

May 2013

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for May 2013, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) had little change at 7.6% (compared to 7.5% for April 2013). The employment situation representative of all veterans has worsened slightly, increasing from 6.2% in April 2013 to 6.6% in May 2013. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate decreased from 7.5% in April 2013 to 7.3% in May 2013. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) improved by almost 1.4% in May 2013, however it remains high at 17.7%. Importantly, veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that remains 4.3% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. In terms of unemployment duration, approximately 78% of post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24 have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 163,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 26% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 25% for between 5 and 14 weeks and 49% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment situation of female post-9/11 veterans improved, decreasing from 7.2% in April to 5.0% in May 2013. For comparison, currently female non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 6.2%. The unemployment situation of male post-9/11 veterans increased from 7.6% in April to 7.8% in May 2013. For comparison, currently male non-veterans are unemployed at a rate of 7%. The 10.1% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 12.1%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 4.6%, lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 7.6%.

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on June 7, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending May 2013.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	April 2013	May 2013	Change (+/-)	May 2012
All Americans	6.9	7.0	0.1	7.7
All Veterans	6.2	6.6	0.4	7.8
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	7.5	7.3	-0.2	12.7
Gulf War era I Veterans	5.5	5.2	-0.3	6.3
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	7.0	7.1	0.1	6.9
All Nonveterans	6.9	7.0	0.1	7.7

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	April 2013	May 2013	Change (+/-)	May 2012
20-24	19.1	17.7	-1.4	22.1
25-29	4.9	11.2	6.3	21.1
30-34	10.7	2.7	-8.0	7.7
35-39	3.0	5.8	2.8	11.4
40-44	2.8	3.9	1.1	5.6
45-49	10.4	12.2	1.8	7.0
50-54	7.4	5.9	-1.5	8.2
55-59	(1)	(1)	-	4.3
60-64	7.5	6.9	-0.6	(1)
65 years and older	(1)	(1)	-	23.7
Male	7.6	7.8	0.2	12.4
Female	7.2	5.0	-2.2	12.7
White	7.5	6.9	-0.6	11.4
Hispanic or Latino	8.7	4.6	-4.1	18.9
African-American	7.9	10.1	2.2	19.1

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS				
Category	April 2013	May 2013	Change (+/-)	May 2012
20-24	12.5	13.4	0.9	13.2
25-29	7.9	7.3	-0.6	8.2
30-34	6.3	6.4	0.1	7.4
35-39	5.9	6.4	0.5	6.7
40-44	5.1	5.2	0.1	6.0
45-49	5.9	5.4	-0.5	5.5
50-54	5.5	5.8	0.3	6.2
55-59	5.0	5.2	0.2	5.4
60-64	5.0	4.1	-0.9	6.3
65 years and older	5.2	4.4	-0.8	6.7
Male	7.0	7.0	0.0	7.4
Female	6.2	6.2	0.0	7.1
White	5.8	5.9	0.1	6.5
Hispanic or Latino	7.6	7.6	0.0	9.4
African-American	11.9	12.1	0.2	12.6

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.

- **Show Me Heroes Pledge Promotes Hiring of Missouri Veterans:** A group of 2,989 Missouri employers have taken the “Show-Me Heroes” pledge committing to increase their veteran interviews and hiring opportunities. The pledge comes after Missouri lawmakers expanded the requirements for those eligible for the program, as well as the continuing decrease in the national veteran unemployment rate. Additionally, qualified spouses are also eligible for the program which offers On-the-Job (OJT) training wage reimbursement for up to 50% of the employee’s wages for returning National Guard, Reservists and recently-separated active-duty service members during a contracted training period. Since the program’s inception, more than 4,200 veterans have been hired by affiliated Show-Me Heroes companies. For more information, visit http://www.news-leader.com/article/20130519/BUSINESS04/305190008/Show-Me-Heroes-program-veterans-employment-Ozarks-Missouri?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7Cphoto%20Essays%7Cp&nclick_check=1 and <http://showmeheroes.mo.gov/>.
- **AT&T provides 5,000 career opportunities for veterans:** AT&T has announced that it has set a goal to hire 5,000 veterans and their family members over the next five years. They also announced that they will partner with JPMorgan Chase (JPMC) and the 100,000 Jobs Mission to launch a veteran talent exchange later this year, which would allow veterans and active-duty service members to “opt-in” to a database that would facilitate the referral and sharing of candidates between the 100,000 Jobs Mission companies. Through the first quarter of 2013, the coalition of 101 companies has hired 64,628 veterans. For more information, visit <http://www.edmondsun.com/business/x319989422/AT-T-provides-5-000-career-opportunities-for-veterans>.
- **The Home Depot offers a military skills translator on their website:** The Skills Translator takes a veteran’s unique skills that they put on their resume and matches them with jobs that may match their skillsets in a Home Depot store. Other military skills translation services are also offered such as Green, an online database where veterans enter their military positions and it populates descriptions of their jobs that civilians can better understand. For more information on the military skills translator, visit <http://www.homedepotmilitary.com/skilltranslator.html>. For more information on Home Depot’s military support services, visit <http://careers.homedepot.com/>.
- **New loan incentive program for veteran-owned businesses:** The National Association of Development Companies (NADCO) has launched its new VetLoan Advantage program targeted at veteran entrepreneurs. The loan program is designed so veterans can have increased access to government capital; NADCO’s trade association of nonprofit companies are encouraged to offer commercial real estate and capital loans to veteran-owned small businesses. NADCO has been certified by the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) loans, and the VetLoan Advantage program was developed in conjunction with the SBA and San Diego-based CDC Small Business Finance. For more information, visit <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/may/17/tp-new-loan-incentive-program-for-entrepreneurial/>.

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 number of women veterans is projected to double over the next two decades and their transition from military to civilian employment will be affected by their military experience, the economy and how the skills they learned in the military transfer to the civilian work environment. A recent study identified that among women veterans who are homeless, 100% were unemployed (Hamilton, Poza, Washington, 2011, Women’s Health Issues; 21: S203-9). The Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) and partners identified salient issues affecting employment and other life activities among women veterans, including those who are homeless, at the National Summit on Women Veteran Homelessness held in Chicago on May 2-3. The IVMF convened over 80 experts on women veteran issues, particularly women veteran homelessness, representing research, policy and program practice, as well as first-person experiences of women veterans affected by homelessness. The employment outlook for women veterans and their ability to obtain and retain jobs can be affected by a number of the issues that Summit participants identified, including: 1) the impact of military sexual trauma (MST) on employment, goal setting and job acquisition and the need for women veterans to have access to counseling and support for these issues; 2) loneliness and feelings of separation that can be addressed through peer support and workplace affinity groups; 3) child care needs that may be addressed by low-cost child care provided by employers or by the service provider when needed; 4) safe and affordable housing so that undue rent burden does not adversely affect household income which can be addressed by connecting women veterans to local housing resources, particularly the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Services for Veterans and Families Programs (SSVF) if they are at risk of becoming homeless. For more information, visit <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp>. These issues and others that affect women veteran employment today and in the future will be described in a forthcoming IVMF Summit Report and subsequent White Papers.