

Overview

On December 6th, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that *employment rose by 227,000 in November, and the unemployment rate changed little at 4.2 percent. Employment trended up in health care, leisure and hospitality, government, and social assistance. Retail trade lost jobs.*¹ For veterans, unemployment remained steady at 2.8 percent from October to November 2024. Post-9/11 veteran unemployment decreased slightly from 3.2 percent in October to 3.1 percent in November. The unemployment trend continues to vary across different veteran demographic groups.

In terms of age, the unemployment rate for veterans aged 18-24 increased from 3.4 percent in October to 5.6 percent in November. This rate remains lower than that of their nonveteran peers, who had an unemployment rate of 8.2 percent in November. The unemployment rate for veterans aged 25-34 decreased from 3.4 percent in October to 2.4 percent in November, remaining lower than that of their nonveteran peers, who had an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent in November. The unemployment rate for veterans aged 65 and older increased from 1.4 percent in October to 1.7 percent in November. Veterans aged 65 and older were unemployed

at a lower rate than their nonveteran peers, who had a rate of 3.3 percent in November.

For gender comparisons, the unemployment rate for female veterans decreased slightly from 3.7 percent in October to 3.6 percent in November, which remains lower than the unemployment rate for female nonveterans (3.8 percent). The unemployment rate for male veterans decreased slightly from 2.7 percent in October to 2.6 percent in November and remained lower than the rate for male nonveterans (4.0 percent).

The unemployment rate for Black or African American veterans decreased significantly from 7.0 percent in October to 3.3 percent in November, which is lower than their nonveteran counterparts (6.2 percent). The unemployment rate for Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin veterans increased slightly from 2.0 percent in October to 2.1 percent in November, remaining lower than their nonveteran counterparts (5.0 percent). However, readers should be cautioned that data on specific veteran subgroups can vary widely from month to month.

¹ https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empst1_12062024.pdf

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America based on BLS data released on December 6, 2024. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending November 2024.



| UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR: | Oct. 2024 | Nov. 2024 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2023 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|
| All Americans (18 and over) | 3.8 | 3.8 | +0.1 | 3.5 |
| All Veterans | 2.8 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 2.8 |
| Post-9/11 Veterans | 3.2 | 3.1 | -0.1 | 3.3 |
| Gulf-War I Era Veterans | 1.5 | 2.0 | +0.5 | 2.3 |
| WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Era | 1.2 | 1.1 | -0.1 | 2.5 |
| Other Service Period Veterans | 4.2 | 3.7 | -0.5 | 2.4 |
| All Nonveterans | 3.9 | 3.9 | 0.0 | 3.6 |

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR VETERANS

| UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR: | Oct. 2024 | Nov. 2024 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 18-24 | 3.4 | 5.6 | +2.2 | 7.8 |
| 25-34 | 3.4 | 2.4 | -1.0 | 4.0 |
| 35-44 | 4.3 | 4.8 | +0.5 | 3.0 |
| 45-54 | 2.5 | 2.2 | -0.3 | 2.0 |
| 55-64 | 2.4 | 2.1 | -0.3 | 2.3 |
| 65 and older | 1.4 | 1.7 | +0.3 | 2.6 |
| Male | 2.7 | 2.6 | -0.1 | 2.7 |
| Female | 3.7 | 3.6 | -0.1 | 3.2 |
| White, Anglo, Caucasian | 2.1 | 2.6 | +0.5 | 2.7 |
| Black or African American | 7.0 | 3.3 | -3.7 | 3.3 |
| Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin | 2.0 | 2.1 | +0.1 | 2.9 |
| Asian or Asian American | 2.2 | 6.0 | +3.8 | 2.5 |

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR POST-9/11 VETERANS

| UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR: | Oct. 2024 | Nov. 2024 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 18-24 | 3.4 | 5.6 | +2.2 | 7.8 |
| 25-34 | 3.4 | 2.4 | -1.0 | 4.0 |
| 35-44 | 4.6 | 4.8 | +0.2 | 2.8 |
| 45-54 | 1.1 | 1.3 | +0.2 | 2.0 |
| 55-64 | 0.4 | 0.1 | -0.3 | 2.8 |
| 65 and older | - | - | - | 1.1 |
| Male | 3.2 | 2.9 | -0.3 | 3.2 |
| Female | 3.4 | 4.3 | +0.9 | 3.4 |
| White, Anglo, Caucasian | 2.9 | 3.1 | +0.2 | 3.2 |
| Black or African American | 5.3 | 1.3 | -4.0 | 4.3 |
| Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin | 3.3 | 2.7 | -0.6 | 3.8 |
| Asian or Asian American | 2.7 | 9.5 | +6.8 | 1.0 |

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS

| UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR: | Oct. 2024 | Nov. 2024 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|
| 18-24 | 9.1 | 8.2 | -0.9 | 7.5 |
| 25-34 | 4.0 | 4.2 | +0.2 | 3.9 |
| 35-44 | 3.3 | 3.4 | +0.1 | 2.8 |
| 45-54 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| 55-64 | 2.7 | 2.9 | +0.2 | 2.6 |
| 65 and older | 3.0 | 3.3 | +0.3 | 2.8 |
| Male | 3.9 | 4.0 | +0.1 | 3.8 |
| Female | 3.8 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| White, Anglo, Caucasian | 3.5 | 3.4 | -0.1 | 3.2 |
| Black or African American | 5.6 | 6.2 | +0.6 | 5.5 |
| Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin | 4.7 | 5.0 | +0.3 | 4.5 |
| Asian or Asian American | 4.0 | 3.6 | -0.4 | 3.0 |

NOTE: Although the BLS reports the national average for those 16 and over, the tables above include only those that are 18 and over to make a more accurate comparison to the veteran population. Post-9/11 are of the Gulf War Era II (September 2001-present). Other periods of service include 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). 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.