

# Employment Situation of Veterans 2009

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Submitted with the Statement of

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Deputy Commissioner  
Bureau of Labor Statistics

before the  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity  
of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

April 15, 2010

Statement available online at  
<http://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm#vets>



[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

## Where do the data come from?

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- The data are collected as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households.
- The CPS is a joint program between the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Census Bureau.
- It is the source of civilian employment and unemployment data, including the national unemployment rate.
- Questions are included in the survey that identify veterans and their period of service (when they served).



## Who are veterans?

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- *Veterans* are men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and were civilians at the time of the survey. Members of the Reserve and National Guard are counted as veterans if they have ever been called to active duty.
- *Nonveterans* are men and women who have never served on active duty in the U.S. military.

## Periods of Service

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- Labor force statistics are available by these periods of service:

Gulf War era II	=	Sept. 2001- present
Gulf War era I	=	Aug. 1990 - Aug. 2001
Vietnam era	=	Aug. 1964 - April 1975
Korean War	=	July 1950 - Jan. 1955
World War II	=	Dec. 1941- Dec. 1946
Other service periods	=	All other time periods

“Other service periods” are the dates between war periods:

May 1975 - July 1990, Jan. 1947 - June 1950,  
Feb. 1955 - July 1964, Nov. 1941 or earlier

NOTE: The CPS monthly survey does not identify where a veteran served.



## Data on veterans are available monthly from the Current Population Survey (CPS)

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- Veterans data are published monthly in the Employment Situation news release.
- Additional tables are available from BLS on topics such as:
  - ▶ Age, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity
  - ▶ Occupation and industry
  - ▶ Full or part-time status
  - ▶ Class of worker (private, government, self-employed, unpaid family worker)
  - ▶ Duration of unemployment

## Additional data are available from the veterans supplement

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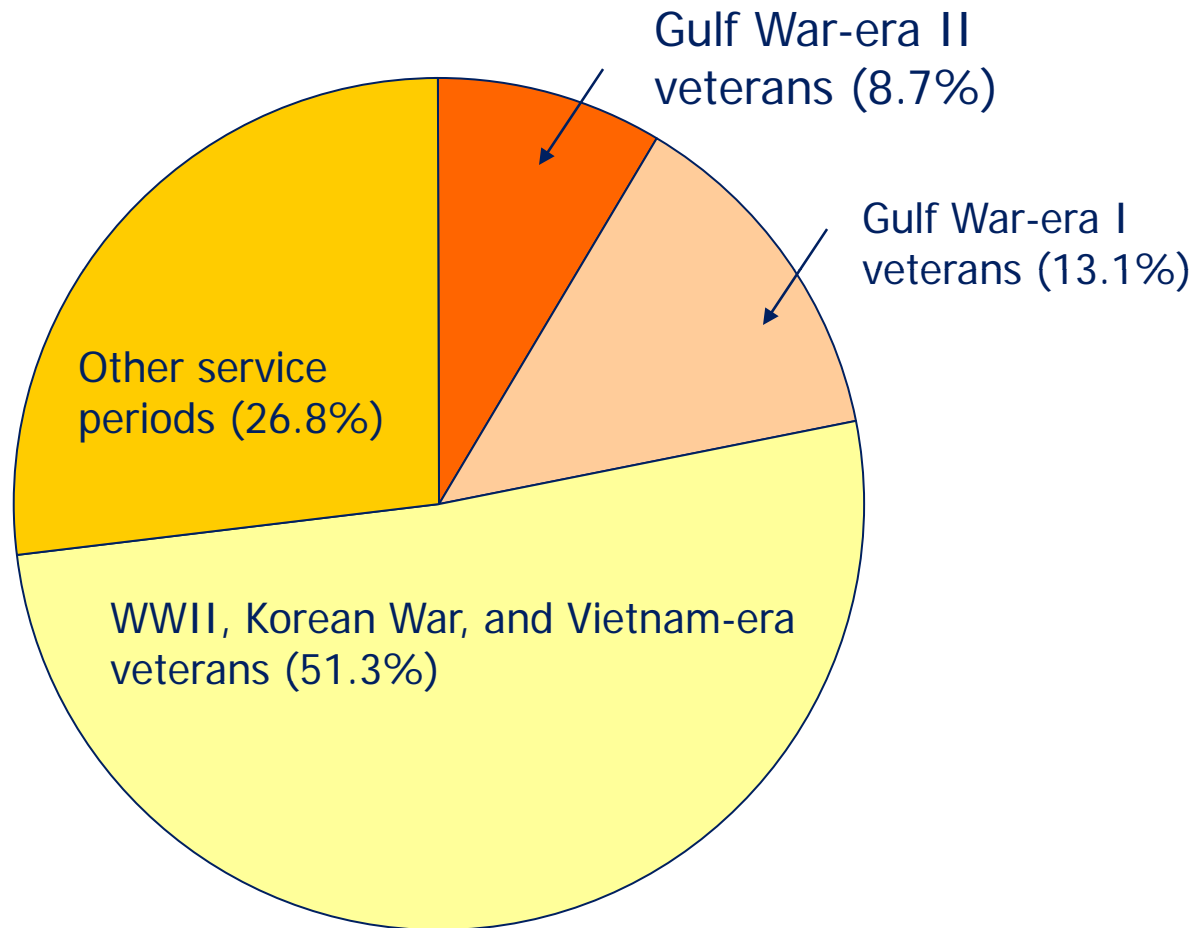
- Collected every 2 years since 1985; conducted annually beginning in 2009. (August 2009, July 2010, August 2011, August 2012).
- Co-sponsored by the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- Provides additional information about veterans such as presence and rating of service-connected disability, Reserve or National Guard status, and service in a combat or war zone.

# Employment Situation of Veterans

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## Characteristics of veterans

# Chart 1. Of the 22 million veterans, the largest group is from WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam era



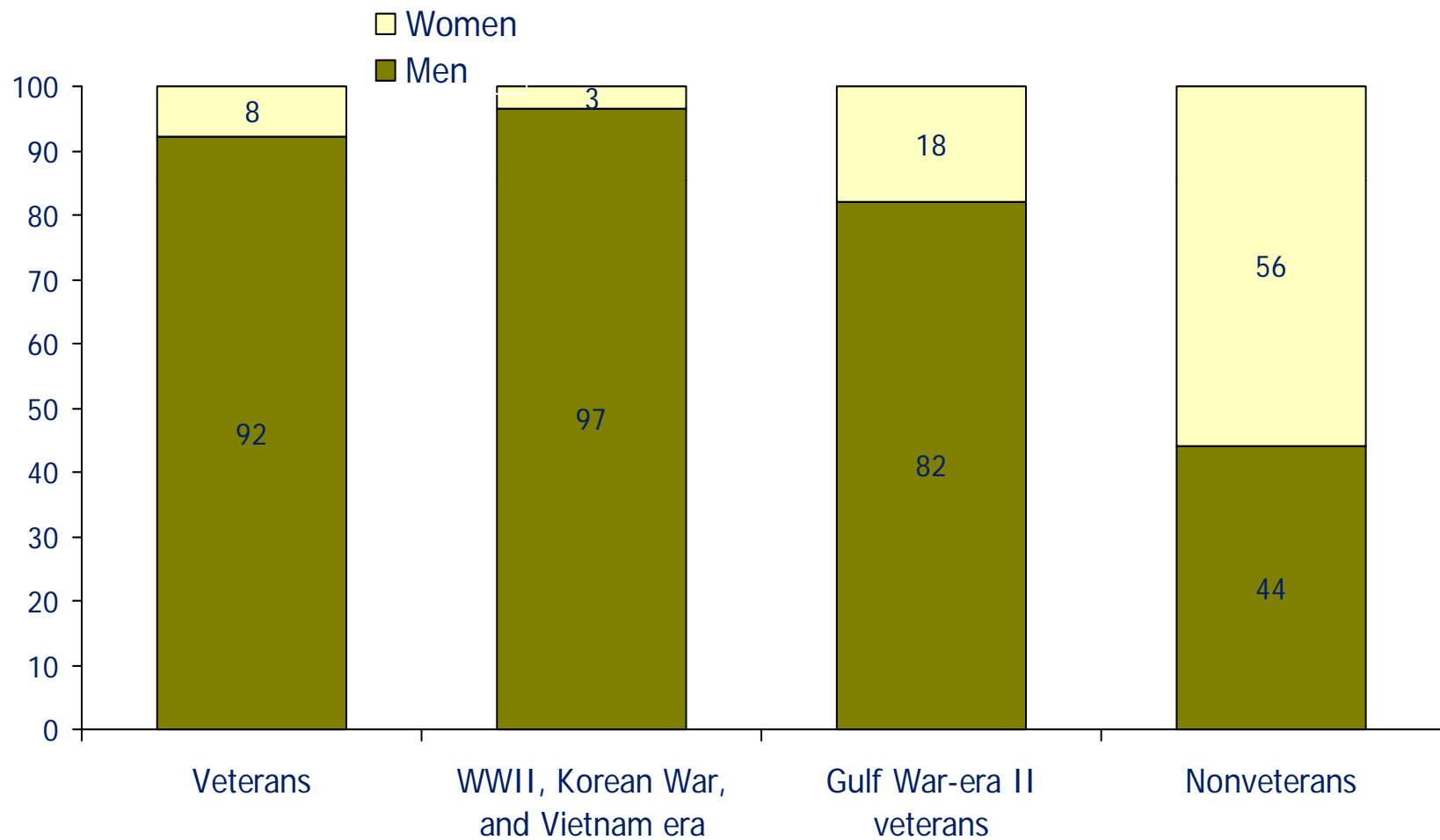
NOTE: Gulf War-era II veterans served anywhere on active duty since September 2001. Gulf War-era I veterans served anywhere between August 1990 and August 2001.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009



## Chart 2. Most veterans are men

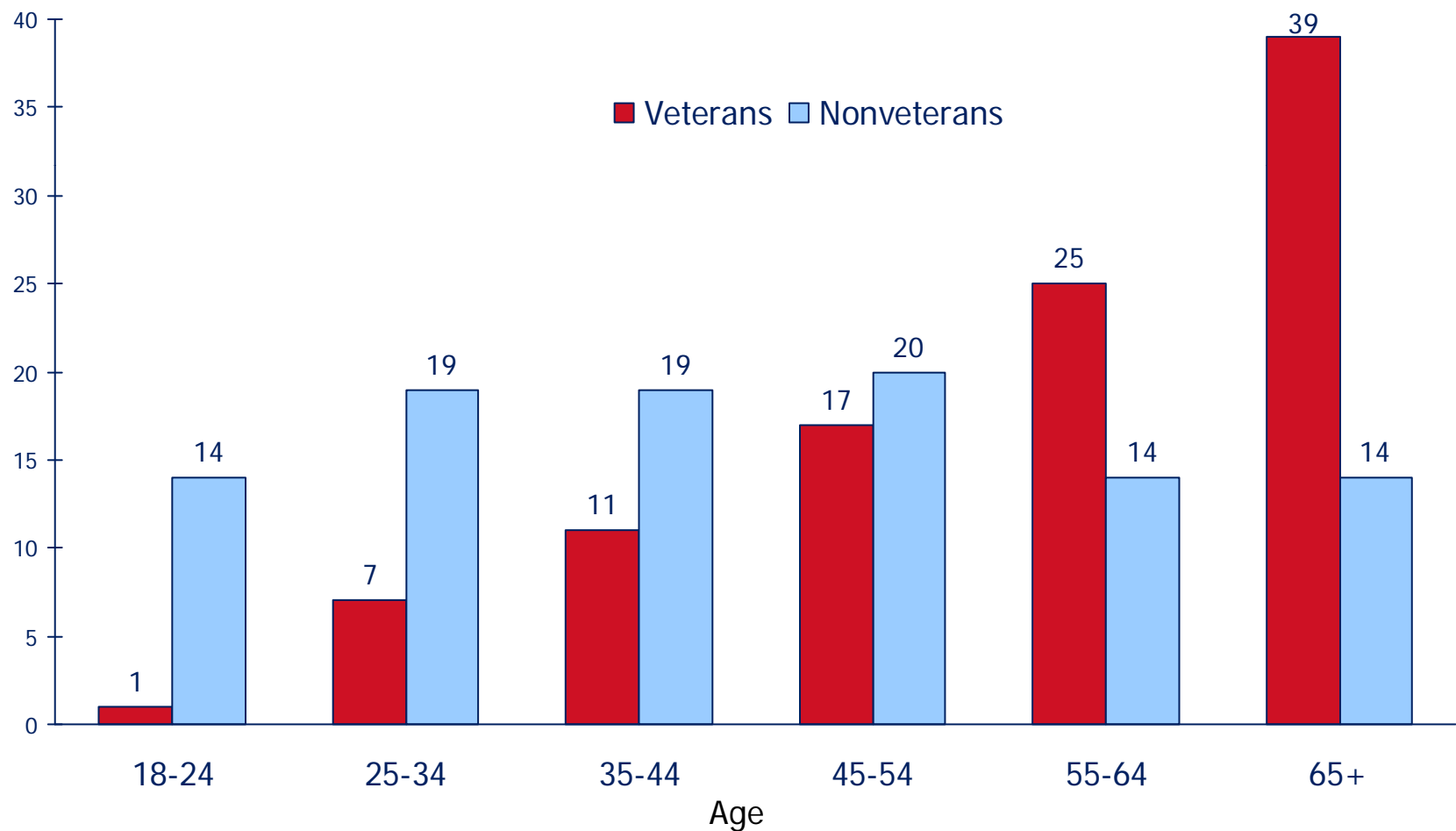
Percent of total



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009

## Chart 3. Overall, veterans are older than nonveterans

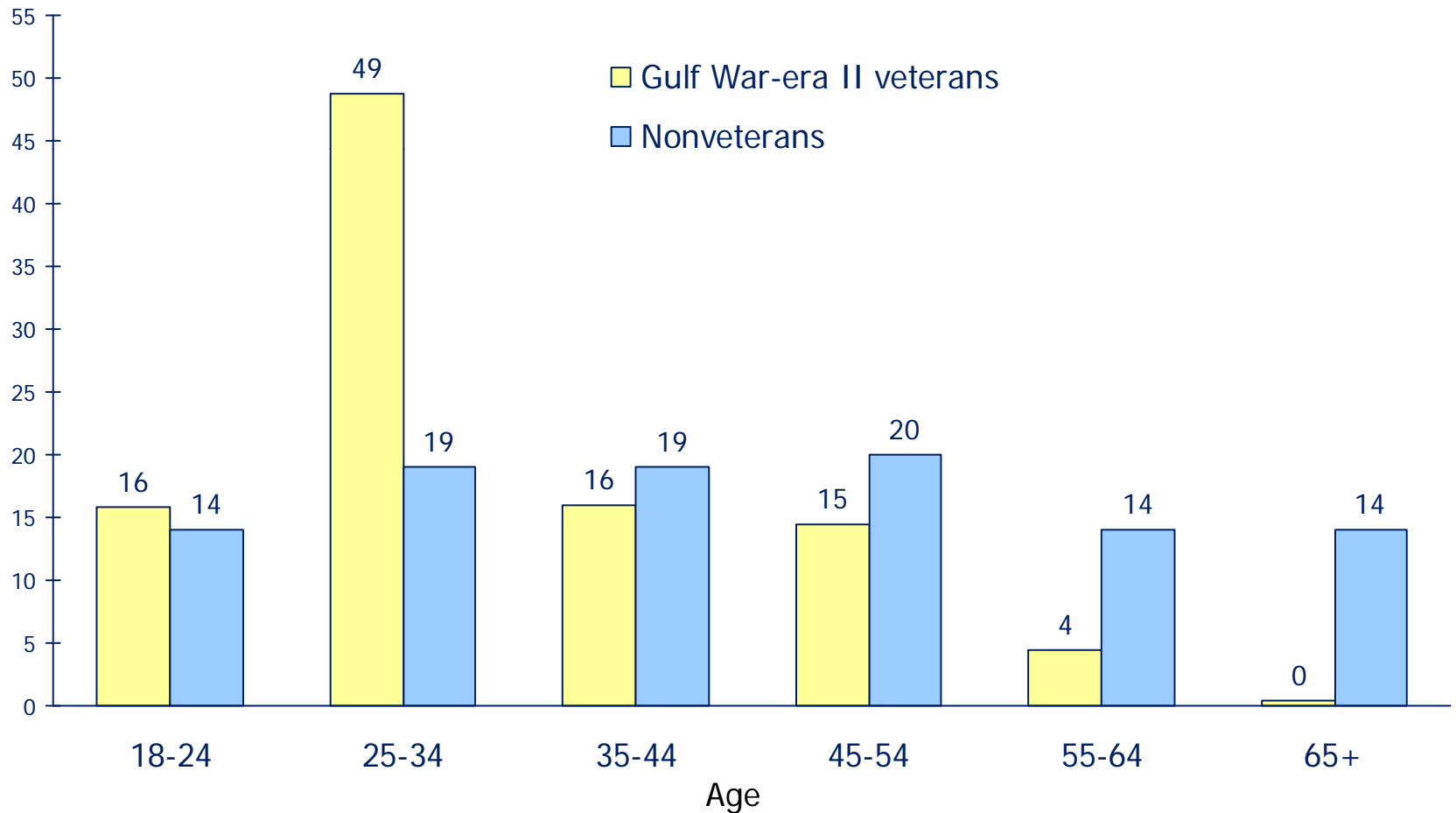
Percent of total



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009

# Chart 4. Most Gulf War-era II veterans are under 35 years old

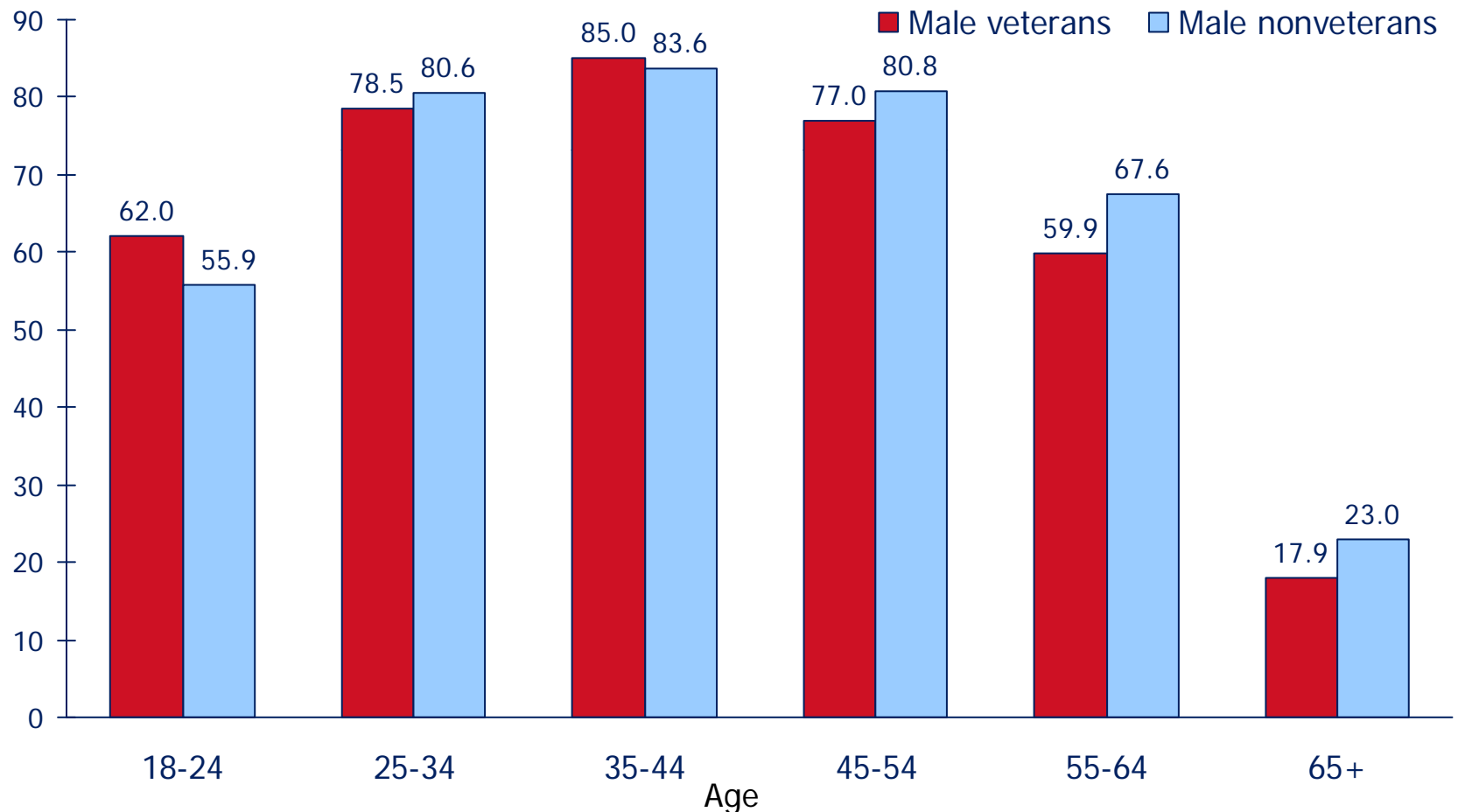
Percent of total



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009

## Chart 5. Among men, veterans age 18-24 are somewhat more likely than nonveterans to be employed

Employed as a percent of population

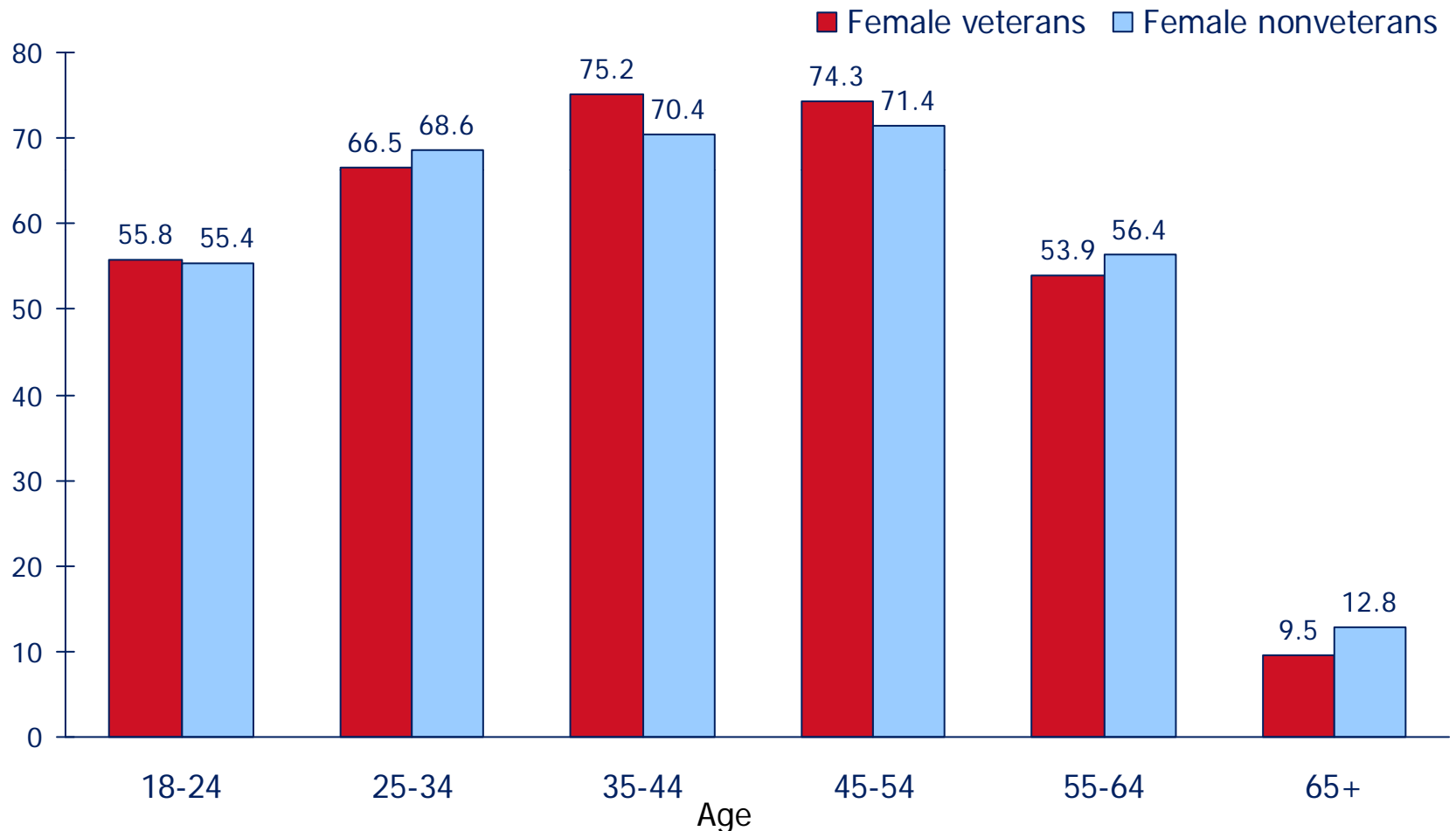


SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009



## Chart 6. Women of similar ages are employed at about the same rates

Employed as a percent of population

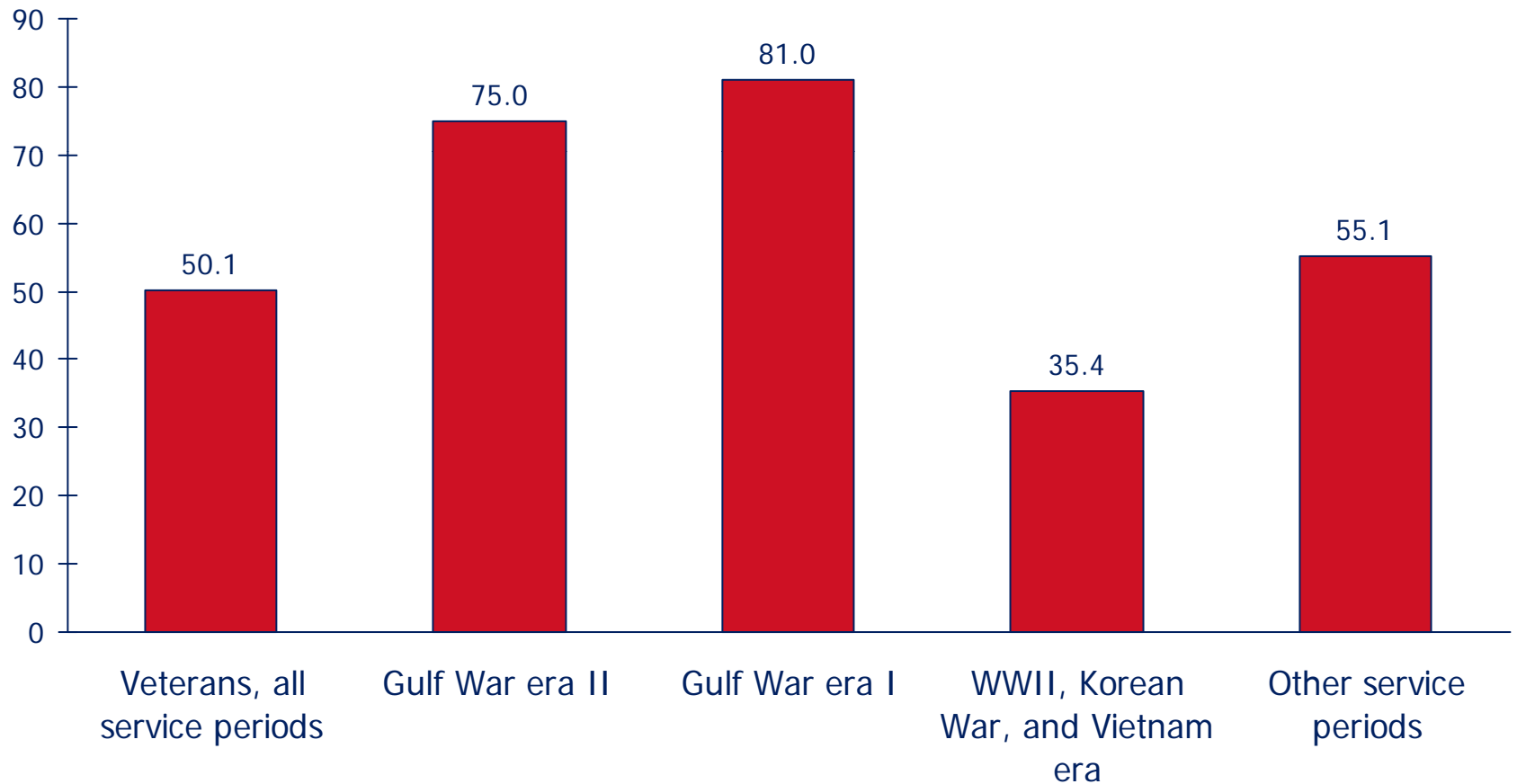


SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009



## Chart 7. WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam-era veterans tend to have lower employment rates, largely reflecting their age

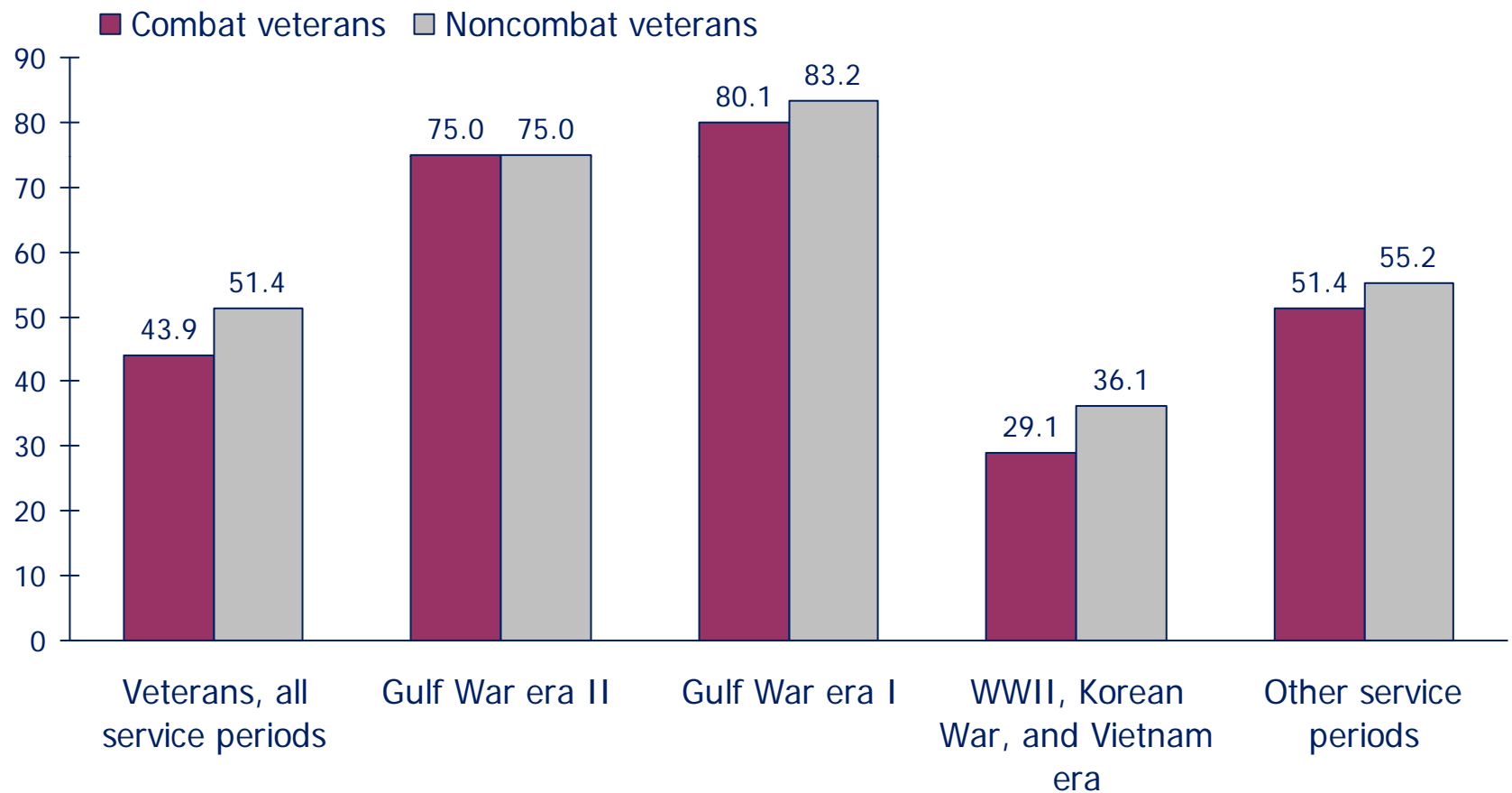
Employed as a percent of population



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009

## Chart 8. Employment varies little by combat status

Employed as a percent of population

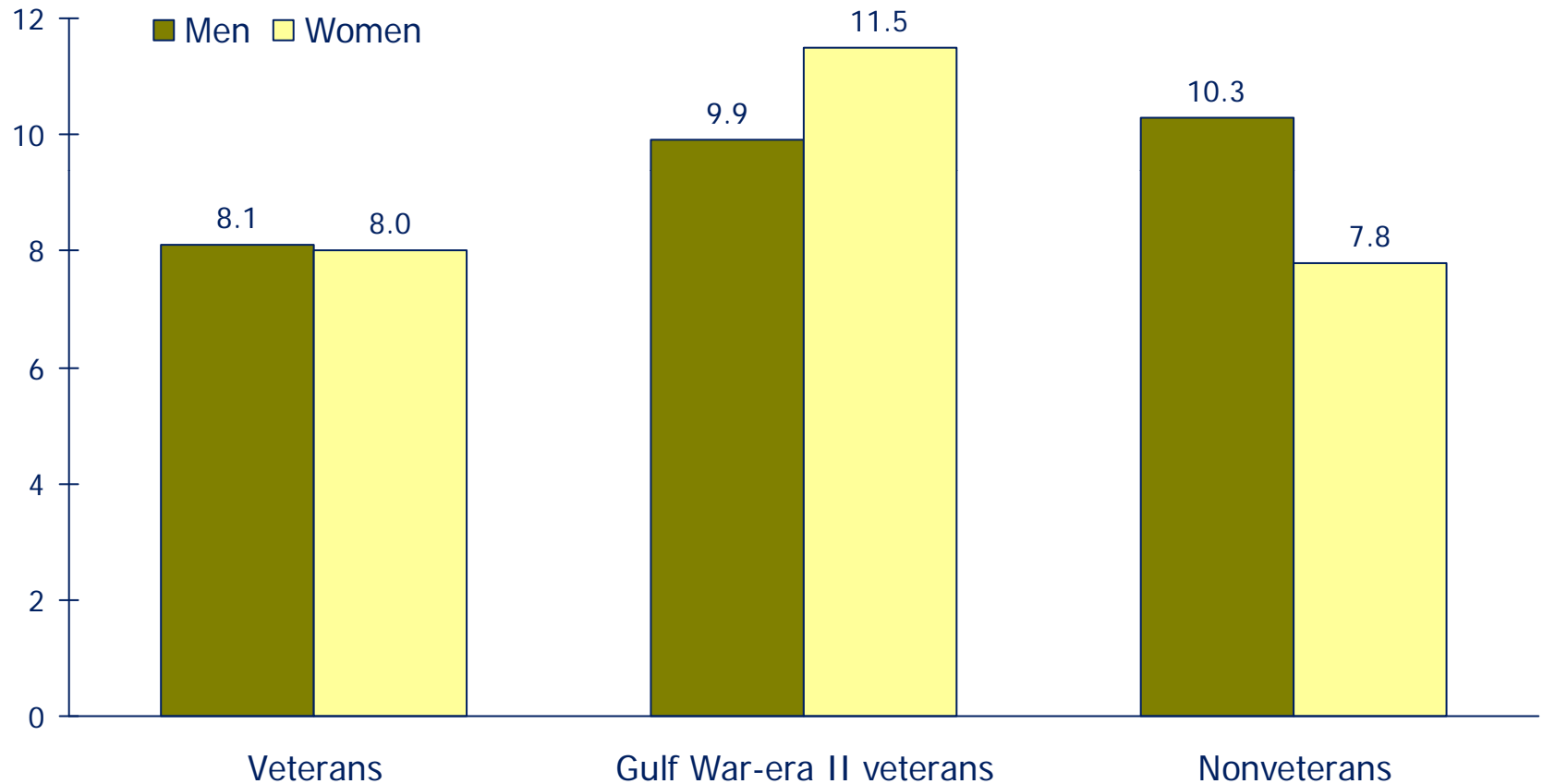


NOTE: Combat or war zone status was not reported for about 1 in 6 veterans.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009

## Chart 9. Male veterans and female veterans have similar unemployment rates by period of service

Unemployment rate

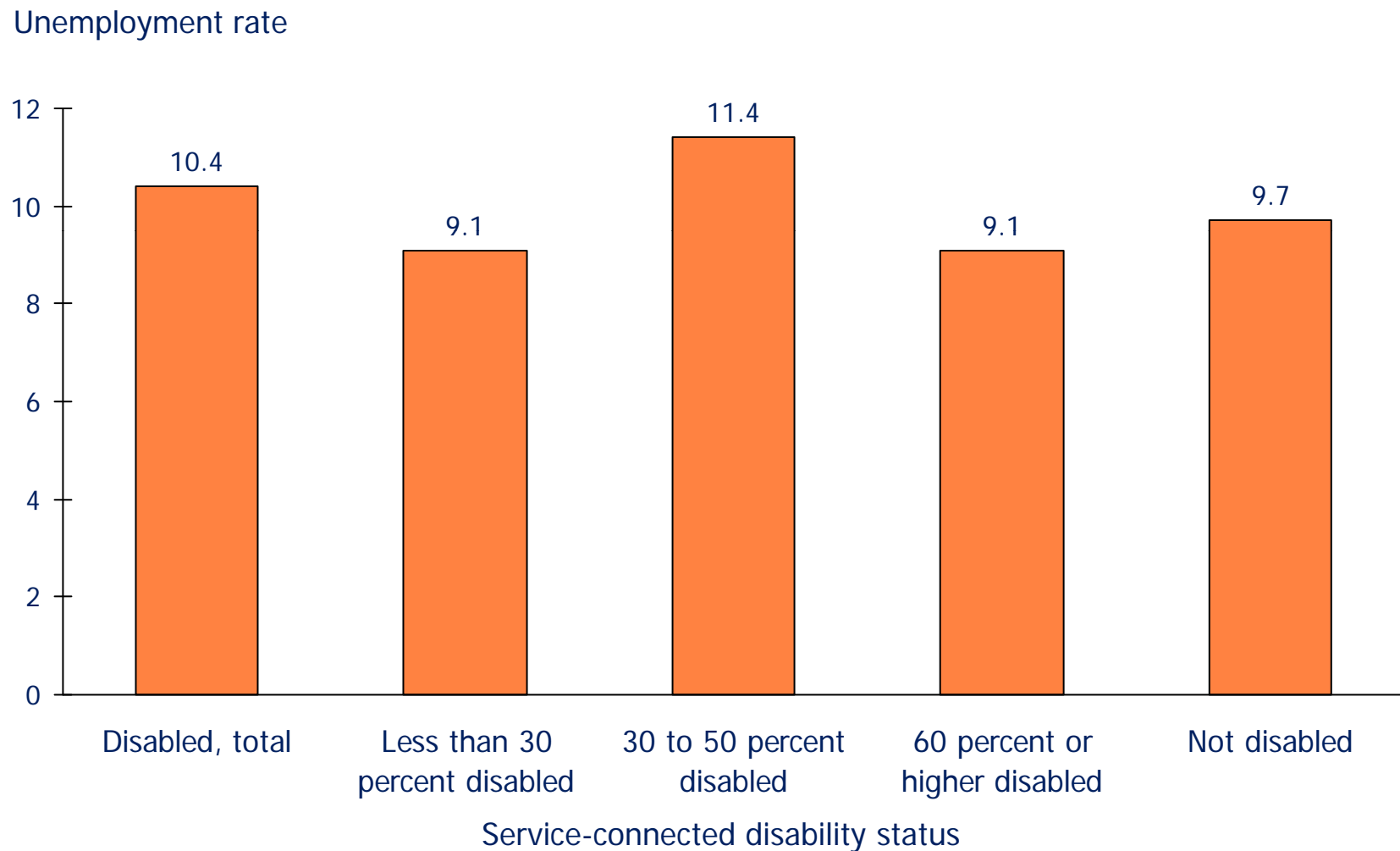


NOTE: The unemployment rates of male and female Gulf War-era II veterans are similar. The unemployment rate for female Gulf War-era II veterans is based on a relatively small sample. Small samples have large standard errors.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2009



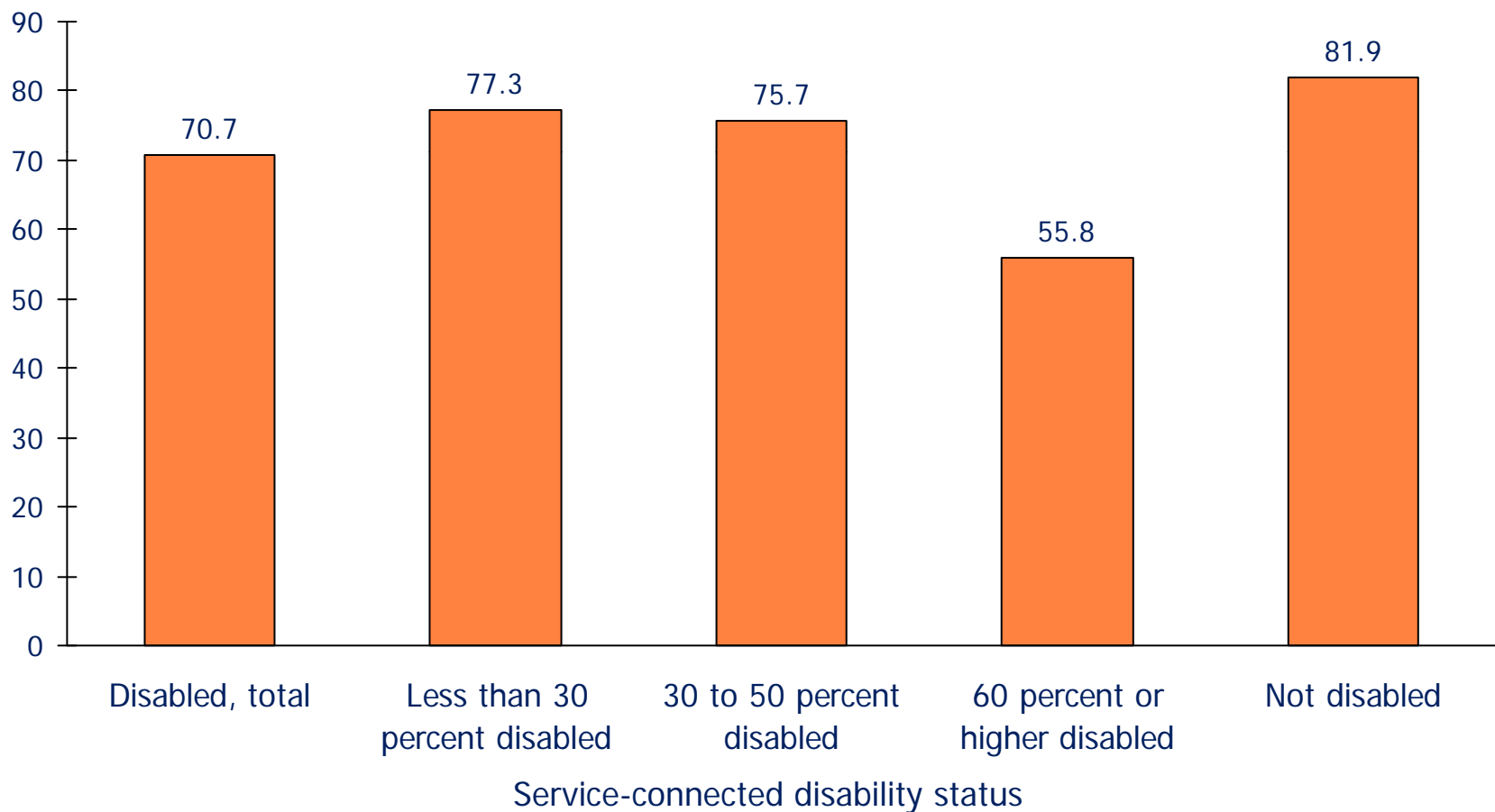
## Chart 10. Among veterans who served sometime since August 1990, there is little difference in the unemployment rates of those with or without a service-connected disability



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, August 2009 veterans supplement

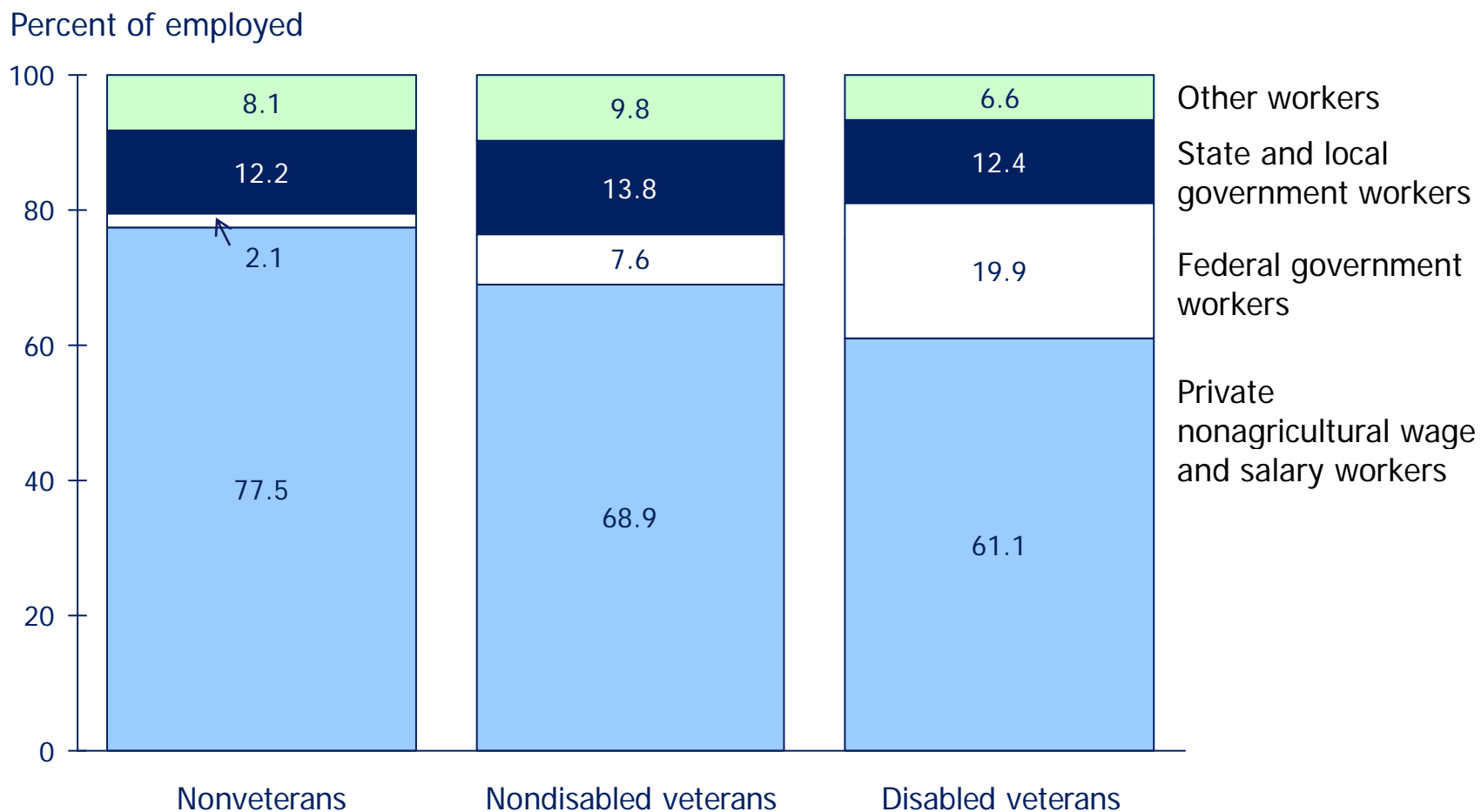
# Chart 11. Among veterans who served sometime since August 1990, those with a service-connected disability are less likely to be employed than those without a service-connected disability

Employed as a percent of population



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, August 2009 veterans supplement

## Chart 12. 1 of 5 employed disabled veterans works for the Federal government



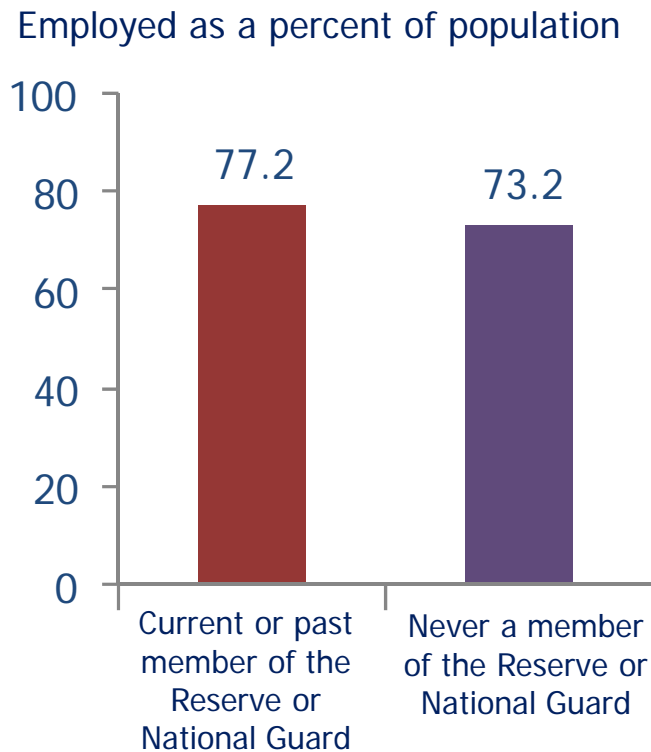
NOTE: "Other workers" includes persons employed in agriculture, the unincorporated self-employed, and unpaid family workers. Totals may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, August 2009 veterans supplement

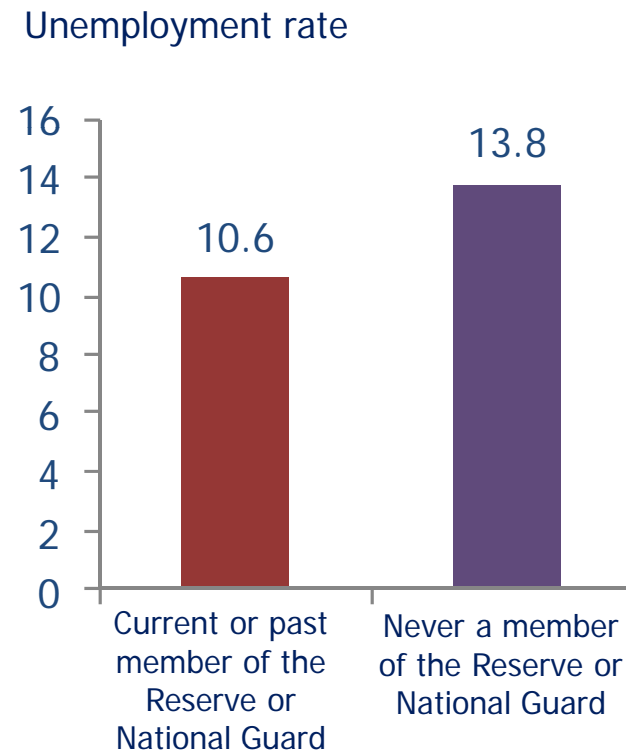


# Chart 13. Current or past members of the Reserve or National Guard have higher employment rates and lower unemployment rates than veterans who never were members of the Reserve or National Guard

Gulf War-era II veterans,  
August 2009



Gulf War-era II veterans,  
August 2009



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, August 2009 veterans supplement

**Further information is available at:**

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**<http://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm#vets>**

**or by calling (202) 691-6378**



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