

The Chart Page

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Vietnam Vets and the Workplace

Vietnam-Theater Vets vs. Nonvets in the Labor Force

(thousands)	In Civilian Population	In Civilian Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Number Employed	Employment Rate	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Vietnam-theater veterans	3,408	3,138	92.1%	3,011	88.4%	127	4.0%
Nonveterans	24,681	22,731	92.1%	21,655	87.7%	1,076	4.7%

A common misconception about Vietnam War veterans is that they have fared poorly in the work force. A recent Bureau of Labor Statistics study conflicts with that view. One aspect of the study focused on sample employment figures for the nearly eight million Americans who served during the Vietnam era (August 1964–May 1975). The charts focus on the seven million vets who were between thirty-five and fifty-four years old in September 1993, the cutoff date for the survey. As shown, Vietnam-theater vets had a slightly higher employment rate of 88.4 percent vs. their nonveteran peers, whose rate was 87.7 percent. The two groups' unemployment rates had a similar disparity, with the Vietnam vets' rate at 4.0 percent compared to 4.7 percent of nonveterans.

Many vets are employed by federal, state, or local governments. Nearly twenty-two percent of Vietnam vets work in government, compared to 11.4 percent of nonveterans.

Vietnam-Theater Vets vs. Other Veterans Compares employment and unemployment rates for those who served in the southeast Asia theater and those who served outside southeast Asia

(thousands)	In Civilian Population	In Civilian Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Number Employed	Employment Rate	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Vietnam-theater veterans	3,408	3,138	92.1%	3,011	88.4%	127	4.0%
Non-Vietnam-theater veterans	3,657	3,429	93.8%	3,261	89.2%	168	4.9%

Labor force participation rate = percent of the civilian population in the civilian labor force (either employed or unemployed). The remainder may be retired, disabled, etc.
Employment rate = percent of the civilian population that is employed • **Unemployment rate** = unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force

Source: Based on US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Situation of Vietnam-Era Veterans," October 21, 1994.