

February 2013

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the overall unemployment rate for all Americans (population 16 and over) edged down to 7.7%. The employment situation for veterans overall has also experienced a decrease in unemployment. The unemployment rates for all veterans decreased from 8.3% in January to 7.8% in February. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate has also decreased from 11.7% to 9.4%. However, the youngest post-9/11 veterans, those ages 20-24, saw a 6.6% increase in their unemployment rate from January to February, which remains the highest unemployment rate of all age groups at 38.0%. This rate of the young post-9/11 veterans is more than twice as high as their nonveteran counterparts. About 60% of the young post-9/11 veterans, ages 20-24, have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 203,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 13% have been unemployed for less than five weeks, 30% unemployed for five to 14 weeks and 57% have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more.

For female post-9/11 veterans, the unemployment rate decreased from 17.1% to 11.6%, but remains higher than their non-veteran counterpart (7.0%). Male post-9/11 veterans saw a decrease from 10.5% to 9.0% but remains slightly higher than their non-veteran counterparts (8.0%). The unemployment rate for post-9/11 White veterans, 8.9%, remains higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 6.7%. However, the unemployment rate for the post-9/11 African-American veterans, 8.7%, remains lower than that of their African-American non-veteran counterparts, 13.3%. The unemployment rates for the post-9/11 Hispanic veterans and non-veterans are the same at 9.5%.

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on March 8, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending February 2013.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	January 2013	February 2013	Change (+/-)	February 2012
All Americans	8.3	7.8	-0.5	8.5
All Veterans	7.6	6.9	-0.7	7.0
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	11.7	9.4	-2.3	7.6
Gulf War era I Veterans	5.7	6.0	0.3	5.8
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	7.9	7.4	-0.5	6.6
All Nonveterans	8.3	7.9	-0.4	8.6

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	January 2013	February 2013	Change (+/-)	February 2012
20-24	31.4	38.0	6.6	13.0
25-29	14.8	9.5	-5.3	10.2
30-34	9.4	7.4	-2.0	9.9
35-39	13.1	13.8	0.7	1.7
40-44	3.5	0.9	-2.6	3.6
45-49	6.3	2.4	-3.9	5.3
50-54	8.8	2.5	-6.3	1.1
55-59	2.3	4.8	2.5	2.2
60-64	5.4	(1)	-	(1)
65 years and older	14.6	(1)	-	37.6
Male	10.5	9.0	-1.5	7.7
Female	17.1	11.6	-5.5	7.6
White	11.8	8.9	-2.9	7.6
Hispanic or Latino	11.0	9.5	-1.5	4.1
African-American	13.2	8.7	-4.5	10.6

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS				
Category	January 2013	February 2013	Change (+/-)	February 2012
20-24	15.1	13.4	-1.7	14.7
25-29	8.9	9.1	0.2	9.8
30-34	7.5	7.3	-0.2	8.6
35-39	7.5	7.2	-0.3	7.6
40-44	6.8	6.3	-0.5	7.0
45-49	6.9	6.3	-0.6	6.9
50-54	6.3	6.0	-0.3	7.2
55-59	6.1	5.9	-0.2	6.3
60-64	6.4	6.0	-0.4	5.9
65 years and older	6.8	5.8	-1.0	6.3
Male	8.5	8.0	-0.5	8.9
Female	7.4	7.0	-0.4	7.7
White	7.1	6.7	-0.4	7.5
Hispanic or Latino	9.8	9.5	-0.3	10.8
African-American	13.7	13.3	-0.4	13.8

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.

- **U.S. Security Associates Joins Fellow Members of the 100,000 Jobs Mission in Celebrating a Milestone in Military Hiring:** The 100,000 Jobs Mission is a unique grassroots effort originating in corporate America to combat the high unemployment rate among U.S. military veterans, especially those returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. JPMorgan Chase, a founding member of the 100,000 Jobs Mission, announced that its coalition companies have collectively hired 51,835 veterans through 2012. The coalition has grown to 94 companies that represent a wide array of industries across the U.S., including financial services, defense, healthcare, telecommunications, technology, transportation, retail, energy and others. There is no monetary cost for joining the coalition. Each company has made a commitment to hire veterans, share best hiring practices with other member companies and report their results quarterly. The 100,000 Jobs Mission is focused on the entire employment continuum – not just recruiting and hiring military talent but also retaining them long-term. For more information, visit <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20130123005828/en/100000-Jobs-Mission-Hires-51000-U.S.-Veterans>.
- **Financial, Employment Training Aids Soldiers, Veterans:** The Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center located in Edinburgh, Indiana recently implemented the Veteran’s Opportunity to Work to Hire Heroes Act, a national program designed to assist transitioning soldiers with financial and career planning. Signed into law in 2011, the program was implemented on November 21, 2012, in an effort to reduce unemployment and debt among veterans. For more information, visit <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=119219>.
- **Lockheed Martin Awards Grant To Still Serving Veterans To Support Workforce Transition:** Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) is awarding a \$10,000 grant to Still Serving Veterans (SSV) to aid in transitioning veterans to meaningful careers. Lockheed Martin, a member of the Huntsville community for 50 years, is partnering with SSV to support veterans’ advocacy initiatives, long-term development and job placement. The grant will enhance the SSV’s Workforce Community Blueprint Transition program, which provides resources for counseling, coaching, job transition and assistance in obtaining Veterans Administration benefits. For more information, visit <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/lockheed-martin-awards-grant-to-still-serving-veterans-to-support-workforce-transition-190757091.html>.
- **Emeritus Corporation Nation’s Largest Assisted Living Provider to Hire 1000 Veterans, Military Spouses:** Emeritus Senior Living, the nation’s largest assisted living and memory care provider, plans to hire at least 1,000 former members of the military and military spouses over the next five years. This endeavor is the first such veteran recruiting program in America’s senior living industry. It operates over 470 senior living communities in 44 states and has a workforce of more than 28,000. For more information, visit <http://www.4-traders.com/EMERITUS-CORPORATION-4011157/news/Emeritus-Corporation-Nation-s-Largest-Assisted-Living-Provider-to-Hire-1000-Veterans-Military-Spo-16008806/>.

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

While business ownership may not be for everyone, many veterans are finding it worthwhile to invest in and start a business franchise. The International Franchise Association (IFA) is a national trade association of franchisees and dealers founded in February 1993. The IFA works to improve the industry of franchising while protecting its members’ economic investments in their businesses. Since the 2011 launch of Operation Enduring Opportunity, a campaign to hire and recruit veterans as franchise owners by the IFA, approximately 64,000 veterans started careers in franchising, including 4,300 new franchise business owners. The most common franchise businesses run by veterans include Matco and Snap-on Tools, UPS Stores, Dunkin’ Donuts and Meineke Car Care Centers.

A number of companies note how the skills veterans learn in the military can be directly applicable to success in the franchise industry. For example, Mike Meilleur, Executive Vice President, Tim Hortons U.S. recently wrote: “Tim Hortons has always believed in supporting our troops and veterans. We also believe that a significant amount of military training, skills and experiences are transferable into the business world. It’s no coincidence that many of the most successful restaurants operate with ‘military precision,’ including Tim Hortons. For more information, visit: <http://www.timhortons.com/us/en/about/5237.html>.

IFA’s VetFran strategic initiative, founded in 1991, includes over 530 IFA franchisor member companies offering financial incentives, training and mentoring to veterans interested in small business ownership and/or a career path in franchising. For more information, visit: <http://www.vetfran.com/>. Recently, VetFran received a boost when Edible Arrangements® announced that they would contribute \$25,000 to the program and the launch of “Hero’s Welcome,” a nationwide initiative designed to help veterans become business owners and re-enter the workforce. For more information, visit: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/edible-arrangements-launches-major-initiative-to-help-veterans-become-business-owners-and-enter-workplace-191872741.html>