

Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that although the unemployment rates for veterans decreased slightly from 6.9% to 6.6% from July to August, the unemployment situation of Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation) worsened, increasing from 8.9% to 10.9%. The youngest post-9/11 veterans continue to experience the highest unemployment rates, with those in the 20-24 age range experiencing a 19% unemployment rate, compared to 13.8% for non-veterans in the same age range. Of the 223,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans age 20 and over, 58% have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more.

Post-9/11 veterans ages 25-29 experienced an increase in their unemployment rate over the period of July to August 2012 (12.5% to 16.6%), which has remained higher than the current unemployment rate for non-veterans in this same age group (9%). Both male and female post-9/11 veterans experienced an increase in their unemployment rates from July to August 2012, although female post-9/11 veterans experienced a much larger increase, from 5.9% to 12.1%, compared to the change of 9.5% to 10.6% for male post-9/11 veterans. Both also have unemployment rates that are higher than those of their non-veteran counterparts; male non-veterans have an unemployment rate of 7.3% while the unemployment rate for female non-veterans is 7.9%. Unemployment rates increased for Hispanic post-9/11 veterans from 10.8% to 12.1%, while they decreased for African American post-9/11 veterans from 16.6% to 14.7%. Both of these rates are higher compared to those of Hispanic and African American non-veterans, whose unemployment rates for the month of August 2012 are 9.1% and 13.7%, respectively.

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on September 7, 2012. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending August 2012.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	July 2012	August 2012	Change (+/-)	August 2011
All Americans	8.2	7.9	-0.3	8.8
All Veterans	6.9	6.6	-0.3	7.7
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	8.9	10.9	2.0	9.8
Gulf War era I Veterans	6.5	5.8	-0.7	7.3
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	6.1	5.2	-0.9	6.9
All Nonveterans	8.3	8.0	-0.3	8.9

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	July 2012	August 2012	Change (+/-)	August 2011
20-24	20.9	19.0	-1.9	30.9
25-29	12.5	16.6	4.1	11.9
30-34	6.3	7.1	0.8	5.8
35-39	8.7	8.1	-0.6	7.9
40-44	(1)	2.2	-	7.7
45-49	2.5	10.0	7.5	0.4
50-54	3.3	3.2	-0.1	4.2
55-59	8.9	1.8	-7.1	2.7
60-64	15.4	18.1	2.7	(1)
65 years and older	(1)	(1)	-	(1)
Male	9.5	10.6	1.1	8.6
Female	5.9	12.1	6.2	16.6
White	7.9	9.2	1.3	9.1
Hispanic or Latino	10.8	12.1	1.3	16.1
African-American	16.6	14.7	-1.9	16.3

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS				
Category	July 2012	August 2012	Change (+/-)	August 2011
20-24	13.6	13.8	0.2	14.3
25-29	9.2	9.0	-0.2	10.1
30-34	7.3	6.9	-0.4	8.3
35-39	7.1	6.8	-0.3	8.2
40-44	6.5	6.5	0.0	7.0
45-49	6.6	6.7	0.1	7.4
50-54	6.7	6.2	-0.5	6.9
55-59	6.3	5.9	-0.4	6.9
60-64	6.6	5.8	-0.8	6.5
65 years and older	7.1	6.5	-0.6	6.7
Male	7.5	7.3	-0.2	8.4
Female	8.2	7.9	-0.3	8.5
White	7.0	6.7	-0.3	7.3
Hispanic or Latino	9.3	9.1	-0.2	10.0
African-American	14.0	13.7	-0.3	16.1

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.

- Louisville-based **ResCare Inc.** has joined **Hero Health Hire**, a nationwide coalition of companies in the healthcare industry that are focused on employing veterans. ResCare provides residential, therapeutic, job training and educational supports for people with developmental and other disabilities, care for seniors, services for youth with special needs, and employment services for adults who are experiencing barriers to employment. The company has nearly 50,000 employees in 42 states. More about ResCare’s veteran hiring initiative can be found at: <http://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2012/09/04/rescare-joins-hiring-initiative-for.html>.
- The **American Legion’s Economic Division** hosted its **Homeless Veterans Roundtable** at their national convention in Indianapolis on August 24 to discuss veteran homelessness and where the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) stands on its pledge to end it. Officials from the VA, the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and local community service providers discussed the various initiatives and programs that have been rolled out in coordination with the VA’s five-year plan to end veteran homelessness. Last month, the VA awarded \$100 million in grants to local organizations that aid low-income veterans and their families nationwide. The funding reached 151 community agencies, spanning 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. More about American Legion employment initiatives can be found at: <http://www.legion.org/veteranservices/jobs>.
- The DOL awarded grants totaling \$11.53 million through the **Veterans’ Workforce Investment Program** to provide an estimated 5,500 veterans with job training and skills development services. Eleven grants were awarded on a competitive basis to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations, in 10 states. The funds will be used to provide training in fields such as software and computer services, construction, auto mechanics, security, logistics, nursing, physical and occupational therapy, hospitality and the culinary arts, among others. To learn more about the DOL’s employment and re-employment programs, go to <http://www.dol.gov/vets>.
- In response to a need for more easily accessible and organized information on governmental benefits available to veterans and their families, the **Institute for Veterans and Military Families** at Syracuse University (IVMF), in collaboration with **Griffin-Hammis Associates, LLC**, has released the publication “**Navigating Government Benefits & Employment: A Guidebook for Veterans with Disabilities.**” The four-part guide details monetary, healthcare and employment services and support benefits, and helps outline the interaction between government benefits and employment or self-employment. The goal is to provide veterans and their families enough information to understand how work income can affect benefits. The guide can be downloaded at no charge at: <http://vets.syr.edu/ivmf-griffin-hammis-associates-produce-navigating-government-benefits-employment-a-guidebook-for-veterans-with-disabilities/>.
- **Governor Pat Quinn (D-Ill.)** announced a new initiative that aims at helping veterans find employment. They are creating the **Illinois Hires Heroes Consortium** where businesses can join a consortium aimed at helping veterans translate their military training into practical civilian training. To learn more: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/14366267-418/quinn-initiative-to-help-veterans-in-job-hunt.html>.
- Car manufacturer **Toyota** has announced a new initiative to help U.S. veterans find jobs. Toyota, which has many manufacturing facilities located in the U.S., is specifically aiming to help veterans translate their military skills into those that would make them marketable in the work force. To learn more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/13/toyota-dakota-meyer_n_1773411.html.

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

The recently released “**Navigating Government Benefits & Employment: A Guidebook for Veterans with Disabilities**” describes benefit programs that are the most frequently accessed by veterans and their families, such as those issued by the VA, Social Security Administration (SSA), the Department of Defense (DoD) and State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). While this guidebook provides an overview of several programs, the primary focus is the impact that work income can have on factors such as initial eligibility, ongoing eligibility, and cash benefit amounts. Additionally, the employment-related opportunities available through some of these programs such as career exploration, funding for education or training, and funding for small business start-ups are detailed as well. The guidebook is divided into four key sections: Cash Benefits, Healthcare, Employment Services and Supports, and Resources. Each section details the key government programs along with their eligibility requirements, financial supports, and services. All sections conclude with examples, tips, and strategies to support an individualized approach to benefits planning and coordination. The guidebook also offers information that employers can use to hire and train veterans including various tax and wage incentives. The guide can be downloaded at no charge at: <http://vets.syr.edu/ivmf-griffin-hammis-associates-produce-navigating-government-benefits-employment-a-guidebook-for-veterans-with-disabilities/>.