

November 2013

The Employment Situation of Veterans

Today the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for November 2013, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) improved, decreasing to 7.0% (compared to 7.3% in October 2013). The employment situation representative of all veterans has improved slightly, decreasing from 6.9% in October 2013 to 6.7% in November 2013. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate remained essentially unchanged, decreasing slightly from 10% in October 2013 to 9.9% in November 2013. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) worsened by 6%, increasing from 9.2% in October 2013 to 15.2% in November 2013. Importantly, veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that is currently 4.6% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. In terms of unemployment duration, approximately 71.4% of post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24 have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 237,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 13.1% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 32.9% for between 5 and 14 weeks and 54% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment rate of female post-9/11 veterans has decreased from 11.6% in October 2013 to 10% in November 2013. For comparison, female non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 5.9%. The unemployment rate of male post-9/11 veterans worsened, increasing from 9.5% in October 2013 to 9.8% in November 2013. For comparison, male non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 6.3%. The 7.7% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 11.2%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 14.8%, higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 7.9%.

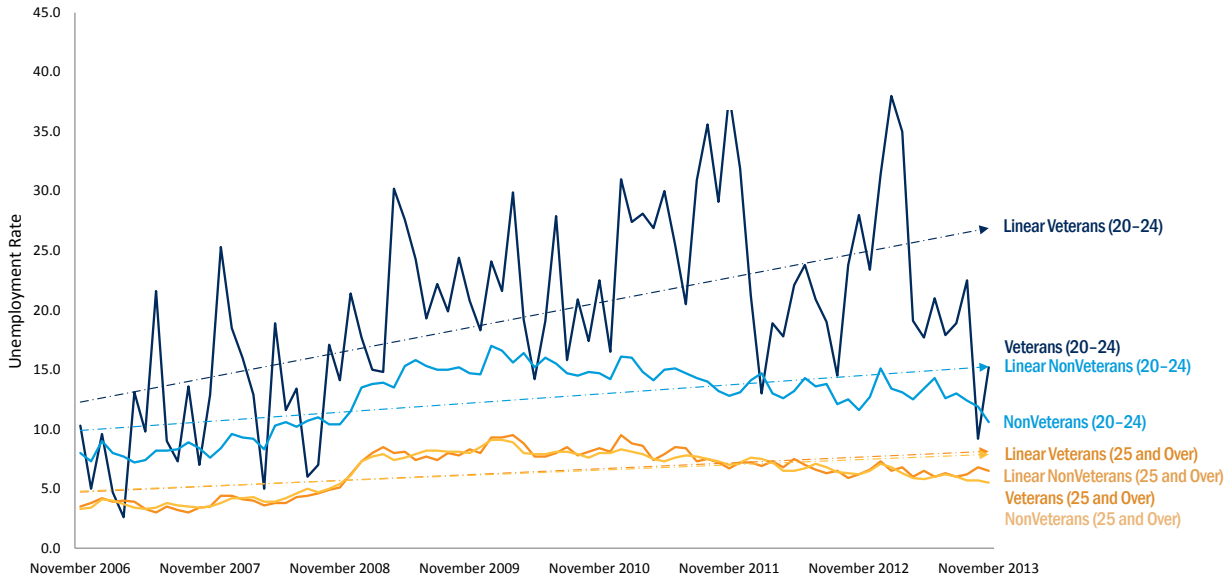
Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on December 6, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending November 2013.

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 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Rate of Unemployed November 2013	% Change from October to November 2013	Number of Unemployed November 2013	% Change from October to November 2013
All Americans	6.4	-0.4	9,846,000	-512,000
All Veterans	6.7	-0.2	724,000	-26,000
Gulf War Era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	9.9	-0.1	241,000	-5,000
Gulf War Era I Veterans	6.6	+0.2	175,000	+10,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	5.3	-1.1	144,000	-36,000
All Nonveterans	6.4	-0.4	9,122,000	-486,000

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	GULF WAR ERA II (POST-9/11) VETERANS				NONVETERANS			
	Category	Rate November 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number November 2013	# Change (+/-)	Rate November 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number November 2013
20-24	15.2	+6.0	21,000	+5,000	10.6	-1.3	1,624,000	-195,000
25-29	14.6	+0.2	93,000	+7,000	7.4	0.0	1,198,000	+3,000
30-34	9.0	+1.7	60,000	+10,000	6.3	0.0	1,025,000	+13,000
35-39	4.8	-5.3	14,000	-14,000	5.8	+0.3	878,000	+48,000
40-44	4.3	-6.3	9,000	-19,000	5.0	-0.1	775,000	-17,000
45-49	5.2	+3.1	10,000	+6,000	5.4	-0.1	833,000	-19,000
50-54	11.9	+0.3	21,000	+1,000	5.0	-0.4	803,000	-65,000
55-59	11.0	-0.4	11,000	-11,989	4.6	-0.4	633,000	-63,000
60-64	-	-	-	-	4.7	-0.7	412,000	-65,000
65 years and older	-	-	-	-	4.6	-0.1	292,000	0
Male	9.8	+0.3	191,000	+4,000	6.3	-0.2	4,449,000	-97,000
Female	10.0	-1.6	46,000	-10,000	5.9	-0.4	4,026,000	-261,000
White	10.2	-0.4	187,000	-9,000	5.3	-0.2	5,789,000	-195,000
Hispanic or Latino	14.8	-0.5	56,000	+11,000	7.9	0.0	1,826,000	+36,000
African-American	7.7	-1.3	29,000	-7,000	11.2	-0.9	1,835,000	-177,000



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 November 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): 5.3% worse in November 2007, 6.1% worse in November 2009, 25.3% worse in November 2011, and 4.6% worse in November 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.

- Tax Breaks for Employers Who Hire Post-9/11 Veterans:** The New York State Division of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) is promoting a new tax credit to incentivize employers to hire New York’s post-9/11 veterans. NY has allocated \$74 million to provide tax breaks that can be applied against the taxes of any private business that hires a post-9/11 veteran after Jan. 1, 2014 and before Jan. 1, 2017, to a full-time position of at least 35 hours a week for at least one year. The credit is capped at \$5,000 for non-disabled post-9/11 veterans and at \$15,000 for disabled post-9/11 veterans. In order for employers to take advantage of this opportunity, the veteran employee must be a new hire who had been unemployed for at least six months. The new policy prohibits employers from firing an employee to replace them with another veteran to receive the credit. The new policy is based on the “Job for Heroes” legislation the Independent Democratic Conference introduced back in February. This tax incentive will help lower the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans. For more information, visit <http://www.legislativegazette.com/Articles-Top-Stories-c-2013-11-25-85982.113122-New-employer-tax-credit-could-get-younger-veterans-to-work.html>.

and meaningful week of events hosted by a variety of campus organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/awareness/>.

- In-State Tuition Rates Proposed to Be Equal for all Veterans, Regardless of Where They Reside:** Under the G.I. Bill, the federal government pays 100% of secondary education costs for honorably discharged veterans who have served at least 36 months since Sept. 11, 2001, but it pays only at in-state tuition rates. That means out-of-state veterans must pay the difference, which can be significant, or wait to establish residency. A New Jersey Senator is proposing that regardless of the state that you reside, all veterans would receive in state tuition rates. Senator Donald Norcross stated this proposal is “a courtesy to those who have fought on behalf of our state, no matter where they live.”The proposed legislation would follow other state institutions like Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Galloway, which has offered in-state tuition rates to any veteran since 2009. For more information, visit http://www.burlingtoncourntimes.com/opinion/editorial/give-vets-in-state-rates/article_696ec00e-0c05-5784-ad12-1f0dc72215dc.html.

- National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, November 16-24 2013:** Each year during the week prior to Thanksgiving, the National Coalition for Homeless co-sponsors National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Throughout this week, communities take part in a nationwide effort to promote education, bring action and awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness. During this week, schools communities and cities throughout the nation will strive to bring a greater awareness to these issues of hunger and homelessness. Community campuses across the country engage in this educational

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.