

## Overview

Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported *employment rose by 199,000 in December, and the unemployment rate declined to 3.9 percent. Employment continued to trend up in leisure and hospitality, in professional and business services, in manufacturing, in construction, and in transportation and warehousing.*<sup>1</sup> For veterans, unemployment decreased from 3.9 percent to 3.2 percent in December. Post-9/11 veteran unemployment stayed the same at 4.3 percent. Of the total 267,000 unemployed veterans ages 18 and over, 26 percent have been unemployed for less than five weeks and 74 percent have been unemployed for more than five weeks. The average length of unemployment is 32.8 (the median is 9.6 weeks). 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 3.9 percent to 14.5 percent. The unemployment rate for veterans ages 25-34 decreased from 5.5 percent to 4.6 percent. During this period, veterans ages 18-24 were unemployed at a higher rate than their nonveteran peers of the same age group (7.0 percent). Veterans 25-34 were

also unemployed at a higher rate than their nonveteran peers of the same age group (4.0 percent). The unemployment rate for veterans ages 65 and older decreased in December, from 4.2 percent to 3.8 percent. Veterans ages 65 and older were unemployed at a higher rate than their nonveteran peers of the same age group in December (2.4 percent).

Female veterans unemployment stayed the same in December, 4.0 percent. By comparison, female nonveterans have an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent. Male veterans unemployment decreased in December to 3.1 percent. By comparison, male nonveterans have an unemployment rate of 3.9 percent.

Black or African American veterans saw a monthly increase in unemployment to 6.1 percent. This rate is lower than the 6.3 percent unemployment rate of their nonveteran counterparts. Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin veterans experienced a monthly decrease in unemployment to 4.4 percent. This rate is the same as their nonveteran counterparts. Readers should be cautioned, however, that data on specific veteran subgroups can vary widely from month to month.

<sup>1</sup> <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 7, 2022. These are unpublished data from the Current Population Survey, not seasonally adjusted, and represent the period ending December 2021.



| UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR:          | November 2021 | December 2021 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2020 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| All Americans (18 and over)      | 3.8           | 3.6           | -0.2         | 7.9                  |
| All Veterans                     | 3.9           | 3.2           | -0.7         | 6.5                  |
| Post-9/11 Veterans               | 4.3           | 4.3           | 0.0          | 7.3                  |
| Gulf-War I Era Veterans          | 2.7           | 1.5           | -1.2         | 4.8                  |
| WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Era | 4.5           | 3.3           | -1.2         | 6.7                  |
| All Nonveterans                  | 3.8           | 3.6           | -0.2         | 8.0                  |

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR VETERANS

| Demographic Category                  | November 2021 | December 2021 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 18-24                                 | 3.9           | 14.5          | +10.6        | 14.6                 |
| 25-34                                 | 5.5           | 4.6           | -0.9         | 8.8                  |
| 35-44                                 | 5.4           | 3.2           | -2.2         | 5.8                  |
| 45-54                                 | 2.4           | 2.4           | 0.0          | 5.0                  |
| 55-64                                 | 2.8           | 1.7           | -1.1         | 6.5                  |
| 65 and older                          | 4.2           | 3.8           | -0.4         | 6.4                  |
| Male                                  | 3.9           | 3.1           | -0.8         | 6.5                  |
| Female                                | 4.0           | 4.0           | 0.0          | 6.7                  |
| White, Anglo, Caucasian               | 3.8           | 2.6           | -1.2         | 6.1                  |
| Black or African American             | 2.1           | 6.1           | +4.0         | 7.5                  |
| Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin | 6.3           | 4.4           | -1.9         | 7.4                  |
| Asian or Asian American               | 8.2           | 6.4           | -1.8         | 5.1                  |

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

| Demographic Category                  | November 2021 | December 2021 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 18-24                                 | 3.9           | 14.5          | +10.6        | 14.6                 |
| 25-34                                 | 5.5           | 4.6           | -0.9         | 8.8                  |
| 35-44                                 | 4.2           | 3.2           | -1.0         | 5.9                  |
| 45-54                                 | 3.9           | 3.8           | -0.1         | 5.4                  |
| 55-64                                 | 1.7           | 3.4           | +1.7         | 5.2                  |
| 65 and older                          | -             | -             | -            | 12.5                 |
| Male                                  | 4.5           | 4.3           | -0.2         | 7.4                  |
| Female                                | 3.6           | 4.0           | +0.4         | 7.2                  |
| White, Anglo, Caucasian               | 4.4           | 3.2           | -1.2         | 7.0                  |
| Black or African American             | 3.5           | 7.7           | +4.2         | 6.8                  |
| Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin | 6.8           | 8.0           | +1.2         | 8.7                  |
| Asian or Asian American               | 10.7          | 8.7           | -2.0         | 6.7                  |

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR NONVETERANS

| Demographic Category                  | November 2021 | December 2021 | Change (+/-) | Annual Averages 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 18-24                                 | 7.5           | 7.0           | -0.5         | 14.6                 |
| 25-34                                 | 3.7           | 4.0           | +0.3         | 8.4                  |
| 35-44                                 | 3.5           | 3.2           | -0.3         | 6.4                  |
| 45-54                                 | 2.8           | 2.7           | -0.1         | 6.4                  |
| 55-64                                 | 3.1           | 2.9           | -0.2         | 6.8                  |
| 65 and older                          | 3.0           | 2.4           | -0.6         | 7.6                  |
| Male                                  | 3.8           | 3.9           | +0.1         | 7.8                  |
| Female                                | 3.8           | 3.4           | -0.4         | 8.2                  |
| White, Anglo, Caucasian               | 3.3           | 3.1           | -0.2         | 7.2                  |
| Black or African American             | 6.1           | 6.3           | +0.2         | 11.5                 |
| Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish Origin | 4.6           | 4.4           | -0.2         | 10.4                 |
| Asian or Asian American               | 3.7           | 3.5           | -0.2         | 8.7                  |

**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.