

LABOR FORCE STATISTICS OF VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

FACTSHEET

This document from the Current Population summarizes labor force statistics from government programs for veteran survey and program participation for select federal government programs for veterans¹ with disabilities^{2,3}.

Labor Force Statistics

Populations, Labor Force Participation, Employment, and Unemployment Rate in 2023

- ▶ In 2023, there were 17.8M veterans in the civilian, non-institutionalized population. Of those, 5.2M (30%) reported having a service-connected disability and 4.6M (26%) as having a disability. In comparison, there were 239.8M nonveterans and of those, 28.5M nonveterans (12% of all nonveterans) reported having a disability.
- ▶ There were 8.6M veterans (48.2% of all veterans) in the labor force and 8.4M were employed. Of the veterans in the labor force 2.6M (30.2%) reported as having a service-connected disability and 991,000 veterans (11.5%) reported a disability. For the 156M nonveterans in the labor force, 7.1M (4.5%) reported having a disability.
- ▶ The unemployment rate for veterans – persons with a disability (4.8%) was lower than non-veterans – persons with a disability (7.4%) and veterans with a service-connected disability (6.0%), yet higher than all veterans (2.8%).

Trends from 2019 to 2023

- ▶ From 2021 to 2023, the number of veterans – persons with a disability in the labor force increased by 177K and service-connected disabled veterans in the labor force increased by nearly 327K.
- ▶ The unemployment rate for veterans – persons with a disability decreased from 10.5% in 2020 to 4.8% in 2023.

Comparison of Labor Force Statistics for Three Subpopulations Over Time, 2019 - 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Civilian Non-institutional Population, Age 18 years and over					
Service-Connected Disabled Veterans	4,742,000	4,747,000	4,873,000	4,920,000	5,278,000
Veterans – Persons with a Disability	4,457,000	4,221,000	4,352,000	4,633,000	4,636,000
Non-veterans – Persons with a Disability	25,603,000	25,341,000	26,410,000	27,652,000	28,514,000

¹ In the CPS, veterans are defined as men and women who previously served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and who were civilians at the time they were surveyed. Veteran status is obtained from responses to the question, “Did you ever serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?”

² Presence of service-connected disability is determined by answers to two questions beginning in August 2021: “Have you filed a claim for or received a rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense confirming that you have a service-connected disability; that is, a health condition or impairment caused or made worse by military service?” and (asked of those who said yes) “Did you receive a VA disability rating?”

³ For non-service-connected disabilities, the CPS uses a set of six questions to identify persons with disabilities, which includes a physical, mental, or emotional conditions that cause serious difficulty with their daily activities. A response of “yes” to any one of the questions indicates that the person in question has a disability.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
In the Labor Force					
Service-Connected Disabled Veterans	2,252,000	2,305,000	2,423,000	2,345,000	2,632,000
Veterans – Persons with a Disability	871,000	858,000	814,000	953,000	991,000
Non-veterans – Persons with a Disability	5,432,000	5,253,000	5,794,000	6,562,000	7,100,000
Unemployment Rate					
Service-Connected Disabled Veterans	4.8%	6.2%	3.4%	3.6%	6.0%
Veterans – Persons with a Disability	5.2%	10.5%	6.2%	5.9%	4.8%
Non-veterans – Persons with a Disability	7.6%	12.7%	10.5%	7.6%	7.4%

Source: Table 7. Employment status of veterans 18 years and over by presence of service-connected disability, reported disability rating, period of service, and sex, 2019 – 2023, not seasonally adjusted

Source: Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and disability status, Annual Average 2019 – 2023, Current Population Survey, Unpublished Tables

Disabled Veterans’ Participation in Select Federal Employment and Training Programs

Veteran Participation in the Jobs for Veterans State Grant program and American Job Centers

Program Year 2018 – Program Year 2022

	PY 2018	PY 2019	PY 2020	PY 2021	PY 2022
Ratio of Disabled Veterans to All Veterans served by JVSG-funded DVOP	63%	69%	77%	61%	61%
AJC-served Disabled Veterans to AJC-served All Veterans Ratio	21%	20%	21%	21%	23%

Source: [VETS Annual Reports](#) and [WIOA by the Numbers Interactive Data Analysis Tool](#)

- ▶ From Program Year (PY) 2018 to PY 2022, the ratio of Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) funded Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) assistance to specialist-served “Disabled Veterans” compared to “All Veterans,” increased from 63% to 77% (PY 2018 - PY 2020), declined to 61% in PY 2021 and remained at 61% in PY 2022.
- ▶ From PY 2019 to PY 2022, the ratio of American Job Centers (AJC) and JVSG DVOP-served “Disabled Veterans” to “All Veterans,” increased from 20% to 23%.

Veteran’s Affairs, Veteran Readiness & Employment program

Fiscal Year 2019 – Fiscal Year 2023

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
VR&E Total Participants	122,249	123,490	92,247	105,054	133,399
VR&E New Participants	29,799	33,163	32,892	30,623	39,000
VR&E Ratio of New to Total Participants	24%	27%	36%	29%	29%

Source: [Annual Benefits Report Archive - Veterans Benefits Administration Reports \(va.gov\)](#)

- ▶ From Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 to FY 2021, the “New” to “Total” veteran participant ratio in the Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E) program increased from 24% to 36%, declined to 29% in FY 2022, and remained at 29% in FY 2023.

Employment and Training Resources

- ▶ [Disabled Veterans Data & Research](#)
- ▶ [Veteran Education and Employment Programs, 2016 - 2021 \(dol.gov\)](#)
- ▶ The National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) offers the following course:
 - [9610/DAAN: Career Coaching for Special Populations: Serving Veterans with Disability and Accessibility Needs](#)
- ▶ NVTI Podcasts: [Episode 13: Supporting Veterans with Accessibility Needs](#)
- ▶ DOL VETS: [Jobs for Veterans State Grants | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#)
- ▶ Office of Disability Employment Policy: [Veterans | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#)

Policy Resources

- ▶ [VPL 05-24 JVSG Staff Roles and Responsibilities and WIOA Services to Veterans \(dol.gov\)](#)
- ▶ [Office of Personnel Management \(OPM\) - Hiring Authorities](#)
- ▶ [Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce | The White House](#)

