

**T**oday the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that for September 2013, the national unemployment rate representative of all Americans (16 and over) changed little, decreasing slightly to 7.2% (compared to August 2013). The employment situation representative of all veterans has worsened slightly, increasing from 6.2% in August 2013 to 6.5% in September 2013. For Gulf War era II veterans (post-9/11 generation), the unemployment rate has worsened slightly, from 10% in August 2013 to 10.1% in September 2013. The employment situation of the youngest post-9/11 veterans (ages 20-24) worsened by 3.6% in September 2013 and remains the highest at 22.5%. Importantly, veterans ages 20-24 are experiencing unemployment at a rate that remains 10.1% higher than that of their non-veteran peers of the same age. In terms of unemployment duration, approximately 73.5% of post-9/11 veterans ages 20-24 have been unemployed for more than five weeks. Of the 242,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans ages 20 and over, 28.5% have been unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 20.2% for between 5 and 14 weeks and 50.8% for 15 weeks or more.

The unemployment situation of female post-9/11 veterans has worsened, increasing from 10.3% in August 2013 to 11.6% in September 2013. For comparison, female non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 6.3%. The unemployment situation of male post-9/11 veterans improved slightly, decreasing from 9.9% in August 2013 to 9.7% in September 2013. For comparison, male non-veterans are currently unemployed at a rate of 6.7%. The 7.5% unemployment rate experienced by African-American post-9/11 veterans is lower than that of their non-veteran counterparts, at 12.3%. Hispanic post-9/11 veterans have an unemployment rate of 12.6%, higher than that of their non-veteran counterparts at 7.7%.

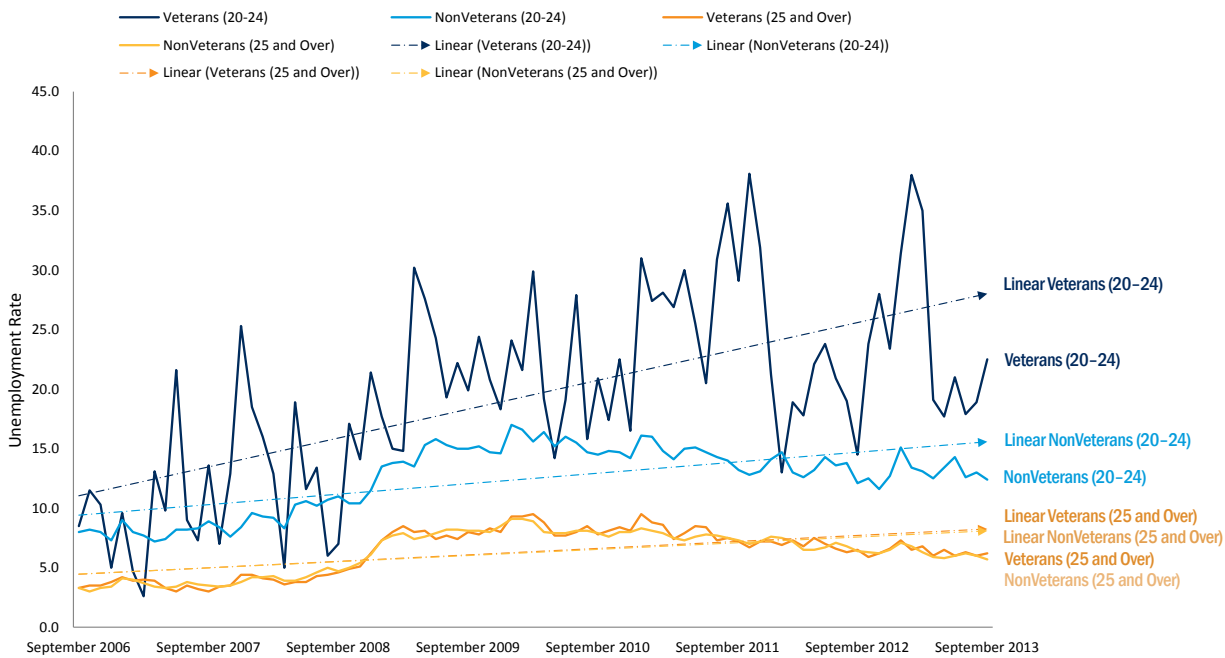
## Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America, based on BLS data released on October 22, 2013. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending September 2013.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Rate of Unemployed September 2013	% Change from August to September 2013	Number of Unemployed September 2013	# Change from August to September 2013
All Americans	6.8	-0.3	10,445,000	-498,000
All Veterans	6.5	+0.3	708,000	+37,000
Gulf War Era II (Post-9/11) Veterans	10.1	+0.1	244,000	+18,000
Gulf War Era I Veterans	5.5	0.0	142,000	+2,000
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans	5.5	+0.4	155,000	+8,000
All Nonveterans	6.8	-0.4	9,738,000	-534,000

NOTE: Table 1 is for the population of 18 and over and will not be the same as the overall BLS reported numbers. 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 whose service in more than one wartime period are classified only in the most recent one. Veterans whose service during one of these selected wartime periods and another 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 September 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number September 2013	# Change (+/-)	Rate September 2013	% Change (+/-)	Number September 2013
20-24	22.5	+3.6	34,000	+5,000	12.4	-0.6	1,923,000	-112,000
25-29	13.3	-0.2	80,000	+5,000	7.8	-0.5	1,273,000	-86,000
30-34	11.6	+2.4	78,000	+19,000	6.1	-0.6	980,000	-94,000
35-39	7.1	-4.4	19,000	-9,000	5.6	0.0	835,000	-5,000
40-44	4.6	-4.1	10,000	-8,000	5.4	-0.1	850,000	-13,000
45-49	1.3	-0.4	3,000	0	5.3	-0.4	827,000	-54,000
50-54	7.4	+3.7	13,000	+8,000	5.2	-0.3	843,000	-41,000
55-59	4.4	-1.0	4,000	-1,000	5.1	-0.3	696,000	-46,000
60-64	6.5	-9.4	2,000	-3,000	5.4	+0.4	472,000	+31,000
65 years and older	-	-	-	-	4.7	+0.1	296,000	+11,000
Male	9.7	-0.2	189,000	+6,000	6.7	-0.1	4,699,000	-116,000
Female	11.6	+1.3	53,000	+10,000	6.3	-0.4	4,298,000	-289,000
White	11.0	+0.7	204,000	+22,000	5.6	-0.2	6,125,000	-292,000
Hispanic or Latino	12.6	-2.1	35,000	+1,000	7.7	-0.5	1,764,000	-107,000
African-American	7.5	-1.6	28,000	-2,000	12.3	-0.4	2,036,000	-64,000



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 September 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): 4.7% worse in September 2007, 4.9% worse in September 2009, 21.6% worse in September 2011, and 10.1% worse in September 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.

- VA focuses national attention on suicide prevention month September 2013:** Throughout the month of September, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) suicide prevention coordinators organized community events, hosted health fairs, led training sessions and worked with VA Voluntary Service to advance the cause of fighting veteran suicide. The VA also launched a new Suicide Prevention Month public service announcement on YouTube. “Talking About It Matters,” premiered nationwide in September and supported the notion that treatment works, and there is hope for veterans who seek mental health care. The VA is calling on providers, family members and the general community to educate their networks to recognize the warning signs of suicide by encouraging veterans in crisis to call the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255 and Press 1), chat online at “[VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)” or text to 838255. For more information, visit <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2476>.
- 2013 veterans-related research: readjustment, employment and PTSD:** Whether unemployed, homeless, or both, the VA estimates that 22 veterans commit suicide daily (a figure that some believe underestimates the problem). With Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel’s announcement of a comprehensive review of security clearance procedures, after the September 16th Navy Yard shootings in Washington D.C., the Washington Post profiled veterans who are concerned that the incident will further hurt employment chances for veterans as well as programs which work to combat these challenges. One program is “The Mission Continues,” a nonprofit founded in 2007 that works to help post-9/11 veterans transition back to life at home by using their leadership skills in a civilian setting. The

organization connects their “fellows” with nonprofit organizations and supports them while they perform 20 hours of service a week for 26 weeks. For more information, visit <http://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/security-military/2013-veterans-related-research-readjustment-employment-ptsd>.

- HUD and VA announce more vouchers to help homeless vets get into permanent homes:** The VA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have announced a third round of housing vouchers to provide permanent housing and case management services to 110 veterans across the U.S. This supportive housing assistance is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by nearby VA Medical Centers. Since 2008, 58,250 vouchers have been awarded, placing 43,371 formerly homeless veterans in homes of their own. Veterans who reside in HUD-VASH housing pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.hud.gov> and <http://espanol.hud.gov>.

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.