



March 2014

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for March 2014, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) remained unchanged at 6.7% (compared to 6.7% in February 2014). The employment situation representative of all veterans has improved slightly, decreasing from 6.3% in February to 6.0% in March 2014. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate has improved, decreasing from 9.2% in February to 6.9% in March 2014. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) improved by 4.3%, decreasing from 17.0% in February to 12.7% in March 2014. Veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that is currently only 0.3% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. Of the 169,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 17% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 21% between 5 and 14 weeks and 62% for 15 weeks or more. In terms of unemployment duration of unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24, approximately 61.1% have been unemployed for more than five weeks.

The unemployment rate of female post-9/11 veterans has decreased from 9.9% in February to 4.4% in March 2014. For comparison, female non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 6.1%. The unemployment rate of male post-9/11 veterans improved, decreasing from 9.0% in February to 7.2% in March 2014. For comparison, male non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 6.6%. The 8.7% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 11.6%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 9.5%, higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 7.5%.

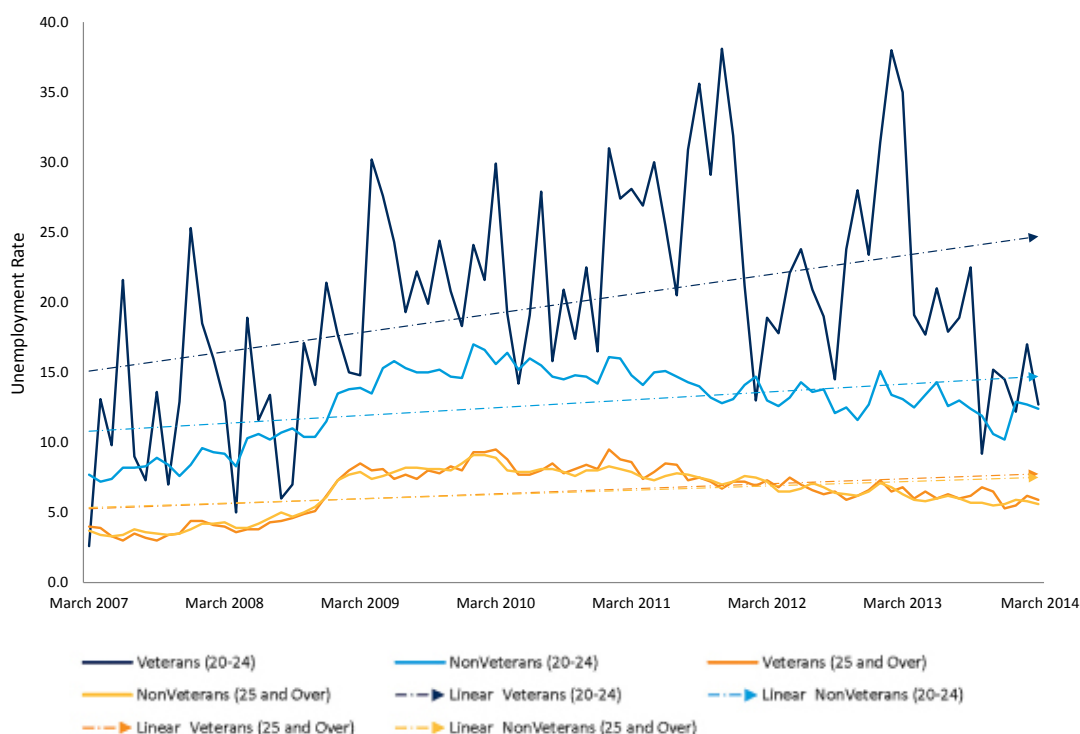
Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on April 4, 2014. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending March 2014.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Rate of Unemployed March 2014	% Change from February to March	Number of Unemployed March 2014	% Change from February to March
All Americans	6.6	-0.3	10,184,000	-355,000
All Veterans	6.0	-0.3	650,000	-34,000
Gulf War Era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	6.9	-2.3	172,000	-51,000
Gulf War Era I Veterans	5.1	+0.5	141,000	+13,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	5.7	-0.8	160,000	-24,000
All Nonveterans	6.7	-0.2	9,534,000	-320,000

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 wartime 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.

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	GULF WAR ERA II (POST-9/11) VETERANS				NONVETERANS			
	Category	Rate March 2014	% Change (+/-)	Number March 2014	# Change (+/-)	Rate March 2014	% Change (+/-)	Number March 2014
20-24	12.7	-4.3	18,000	-6,000	12.4	-0.3	1,918,000	-18,000
25-29	7.7	-11.1	39,000	-59,000	7.5	-0.3	1,236,000	-44,000
30-34	5.3	-1.8	41,000	-10,000	6.6	-0.4	1,063,000	-80,000
35-39	6.4	+0.7	24,000	+5,000	5.6	-0.3	846,000	-39,000
40-44	6.7	+1.1	16,000	+3,000	5.0	-0.1	772,000	-19,000
45-49	12.8	-	20,000	-	5.0	-0.6	776,000	-75,000
50-54	3.8	-2.9	7,000	-6,000	5.1	-0.3	813,000	-46,000
55-59	3.0	+0.2	3,000	0	5.0	+0.3	682,000	+44,000
60-64	-	-	-	-	4.9	-0.2	444,000	-23,000
65 years and older	8.3	-	1,000	-	4.3	-0.1	275,000	-11,000
Male	7.2	-1.8	152,000	-31,000	6.6	-0.6	4,644,000	-393,000
Female	4.4	-5.5	17,000	-23,000	6.1	+0.2	4,180,000	+81,000
White	6.3	-2.3	123,000	-39,000	5.5	-0.2	6,062,000	-269,000
Hispanic or Latino	9.5	-2.6	35,000	-9,000	7.5	-0.4	1,728,000	-85,000
African-American	8.7	-3.6	31,000	-13,000	11.6	-0.1	1,946,000	+2,000



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 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): 3.7% worse in March 2008, 14.3% worse in March 2010, 5.9% worse in March 2012, and 0.3% worse in March 2014. 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.

- MOAA and IVMF Briefed Congressional Military Family Caucus:** On March 27, 2014, MOAA and IVMF briefed military spouses and congressional staff members on the MOAA/IVMF Military Spouse Employment Report in Washington, DC. A major finding was that using data from the American Community Survey, there are consistently noticeable gaps in income and unemployment between armed forces women spouses and their civilian counterparts. Another major finding, using data collected from MOAA/IVMF, was that 90% of responding female spouses of active duty service members report being underemployed, meaning they possess more formal education/experience than needed at their current or most recent position. For more information, visit <http://vets.syr.edu/research/research-highlights/milspouse-survey/>.
- New York State passed the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB) Act in both houses:** The State of New York passed into executive law S.6865/A.9135, which expands opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises. This bill establishes a program to increase participation of SDVOB enterprises in state contracting as a significant step in expanding economic opportunity for veterans to share in the economy. Under this program, a new Division of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises would be created and would be responsible for a directory of certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned business enterprises that is available to state agencies as well as helping state agencies foster and promote the use of these businesses for state contracts. This bill would be effective immediately upon its enactment and expire on March 31, 2019. For more information, <http://www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness/2014/service-disabled-veteran-owned-business-act.html>.
- Military Veterans Finding A Friendly Welcome In The U.S. Solar Sector:** 9.2%

of all solar sector employees are veterans compared with 7.6% of other U.S. companies. Among veterans employed in the solar sector, 39% were employed in the installation segment (jobs ranging from solar designers, engineers, installers and technicians). Twenty seven percent of workers were in manufacturing, such as production and operations workers and the rest were in sales and distribution (14%), project development (6%), or other (14%). Many of these positions are filled by utilizing programs like Veterans for Green Jobs and Helmets to Hardhats. To read the Veterans in Solar Report, visit <http://www.vetsinsolar.org/>. For more information, visit http://solarindustrymag.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13898.

- Vocational Rehabilitation Improves Thousands of Veterans' Lives:** The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program provides help and guidance to vets with service-connected disabilities, whether the best fit is returning to a previous job, finding a new job, self-employment, seeking additional training to improve employment prospects or finding the community support that will allow veterans to live independent lives. For information about the nearest VR&E location and available vocational counselors, visit https://www.vetsuccess.va.gov/public/assets/employment_coordinators_list_september_5_2013.pdf. For more information, visit <http://www.navytimes.com/article/20140305/EDU/303050022/DAV-Vocational-rehab-improves-thousands-vets-lives>.

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.