

## Overview

On January 10th 2005, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that employment increased by 256,000 in December, and the unemployment rate changed little at 4.1 percent. Employment trended up in health care, government, and social assistance. Retail trade added jobs in December, following a job loss in November.<sup>1</sup> For veterans, unemployment remained steady at 2.8 percent from November to December 2024. Post-9/11 veteran unemployment increased from 3.1 percent in November to 3.9 percent in December. The unemployment trend continues to vary across different veteran demographic groups.

In terms of age, the unemployment rate for veterans aged 18-24 is unavailable for December but was 5.6 percent in November. The unemployment rate for veterans aged 25-34 increased from 2.4 percent in November to 6.1 percent in December, remaining higher than that of their nonveteran peers, who had an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent in December. The unemployment rate for veterans aged 65 and older increased from 1.7 percent in November to 2.5 percent in December. Veterans aged 65 and older were unemployed at a lower rate than their nonveteran peers, who had a rate of 3.4 percent in December.

For gender comparisons, the unemployment rate for female veterans increased slightly from 3.6 percent in November to 3.7 percent in December, which is higher than the unemployment rate for female nonveterans (3.5 percent). The unemployment rate for male veterans remained steady at 2.6 percent in both November and December and continued to be lower than the rate for male nonveterans (4.0 percent).

The unemployment rate for Black or African American veterans increased from 3.3 percent in November to 5.2 percent in December, which is lower than their nonveteran counterparts (5.5 percent). The unemployment rate for Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin veterans decreased from 2.1 percent in November to 1.5 percent in December, remaining much 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.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empst\\_01102025.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/empst_01102025.pdf)

## Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America based on BLS data released on January 10, 2025. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending December 2024.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2024	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2024
All Americans (18 and over)	3.9	3.7	-0.2	3.9
All Veterans	2.8	2.8	0.0	3.0
Post-9/11 Veterans	3.1	3.9	+0.8	3.2
Gulf-War I Era Veterans	2.0	1.2	-0.8	2.3
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Era	1.1	2.9	+1.8	3.4
Other Service Period Veterans	3.7	1.7	-2.0	2.8
All Nonveterans	3.9	3.8	-0.1	3.9

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR VETERANS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2024	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2024
18-24	5.6	-	-	6.4
25-34	2.4	6.1	+3.7	4.3
35-44	4.8	4.5	-0.3	3.1
45-54	2.2	1.3	-0.9	2.2
55-64	2.1	1.3	-0.8	2.4
65 and older	1.7	2.5	+0.8	3.1
Male	2.6	2.6	0.0	2.9
Female	3.6	3.7	+0.1	3.5
White, Anglo, Caucasian	2.6	2.1	-0.5	2.8
Black or African American	3.3	5.2	+1.9	3.6
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin	2.1	1.5	-0.6	3.5
Asian or Asian American	6.0	4.3	-1.7	3.9

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR POST-9/11 VETERANS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2024	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2024
18-24	5.6	-	-	6.4
25-34	2.4	6.1	+3.7	4.3
35-44	4.8	4.5	-0.3	3.0
45-54	1.3	1.6	+0.3	2.3
55-64	0.1	1.3	+1.2	1.3
65 and older	-	-	-	3.2
Male	2.9	3.6	+0.7	3.1
Female	4.3	5.3	+1.0	3.7
White, Anglo, Caucasian	3.1	2.7	-0.4	2.9
Black or African American	1.3	7.7	+6.4	4.3
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin	2.7	1.9	-0.8	3.6
Asian or Asian American	9.5	6.5	-3.0	3.5

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2024	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2024
18-24	8.2	7.6	-0.6	8.4
25-34	4.2	4.2	0.0	4.3
35-44	3.4	3.2	-0.2	3.2
45-54	2.6	2.5	-0.1	2.8
55-64	2.9	2.9	0.0	2.8
65 and older	3.3	3.4	+0.1	3.1
Male	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.1
Female	3.8	3.5	-0.3	3.8
White, Anglo, Caucasian	3.4	3.4	0.0	3.5
Black or African American	6.2	5.5	-0.7	6.0
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin	5.0	5.0	0.0	4.9
Asian or Asian American	3.6	3.2	-0.4	3.4

**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.