



April 2014

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for April 2014, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) has decreased to 6.3% (compared to 6.7% in March 2014). The employment situation representative of all veterans has improved, decreasing from 6.0% in March to 5.6% in April 2014. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate has improved slightly, decreasing from 6.9% in March to 6.8% in April 2014. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) worsened by 0.7%, increasing from 12.7% in March to 13.4% in April 2014. Veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that is currently 3.5% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. Of the 163,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 23% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 16% between 5 and 14 weeks and 61% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment rate of female post-9/11 veterans has increased from 4.4% in March to 7.8% in April 2014. For comparison, female non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 5.2%. The unemployment rate of male post-9/11 veterans improved, decreasing from 7.2% in March to 6.6% in April 2014. For comparison, male non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 5.7%. The 3.8% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 10.1%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 11.5%, higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 6.0%.

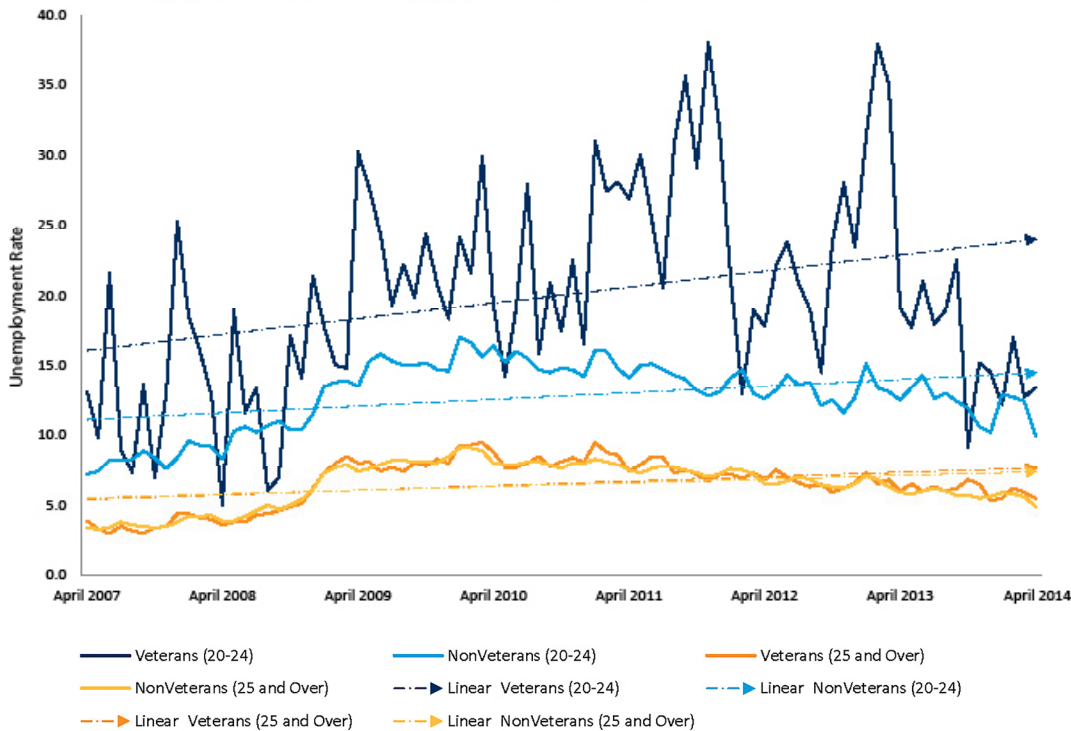
Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on May 2, 2014. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending April 2014.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Rate of Unemployed April 2014	% Change from March to April	Number of Unemployed April 2014	% Change from March to April
All Americans	5.7	-0.9	8,726,000	-1,458,000
All Veterans	5.6	-0.4	603,000	-47,000
Gulf War Era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	6.8	-0.1	163,000	-9,000
Gulf War Era I Veterans	4.7	-0.4	129,000	-12,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	4.9	-0.8	134,000	-26,000
All Nonveterans	5.7	-1.0	8,123,000	-1,411,000

NOTE: Table 1 is for the population of 18 and over and will not be the same as the overall BLS reported numbers which report data for those ages 16 and over. Table 2 is for the population of 20 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 peacetime period are classified only in the wartime period. The minority-by-gender unemployment rates are not displayed due to small sample size and are more appropriately displayed as annual averages.

Category	GULF WAR ERA II (POST-9/11) VETERANS				NONVETERANS			
	Rate April 2014	% Change (+/-)	Number April 2014	# Change (+/-)	Rate April 2014	% Change (+/-)	Number April 2014	# Change (+/-)
20-24	13.4	+0.7	14,000	-4,000	9.9	-2.5	1,508,000	-410,000
25-29	7.4	-0.3	39,000	0	6.8	-0.7	1,116,000	-120,000
30-34	7.4	+2.1	54,000	+13,000	5.6	-1.0	903,000	-160,000
35-39	5.7	-0.7	21,000	-3,000	4.8	-0.8	706,000	-140,000
40-44	6.6	-0.1	16,000	0	4.4	-0.6	689,000	-83,000
45-49	8.3	-4.5	12,000	-8,000	4.8	-0.2	747,000	-29,000
50-54	0.7	-3.1	1,000	-6,000	3.9	-1.2	618,000	-195,000
55-59	9.3	+6.3	6,000	+3,000	4.2	-0.8	580,000	-102,000
60-64	-	-	-	-	4.4	-0.5	405,000	-39,000
65 years and older	-	-	-	-	4.4	+0.1	284,000	+9,000
Male	6.6	-0.6	134,000	-18,000	5.7	-0.9	3,990,000	-654,000
Female	7.8	+3.4	30,000	+13,000	5.2	-0.9	3,567,000	-613,000
White	7.2	+0.9	135,000	+12,000	4.6	-0.9	5,009,000	-1,053,000
Hispanic or Latino	11.5	+2.0	39,000	+4,000	6.0	-1.5	1,384,000	-344,000
African-American	3.8	-4.9	14,000	-17,000	10.1	-1.5	1,683,000	-263,000



The gap in the rate of unemployment experienced by veterans and non-veterans in the 20-24 age group has varied month-to-month and must be considered with caution in the context of longitudinal trends. (Gap = difference in monthly rate of unemployment between veterans and non-veterans). Since 2006, the trending unemployment gap between veterans and non-veterans in the 20-24 age group has increased; that is, the unemployment situation of veterans in the 20-24 age group has grown, on average, increasingly worse relative to their non-veteran peers (of equivalent age): 3.3% better in April 2008, 2.8% worse in April 2010, 5.2% worse in April 2012, and 3.5% worse in April 2014. Although there have been recent improvements, one must examine this result in the context of the demonstrated volatility in unemployment rates for this group. The gap remains significantly higher as compared to pre-2004 levels, suggesting that veterans in this age demographic continue to experience employment challenges that are meaningfully different relative to their non-veteran, age group peers.

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.

- Advisory Committee Meets on Veterans’ Issues:** The Advisory Committee on Veterans’ Employment, Training and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO) held its first quarterly meeting on April 10th to discuss improvements in the job market for veterans and changes to services that veterans receive at American Job Centers. This was the first meeting headed by the committee’s new Chairman, **Dr. Mike Haynie**, Air Force veteran, Barnes Professor of Entrepreneurship at Syracuse University’s Whitman School of Management, and founder and Executive Director of the **Institute for Veterans and Military Families**. Acting as Vice Chairman of the committee is **Eric Eversole**, Navy veteran, vice president at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Executive Director of the Chamber’s **Hiring Our Heroes** program. Attendees were briefed on the agency’s priorities, including a focus on realigning the roles and responsibilities of staff at **American Job Centers**. For example, the department is refocusing the **Jobs for Veterans State Grants** programs to ensure that veterans and eligible spouses receive the best combination of employment and training services from the 2,500 American Job Centers across the country. All veterans receive priority of service at AJCs, with help from Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists who provide intensive services to disabled veterans and Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives (LVER) who conduct employer outreach on behalf of veterans. The reorganization will now allow DVOPs to better serve those veterans who have significant barriers to employment while the LVERs’ focus will be on intensive employer outreach to facilitate veteran employment. To find the American Job Center closest to you, visit <http://www.servicelocator.org/>.
- New Federal Website for Veterans: White House Website Helps Veterans Find Jobs:** The White House has launched an online tool that allows veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses to search for jobs, create resumés, and connect with employers. The new **Veterans Employment Center** was announced by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden at a veterans’ jobs summit in Fort Campbell, KY. Among the features offered on the Veterans Employment Center is an online resumé builder and a military skills translator, which matches military career tracks with civilian occupations and skills. Veterans can also target job searches based on specific career paths, use a single search for both public and private sector positions, and save job postings via social media. This is “one stop shopping” for veterans. While there are already several websites dedicated to job-seeking veterans — including **VA for Vets**, **VA Careers**, **Vet Success**, **My Career@VA**, and **Feds Hire Vets** — this is the first interagency tool that combines public and private job openings. It’s a collaborative effort among the Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, Small Business Administration, and Department of Veterans Affairs. When a veteran submits his/her resume it is added to a comprehensive database in which employers can access and set their own employment hiring goals. The Veterans Employment Center can be found at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>.

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.