



THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF VETERANS

June 2014

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported a 6.1 percent national unemployment rate for all Americans (16 and over) for June 2014. This is a modest improvement (0.2 percent decrease) from the 6.3 percent national unemployment rate reported in May 2014. However, total veteran unemployment rose from 5.0 percent to 5.4 percent in the same time span. This trend appears consistently higher across multiple demographic factors in the veteran population, but most severe among younger veterans (ages 20-24), female veterans, and Asian-American veterans.

With respect to age, the youngest cohort of post 9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) experienced the greatest rise in unemployment to 15.4 percent in June 2014 (a 5.7 percent increase). These veterans are currently unemployed at a rate 4.1 percent higher than their non-veteran peers of the same age. Of the total 175,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 34 percent have been unemployed for less than five weeks, 21 percent between five and 14 weeks, and 44 percent for 15 weeks or more.

Female post-9/11 veterans also experienced an unemployment rate increase from 7.3 percent in May to 10.3 percent in June 2014. By comparison, female veterans (all cohorts) saw a smaller monthly jump in unemployment from 5.8 to 7.5 percent. These figures still persist higher than the 5.5 percent unemployment rate reported for their non-veteran female counterparts. Meanwhile, total male veteran unemployment remains one-percent below the national rate at 5.1 percent and post-9/11 male veterans fall slightly above the national rate at 6.3 percent.

African-American veterans, especially those in the post-9/11 generation, also saw a monthly rise in unemployment to 8.3 percent. While they fare slightly better than non-veteran African-Americans, their level of unemployment remains well above national and total veteran unemployment rates. Hispanic veterans (all cohorts) experienced a similar monthly rise in unemployment to 7.8 percent as well. Remarkably, Asian-American post-9/11 veterans currently experience the highest unemployment rate of any specific veteran demographic group, sitting at 22.7 percent. However, this figure has shown a high degree of monthly variability over the past six months.

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on July 3, 2014. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending June 2014.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	Rate of Unemployed June 2014	% Change from May to June	Number of Unemployed June 2014	% Change from May to June
All Americans (18 and over) ¹	5.9	+0.1	9,192,000	+192,000
All Veterans	5.4	+0.4	578,000	+40,000
Gulf War Era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	7.0	+1.7	175,000	+45,000
Gulf War Era I Veterans	4.6	-0.7	127,000	-20,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	5.1	+0.2	133,000	+1,000
All Nonveterans	6.0	+0.1	8,614,000	+152,000

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR VETERANS AND NONVETERANS

Category	VETERANS		GULF WAR ERA II		NONVETERANS	
	Rate June 2014	% Change (+/-)	Rate June 2014	% Change (+/-)	Rate June 2014	% Change (+/-)
20-24	15.4	+5.7	15.4	+5.7	11.3	0.0
25-29	11.6	+4.4	11.6	+4.4	7.1	-0.1
30-34	4.5	+1.6	4.2	+0.7	5.7	+0.2
35-39	5.2	-1.2	4.7	+2.8	4.3	-0.5
40-44	4.3	-1.1	6.9	-2.6	4.5	-0.2
45-49	3.5	-1.4	12.4	+2.0	4.4	+0.1
50-54	4.4	-0.5	-	-	3.7	-0.4
55-59	8.9	+4.8	6.2	+4.7	4.0	-0.1
60-64	5.0	+0.3	-	-	4.0	0.0
65 years and older	4.3	-0.9	-	-	4.8	0.0
Male	5.1	+0.2	6.3	+1.3	5.6	-0.2
Female	7.5	+1.7	10.3	+3.0	5.5	+0.1
White	4.7	+0.2	6.2	+1.9	4.8	0.0
Hispanic or Latino	7.8	+4.5	7.2	+3.3	6.7	-0.2
African-American	8.3	+1.5	9.7	+3.9	10.0	-0.7
Asian	9.5	+1.8	22.7	-5.9	4.6	-0.4

¹ **NOTE:** Table 1 is for the population of 18 and over and will not be the same as the overall BLS reported numbers which report data for those ages 16 and over. 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 war-time period are classified only in the most recent one. Veterans who served during one of the selected wartime periods and another peacetime period are classified only in the wartime period. The minority-by-gender unemployment rates are not displayed due to small sample size and are more appropriately displayed as annual averages.

FIGURE 1: 2-YEAR OUTLOOK

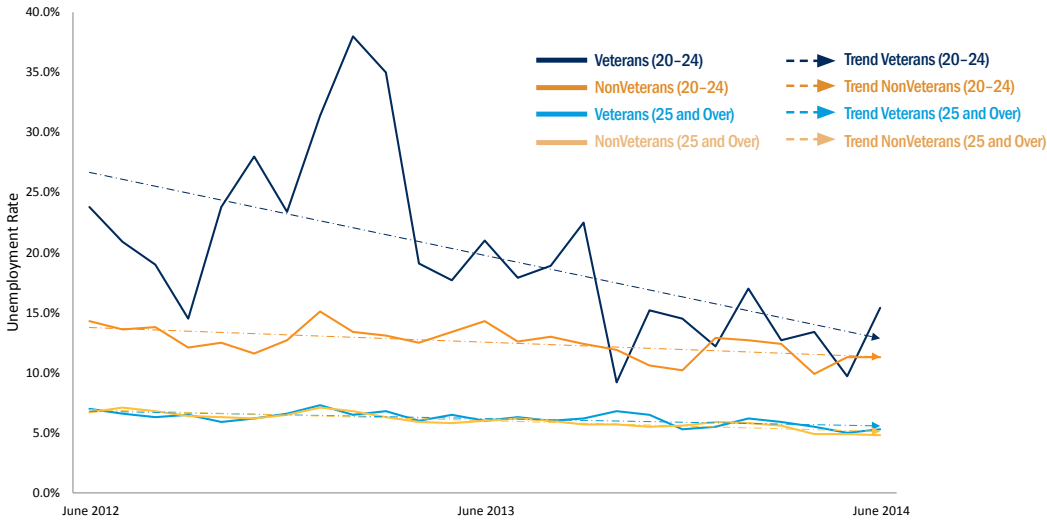
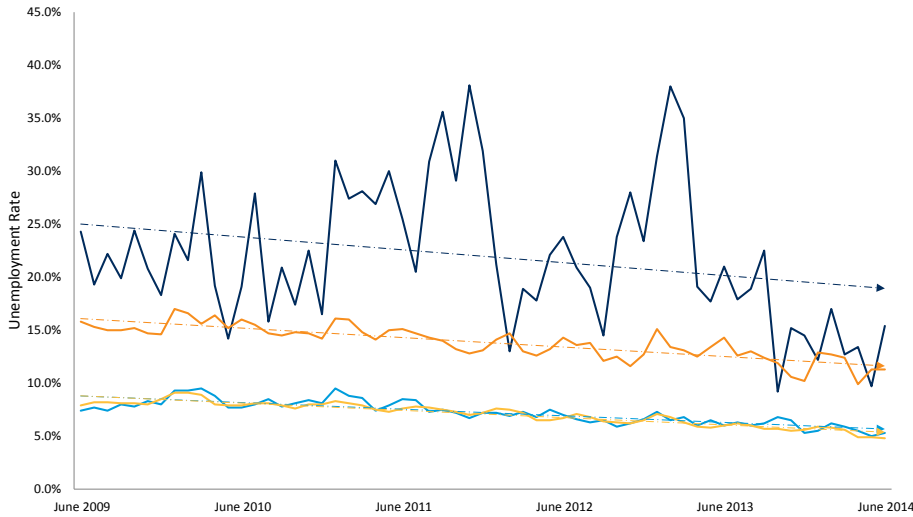


FIGURE 2: 5-YEAR OUTLOOK



FIGURES 1 and 2 depict the monthly unemployment rates for veterans (ages 20-24 and 25 and older) and non-veterans. Overall, the unemployment rates for all veterans show a gradual improvement (decrease) since 2009, though they remain higher than their non-veteran counterparts. Veterans aged 24 or younger have experienced the highest unemployment, however, this difference has decreased steadily over five years and shows recent signs of convergence with the unemployment rate of veterans 25 years and older (Figure 1).

FIGURE 3: DIFFERENCES (GAPS) BETWEEN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR VETERANS AND NON-VETERANS

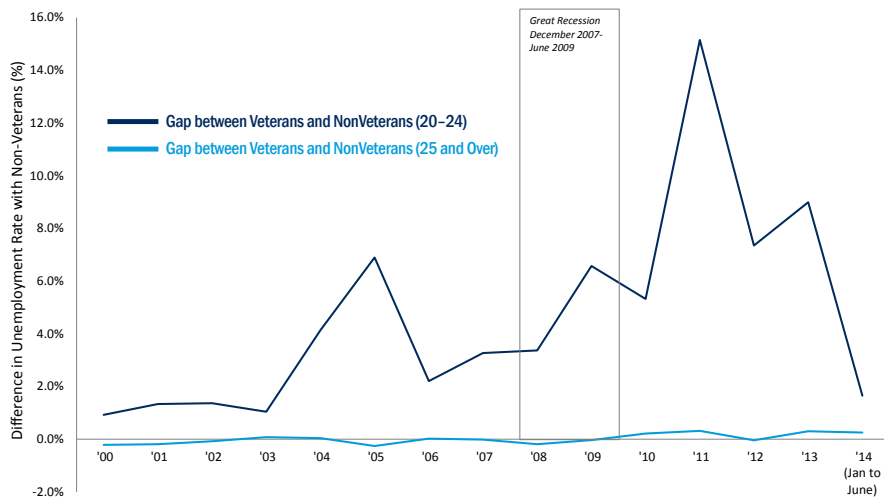


FIGURE 3 depicts the differences in annual rates of unemployment between veterans (ages 20-24 and 25 and older) and non-veterans. The difference—or gap—has varied year-to-year and must be considered with caution in the context of broader economic trends, such as the recession that lasted from 2007 to 2009. Starting in 2006, the unemployment gap between the youngest veterans and non-veterans increased sharply to a peak gap of 15.2% in 2011. This gap has declined steadily since then, nearing pre-2004 levels.