

July 2013

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for July 2013, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) decreased slightly to 7.4% (compared to June 2013). The employment situation representative of all veterans has worsened slightly, increasing from 6.3% in June 2013 to 6.4% in July 2013. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate increased from 7.2% in June 2013 to 7.7% in July 2013. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) improved slightly by 3.1% in July 2013 but remains high at 17.9%. Importantly, veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that remains 5.3% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. In terms of unemployment duration, approximately 79% of post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24 have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 166,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 23% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 23% for between 5 and 14 weeks and 54% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment situation of female post-9/11 veterans has improved, decreasing from 8.9% in June 2013 to 7.7% in July 2013. For comparison, currently female non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 7.0%. The unemployment situation of male post-9/11 veterans worsened, increasing from 6.8% in June 2013 to 7.7% in July 2013. For comparison, currently male non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 6.8%. The 11.1% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 12.2%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 11.3%, higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 8.3%.

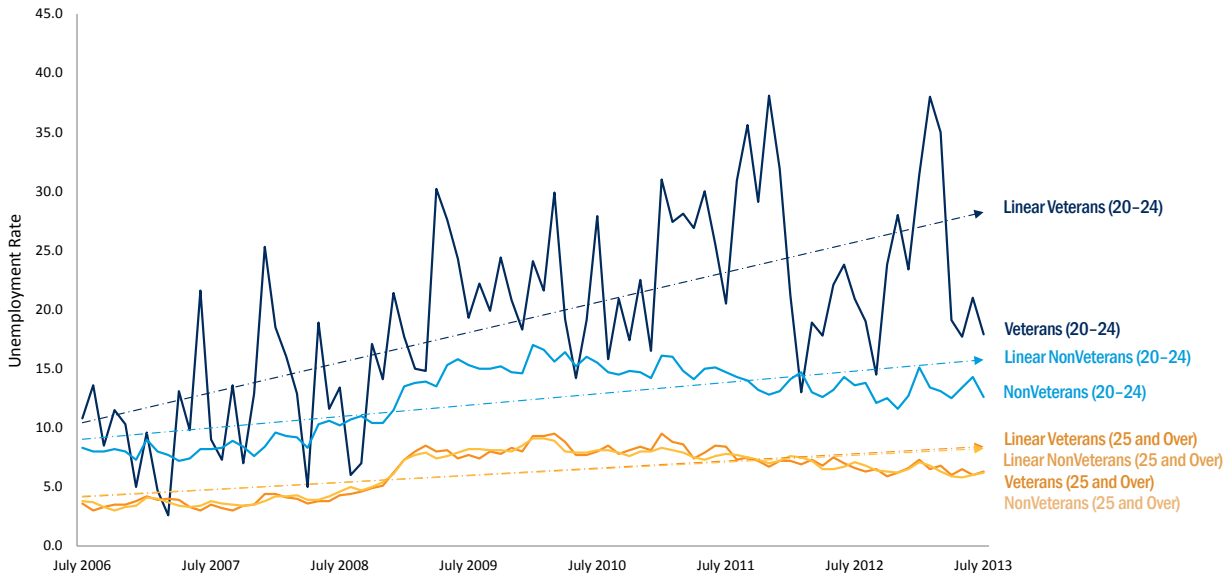
Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on August 2, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending July 2013.

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.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Rate of Unemployed July 2013	% Change from June to July 2013	Number of Unemployed July 2013	# Change from June to July 2013
All Americans	7.3	-0.1	11,200,000	-247,000
All Veterans	6.4	+0.1	702,000	+15,000
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	7.7	+0.5	166,000	+6,000
Gulf War era I Veterans	5.2	+0.3	141,000	+10,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	6.7	+0.6	195,000	+12,000
All Nonveterans	7.3	-0.2	10,498,000	-262,000

Category	GULF WAR ERA II (POST-9/11) VETERANS				NONVETERANS			
	Rate July 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number July 2013	# Change (+/-)	Rate July 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number July 2013	# Change (+/-)
20-24	17.9	-3.1	28,000	-6,000	12.6	-1.7	2,034,000	-269,000
25-29	12.3	+2.3	68,000	+15,000	8.3	+0.2	1,348,000	+38,000
30-34	4.1	+1.6	23,000	+9,000	7.0	-0.3	1,133,000	-47,000
35-39	6.9	+4.8	16,000	+11,000	6.1	+0.4	906,000	+63,000
40-44	4.9	+1.8	10,000	+4,000	5.9	+0.3	922,000	+40,000
45-49	6.4	-7.2	14,000	-16,000	6.1	+0.8	946,000	+107,000
50-54	2.8	-4.8	4,000	-9,000	5.5	-0.1	885,000	-15,000
55-59	1.2	-	1,000	-	5.5	+0.2	751,000	+23,000
60-64	8.0	-2.9	2,000	-2,000	4.8	+0.2	417,000	+24,000
65 years and older	22.3	-	1,000	-	4.6	-0.6	278,000	-45,000
Male	7.7	-1.0	138,000	-22,000	6.8	-0.1	4,811,000	-79,000
Female	7.7	+3.9	27,000	+20,000	7.0	0.0	4,810,000	-1,000
White	7.0	+1.1	118,000	+19,000	6.1	0.0	6,755,000	+17,000
Hispanic or Latino	11.3	+2.3	25,000	+2,000	8.3	+0.2	1,884,000	+58,000
African-American	11.1	-1.9	37,000	-11,000	12.2	-0.6	2,016,000	-102,000



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 July 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): 0.8% worse in July 2007, 4.0% worse in July 2009, 5.8% worse in July 2011, and 5.3% worse in July 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.

- Easter Seals Serving District of Columbia, Md., Va., and Capital One Bank, headquartered in McLean, Va. launch the Veteran Staffing Network (VSN):** The Veteran Staffing Network provides temp-to-permanent, contract and direct-hire placements. VSN connects businesses seeking top-notch job candidates with veterans and their spouses seeking employment and also focuses on retention and long-term employment. It also offers workshops for businesses to improve their ability to employ veterans and support them in the workplace. For more information, visit <http://veteranstaffingnetwork.org/>.
- Hireology Announces Release of New eBook:** Hireology, a leading selection management platform, has released a new eBook titled, “Hiring Our Heroes: The benefits of hiring veterans.” The e-Book discusses the benefits of hiring veteran job seekers, summarizes the unique attributes and skills possessed by many veteran job seekers and reviews the available tax credits for employers who hire vets. To download “the EBook, visit <http://resources.hireology.com/hiring-veterans-ebook>.
- U.S. Govt. Awards \$29 Million in Grants for Veteran Jobs:** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service announced that nearly \$29 million in grants will be allocated for veteran employment programs to help more than 14,000 veterans with job training and placement. The grants will be used to fund job training, job placement, career coaching, financial management and affordable housing to help over 14,000 homeless veterans served by the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. For more information,

visit <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20131265.htm>.

- Prime Introduces New Military Recruitment Program** Prime Inc. has introduced its Military Fast Track Program that links an advertising campaign and recruitment initiative to help service members transition into civilian jobs. The new program will increase veteran employment by taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the Military Commercial Driver’s License Act of 2012 that was signed into law last year. The legislation makes it easier for veterans to get their Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) by allowing states to waive residency requirements and issue CDLs in conjunction with the Department of Defense. For more information, visit <http://fleetowner.com/fleet-management/prime-introduces-new-military-recruitment-program>.
- Quarterly Jobs Report: 100,000 Jobs Mission Hires 77,612 Veterans through Second Quarter 2013:** The 100,000 Jobs Mission has grown to 109 companies that have collectively hired 77,612 U.S. military veterans through the second quarter of 2013. The initiative was launched in early 2011 by JPMorgan Chase and ten other companies to hire at least 100,000 veterans by 2020. The coalition represents diverse industries across the country from finance, telecommunications and defense, to transportation, retail and energy. To join the Veteran Talent Exchange, visit <http://www.vtx.jobs/> or it can be accessed at <http://www.100000jobsmission.com/>.

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.