



Military Spouses Fact Sheet

Our Goal

- Collaborate with government, private, non-profit, educational, and labor partners to support growing employment opportunities for military spouses.

Fast Facts

- 92% of military spouses are women.
- 53% participated in the labor market, compared to 76% of the general population.
- 13% unemployed—about three times the national rate (May 2017).
- 89% have some college education. 30% have a four-year degree, while 15% have an advanced degree.
- Underemployment: 31.6% of military spouses are employed part-time, but may prefer full-time work.
- Occupational licenses: 34% of employed spouses work in occupations that require licenses.
 - ✓ Typically, military families move frequently and military spouses find it difficult to transfer licenses from state to state, delaying their return to the workforce.
- Concern about limited number of years they can commit to any job, due to their service member's reassignment.
 - ✓ The truth is, military spouse employment tenure is largely in-line with the general population.
 - ✓ Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that the average tenure for an employee in the general workforce is 4.2 years. For the 25-34 age group, the median tenure is 2.8 years.



Women's Bureau Work in Action

- The Women's Bureau held a series of listening sessions across the country to hear directly from the military spouse community and better understand the employment challenges facing them.
- The Women's Bureau has established a partnership with the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) team. Last year, VETS launched a dedicated online portal for military spouses, featuring a range of employment resources including information on transferring occupational licenses (<https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses>).
 - ✓ The Women's Bureau collaborated with VETS to launch the Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options interactive map as part of this portal, providing a centralized platform for the patchwork of interstate recognition options to assist military spouses with planning their next career step when relocating.
- The Women's Bureau is also working with other departmental and federal partners to support growing employment and career opportunities for military spouses.