



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

2012 Employment Situation of Veterans

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) | [Full Report](#)

Quick Takeaways

- 21.2 million veterans ages 18 and over in 2012
- Approximately 35 percent of Gulf War era II veterans reported that they had served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both. These veterans had an unemployment rate of 10.9 percent, not statistically different from Gulf War era II veterans who served elsewhere (11.3 percent).
- About 3 million veterans, or 14 percent of the total, had a service-connected disability.
- 9.9 percent unemployment for Gulf War era II veterans
- 20.4 percent unemployment for ages 20-24 veterans, compared to 15.0 percent for nonveterans
- 8.3 percent unemployment for all female veterans, compared to 7.7 percent for female nonveterans

The Veteran Population

In 2012, 21.2 million men and women ages 18 and over were veterans. Veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam era account for nearly one-half of the total veteran population. All of these veterans were at least 55 years old, and two-thirds were at least 65 years old. 97 percent of these veterans were men.

A total of 5.6 million veterans served during Gulf War era I (August 1990 to August 2001) or Gulf War era II (September 2001 forward). Another 5.7 million served outside the designated wartime periods. Gulf War era II veterans include about 17 percent women, compared with 3 percent of veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam era. Almost half of all Gulf War-era II veterans were between the ages of 25 and 34.

Employment Opportunities

Veterans of Gulf War era II and nonveterans had similar occupational profiles in 2012 after accounting for gender. About one-third of the employed men in both groups worked in management and professional occupations, a higher proportion than in any other major occupational group. Among employed women, about 50 percent of Gulf War era II veterans and 42 percent of nonveterans worked in management and professional occupations.

A higher proportion of employed Gulf War era II veterans worked in the public sector in 2012 than employed nonveterans – 25 and 14 percent, respectively. The federal government employed 14 percent of Gulf War era II veterans, compared with about 2 percent of employed nonveterans.

Approximately 35 percent of Gulf War era II veterans reported that they had served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both. These veterans had an unemployment rate of 10.9 percent, not statistically different from Gulf War era II veterans who served elsewhere at 11.3 percent.

Veterans with a Service-connected Disability

About 3 million veterans, or 14 percent, had a service-connected disability. Among veterans with a service-connected disability, nearly 4 in 10 reported a disability rating of less than 30 percent, while about 3 in 10 had a rating of 60 percent or higher. Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of less than 30 percent were more than twice as likely to be in the labor force as those with a rating of 60 percent or higher, 58.1 and 26.1 percent, respectively.

The labor force participation rate for veterans from Gulf War era II with no service-connected disability is higher than those with a service connected disability. Surprisingly, the unemployment rate for veterans with a disability is not statistically different than veterans that do not have a disability. 34 percent of employed veterans with a disability worked in federal, state, or local government, compared with 19 percent of veterans with no disability and 14 percent of nonveterans. The federal government employed 19 percent of veterans with a disability, compared with 7 percent of veterans with no disability and 2 percent of employed nonveterans.

Employment Charts

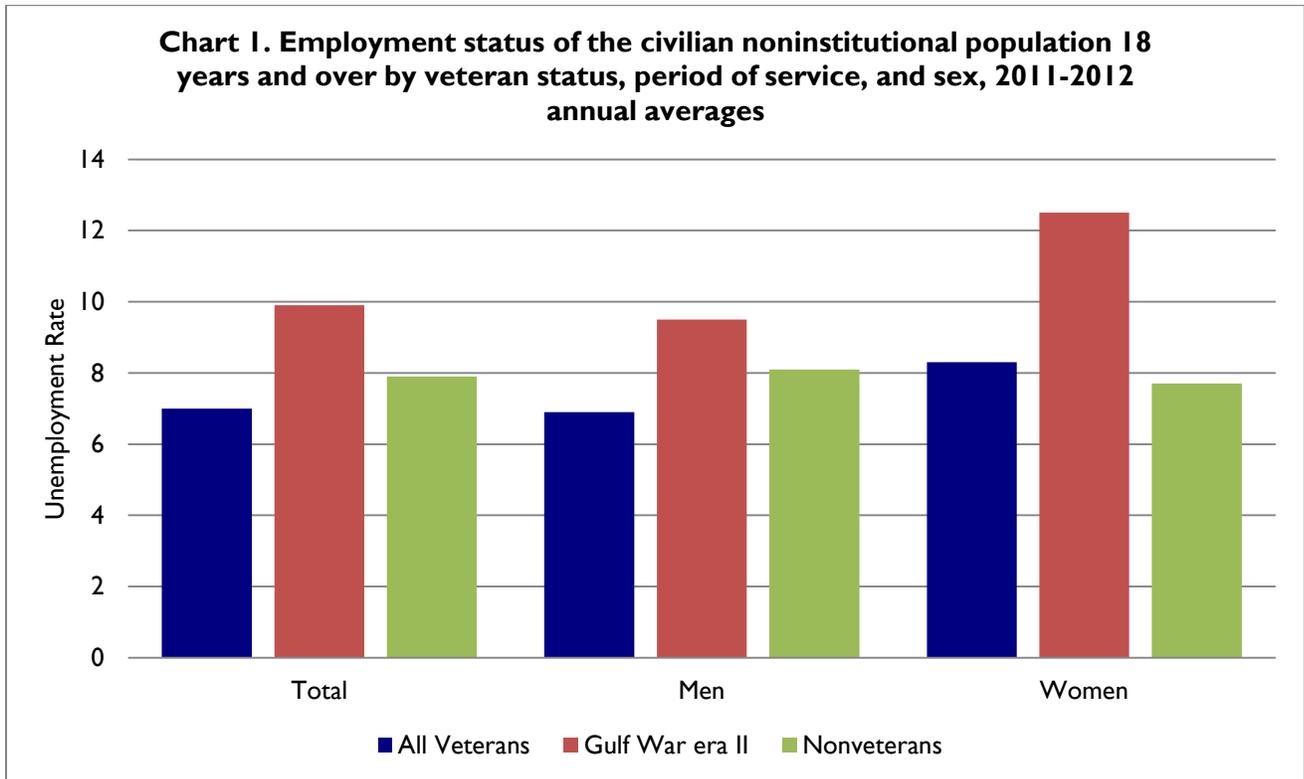


Chart 2. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2012 annual averages

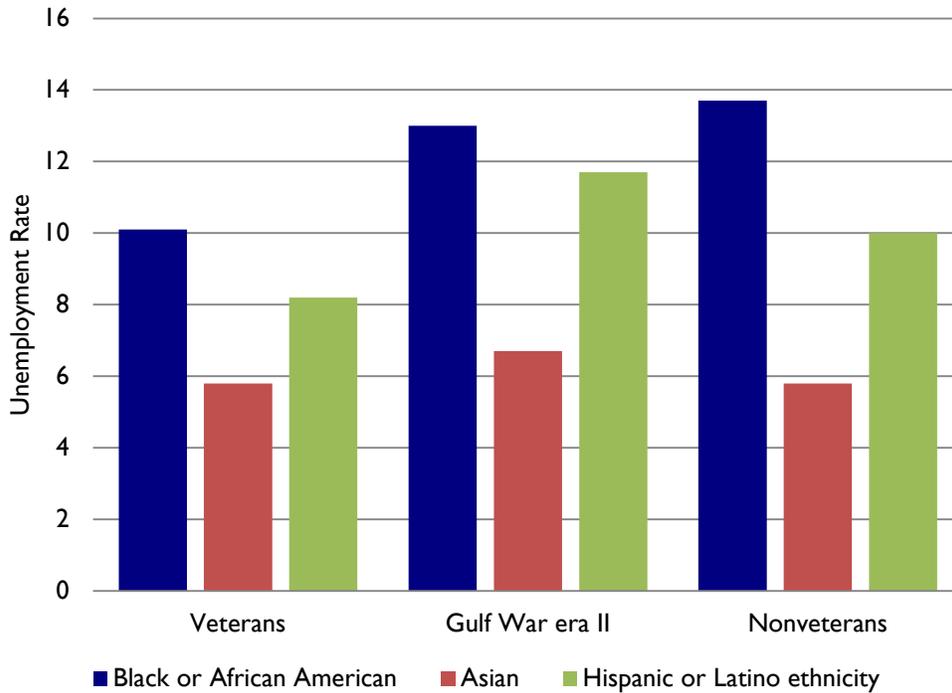


Chart 3. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, age, and period of service, 2012 annual averages

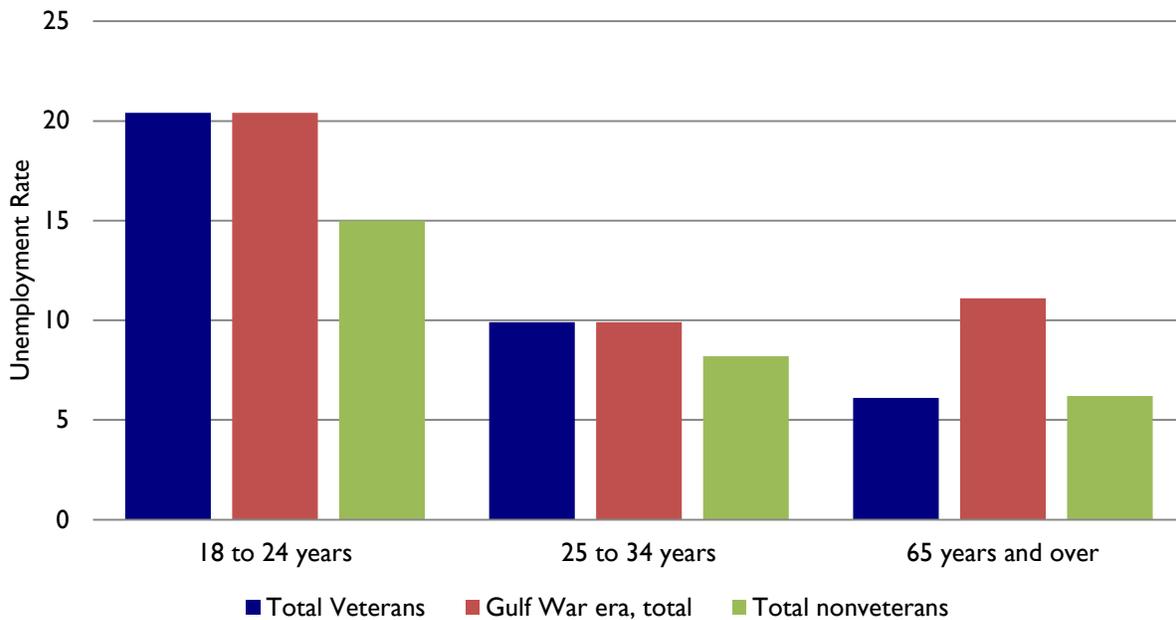


Chart 4. Employment status of persons 25 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and educational attainment, 2012 annual averages

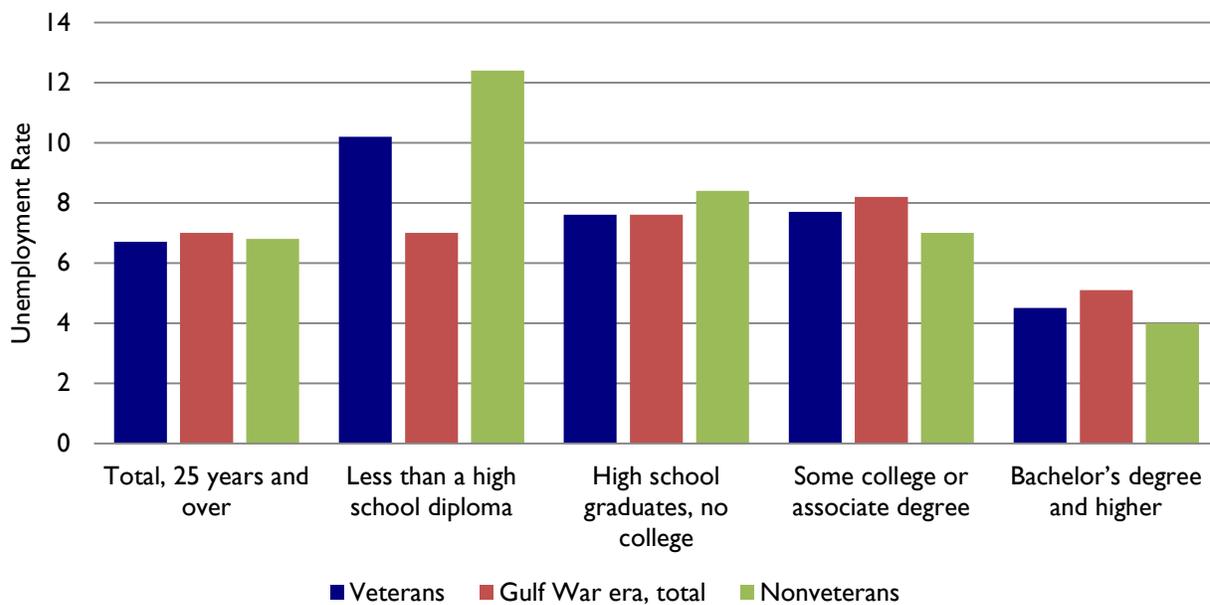
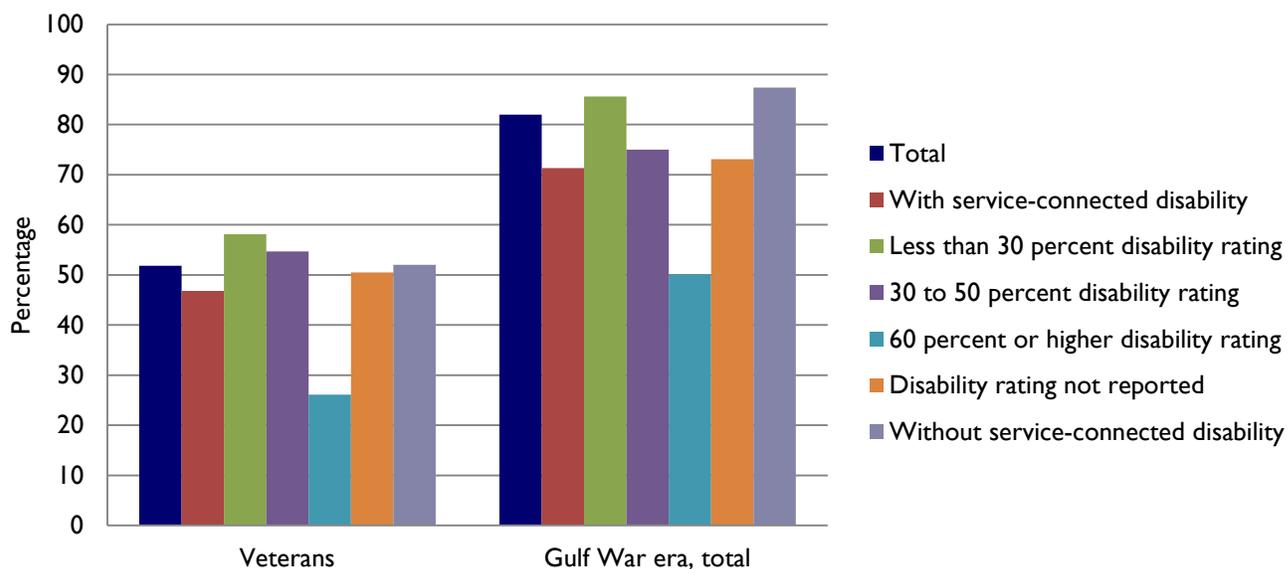


Chart 5. Employment status of veterans 18 years and over by presence of service-connected disability, reported disability rating, period of service, and sex, August 2012, not seasonally adjusted



Note: Charts created based on data from BLS report, full link at top of report.