

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



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Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

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USDL 09-0271

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For release: 10:00 A.M. (EDT)  
Friday, March 20, 2009

## **EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF VETERANS: 2008**

The unemployment rate for all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces was 4.6 percent in 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The jobless rate for those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since September 2001 was 7.3 percent.

This information was obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly sample survey of about 60,000 households that provides official statistics on employment and unemployment in the United States. Data about veteran status and period of service are collected monthly in the CPS; these data are the source of the 2008 annual averages presented in this release. For more information, see the box note on page 3 and the technical note, which provides definitions of terms used in the text and tables below.

### The Veteran Population

In the CPS, veterans are defined as men and women who have previously served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and who were civilians at the time they were surveyed. In 2008, 22.4 million men and women in the civilian noninstitutional population ages 18 and over were veterans. The veteran population differs from the nonveteran population in several ways. Veterans are more likely than non-veterans to be men, white, and older. In part, this reflects the characteristics of veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam era. Veterans who served during these wars account for over one-half (11.9 million) of the total veteran population. (Period-of-service designations identify when the veteran served rather than where; thus, wartime veterans did not necessarily serve in a war zone.)

A total of 4.6 million veterans served during Gulf War era I (August 1990 to August 2001) or Gulf War era II (September 2001 to the present). Another 6.0 million served outside the designated wartime periods. (See table 1.) Because age and other demographic differences can affect employment and unemployment status, the groups of veterans listed above are examined separately in the next sections.

### Gulf War-era II Veterans

About 1.7 million veterans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since September 2001. As is true for all period-of-service categories, men accounted for the great majority (82 percent) of Gulf War-era II veterans. However, the proportion of veterans who were women was much higher among this group of

veterans (18 percent) than among those who served prior to either Gulf War era (4 percent). About 17 percent of the era's veterans were black and 10 percent were Hispanic. Nearly two-thirds were under the age of 35. (See tables 1 and 2.)

A large majority (85.0 percent) of Gulf War-era II veterans participated in the labor force in 2008, and their unemployment rate was 7.3 percent. As with nonveterans, the jobless rates for veterans vary considerably with age. Veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 had an unemployment rate of 14.1 percent, nearly double the rate of those ages 25 to 34 (7.3 percent), and almost three times the rate for 35 to 44 year olds (4.9 percent). In general, Gulf War-era II veterans' jobless rates were little different from the rates of nonveterans in the same age group.

About 30 percent of employed male veterans of Gulf War era II worked in management, professional, and related occupations, compared with about 34 percent of male nonveterans. Sales and office occupations; natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations; and production, transportation, and material moving occupations each accounted for about 18 percent of employed male veterans and nonveterans. (See table 3.)

Among female veterans of Gulf War era II, 43 percent were employed in management, professional, and related occupations, and 32 percent held sales and office jobs. These proportions were virtually the same as those for female nonveterans.

Gulf War-era II veterans were more likely than nonveterans to work in the public sector. Among veterans of the era, 23 percent of men and 30 percent of women were government employees in 2008. For nonveterans these proportions were 11 and 18 percent, respectively. (See table 4.)

### Gulf War-era I Veterans

For the 2.9 million veterans who served during Gulf War era I (August 1990 to August 2001), the proportion that were men (85 percent) was similar to that of Gulf War-era II veterans. Blacks and Hispanics accounted for 16 and 9 percent, respectively, of Gulf War-era I veterans, also very similar to the proportions for Gulf War-era II veterans. About 7 in 10 Gulf War-era I veterans were 35 years and over in 2008, compared with approximately one-third of those from Gulf War era II.

About 88 percent of Gulf War-era I veterans were in the labor force in 2008, about the same as the rate for Gulf War-era II veterans. The unemployment rate for Gulf War-era I veterans (4.0 percent) was lower than the rate for Gulf War-era II veterans (7.3 percent). Since unemployment rates are higher on average for younger workers, this difference probably reflects the older age distribution of veterans who served in Gulf War era I. Labor force participation rates and unemployment rates of Gulf War-era I veterans were generally similar to those of nonveterans of the same age group and sex.

One-half of the female veterans of the era were in management, professional, and related occupations, compared with 40 percent of female nonveterans. The occupational profiles for male veterans of the era and for male nonveterans were little different. As was the case with Gulf War-era II veterans, both male and female Gulf War-era I veterans were much more likely than nonveterans to work in the public sector.

## Veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam Era

In 2008, there were about 11.9 million veterans who had served during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam era. The great majority (95 percent) of these veterans were at least 55 years old, and more than one-half were at least 65 years old. About 97 percent of veterans from these wartime periods were men.

Reflecting the fact that many were of retirement age, only about 40 percent of male veterans from these earlier wartime periods were in the labor force in 2008. The labor force participation rates for these veterans declined with age; for ages 45 to 54 it was 78.9 percent, for those ages 55 to 64 it was 64.8 percent, and for those ages 65 and over (more than half of the total) it was 16.3 percent. The unemployment rates for these veterans were similar across the age groups—between 4 and 5 percent.

## Veterans of Other Service Periods

Six million veterans served on active duty during “other service periods,” mainly between the Korean War and the Vietnam era, and between the Vietnam era and Gulf War era I. Because these veterans served between the major wartime periods, which span several decades, this group has a diverse age profile. About 38 percent of these veterans were at least 65 years old in 2008. Another 38 percent were ages 45 to 54, and 17 percent were ages 35 to 44. About 90 percent were men, 12 percent were black, and 5 percent were Hispanic.

In general, male veterans of other service periods had labor force participation rates and unemployment rates that were little different from those of male nonveterans of similar ages. As was true for wartime veterans, male and female veterans of other service periods were more likely to work for the public sector compared with nonveterans. In addition, women who served during other service periods were more likely to work in management and professional jobs and less likely to hold service jobs compared with their peers who never served.

### **Changes in the News Release on Veterans**

From 1986 to 2008, BLS issued news releases every other year that focused on the results from the Current Population Survey (CPS) biennial veterans supplements. Data on veterans also are collected as part of the basic monthly CPS. This is the first news release that presents only annual average estimates for veterans compiled from the basic CPS.

At this time, BLS plans to issue annual news releases on veterans. In odd-numbered years, the release will include only the annual average data for the previous year. In even-numbered years, that is, the years following the biennial veterans supplements, the news release will include both annual average and supplement data.

## Technical Note

The estimates in this release are obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides detailed information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau using a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 households. Questions were asked of persons 17 years of age and older regarding their prior service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Data are tabulated for persons 18 years of age and older.

The data in this release are annual averages for 2008, compiled from the results of the monthly survey, which collects information on the labor force status of the population as well as a number of demographic characteristics including veteran status. In addition, a veterans supplement to the CPS obtains information on presence and degree of service-connected disability, membership in the Reserve or National Guard, and other topics related to prior service in the Armed Forces. The most recent such supplement was conducted in August 2007; a news release issued in April 2008 (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf>) presented highlights of this survey along with the annual averages for 2007. The next veterans supplement is scheduled to be conducted in August 2009, and the results will be issued in spring 2010 along with the 2009 annual averages. This release presents annual averages only.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

### Definitions

The definitions underlying the data in this release are as follows:

*Veterans* are men and women who previously served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. Members of the Reserve and National Guard are counted as veterans if they had ever been called to active duty. Persons who are on active duty at the time of the survey are outside the scope of the survey and thus not counted as veterans in the CPS. Persons who reside in institutions, such as nursing homes and prisons, are also outside the scope of the CPS and are not surveyed.

*Nonveterans* are men and women who never served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

*World War II, Korean War, Vietnam-era, and Gulf War-era veterans* are men and women who served in the Armed Forces during these periods, regardless of where they served. Veterans who served in more than one wartime period are classified in the most recent one.

*Veterans of other service periods* are men and women who served in the Armed Forces at any time other than World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam era, or the Gulf War

era. Although U.S. Armed Forces were engaged in several armed conflicts during other service periods, these conflicts were more limited in scope and included a smaller proportion of the Armed Forces than the selected wartime periods. Veterans who served during one of the selected wartime periods and during another period are classified in the wartime period.

*Veteran status* is obtained from responses to two questions. The first is, "Did you ever serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?" If yes, the person is asked, "Are you still in the Armed Forces?" Answers of yes to the first question and no to the second question qualify the person as a veteran.

*Period of service* is obtained from answers to the question asked of veterans, "When did you serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?" The following service periods are identified:

Gulf War era II	—	September 2001–present
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
Other service periods	—	All other time periods

Period-of-service definitions are modified occasionally to reflect changes in law, regulations, and program needs of the survey sponsors.

### Reliability of the estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates will differ from the "true" population values they represent. The exact difference, or *sampling error*, varies depending on the particular sample selected, and this variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the "true" population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence.

The CPS data also are affected by *nonsampling error*. Nonsampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, the inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, the inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data.

For a full discussion of the reliability of data from the CPS and information on estimating standard errors, see the explanatory note for the household survey online at [http://www.bls.gov/cps/eetech\\_methods.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cps/eetech_methods.pdf).

**Table 1. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2008 annual averages**

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status, period of service, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Total	Percent of labor force	
<b>TOTAL</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	224,655	151,735	67.5	143,373	63.8	8,361	5.5	72,920
Veterans .....	22,429	12,368	55.1	11,795	52.6	573	4.6	10,061
Gulf War era, total .....	4,592	3,989	86.9	3,782	82.4	207	5.2	604
Gulf War era I .....	2,939	2,583	87.9	2,479	84.4	103	4.0	356
Gulf War era II .....	1,653	1,406	85.0	1,303	78.8	103	7.3	247
WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era .....	11,855	4,690	39.6	4,492	37.9	198	4.2	7,165
Other service periods .....	5,983	3,690	61.7	3,522	58.9	168	4.6	2,293
Nonveterans .....	202,226	139,366	68.9	131,578	65.1	7,788	5.6	62,859
<b>Men</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	108,488	81,282	74.9	76,560	70.6	4,722	5.8	27,206
Veterans .....	20,712	11,253	54.3	10,739	51.8	515	4.6	9,458
Gulf War era, total .....	3,848	3,425	89.0	3,256	84.6	169	4.9	423
Gulf War era I .....	2,488	2,231	89.7	2,147	86.3	84	3.8	257
Gulf War era II .....	1,359	1,193	87.8	1,109	81.6	84	7.1	166
WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era .....	11,455	4,542	39.7	4,349	38.0	193	4.3	6,913
Other service periods .....	5,409	3,287	60.8	3,134	57.9	153	4.6	2,123
Nonveterans .....	87,776	70,028	79.8	65,821	75.0	4,207	6.0	17,748
<b>Women</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	116,167	70,453	60.6	66,813	57.5	3,639	5.2	45,715
Veterans .....	1,718	1,115	64.9	1,057	61.5	58	5.2	603
Gulf War era, total .....	745	564	75.7	526	70.6	38	6.8	181
Gulf War era I .....	451	351	77.9	332	73.7	19	5.5	99
Gulf War era II .....	294	212	72.3	194	65.9	19	8.9	81
WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era .....	399	148	37.0	143	35.8	5	3.2	252
Other service periods .....	574	403	70.3	388	67.6	16	3.8	170
Nonveterans .....	114,450	69,338	60.6	65,757	57.5	3,581	5.2	45,112
<b>White</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	182,578	123,509	67.6	117,422	64.3	6,087	4.9	59,069
Veterans .....	19,256	10,355	53.8	9,920	51.5	435	4.2	8,900
Gulf War era, total .....	3,566	3,101	87.0	2,961	83.0	141	4.5	465
Gulf War era I .....	2,298	2,023	88.0	1,958	85.2	65	3.2	275
Gulf War era II .....	1,268	1,078	85.0	1,003	79.1	76	7.0	190
WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era .....	10,655	4,232	39.7	4,064	38.1	168	4.0	6,423
Other service periods .....	5,034	3,022	60.0	2,895	57.5	127	4.2	2,013
Nonveterans .....	163,322	113,153	69.3	107,502	65.8	5,651	5.0	50,169
<b>Black or African American</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	26,421	17,505	66.3	15,814	59.9	1,690	9.7	8,917
Veterans .....	2,383	1,515	63.6	1,408	59.1	108	7.1	868
Gulf War era, total .....	758	650	85.8	602	79.4	49	7.5	108
Gulf War era I .....	482	422	87.5	394	81.7	28	6.6	60
Gulf War era II .....	276	228	82.7	208	75.3	20	9.0	48
WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era .....	892	334	37.4	310	34.7	24	7.3	558
Other service periods .....	733	531	72.4	496	67.7	35	6.6	202
Nonveterans .....	24,038	15,989	66.5	14,407	59.9	1,583	9.9	8,049

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2008 annual averages—Continued**

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status, period of service, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Total	Percent of labor force	
<b>Asian</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	10,363	7,101	68.5	6,828	65.9	274	3.9	3,261
Veterans .....	254	154	60.5	149	58.6	5	3.1	100
Gulf War era, total .....	89	77	85.7	74	83.1	2	3.1	13
Gulf War era I .....	58	46	79.7	45	76.9	2	3.5	12
Gulf War era II .....	31	30	( <sup>1</sup> )	29	( <sup>1</sup> )	1	( <sup>1</sup> )	1
WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era .....	98	34	34.7	32	32.6	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	64
Other service periods .....	67	43	64.5	43	63.9	—	—	24
Nonveterans .....	10,109	6,948	68.7	6,678	66.1	269	3.9	3,161
<b>Hispanic or Latino ethnicity</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	30,444	21,600	71.0	20,033	65.8	1,567	7.3	8,844
Veterans .....	1,177	808	68.7	767	65.2	41	5.1	369
Gulf War era, total .....	429	374	87.1	352	81.9	22	5.9	55
Gulf War era I .....	268	240	89.6	226	84.3	14	5.9	28
Gulf War era II .....	161	133	82.9	125	77.9	8	6.0	28
WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era .....	440	213	48.5	202	45.9	12	5.5	226
Other service periods .....	309	221	71.7	214	69.3	7	3.4	87
Nonveterans .....	29,266	20,792	71.0	19,266	65.8	1,526	7.3	8,475

<sup>1</sup> Ratios are not shown where the denominator is less than 35,000. Small estimated levels are based on a small number of survey responses and, thus, are subject to relatively large standard errors.

NOTE: Veterans are men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam era, the Gulf War era, and all other service periods. Nonveterans are men and women who never served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Other service periods include the periods between World War II and the Korean War,

between the Korean War and the Vietnam era, and between the Vietnam era and the Gulf War era. More detailed information appears in the Technical Note of this release. Estimates for the above race groups (white, black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

**Table 2. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, age, period of service, and sex, 2008 annual averages**

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status, age, period of service, and sex	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Total	Percent of labor force	
<b>TOTAL</b>								
<b>VETERANS</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	22,429	12,368	55.1	11,795	52.6	573	4.6	10,061
18 to 24 years .....	317	255	80.6	219	69.2	36	14.1	61
25 to 34 years .....	1,582	1,378	87.1	1,294	81.8	84	6.1	204
35 to 44 years .....	2,617	2,391	91.4	2,289	87.5	102	4.3	225
45 to 54 years .....	3,661	3,092	84.5	2,951	80.6	141	4.6	569
55 to 64 years .....	5,623	3,665	65.2	3,520	62.6	145	4.0	1,958
65 years and over .....	8,630	1,587	18.4	1,522	17.6	65	4.1	7,043
<b>Gulf War era, total</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	4,592	3,989	86.9	3,782	82.4	207	5.2	604
18 to 24 years .....	317	255	80.6	219	69.2	36	14.1	61
25 to 34 years .....	1,582	1,378	87.1	1,294	81.8	84	6.1	204
35 to 44 years .....	1,590	1,456	91.5	1,394	87.6	62	4.3	134
45 to 54 years .....	747	653	87.4	634	84.9	19	2.9	94
55 to 64 years .....	303	228	75.1	222	73.3	5	2.4	76
65 years and over .....	52	19	35.8	18	35.0	—	—	34
<b>Gulf War era I</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	2,939	2,583	87.9	2,479	84.4	103	4.0	356
18 to 24 years .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 years .....	837	744	88.9	706	84.3	38	5.1	93
35 to 44 years .....	1,286	1,181	91.8	1,132	88.0	49	4.1	106
45 to 54 years .....	537	467	86.9	454	84.6	13	2.7	70
55 to 64 years .....	237	177	74.8	173	73.2	4	2.1	60
65 years and over .....	43	15	34.7	14	33.7	—	—	28
<b>Gulf War era II</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	1,653	1,406	85.0	1,303	78.8	103	7.3	247
18 to 24 years .....	317	255	80.6	219	69.2	36	14.1	61
25 to 34 years .....	745	634	85.1	588	78.9	46	7.3	111
35 to 44 years .....	304	275	90.5	262	86.1	13	4.9	29
45 to 54 years .....	211	186	88.5	180	85.6	6	3.3	24
55 to 64 years .....	67	51	76.2	49	73.7	2	3.3	16
65 years and over .....	10	4	( <sup>1</sup> )	4	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	6
<b>WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era <sup>2</sup></b>								
Total, 45 years and over .....	11,855	4,690	39.6	4,492	37.9	198	4.2	7,165
45 to 54 years .....	628	494	78.7	469	74.7	25	5.1	134
55 to 64 years .....	4,934	3,188	64.6	3,056	61.9	132	4.1	1,746
65 years and over .....	6,293	1,008	16.0	968	15.4	40	4.0	5,285
<b>Other service periods</b>								
Total, 25 years and over .....	5,983	3,690	61.7	3,522	58.9	168	4.6	2,293
25 to 34 years .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 years .....	1,026	935	91.1	895	87.2	40	4.3	91
45 to 54 years .....	2,286	1,945	85.1	1,848	80.9	97	5.0	341
55 to 64 years .....	386	249	64.6	242	62.7	7	3.0	137
65 years and over .....	2,284	560	24.5	536	23.5	24	4.3	1,724
<b>NONVETERANS</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	202,226	139,366	68.9	131,578	65.1	7,788	5.6	62,859
18 to 24 years .....	28,034	19,225	68.6	16,994	60.6	2,231	11.6	8,810
25 to 34 years .....	38,411	31,954	83.2	30,089	78.3	1,865	5.8	6,457
35 to 44 years .....	39,083	32,670	83.6	31,168	79.7	1,502	4.6	6,413
45 to 54 years .....	40,300	32,912	81.7	31,578	78.4	1,334	4.1	7,388
55 to 64 years .....	27,868	17,951	64.4	17,292	62.1	658	3.7	9,917
65 years and over .....	28,530	4,654	16.3	4,457	15.6	197	4.2	23,875

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, age, period of service, and sex, 2008 annual averages—Continued**

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status, age, period of service, and sex	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Total	Percent of labor force	
<b>MEN</b>								
<b>VETERANS</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	20,712	11,253	54.3	10,739	51.8	515	4.6	9,458
18 to 24 years .....	249	211	84.7	181	72.9	29	13.9	38
25 to 34 years .....	1,276	1,153	90.4	1,086	85.1	67	5.8	123
35 to 44 years .....	2,242	2,086	93.0	1,996	89.0	90	4.3	157
45 to 54 years .....	3,207	2,736	85.3	2,612	81.4	124	4.5	471
55 to 64 years .....	5,377	3,515	65.4	3,374	62.7	141	4.0	1,862
65 years and over .....	8,361	1,553	18.6	1,491	17.8	63	4.0	6,807
<b>Gulf War era, total</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	3,848	3,425	89.0	3,256	84.6	169	4.9	423
18 to 24 years .....	249	211	84.7	181	72.9	29	13.9	38
25 to 34 years .....	1,276	1,153	90.4	1,086	85.1	67	5.8	123
35 to 44 years .....	1,354	1,262	93.2	1,210	89.3	53	4.2	92
45 to 54 years .....	647	574	88.8	561	86.6	14	2.4	73
55 to 64 years .....	274	208	75.8	203	73.8	5	2.6	66
65 years and over .....	47	17	35.3	16	34.4	—	—	31
<b>Gulf War era I</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	2,488	2,231	89.7	2,147	86.3	84	3.8	257
18 to 24 years .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 years .....	677	622	91.8	591	87.2	31	5.0	55
35 to 44 years .....	1,098	1,029	93.7	990	90.1	40	3.9	69
45 to 54 years .....	459	405	88.3	396	86.3	9	2.2	54
55 to 64 years .....	215	161	75.1	158	73.3	4	2.3	54
65 years and over .....	38	13	34.9	13	33.7	—	—	25
<b>Gulf War era II</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	1,359	1,193	87.8	1,109	81.6	84	7.1	166
18 to 24 years .....	249	211	84.7	181	72.9	29	13.9	38
25 to 34 years .....	598	531	88.7	495	82.7	36	6.8	68
35 to 44 years .....	255	233	91.1	220	86.1	13	5.5	23
45 to 54 years .....	188	169	90.0	164	87.5	5	2.8	19
55 to 64 years .....	59	47	78.6	45	75.8	2	3.6	13
65 years and over .....	9	3	( <sup>1</sup> )	3	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	6
<b>WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era <sup>2</sup></b>								
Total, 45 years and over .....	11,455	4,542	39.7	4,349	38.0	193	4.3	6,913
45 to 54 years .....	588	464	78.9	440	74.9	23	5.0	124
55 to 64 years .....	4,762	3,085	64.8	2,955	62.1	130	4.2	1,677
65 years and over .....	6,105	993	16.3	953	15.6	40	4.0	5,112
<b>Other service periods</b>								
Total, 25 years and over .....	5,409	3,287	60.8	3,134	57.9	153	4.6	2,123
25 to 34 years .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 years .....	889	824	92.7	786	88.5	37	4.5	65
45 to 54 years .....	1,972	1,698	86.1	1,611	81.7	87	5.1	274
55 to 64 years .....	340	222	65.2	216	63.4	6	2.7	118
65 years and over .....	2,208	543	24.6	521	23.6	22	4.1	1,665
<b>NONVETERANS</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	87,776	70,028	79.8	65,821	75.0	4,207	6.0	17,748
18 to 24 years .....	14,035	10,089	71.9	8,773	62.5	1,316	13.0	3,946
25 to 34 years .....	18,723	17,149	91.6	16,098	86.0	1,052	6.1	1,574
35 to 44 years .....	18,325	16,886	92.1	16,101	87.9	785	4.6	1,439
45 to 54 years .....	18,307	16,193	88.5	15,512	84.7	681	4.2	2,113
55 to 64 years .....	10,747	7,830	72.9	7,545	70.2	285	3.6	2,917
65 years and over .....	7,639	1,880	24.6	1,792	23.5	89	4.7	5,759

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 2. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, age, period of service, and sex, 2008 annual averages—Continued**

(Numbers in thousands)

Veteran status, age, period of service, and sex	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force						Not in labor force
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed		
				Total	Percent of population	Total	Percent of labor force	
<b>WOMEN</b>								
<b>VETERANS</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	1,718	1,115	64.9	1,057	61.5	58	5.2	603
18 to 24 years .....	68	44	65.6	38	55.7	7	15.1	23
25 to 34 years .....	306	225	73.5	208	68.0	17	7.5	81
35 to 44 years .....	374	306	81.6	293	78.3	12	4.0	69
45 to 54 years .....	454	356	78.4	340	74.8	17	4.7	98
55 to 64 years .....	246	150	60.9	146	59.3	4	2.5	96
65 years and over .....	269	33	12.5	32	11.8	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	235
<b>Gulf War era, total</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	745	564	75.7	526	70.6	38	6.8	181
18 to 24 years .....	68	44	65.6	38	55.7	7	15.1	23
25 to 34 years .....	306	225	73.5	208	68.0	17	7.5	81
35 to 44 years .....	236	194	82.0	184	77.9	10	4.9	43
45 to 54 years .....	100	79	78.5	74	73.6	5	6.2	22
55 to 64 years .....	29	20	( <sup>1</sup> )	20	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	9
65 years and over .....	5	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	3
<b>Gulf War era I</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	451	351	77.9	332	73.7	19	5.5	99
18 to 24 years .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 years .....	159	122	76.3	115	72.1	7	5.6	38
35 to 44 years .....	188	151	80.6	142	75.8	9	6.0	36
45 to 54 years .....	78	61	79.1	58	74.7	3	5.6	16
55 to 64 years .....	22	16	( <sup>1</sup> )	16	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	6
65 years and over .....	4	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	3
<b>Gulf War era II</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	294	212	72.3	194	65.9	19	8.9	81
18 to 24 years .....	68	44	65.6	38	55.7	7	15.1	23
25 to 34 years .....	147	104	70.5	93	63.6	10	9.8	43
35 to 44 years .....	49	42	87.2	42	86.2	1	1.2	6
45 to 54 years .....	23	17	( <sup>1</sup> )	16	( <sup>1</sup> )	1	( <sup>1</sup> )	5
55 to 64 years .....	7	4	( <sup>1</sup> )	4	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	3
65 years and over .....	1	1	( <sup>1</sup> )	1	( <sup>1</sup> )	—	—	—
<b>WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era <sup>2</sup></b>								
Total, 45 years and over .....	399	148	37.0	143	35.8	5	3.2	252
45 to 54 years .....	40	30	75.9	29	71.2	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	10
55 to 64 years .....	172	103	59.9	100	58.4	2	2.4	69
65 years and over .....	188	15	7.8	14	7.6	—	( <sup>1</sup> )	173
<b>Other service periods</b>								
Total, 25 years and over .....	574	403	70.3	388	67.6	16	3.8	170
25 to 34 years .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 years .....	138	112	81.1	109	79.1	3	2.5	26
45 to 54 years .....	314	247	78.8	237	75.6	10	4.0	67
55 to 64 years .....	46	27	60.2	26	57.3	1	( <sup>1</sup> )	18
65 years and over .....	76	17	22.1	15	20.1	2	( <sup>1</sup> )	59
<b>NONVETERANS</b>								
Total, 18 years and over .....	114,450	69,338	60.6	65,757	57.5	3,581	5.2	45,112
18 to 24 years .....	13,999	9,136	65.3	8,220	58.7	915	10.0	4,863
25 to 34 years .....	19,688	14,805	75.2	13,992	71.1	813	5.5	4,883
35 to 44 years .....	20,758	15,784	76.0	15,067	72.6	717	4.5	4,974
45 to 54 years .....	21,994	16,719	76.0	16,066	73.0	653	3.9	5,274
55 to 64 years .....	17,121	10,120	59.1	9,747	56.9	373	3.7	7,001
65 years and over .....	20,891	2,774	13.3	2,665	12.8	109	3.9	18,117

<sup>1</sup> Ratios are not shown where the denominator is less than 35,000. Small estimated levels are based on a small number of survey responses and, thus, are subject to relatively large standard errors.

<sup>2</sup> Because of the aging of the population, there are no longer any veterans of these eras under 45 years of age.

NOTE: Veterans are men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam era, the Gulf

War era, and all other service periods. Nonveterans are men and women who never served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Other service periods include the periods between World War II and the Korean War, between the Korean War and the Vietnam era, and between the Vietnam era and the Gulf War era. More detailed information appears in the Technical Note of this release. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

**Table 3. Employed persons 18 years and over by occupation, sex, veteran status, and period of service, 2008 annual averages**

(Percent distribution)

Occupation	Veterans	Gulf War era			WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era	Other service periods	Non- veterans
		Total	Gulf War era I	Gulf War era II			
<b>TOTAL</b>							
Total, 18 years and over (in thousands) .....	11,795	3,782	2,479	1,303	4,492	3,522	131,578
Percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Management, professional, and related occupations .....	36.0	34.9	36.8	31.4	38.6	34.0	36.8
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	17.5	15.0	15.7	13.7	20.8	16.2	15.2
Professional and related occupations .....	18.5	19.9	21.1	17.7	17.8	17.8	21.6
Service occupations .....	12.4	15.1	14.3	16.6	9.8	12.9	16.7
Sales and office occupations .....	18.0	18.0	17.0	20.0	18.3	17.7	24.9
Sales and related occupations .....	9.7	8.2	7.8	8.9	11.2	9.4	11.1
Office and administrative support occupations .....	8.3	9.8	9.2	11.1	7.1	8.3	13.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	15.6	15.9	15.7	16.1	14.6	16.5	9.8
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	.4	.3	.2	.5	.6	.4	.7
Construction and extraction occupations .....	7.4	6.8	6.7	7.0	7.4	8.1	5.9
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	7.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	6.5	8.0	3.2
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations .....	17.9	16.1	16.2	15.9	18.6	18.9	11.8
Production occupations .....	7.4	6.5	6.9	5.9	7.5	8.1	6.1
Transportation and material moving occupations .....	10.5	9.6	9.3	10.0	11.1	10.8	5.7
<b>MEN</b>							
Total, 18 years and over (in thousands) .....	10,739	3,256	2,147	1,109	4,349	3,134	65,821
Percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Management, professional, and related occupations .....	35.0	32.9	34.7	29.5	38.3	32.6	33.6
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	17.7	14.8	15.4	13.7	21.0	16.1	16.3
Professional and related occupations .....	17.3	18.1	19.3	15.8	17.2	16.5	17.3
Service occupations .....	12.2	15.0	14.3	16.3	9.8	12.7	13.3
Sales and office occupations .....	16.8	16.0	15.1	17.8	17.8	16.0	16.8
Sales and related occupations .....	9.7	8.1	7.9	8.3	11.2	9.1	10.7
Office and administrative support occupations .....	7.1	8.0	7.2	9.5	6.6	6.9	6.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	17.0	18.3	18.1	18.6	15.0	18.3	18.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	.5	.3	.2	.6	.7	.4	1.0
Construction and extraction occupations .....	8.1	7.9	7.8	8.2	7.7	9.0	11.4
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	8.4	10.1	10.2	9.8	6.7	8.9	6.2
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations .....	19.0	17.8	17.8	17.8	19.1	20.3	17.7
Production occupations .....	7.7	7.0	7.4	6.3	7.7	8.6	8.3
Transportation and material moving occupations .....	11.3	10.7	10.4	11.4	11.4	11.7	9.4
<b>WOMEN</b>							
Total, 18 years and over (in thousands) .....	1,057	526	332	194	143	388	65,757
Percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Management, professional, and related occupations .....	46.5	47.4	50.3	42.5	48.4	44.5	40.0
Management, business, and financial operations occupations .....	15.8	16.1	17.5	13.7	12.8	16.4	14.1
Professional and related occupations .....	30.7	31.3	32.8	28.7	35.7	28.1	25.9
Service occupations .....	14.6	16.0	14.6	18.3	10.5	14.3	20.2
Sales and office occupations .....	31.0	30.2	29.0	32.2	33.5	31.1	33.0
Sales and related occupations .....	10.3	8.9	6.8	12.4	11.1	11.8	11.6
Office and administrative support occupations .....	20.7	21.3	22.1	19.9	22.4	19.3	21.4
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations .....	1.5	.9	.3	1.9	2.0	2.3	.9
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations .....	.2	-	-	-	.4	.3	.3
Construction and extraction occupations .....	.6	-	-	.1	1.1	1.1	.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations .....	.8	.8	.3	1.8	.4	.9	.3
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations .....	6.4	5.6	5.8	5.2	5.5	7.8	5.9
Production occupations .....	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	4.0
Transportation and material moving occupations .....	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.2	3.5	1.9

NOTE: Veterans are men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam era, the Gulf War era, and all other service periods. Nonveterans are men and women who never served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Other service periods include the periods between

World War II and the Korean War, between the Korean War and the Vietnam era, and between the Vietnam era and the Gulf War era. More detailed information appears in the Technical Note of this release. Dash represents or rounds to zero.

**Table 4. Employed persons 18 years and over by industry, class of worker, sex, veteran status, and period of service, 2008 annual averages**

(Percent distribution)

Industry and class of worker	Veterans	Gulf War era			WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era	Other service periods	Non-veterans
		Total	Gulf War era I	Gulf War era II			
<b>TOTAL</b>							
Total, 18 years and over (in thousands) .....	11,795	3,782	2,479	1,303	4,492	3,522	131,578
Percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture and related industries .....	1.7	.6	.4	1.0	2.9	1.5	1.4
Wage and salary workers .....	.6	.4	.2	.8	.8	.6	.9
Self-employed workers .....	1.1	.2	.1	.2	2.1	.9	.6
Nonagricultural industries .....	98.3	99.4	99.6	99.0	97.1	98.5	98.6
Wage and salary workers .....	90.7	95.8	95.6	96.2	86.2	90.8	92.2
Private industries .....	70.6	72.2	72.3	71.9	68.8	71.4	77.9
Mining .....	.8	1.1	.9	1.5	.7	.7	.5
Construction .....	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.8	6.0
Manufacturing .....	13.8	12.4	13.5	10.5	13.6	15.6	10.5
Wholesale trade .....	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.6	3.5	3.0	2.6
Retail trade .....	8.7	8.8	7.7	10.9	8.7	8.4	10.7
Transportation and utilities .....	7.3	7.2	7.8	6.0	7.2	7.6	3.7
Information .....	2.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.3	2.2
Financial activities .....	4.7	4.5	4.8	3.9	4.9	4.7	6.6
Professional and business services .....	9.2	10.8	10.4	11.5	8.9	7.9	9.1
Education and health services .....	7.2	7.9	7.8	8.0	6.5	7.3	13.9
Leisure and hospitality .....	3.7	4.5	4.1	5.3	3.1	3.6	7.8
Other services .....	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.5	3.3	3.6	4.2
Government .....	20.0	23.7	23.3	24.3	17.5	19.4	14.4
Federal .....	8.0	11.0	9.5	13.8	6.1	7.2	2.0
State .....	4.4	4.9	5.4	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.3
Local .....	7.6	7.8	8.4	6.6	7.1	8.1	8.1
Self-employed workers .....	7.6	3.6	4.1	2.8	10.8	7.7	6.3
Unpaid family workers .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	.1
<b>MEN</b>							
Total, 18 years and over (in thousands) .....	10,739	3,256	2,147	1,109	4,349	3,134	65,821
Percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture and related industries .....	1.8	.6	.4	1.1	3.0	1.5	2.1
Wage and salary workers .....	.6	.5	.2	.9	.8	.6	1.3
Self-employed workers .....	1.2	.2	.2	.2	2.2	.9	.8
Nonagricultural industries .....	98.2	99.4	99.6	98.9	97.0	98.5	97.9
Wage and salary workers .....	90.2	95.6	95.4	96.0	86.0	90.4	90.5
Private industries .....	70.9	72.7	72.7	72.7	68.8	72.0	79.8
Mining .....	.8	1.2	.9	1.8	.7	.6	.9
Construction .....	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.0	6.5	7.4	10.6
Manufacturing .....	14.5	13.5	14.6	11.2	13.7	16.7	14.3
Wholesale trade .....	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.6	3.2	3.5
Retail trade .....	8.7	9.0	8.0	11.0	8.7	8.4	10.3
Transportation and utilities .....	7.8	8.0	8.7	6.8	7.3	8.1	5.6
Information .....	2.5	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.0	2.4	2.5
Financial activities .....	4.6	4.1	4.2	3.8	5.0	4.5	5.4
Professional and business services .....	9.1	10.6	10.1	11.6	8.9	7.8	9.8
Education and health services .....	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.7
Leisure and hospitality .....	3.5	4.1	3.8	4.6	3.0	3.7	7.3
Other services .....	3.3	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.3	3.7	3.8
Government .....	19.3	22.9	22.7	23.3	17.2	18.5	10.7
Federal .....	7.5	10.4	9.2	12.9	5.9	6.7	1.8
State .....	4.3	4.7	5.1	4.0	4.3	4.0	3.3
Local .....	7.5	7.7	8.4	6.4	7.0	7.8	5.6
Self-employed workers .....	7.9	3.8	4.2	2.9	11.0	8.0	7.4
Unpaid family workers .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4. Employed persons 18 years and over by industry, class of worker, sex, veteran status, and period of service, 2008 annual averages—Continued**

(Percent distribution)

Industry and class of worker	Veterans	Gulf War era			WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era	Other service periods	Non-veterans
		Total	Gulf War era I	Gulf War era II			
<b>WOMEN</b>							
Total, 18 years and over (in thousands) .....	1,057	526	332	194	143	388	65,757
Percent .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture and related industries .....	.6	.2	.1	.2	1.1	1.0	.8
Wage and salary workers .....	.4	.1	—	.2	.9	.5	.4
Self-employed workers .....	.2	.1	.1	—	.3	.5	.3
Nonagricultural industries .....	99.4	99.8	99.9	99.8	98.9	99.0	99.2
Wage and salary workers .....	95.1	97.1	96.8	97.8	92.6	93.3	93.9
Private industries .....	67.9	68.8	69.4	67.6	68.2	66.6	75.9
Mining .....	.6	.4	.7	—	—	.9	.1
Construction .....	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.4
Manufacturing .....	6.5	6.2	5.8	7.0	8.0	6.3	6.7
Wholesale trade .....	1.4	1.0	1.2	.7	2.0	1.8	1.7
Retail trade .....	8.0	7.4	5.8	10.0	8.9	8.5	11.0
Transportation and utilities .....	2.6	2.0	2.3	1.3	3.6	3.2	1.8
Information .....	1.6	1.7	1.1	2.8	1.9	1.4	1.9
Financial activities .....	6.1	7.2	8.8	4.6	2.1	6.2	7.7
Professional and business services .....	10.5	12.0	12.7	10.9	8.7	9.0	8.4
Education and health services .....	21.5	20.8	21.7	19.4	23.1	21.9	22.2
Leisure and hospitality .....	5.1	7.0	5.9	9.0	4.4	2.8	8.4
Other services .....	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.1	3.9	3.2	4.6
Government .....	27.2	28.4	27.3	30.1	24.3	26.7	18.0
Federal .....	12.7	14.3	11.5	19.1	11.4	11.0	2.2
State .....	5.5	5.8	7.0	3.8	4.2	5.5	5.3
Local .....	9.0	8.2	8.8	7.3	8.7	10.2	10.5
Self-employed workers .....	4.3	2.7	3.1	2.1	6.3	5.6	5.2
Unpaid family workers .....	—	—	—	—	—	.1	.1

NOTE: Veterans are men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam era, the Gulf War era, and all other service periods. Nonveterans are men and women who never served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Other service periods include the periods between

World War II and the Korean War, between the Korean War and the Vietnam era, and between the Vietnam era and the Gulf War era. More detailed information appears in the Technical Note of this release. Dash represents or rounds to zero.