

April 2013

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for April 2013, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) had little change at 7.5% (compared to 7.6% for March 2013). The employment situation representative of all veterans has improved, decreasing from 7.1% in March 2013 to 6.2% in April 2013. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate decreased from 9.2% in March 2013 to 7.5% in April 2013. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) improved by almost 16% in April 2013, however it remains high at 19%. Importantly, veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that remains 6.6% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. In terms of unemployment duration, approximately 92% of post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24 have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 170,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 21% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 17% for between 5 and 14 weeks and 62% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment situation of female post-9/11 veterans improved, decreasing from 11.8% in March 2013 to 7.2% in April. For comparison, currently female non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 6.2%. The unemployment situation of male post-9/11 veterans improved from 8.7% in March 2013 to 7.6% in April. For comparison, currently male non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 7%. The 7.9% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is much lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 11.9%. However, Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 8.7%, slightly higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 7.6%.

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on May 3, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending April 2013.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	March 2013	April 2013	Change (+/-)	April 2012
All Americans	7.4	6.9	-0.5	7.5
All Veterans	7.1	6.2	-0.9	7.1
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	9.2	7.5	-1.7	9.2
Gulf War era I Veterans	6.5	5.5	-1.0	5.2
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	7.3	7.0	-0.3	6.7
All Nonveterans	7.4	6.9	-0.5	7.6

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.

Tables below (Gulf War Era II and Nonveterans) are for population ages 20 and over. (1) Rates are not shown where base is less than 35,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR GULF WAR ERA II (POST-9/11) VETERANS				
Category	March 2013	April 2013	Change (+/-)	March 2012
20-24	35.0	19.1	-15.9	17.8
25-29	8.8	4.9	-3.9	14.8
30-34	10.6	10.7	0.1	8.3
35-39	9.5	3.0	-6.5	3.8
40-44	4.4	2.8	-1.6	6.0
45-49	3.5	10.4	6.9	7.1
50-54	4.5	7.4	2.9	1.4
55-59	(1)	(1)	-	6.6
60-64	(1)	7.5	-	(1)
65 years and older	(1)	(1)	-	(1)
Male	8.7	7.6	-1.1	8.8
Female	11.8	7.2	-4.6	10.1
White	9.2	7.5	-1.7	8.3
Hispanic or Latino	7.6	8.7	1.1	11.5
African-American	6.1	7.9	1.8	13.6

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS				
Category	March 2013	April 2013	Change (+/-)	April 2012
20-24	13.1	12.5	-0.6	12.6
25-29	8.2	7.9	-0.3	8.0
30-34	6.9	6.3	-0.6	7.5
35-39	6.7	5.9	-0.8	7.2
40-44	5.9	5.1	-0.8	5.6
45-49	6.1	5.9	-0.2	5.8
50-54	5.9	5.5	-0.4	6.2
55-59	5.0	5.0	0.0	6.1
60-64	5.8	5.0	-0.8	5.6
65 years and older	5.8	5.2	-0.6	5.6
Male	7.5	7.0	-0.5	7.4
Female	6.6	6.2	-0.4	7.0
White	6.3	5.8	-0.5	6.5
Hispanic or Latino	8.7	7.6	-1.1	9.1
African-American	12.6	11.9	-0.7	11.8

Related Policy, Legislation and Initiatives

The following policies, programs and initiatives have been proposed or enacted within the past 30 days. This list is not all-inclusive, but instead is designed to offer a “snapshot” of recently announced government, industry and community-based efforts positioned to positively impact the employment situation of veterans in America.

- **Convergys Corporation** (NYSE: CVG), the global provider of customer management, announced that last year it hired 2,655 military veterans and spouses as part of its participation in the 10,000 Jobs Challenge. Sponsored by Milicruit, the Military Officers Association of America and the Direct Employers Association, the Jobs Challenge set out to generate 10,000 new, high-quality employment opportunities for veterans and military spouses. As a result, 10,059 veterans and military spouses were hired. For more information, visit <http://careers.convergysworkathome.com>
- **LeaderQUEST**, an IT career training provider with on-premise training facilities in Denver and Colorado Springs, announced a partnership with Veterans Green Jobs, a non-profit organization that puts veterans to work in the green economic sector. The two organizations will work to facilitate career training for veterans to expand their employment opportunities in areas of strong economic growth. LeaderQUEST will work closely with Veterans Green Jobs to recruit qualified veterans and provide them with career assessment and counseling services and match them with available green employment opportunities. For more information, visit <http://veteransgreenjobs.org/newsandevents/leaderquest-and-veterans-green-jobs-partner-to-create-veteran-employment-opportunities>.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is launching a new educational program to help veterans reinvent themselves as entrepreneurs. The SBA this month will launch the **Boots to Business** initiative at Joint Base McGuire. The two-day program teaches the basics of starting a business to veterans transitioning out of the service. In addition to 16 hours of classroom training, veterans have the option of completing an eight-week online course. The course was developed in association with the IVMF and the DOD’s Transition Assistance Program. For more information, visit <http://boots2business.org/>.
- Starting Memorial Day, **Walmart** will offer a job to any honorably discharged veteran in his or her first 12 months off active duty. Most of these jobs will be in Walmart stores and clubs. Other positions will be in distribution centers and Walmart’s Home Office. Walmart plans to hire 100,000 veterans during the next five years. In addition, Walmart will help part-time associates who prefer to be full-time, make the transition. Veteran job seekers can enter their prior military occupation to find a match with a Walmart job, read more information about the position and search for available positions by location. For more information, visit <http://walmartcareerswithamission.com/>.

NOTE: The above is provided for information only. The listing of a given policy initiative or program does not imply an endorsement from the IVMF, or Syracuse University.

Outlook

Homelessness impacts employment in complex and important ways. Although the VA is making progress toward reducing homelessness among veterans, presently there are 62,000 homeless veterans, down from more than 100,000 four years ago; importantly, there are more than 13,000 homeless female veterans living in the U.S., half of them single mothers. Women veterans are four times more likely to become homeless compared to non-veteran women. Women veterans who are homeless were younger, less likely to be employed and more likely to have a mental illness (Gamache, 2003). Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression were among the top three most diagnosed conditions for women veterans using VA health care. More than 11% of female service members are single parents, and if they become homeless, the tragedy of homelessness can extend to their children (Foster & Vince, 2009). Estimates indicate that 53% of homeless women veterans have experienced military sexual trauma, which can be a factor in becoming homeless (Washington 2010). Only about half of the 500 transitional housing programs accept women. These homeless female veterans have fewer resources than male veterans. For these reasons, and others, we as a nation need to come together, and share and leverage resources to contribute homelessness prevention efforts.

An example of the strides toward raising awareness about homelessness issues and identifying solutions is the National Summit on Women Veteran Homelessness hosted by the IVMF in Chicago on May 2 and 3. The summit convenes national veteran homelessness research, policy and program experts together with women veterans with lived homelessness experience, foundations, national technical assistance centers and others. Summit participants will strategize new research, policy and program practices to address employment, recovery and housing stability among women veterans who are homeless to align closely with the VA’s plan to end veteran homelessness by 2015. In addition, information obtained at the summit will help the IVMF produce a white paper to identify pathways to homelessness and recommend new research, policy and practice approaches to end women veteran homelessness.