

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the overall jobless rates are essentially unchanged for all Americans at 7.3%. The unemployment situation for all veterans has improved from last month, decreasing from 6.7% to 6.3%. However, for Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate has increased from 9.7% to 10.0% from September to October. The youngest post-9/11 veterans continue to experience the highest unemployment rates, with those in the 20-24 age range experiencing a 23.8% unemployment rate (compared to 12.5% for non-veterans) and those in the 25-29 age range experiencing a 10.1% unemployment rate (compared to 8.7% for non-veterans). Of the 206,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 64% have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more. Older post-9/11 veterans are starting to experience high unemployment rates as well, with those in the 60-64 age range experiencing a 21.0% unemployment rate (which is up from 11.2% in September).

Female post-9/11 veterans experienced a significant decrease in their unemployment rates, which dropped 4.4% from September to October (19.9% to 15.5%). For male post-9/11 veterans over this same period, unemployment rates increased by 1.0% (8.0% to 9.0%). Both male and female post-9/11 veterans have unemployment rates that are higher than those of their non-veteran counterparts, currently at 7% for both genders. Unemployment rates increased significantly for Hispanic post-9/11 veterans from 7.2% to 14.1%, while they decreased significantly for African-American post-9/11 veterans from 14.6% to 7.4%. While Hispanic non-veterans have a lower unemployment rate than Hispanic post-9/11 veterans at 8.8%, African-American non-veterans have a higher unemployment rate (13.2%), compared to African-American post-9/11 veterans.

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on November 2, 2012. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending October 2012.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	September 2012	October 2012	Change (+/-)	October 2011
All Americans	7.4	7.3	-0.1	8.3
All Veterans	6.7	6.3	-0.4	7.7
Gulf War era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	9.7	10.0	0.3	12.1
Gulf War era I Veterans	6.6	5.2	-1.4	5.9
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	5.3	5.3	0.0	7.2
All Nonveterans	7.4	7.4	0.0	8.4

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	September 2012	October 2012	Change (+/-)	October 2011
20-24	14.5	23.8	9.3	29.1
25-29	11.5	10.1	-1.4	18.6
30-34	8.9	6.9	-2.0	7.2
35-39	8.4	3.8	-4.6	6.3
40-44	4.5	2.2	-2.3	3.6
45-49	13.2	14.2	1.0	4.1
50-54	3.7	9.3	5.6	8.5
55-59	1.6	4.9	3.3	(1)
60-64	11.2	21.0	9.8	4.8
65 years and older	(1)	(1)	-	(1)
Male	8.0	9.0	1.0	12.3
Female	19.9	15.5	-4.4	9.5
White	8.5	10.6	2.1	12.0
Hispanic or Latino	7.2	14.1	6.9	17.7
African-American	14.6	7.4	-7.2	12.1

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS				
Category	September 2012	October 2012	Change (+/-)	October 2011
20-24	12.1	12.5	0.4	13.2
25-29	8.7	8.7	0.0	10.0
30-34	6.9	7.2	0.3	8.3
35-39	6.6	6.3	-0.3	6.6
40-44	5.9	5.9	0.0	7.1
45-49	5.6	5.7	0.1	6.8
50-54	5.6	5.5	-0.1	6.2
55-59	6.0	5.2	-0.8	6.1
60-64	5.2	5.7	0.5	6.8
65 years and older	6.0	5.9	-0.1	7.2
Male	7.0	7.0	0.0	8.1
Female	7.0	7.0	0.0	7.8
White	6.3	6.1	-0.2	7.0
Hispanic or Latino	8.6	8.8	0.2	10.0
African-American	12.5	13.2	0.7	14.0

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.

- **New program aims to help female veterans-turned-entrepreneurs:** Capital One and Count Me In have partnered to launch the Women Veteran Entrepreneur Corps (WVEC) to help female small business owners who are veterans (as well as their spouses or domestic partners) overcome common entrepreneurial pitfalls and grow revenues. For seed money, Capital One has committed \$800,000 toward the program. For more information, visit http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/10/24/14651143-new-program-aims-to-help-female-veterans-turned-entrepreneurs?lite.
- **Manufacturers to train veterans for factory jobs:** Four of the largest U.S. manufacturers unveiled plans for a new coalition (of which the IVMF is a partner) to train military veterans to work in the manufacturing sector. GE, Alcoa, Boeing and Lockheed Martin will provide financial support to the “Get Skills to Work Coalition” that will train and hire 15,000 veterans or match them to other jobs. Open jobs will be listed on LinkedIn. For more information, visit <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/15/us-usa-economy-jobs-veterans-idUSBRE89E0XC20121015>.
- **Mission Transition Civilian Career Workshops:** On Oct. 27, The Home Depot, a leader in home improvement and construction products and services, held a special one-day event to help returning veterans improve their prospects for employment. The event helped improve veterans’ resumes, job search strategy and interview techniques, which could be used in any industry. For more information, visit <http://www.homedepotmilitary.com/>.
- **ON24 Platform Powers Veterans Virtual Job Fair:** ON24 Inc., the global leader in webcasting and virtual event solutions, announced a partnership with Veteran Recruiting Services, the market leader for virtual career fairs for the military community, to host an inaugural virtual career fair for veterans with service-related disabilities on Oct. 31. For more information, visit <http://webcast.broadcastnewsroom.com/article/ON24-Platform-Powers-Veterans-Virtual-Job-Fair-2259773>.
- **Congress Passes CDL Act for Vet Employment:** The House of Representatives has passed S. 3624, the Military Commercial Driver’s License Act of 2012 unanimously, which gives active duty military personnel, military reserves, members of the National Guard, active duty U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary members more flexibility in obtaining a Commercial Driver’s License, to help pursue job opportunities immediately after leaving the service. Companion Senate legislation (S. 3624) was passed unanimously in the Senate. The Military CDL Act is endorsed by the American Trucking Association and the Owner-Operator and Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA). The legislation is expected to be signed into law. For more information, visit <http://www.military.com/veteran-jobs/career-advice/2012/10/01/military-commercial-drivers-license-act.html>.
- **JPMorgan Chase Announces More Than 4,500 Veterans Hired at Firm; 82 Companies Now Part of 100,000 Jobs Campaign:** Since the campaign was launched in 2011 the coalition of private sector companies has grown from 11 employers to 82 who have collectively hired 28,186 veterans as of Sept. 30, 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.dailyfinance.com/2012/10/25/jpmorgan-chase-announces-more-than-4500-veterans-h/>.

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

Homelessness amongst veterans (or threat of homelessness) has been an ongoing issue in the U.S. About 2.3 to 3.5 million people experience homelessness in any given year, with 26% of homeless adults belonging to the veteran population. Female veterans are almost four times as likely as their non-veteran peers to become homeless. The Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released a supplemental report to the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress on veterans that estimated that 76,000 veterans experience homelessness on any given night. There are several federal programs that prevent and reduce risk of homelessness. One of those programs is VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program. The SSVF purpose is to provide supportive services grants to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives who will coordinate or provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families who: a) are residing in permanent housing; b) are homeless and scheduled to become residents of permanent housing within a specified time period; or c) after exiting permanent housing within a specified time period, are seeking other housing that is responsive to such very low-income veteran family’s needs and preferences. The top funding priority under this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is for existing SSVF grantees seeking to renew their supportive services grants. Approximately \$300 million will be available under this grant. It is important that employers, employment agencies, veteran service organizations and others working on the veteran issues of employment and homelessness are aware of these programs, work with them and provide adequate support to collaboratively leverage these resources and create large and more effective impact on the veteran community with the goal to reduce and prevent homelessness.

To learn more and apply for SSVF, visit <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-10-26/html/2012-26376.htm>. Note: Applications for initial and renewal supportive services grants under the SSVF program must be received by the SSVF program office by 4:00 p.m. EST on Feb. 1, 2013.