

January 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) was at 7.9% and has remained unchanged or near that level since September 2012. The employment situation for veterans, however, has experienced some changes, particularly with regards to some subsets of the veteran population. The unemployment situation for all veterans has slightly worsened from last month, with unemployment rates increasing from 7.0% to 7.6%. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate has also increased slightly from 10.8% to 11.7%. The youngest post-9/11 veterans, those ages 20-24, saw an 8% increase in their unemployment rate from December to January, and remains the highest unemployment rate of all age groups at 31.4%. The majority of age categories of post-9/11 veterans saw minor decreases in their unemployment rates over the past month. However, the post-9/11 veterans ages 25-29 and 35-39 experienced an increases in their unemployment rates, which stand at 14.8% and 13.1%, respectively. Of the 250,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 22% have been unemployed for less than five weeks, 18% unemployed for five to 14 weeks and 60% have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more.

For female post-9/11 veterans, the unemployment rate increased from 15.7% to 17.1%, while male post-9/11 veterans saw an increase from 9.9% to 10.5% in their unemployment rate. Both female and male post-9/11 veterans continue to have higher unemployment rates than their non-veteran counterparts. The unemployment rate for post-9/11 Hispanic veterans, 11.0%, remains higher than their Hispanic non-veteran counterparts, 9.8%. However, the unemployment rate for post-9/11 African-American veterans, 13.2%, remains lower than their African-American non-veteran counterparts, 13.7%.

## Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on February 1, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending January 2013.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	December 2012	January 2013	Change (+/-)	January 2012
All Americans	7.5	8.3	0.8	8.6
All Veterans	7.0	7.6	0.6	7.5
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	10.8	11.7	0.9	9.1
Gulf War era I Veterans	5.5	5.7	0.2	6.4
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	6.2	7.9	1.7	7.2
All Nonveterans	7.5	8.3	0.8	8.7

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	December 2012	January 2013	Change (+/-)	January 2012
20-24	23.4	31.4	8.0	21.2
25-29	9.9	14.8	4.9	12.2
30-34	10.7	9.4	-1.3	8.6
35-39	9.3	13.1	3.8	2.8
40-44	4.5	3.5	-1.0	3.6
45-49	8.4	6.3	-2.1	4.1
50-54	11.7	8.8	-2.9	8.4
55-59	4.2	2.3	-1.9	7.2
60-64	5.9	5.4	-0.5	(1)
65 years and older	(1)	14.6	-	(1)
Male	9.9	10.5	0.6	7.7
Female	15.7	17.1	1.4	17.5
White	10.6	11.8	1.2	8.5
Hispanic or Latino	9.2	11.0	1.8	11.0
African-American	14.9	13.2	-1.7	10.6

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS				
Category	December 2012	January 2013	Change (+/-)	January 2012
20-24	12.7	15.1	2.4	14.1
25-29	8.2	8.9	0.7	10.2
30-34	6.9	7.5	0.6	9.0
35-39	7.2	7.5	0.3	8.1
40-44	6.4	6.8	0.4	7.0
45-49	6.1	6.9	0.8	7.1
50-54	5.4	6.3	0.9	6.7
55-59	5.5	6.1	0.6	6.7
60-64	5.8	6.4	0.6	5.9
65 years and older	5.9	6.8	0.9	6.0
Male	7.4	8.5	1.1	8.9
Female	6.9	7.4	0.5	7.8
White	6.1	7.1	1.0	7.6
Hispanic or Latino	8.9	9.8	0.9	11.0
African-American	13.2	13.7	0.5	13.5

## 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.

- **DCR Achieves Milestone in Veteran Hiring and Expands Its Commitment to Veteran Employment:** DCR Workforce, a leading human capital services and workforce management technology provider, announced that it has exceeded its goal of hiring 500 veterans in 2012 into technical and professional positions. This effort is the first step in an ongoing commitment to offer rewarding career opportunities to returning soldiers while also providing DCR clients with highly qualified workers. For more information, visit <http://www.dcrworkforce.com>.
- **Wal-Mart to Offer Jobs to All Veterans, Boost U.S. Buying Beginning Memorial Day:** Wal-Mart will offer a job to any honorably discharged veteran in his or her first 12 months off of active duty. Most of these jobs will be in Wal-Mart stores and clubs, and some will be in distribution centers and the home office. Wal-Mart’s pledge is not the end of this effort. The company projects it will hire more than 100,000 veterans during the next five years. For more information, visit <http://news.walmart.com/news-archive/2013/01/15/walmart-to-boost-sourcing-of-us-products-by-50-billion-over-the-next-10-years>.
- **Congress Passes Tax Credits for Vet Employers:** The tax extender bill passed on New Year’s Day by Congress includes five work opportunity tax credits aimed at encouraging businesses to hire veterans. Called the Returning Heroes and Wounded Warriors Work Opportunity Tax Credits, the programs pay between \$2,400 and \$9,600 to businesses who hire veterans. For more information, visit <http://www.armytimes.com/news/2013/01/military-veterans-employment-tax-credits-010213w/>.
- **100,000 Jobs Mission Hires More than 51,000 Veterans in Two Years:** The 100,000 Jobs Mission announced that its coalition companies have collectively hired 51,835 veterans through 2012. Launched in March 2011 by 11 major employers, the coalition of private sector companies, now at 95, is already more than half of the way to its goal of hiring at least 100,000 U.S. military veterans by 2020. For more information, visit [http://finchannel.com/Main\\_News/Jobs/122621\\_100,000\\_Jobs\\_Mission\\_Hires\\_More\\_than\\_51,000\\_U.S.\\_Veterans\\_in\\_Two\\_Years/](http://finchannel.com/Main_News/Jobs/122621_100,000_Jobs_Mission_Hires_More_than_51,000_U.S._Veterans_in_Two_Years/).

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

Legislative bills introduced in the 113th Congress include initiatives to get more veterans hired for civil service jobs; provide federal grants to encourage employers to hire veterans as first responders, expand small business loans, strengthen employment and reemployment rights, address veteran homelessness and other initiatives. Provisions in the proposed bills include \$250,000 to be used for grants to hire veterans as law enforcement officers and for priority hiring for federal law enforcement jobs, requiring every federal agency to consider giving preferential treatment to federal contractors who have workforces made up of at least five percent veterans valued at \$25 million or greater, and strengthening federal enforcement of employment and reemployment rights for veterans, including more oversight to determine when employers have a pattern of resisting full compliance with the law. A bill also extends the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for two more years. VRAP provides up to one year of GI Bill benefits to certain unemployed veterans so they can learn a new marketable skill. The Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act would reauthorize a host of veterans training and employment services created by the 2011 Hire Heroes Act. It would also establish new online resources for veterans seeking jobs, give contracting preference to firms with veteran employees and allow federal officials to suspend contracts with companies who violate employment laws protecting guardsmen and reservists. The measure also includes new education and training incentives. Legislation was also introduced to help end veteran homelessness by allowing taxpayers to contribute to a Homeless Veterans Fund by checking a box on their IRS returns. The Check the Box for Homeless Veterans Act of 2013 offers taxpayers the opportunity to help keep those who have served our country off the streets by making a voluntary contribution on their annual federal income tax return to support programs that prevent and combat veteran homelessness. Donations to the fund would be used to provide assistance to homeless veterans through initiatives at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Labor.

For more information on recent veterans legislative initiatives, visit <http://www.navytimes.com/news/2013/01/military-senate-veterans-jobs-bills-012313w/>; <http://www.stripes.com/congress-considering-bills-that-affect-veterans-benefits-employment-1.205190>; <http://boxer.senate.gov/en/press/releases/012213c.cfm>.