

Overview

On January 6th, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported *employment increased by 223,000 in December, and the unemployment rate edged down to 3.5 percent. Notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, health care, construction, and social assistance.*¹ For veterans, unemployment increased from 2.8 percent to 3.2 percent in December. Post-9/11 veteran unemployment remained unchanged at 3.0 percent. The overall unemployment trend varies by different veteran demographic factors, however, some more than others.

With respect to age, the unemployment rate for veterans ages 18-24 increased in December, from 11.6 percent to 13.6 percent. The unemployment rate for veterans ages 25-34 increased from 2.9 percent to 3.9 percent. During this period, veterans ages 18-24 were unemployed at a higher rate than their nonveteran peers of the same age group (7.3 percent). Veterans 25-34 were unemployed at a higher rate than their nonveteran peers of the same age group (3.6 percent). The unemployment rate for veterans ages 65 and older increased in December, from 3.8 percent to 4.1 percent. Veterans ages 65 and older were unemployed at a higher rate than their nonveteran peers of the same age group in December (2.7 percent).

The unemployment rate for female veterans decreased in December, from 1.8 percent to 1.7 percent. By comparison, female nonveterans have an unemployment rate of 3.1 percent. The unemployment rate for male veterans increased in December from 2.9 percent to 3.5 percent. By comparison, male nonveterans have an unemployment rate of 3.3 percent.

The unemployment rate for Black or African American veterans increased from 3.0 percent to 4.5 percent in December. This rate is lower than the unemployment rate of their nonveteran counterparts (5.2 percent). The unemployment rate for Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin veterans increased from 2.1 percent to 3.0 percent in December. This rate is lower than the unemployment rate of their nonveteran counterparts (4.1 percent). Readers should be cautioned, however, that data on specific veteran subgroups can vary widely from month to month.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

Demographics & Trends

The following tables summarize the employment situation of veterans in America based on BLS data released on January 6, 2023. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending December 2022.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:	November 2022	December 2022	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2022
All Americans (18 and over)	3.2	3.2	0.0	3.5
All Veterans	2.8	3.2	+0.4	2.8
Post-9/11 Veterans	3.0	3.0	0.0	3.1
Gulf-War I Era Veterans	2.0	3.1	+1.1	2.1
WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Era	4.6	3.6	-1.0	3.9
All Nonveterans	3.3	3.2	-0.1	3.6

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR VETERANS

Demographic Category	November 2022	December 2022	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2022
18-24	11.6	13.6	+2.0	8.8
25-34	2.9	3.9	+1.0	4.0
35-44	1.8	1.7	-0.1	2.3
45-54	3.0	2.5	-0.5	2.2
55-64	1.7	3.3	+1.6	2.3
65 and older	3.8	4.1	+0.3	3.7
Male	2.9	3.5	+0.6	2.8
Female	1.8	1.7	-0.1	2.8
White, Anglo, Caucasian	2.6	3.0	+0.4	2.5
Black or African American	3.0	4.5	+1.5	3.9
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin	2.1	3.0	+0.9	3.3
Asian or Asian American	3.2	2.9	-0.3	3.7

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR POST-9/11 VETERANS

Demographic Category	November 2022	December 2022	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2022
18-24	11.6	13.6	+2.0	8.8
25-34	2.9	3.9	+1.0	4.0
35-44	2.2	1.4	-0.8	2.3
45-54	2.6	1.4	-1.2	1.8
55-64	1.8	3.3	+1.5	2.5
65 and older	7.4	7.0	-	1.6
Male	3.3	3.3	0.0	3.1
Female	2.0	1.9	-0.1	2.9
White, Anglo, Caucasian	2.9	3.0	+0.1	2.9
Black or African American	3.3	4.1	+0.8	3.7
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin	2.6	4.5	+1.9	4.1
Asian or Asian American	5.9	-	-	4.1

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS

Demographic Category	November 2022	December 2022	Change (+/-)	Annual Averages 2022
18-24	7.0	7.3	+0.3	7.8
25-34	3.8	3.6	-0.2	3.9
35-44	2.5	2.4	-0.1	3.0
45-54	2.4	2.2	-0.2	2.4
55-64	2.0	2.3	+0.3	2.6
65 and older	3.0	2.7	-0.3	2.9
Male	3.3	3.3	0.0	3.7
Female	3.3	3.1	-0.2	3.5
White, Anglo, Caucasian	2.9	2.8	-0.1	3.2
Black or African American	5.5	5.2	-0.3	6.1
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin	3.5	4.1	+0.6	4.1
Asian or Asian American	2.5	2.1	-0.4	2.8

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.