

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for August 2013, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) was at 7.3% (little change compared to 7.4% in July 2013). The employment situation representative of all veterans has improved slightly, decreasing from 6.4% in July 2013 to 6.2% in August 2013. For Gulf War Era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate increased from 7.7% in July 2013 to 10% in August 2013. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) worsened slightly in August 2013 and remains the highest at 18.9%. Importantly, veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that remains 5.9% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. In terms of unemployment duration, approximately 72.4% of post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24 have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 226,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, almost 20% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 29% for between 5 and 14 weeks and 51% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment situation of female post-9/11 veterans has worsened, increasing from 7.7% in July 2013 to 10.3% in August 2013. For comparison, female non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 6.7%. The unemployment situation of male post-9/11 veterans also worsened, increasing from 7.7% in July 2013 to 9.9% in August 2013. For comparison, male non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 6.8%. The 9.1% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 12.7%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 14.7%, higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 8.2%.

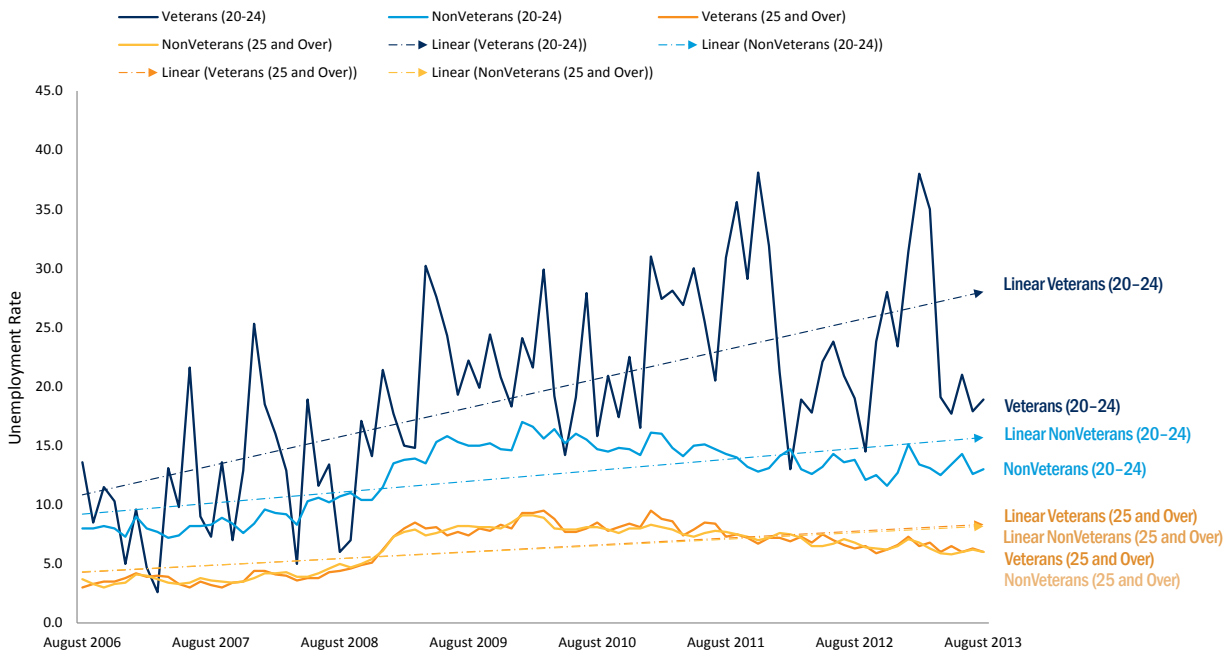
Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on September 6, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending August 2013.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Rate of Unemployed August 2013	% Change from July to August 2013	Number of Unemployed August 2013	# Change from July to August 2013
All Americans	7.1	-0.2	10,943,000	-257,000
All Veterans	6.2	-0.2	671,000	-31,000
Gulf War Era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	10.0	+2.3	226,000	+60,000
Gulf War Era I Veterans	5.5	+0.3	140,000	-1,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	5.1	-1.6	147,000	-48,000
All Nonveterans	7.2	-0.1	10,272,000	-226,000

NOTE: Table 1 is for the population of 18 and over and will not be the same as the overall BLS reported numbers. 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 period are classified only in the wartime period. (1) Rates are not shown where base is less than 35,000. 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 August 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number August 2013	# Change (+/-)	Rate August 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number August 2013	# Change (+/-)
20-24	18.9	+1.0	29,000	+1,000	13.0	+0.4	2,035,000	+1,000
25-29	13.5	+1.2	75,000	+7,000	8.3	0.0	1,359,000	+11,000
30-34	9.2	+5.1	59,000	+36,000	6.7	-0.3	1,074,000	-59,000
35-39	11.5	+4.6	28,000	+12,000	5.6	-0.5	840,000	-66,000
40-44	8.7	+3.8	18,000	+8,000	5.5	-0.4	863,000	-59,000
45-49	1.7	-4.7	3,000	-11,000	5.7	-0.4	881,000	-65,000
50-54	3.7	+0.9	5,000	+1,000	5.5	0.0	884,000	-1,000
55-59	5.4	+4.2	5,000	+4,999	5.4	-0.1	742,000	-9,000
60-64	15.9	+7.9	5,000	+3,000	5.0	+0.2	441,000	+24,000
65 years and older	-	-	-	-	4.6	0.0	285,000	+7,000
Male	9.9	+2.2	183,000	+45,000	6.8	0.0	4,815,000	+4,000
Female	10.3	+2.6	43,000	+16,000	6.7	-0.3	4,587,000	-223,000
White	10.3	+3.3	182,000	+64,000	5.8	-0.3	6,417,000	-338,000
Hispanic or Latino	14.7	+3.4	34,000	+9,000	8.2	-0.1	1,871,000	-13,000
African-American	9.1	-2.0	30,000	-7,000	12.7	+0.5	2,100,000	+84,000



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 August 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): 1.0% better in August 2007, 7.2% worse in August 2009, 16.6% worse in August 2011, and 5.9% worse in August 2013. 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.

- New hiring requirements for veterans, disabled workers:** On August 27, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that it would impose heightened hiring requirements on federal contractors in order to help more veterans and disabled Americans get jobs. Administered by the DOL’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the rules will bolster affirmative action requirements under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These laws have long existed to require federal contractors to affirmatively recruit, hire, train and promote qualified veterans and disabled persons. When the new rules go into effect 180 days following their imminent publication in the Federal Register, they will require federal contractors to adopt annual benchmarks for hiring and employment of veterans and people with disabilities. For more information, visit <http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/VEVRAARule/> and <http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/503Rule/>.
- IVMF, SBA and American Legion Provide Two-Day Entrepreneurship Course for Women Veterans:** On August 26-27, in collaboration with the SBA, IVMF delivered a two-day entrepreneurship course, titled “For Her Entrepreneurship — Resources, Opportunities, Experiences and Support (For HEROES)” at the Legion’s national conference. Free of charge for women veterans and military spouses, this course provided participants with the tools and knowledge they need to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan and launch their enterprise. Participants have also been provided access to an eight-week online Foundations of Entrepreneurship course offered by IVMF. Completion of the course will require approximately 10 hours of study each week, walking participants through the fundamentals of developing a business plan. For more information, visit <http://vets.syr.edu/american-legion-empowers-veteran-women-entrepreneurs/>.
- Labor names program manager to boost employment for female vets:** On August 29, the DOL introduced Nancy A. Glowacki as its first women veterans’ program manager at a symposium held at the department’s headquarters in Washington. An Army veteran, Glowacki will combine research and resource efforts to identify and address the causes of female veteran unemployment. According to this month’s Bureau of Labor Statistics data, post-9/11 female veterans had a 10.3 percent unemployment rate in August 2013, higher than the 9.9 percent jobless rate experienced by post-9/11 male veterans. For more information, visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2013/08/29/labor-names-program-manager-to-boost-employment-for-female-vets/>.

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.