

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported 163,000 new jobs and that the month-to-month unemployment rate was unchanged in the U.S. For the period ending July 2012, 8.2% of all those looking for work were unemployed, as compared to 8% of job seekers in June 2012 (not seasonally-adjusted percentages, population 18 and over). Unemployment rates for veterans decreased slightly from 7.4% in June to 6.9% in July. The unemployment situation of Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation) improved slightly, decreasing from 9.5% in June to 8.9% in July 2012. Although their unemployment rate has decreased, the youngest post-9/11 veterans continue to experience the highest unemployment rates, with those in the 20-24 age range experiencing a 20.9% unemployment rate, compared to 13.6% for non-veterans in the same age group. Post-9/11 veterans ages 25-29 experienced a slight increase in their unemployment rate over the period from June to July (10.3% to 12.5%), which has remained higher than the unemployment rate for non-veterans in the same age group (9.2%). Female post-9/11 veterans experienced a significant decrease in their unemployment rate since June (10.1% to 5.9%) while male veterans experienced a slight increase, from 9.4% to 9.5%. While male post-9/11 veteran unemployment rates are higher compared to the 7.5% rate of their non-veteran counterparts, the female veteran unemployment rate is lower than the 8.2% rate for female non-veterans. Unemployment rates decreased for both Hispanic and African-American post-9/11 veterans from 16.7% and 19.3%, respectively, in June to 10.8% and 16.6% in July. However, both of these rates are higher compared to the Hispanic and African-American non-veteran unemployment rates for the month of July (9.3% and 14%, respectively).

## Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on August 3, 2012. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending July 2012.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	June 2012	July 2012	Change (+/-)	July 2011
All Americans	8.0	8.2	0.2	9.0
All Veterans	7.4	6.9	-0.5	8.6
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	9.5	8.9	-0.6	12.4
Gulf War era I Veterans	6.4	6.5	0.1	7.8
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	7.1	6.1	-1.0	8.1
All Nonveterans	8.1	8.3	0.2	9.0

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	June 2012	July 2012	Change (+/-)	July 2011
20-24	23.8	20.9	-2.9	20.5
25-29	10.3	12.5	2.2	19.6
30-34	4.8	6.3	1.5	13.1
35-39	6.1	8.7	2.6	9.1
40-44	0.5	(1)	-	5.4
45-49	9.0	2.5	-6.5	(1)
50-54	15.2	3.3	-11.9	4.6
55-59	5.4	8.9	3.5	3.0
60-64	22.8	15.4	-7.4	(1)
65 years and older	(1)	(1)	-	(1)
Male	9.4	9.5	0.1	12.2
Female	10.1	5.9	-4.2	14.1
White	7.6	7.9	0.3	10.6
Hispanic or Latino	16.7	10.8	-5.9	23.4
African-American	19.3	16.6	-2.7	19.5

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS				
Category	June 2012	July 2012	Change (+/-)	July 2011
20-24	14.3	13.6	-0.7	14.7
25-29	8.3	9.2	0.9	10.5
30-34	8.0	7.3	-0.7	8.4
35-39	7.0	7.1	0.1	7.1
40-44	6.5	6.5	0.0	6.8
45-49	5.7	6.6	0.9	7.4
50-54	6.3	6.7	0.4	7.1
55-59	5.3	6.3	1.0	7.1
60-64	6.1	6.6	0.5	7.5
65 years and older	7.1	7.1	0.0	6.8
Male	7.6	7.5	-0.1	8.5
Female	7.6	8.2	0.6	8.6
White	6.8	7.0	0.2	7.5
Hispanic or Latino	9.9	9.3	-0.6	10.1
African-American	13.2	14.0	0.8	16.0

## 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.

- **The White House** announced **Transition GPS**, a redesign of the former Transition Assistance Program. Transition GPS is developed by an interagency team from the **Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Education, and Homeland Security** as well as the **Office of Personnel and Management** and the **U.S. Small Business Administration**. Transition GPS will help separating service members successfully transition to the civilian workforce, start a business or pursue higher education. The program is expected to be fully integrated by the end of 2013. To read more, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/23/fact-sheet-president-obama-s-work-honor-our-military-families-and-vetera> and <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=15463>.
- The **President** called on Congress to pass the **Veterans Job Corps** proposal he announced in this year's State of the Union that would help Afghanistan and Iraq veterans get jobs as police officers and firefighters, as well as other jobs serving their communities. He also called on Congress to extend the **Returning Heroes** and **Wounded Warrior Tax Credits** for businesses that hire veterans. The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides an incentive of up to \$5,600 for firms to hire unemployed veterans, and the Wounded Warrior Tax Credit doubles the existing tax credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities to \$9,600. Both credits are set to expire at the end of this year. To read more, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/23/fact-sheet-president-obama-s-work-honor-our-military-families-and-vetera>.
- **Goodyear** announced its commitment to hire 1,000 veterans over the next three years through its partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes program and signed a statement of support for the Guard and Reserve. Goodyear also supports the military through charitable contributions such as the **Goodyear Gives Back** program, which generates support and donations for the Support Our Troops non-profit organization. To read more, visit <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/goodyear-to-hire-1000-veterans-164036076.html>.
- **Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell (R-Va.)** signed legislation that will make Virginia the "Most Veteran Friendly State in America." McDonnell ceremonially signed 22 bills, including extending the commonwealth's veterans' hiring preference to active members of the Virginia National Guard looking for state employment; making it easier for overseas military voters to have their ballots delivered and returned more quickly; and expediting the issuance of business or occupational licenses in Virginia to spouses of military service members. To read more, visit <http://fairfaxnews.com/2012/07/governor-signs-bills-making-virginia-most-veteran-friendly-state/>.
- **Delaware Governor Jack Markell (D-Del.)** signed legislation creating a new effort to help put recent combat veterans to work when they return from service. The **Veterans' Opportunity Tax Credit** will allow any business to take a tax credit of 10 percent of the gross wages paid to qualified veterans, with a cap of \$1,500. The cap will continue for three tax years, so the total benefit to the employer could be \$4,500 per veteran hired. To read more, visit <http://news.delaware.gov/2012/07/31/governor-signs-bill-to-put-veterans-to-work/>.

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 White House's work to honor and support America's veterans and military families has been substantial, and initiatives such as the **Veterans Employment Task Force**, implemented last August, have already made progress toward addressing the issues around veterans' employment. Other steps taken by the Obama administration include a challenge to community health centers to hire 8,000 veterans, approximately one veteran per health center site, over the next three years. As part of this effort, the Health Resources and Services Administration pledged to open career paths beyond nursing and expand opportunities for veterans to become physician assistants. In April 2012, President Obama signed an Executive Order to help ensure all of America's service members, veterans, spouses and other family members have the information they need to make informed educational decisions and will be protected from aggressive and deceptive targeting by educational institutions. In June 2012, the **Department of Defense** established, under the President's direction, a **Military Credentialing and Licensing Task Force**, which will identify opportunities where service members can earn civilian occupational credentials and licenses without the need for additional training. Also, the **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** has received record-levels of funding, with the fiscal year 2013 budget calling for \$64 billion in discretionary spending, and \$76 billion in mandatory funding. In addition, the Obama administration has made it clear that veterans' benefits are exempt from sequestration. Finally, the effort of ending veteran homelessness by 2015 has started to show effects, i.e., on any given night from 2010 to 2011 the number of homeless veterans decreased by 12 percent.

These White House initiatives and efforts show the seriousness and importance of supporting our transitioning service members, veterans and military families. In addition, the policies, initiatives and benefits highlighted above showcase the opportunities for private and public-sector companies to leverage new bills, laws, policies and other resources to join in addressing issues and challenges faced by the veteran community.

To learn more about the White House initiatives, efforts and accomplishments, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/23/fact-sheet-president-obama-s-work-honor-our-military-families-and-vetera>.