	6.0	0.0
45–54	6.3	4.1	-2.2
55–64	5.7	7.8	2.1
65 years and older	-	-	-
Male	11.4	12.0	0.6
Female	12.0	12.4	0.4
White	10.7	11.4	0.7
African-American	14.7	14.3	-0.4
Asian	6.1	7.1	1.0
Hispanic	14.0	17.0	3.0

NONVETERANS			
Unemployment Rate For:	2010	2011	Change
18–24	17.3	16.1	-1.2
25–34	10.0	9.3	-0.7
35–44	8.2	7.3	-0.9
45–54	7.6	7.0	-0.6
55–64	7.0	6.5	-0.5
65 years and older	6.5	6.4	-0.1
Male	10.5	9.3	-1.2
Female	8.4	8.2	-0.2
White	8.5	7.7	-0.8
African-American	15.8	15.8	0.0
Asian	7.4	7.0	-0.4
Hispanic	12.3	11.2	-1.1

Table 3 displays the unemployment rates for Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans for 2010 and 2011. These rates are broken down by age, gender, and race. In general, the nonveteran change from 2010 to 2011 is small, however there are some larger changes within the Gulf War era II veterans from 2010 to 2011. The unemployment rate for the 18-24 year-old has increased 9.3% from 2010 to 2011, and the Hispanic unemployment rate for Gulf War era II veterans has increased 3%.

TABLE 4: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR GULF WAR ERA II VETERANS AND NONVETERANS BY GENDER AND AGE, 2010- 2011

GULF WAR ERA II				NONVETERANS			
Unemployment Rate For:	2010	2011	Change	Unemployment Rate For:	2010	2011	Change
Male				Male			
18-24	21.9	29.1	↑ 7.2	18-24	19.7	17.6	-2.1
25-34	13.0	13.4	0.4	25-34	10.7	9.5	-1.2
35-44	5.3	6.1	0.8	35-44	8.6	7.5	-1.1
45-54	6.2	3.4	-2.8	45-54	8.6	7.4	-1.2
55-64	5.9	7.4	1.5	55-64	7.8	7.0	-0.8
65 years and older	-	-	-	65 years and older	6.8	6.2	-0.6
Female				Female			
18-24	15.3	36.1	↑ 20.8	18-24	14.6	14.5	-0.1
25-34	13.6	10.6	-3.0	25-34	9.1	9.1	0.0
35-44	9.3	5.9	-3.4	35-44	7.7	7.1	-0.6
45-54	-	-	-	45-54	6.8	6.6	-0.2
55-64	-	-	-	55-64	6.2	6.1	-0.1
65 years and older	-	-	-	65 years and older	6.2	6.6	0.4

Table 4 displays the unemployment rates for Gulf War era II veterans and nonveterans by gender and age for 2010 and 2011. In general, the nonveteran change from 2010 to 2011 is small, however there are some larger changes within the Gulf War era II veterans from 2010 to 2011. The unemployment rate for the 18-24 year-old male has increased 7.2% from 2010 to 2011. The unemployment rate for the 18-24 year-old female had a dramatic increase of 21% from 2010 to 2011.

TABLE 5: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR ALL VETERANS, GULF WAR ERA I, AND GULF WAR ERA II BY DISABILITY, 2010- 2011

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY			
	2010	2011	Change
All Veterans			
With service-connected disability	9.1	8.5	-0.6
Without service-connected disability	8.7	7.9	-0.8
Gulf War Era II			
With service-connected disability	11.2	12.1	0.9
Without service-connected disability	13.6	9.5	-4.1
Gulf War Era I			
With service-connected disability	8.8	7.1	-1.7
Without service-connected disability	6.8	6.9	0.1

Table 5 displays the unemployment rate for all veterans, Gulf War era I veterans, and Gulf War era II veterans broken down by service-connected disability. There is not significant change from 2010 to 2011.