

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for June 2013, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) remained unchanged at 7.6% (compared to May 2013). The employment situation representative of all veterans has improved slightly, decreasing from 6.6% in May 2013 to 6.3% in June 2013. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate decreased from 7.3% in May 2013 to 7.2% in June 2013. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) worsened slightly by 3.3% in June 2013 and remains the highest at 21.0%. Importantly, veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that remains 6.7% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. In terms of unemployment duration, approximately 68% of post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24 have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 160,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 24% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 18% for between 5 and 14 weeks and 58% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment situation of female post-9/11 veterans has worsened, increasing from 5.0% in May 2013 to 8.9% in June 2013. For comparison, currently female non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 7.0%. The unemployment situation of male post-9/11 veterans decreased from 7.8% in May 2013 to 6.8% in June 2013. For comparison, currently male non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 6.9%. The 13.0% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 12.8%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 9.0%, higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 8.1%.

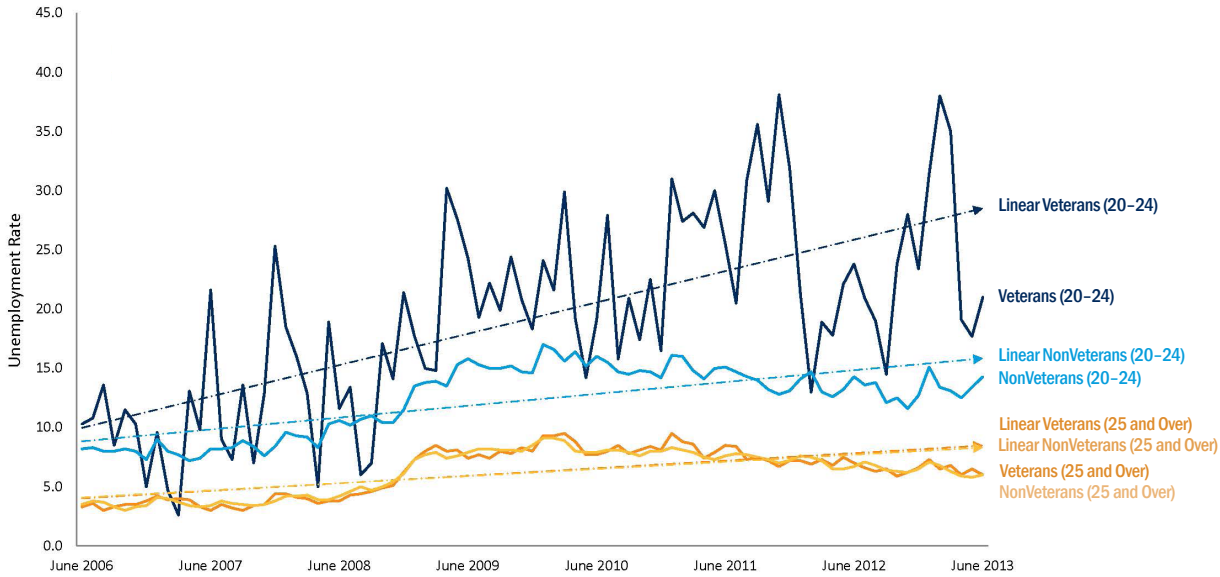
Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on July 5, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending June 2013.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Rate of Unemployed June 2013	% Change from May to June 2013	Number of Unemployed June 2013	# Change from May to June 2013
All Americans	7.4	+0.4	11,447,000	+703,000
All Veterans	6.3	-0.3	687,000	-57,000
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	7.2	-0.1	160,000	-3,000
Gulf War era I Veterans	4.9	-0.3	131,000	-19,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	6.1	-1.0	183,000	-34,000
All Nonveterans	7.5	+0.5	10,760,000	+760,000

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.

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	GULF WAR ERA II (POST-9/11) VETERANS				NONVETERANS			
	Category	Rate June 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number June 2013	# Change (+/-)	Rate June 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number June 2013
20-24	21.0	+3.3	34,000	+7,000	14.3	+0.9	2,303,000	+252,000
25-29	10.0	-1.2	53,000	-8,000	8.1	+0.8	1,310,000	+116,000
30-34	2.5	-0.2	14,000	-2,000	7.3	+0.9	1,180,000	+152,000
35-39	2.1	-3.7	5,000	-8,000	5.7	-0.7	843,000	-107,000
40-44	3.1	-0.8	6,000	-2,000	5.6	+0.4	882,000	+64,000
45-49	13.6	+1.4	30,000	+3,000	5.3	-0.1	839,000	-4,000
50-54	7.6	+1.7	13,000	+3,000	5.6	-0.2	900,000	-26,000
55-59	(1)	-	(1)	-	5.3	+0.1	728,000	+14,000
60-64	10.9	+4.0	4,000	+2,000	4.6	+0.5	393,000	+40,000
65 years and older	(1)	-	(1)	-	5.2	+0.8	323,000	+41,000
Male	6.8	-1.0	125,000	-22,000	6.9	-0.1	4,890,000	-11,000
Female	8.9	+3.9	36,000	+20,000	7.0	+0.8	4,811,000	+553,000
White	5.9	-1.0	99,000	-20,000	6.1	+0.2	6,738,000	+296,000
Hispanic or Latino	9.0	+4.4	23,000	+9,000	8.1	+0.5	1,826,000	+96,000
African-American	13.0	+2.9	48,000	+17,000	12.8	+0.7	2,118,000	+113,000



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 June 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): 13.4% worse in June 2007, 8.5% worse in June 2009, 10.4% worse in June 2011, and 6.7% worse in June 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.

- Labor Department Website Features Women Vets' Issues:** The Labor Department, the Veterans' Employment Training Service and the Women's Bureau Labor Department launched a new website devoted to issues and challenges affecting women veterans. The site highlights potential challenges that may affect the economic security of women veterans, including disability; marital status and its effects upon economic security; issues facing women veterans who are single parents and also contains links with information on employment opportunities, education and health care options and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government agencies. For more information, visit <http://www.dol.gov/vets/womenveterans/>.
- Accenture to Provide Veteran Training Services:** Accenture Federal Services under a consulting contract with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has completed the first 19 workshops designed to help reach the Chamber's goal of supporting civilian employment for 500,000 veterans and spouses. About 100 of these “Hiring Our Heroes Job Fairs” are planned across the country during the next 12 months. For more information, visit http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2013/6/3/accenture_to_provide_veteran_training_services.htm.
- Walmart Launches Commitment to Hiring 100,000 U.S. Veterans:** Walmart plans to hire more than 100,000 veterans over the next five years. Its Walmart Foundation has also committed \$20 million through 2015 to help veterans and their families transition into the civilian workforce through job training, transition support and education programs. For more information, visit <http://risnews.edg.com/retail-news/Walmart-Launches-Commitment-to-Hiring-100,000-U-S-Veterans86724>.
- Novitas Group Introduces Vet Connector to Make Hiring Veterans Simple:** Novitas Group's “Vet Connector” uses advanced technology to better portray a veteran's complete body of work and experiences; resume, fitness reports, DD-214, etc. into very intuitive “concepts” that extract the essence of their skills, education and experience and matches them to meaningful, relevant jobs. For more information, visit <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2013/6/prweb10793025.htm>.
- Clear Channel and iHeartRadio Announce ‘Show Your Stripes’ Veteran Employment Campaign:** Clear Channel and its iHeartRadio subsidiary's “Show Your Stripes” initiative uses a campaign of public service announcements directed to employers using Clear Channel's radio, billboard and digital platforms to help U.S. military veterans find work by highlighting the skills and experience they receive during their military service. A number of high profile celebrities record PSAs telling the stories of employed veterans. For more information, visit <http://www.showyourstripes.org/>.

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.