Colleagues and Fellow Veterans:

I wanted to share with you that there is a new *Office of Personnel Management* rule that may be of great interest to you.

As you are likely aware, current regulations require a federal employee to serve a 3-year period of substantially continuous creditable service to attain career tenure. The current regulations also require a career-conditional employee who separates from Federal service to re-start the 3-year period if there is a break in service of more than 30 days. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) currently has an open comment period on a new rule that is proposing to change the requirement from 3 years of substantially continuous service to at least 3 years of total creditable service (whether or not continuous). Under the proposed rule, each period of creditable service would stand alone, so breaks in service would be irrelevant. In the Federal competitive service, tenure is important for the purposes of reinstatement eligibility and retention standing in a reduction in force (RIF).

This link will take you to the website where you can read the entire rule and find out how to submit your comments, https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/01/06/2013-31499/career-and-career-conditional-employment.

We encourage any Veterans/Spouses alike to read, review and comment.

Additionally, the *Bureau of Labor Statistics* released the December 2013, 4th Quarter 2013, and the Annual Average 2013 unemployment data today. For the month of **December 2013, National unemployment decreased to 6.7% and Veteran unemployment dropped to 5.5%**. BLS has also calculated the 2013 Annual Averages – that report reflects an **annual unemployment for Veterans of 6.6% (or approximately 722,000, down from 773,000 the year before)**. As always, our 'cheat sheets' are attached for your information.

We hope you find this information useful and thank you for your continued efforts in helping Veterans find the employment they deserve.

V/R,

Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420

Note: We apologize in advance if we are unable to respond directly to your questions.

Please Remember:

- If you would like to review prior messages sent through this listserv, click http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic_opportunity.htm.

- If you would like to research, find, access, and, in time, manage your VA benefits and personal information please visit and/or register at https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal.

- If you are seeking employment in the federal government, particularly the VA, our VA for Vets high-tech tools, and resources can help. Visit online at http://vaforvets.va.gov/Pages/default.aspx .

If you would like to contact us about your VA education benefits

- You can send us a secure email that will usually be answered within 48 hours or less. You can also search for answers to frequently asked questions and register to be notified of any updates to the information. This contact method is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can also be utilized worldwide. Click here to enter the "Ask A Question" site or here to review our frequently asked questions.

- You can call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). This line only accepts calls from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM central time Monday – Friday, though you are able to schedule a call back from a Customer Service Representative.

Employment Facts and Statistics

Office of Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
BLS Figures (non-seasonally adjusted)

December-13

Unemployment

Cohort (% of total)	Rate	Change	Level	Change	Non-Vets
National	**6.7%**	-0.3%	10.4M	-490,000	-
>27 Weeks			3.9M	-200,000	-
All Veterans (100%)	**5.5%**	-1.2%	**588,000**	-136,000	**6.4%**
Male	5.9%	-0.6%	548,000	-65,000	6.7%
Female	2.8%	-5.2%	41,000	-71,000	6.0%
Post-9/11 Veterans (30%)	**7.3%**	-2.6%	**178,000**	-63,000	-
Male	8.6%	-1.3%	166,000	-29,000	-
Female	2.3%	-7.7%	11,000	-35,000	-
18-24 Veterans* (4%)	**15.6%**	-1.8%	**23,000**	-1,000	**11.4%**
Male	20.7%	-4.1%	23,000	-1,000	12.4%
Female**	-	-	-	-	10.3%
25-34 Veterans (19%)	**7.3%**	-4.7%	**111,000**	-68,000	**6.8%**
Male	8.7%	-2.6%	105,000	-32,000	7.1%
Female	1.8%	-13.4%	5,000	-37,000	6.4%
35-44 Veterans (18%)	**5.1%**	-0.3%	**107,000**	-5,000	**5.4%**
Male	5.6%	-0.2%	97,000	-4,000	5.5%
Female	2.7%	-0.6%	10,000	-1,000	5.3%
45-54 Veterans (24%)	**5.2%**	-1.2%	**141,000**	-37,000	**5.1%**
Male	5.3%	-0.5%	121,000	-14,000	5.2%
Female	4.5%	-5.2%	19,000	-24,000	5.0%
55+ Veterans (35%)	**4.8%**	-0.5%	**207,000**	-24,000	**5.0%**
Male	5.0%	-0.3%	202,000	-13,000	5.5%
Female	1.8%	-3.4%	5,000	-10,000	4.6%

* 3,000 enrolled in school (13.0% of all unemployed 18-24)

** Does not meet BLS publication criteria

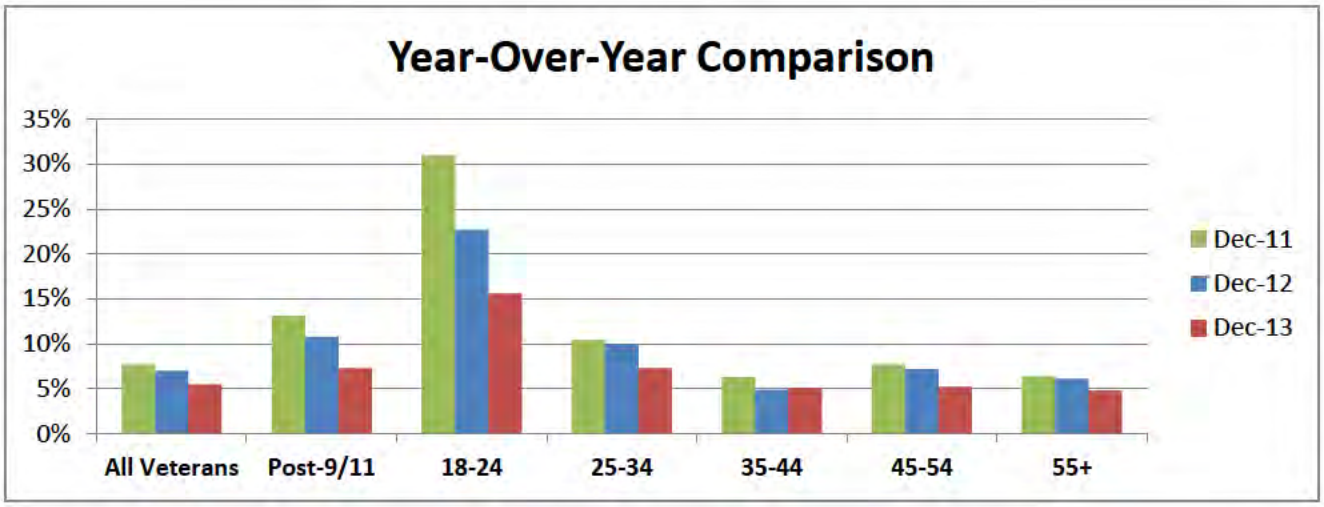
Unemployed by State Data

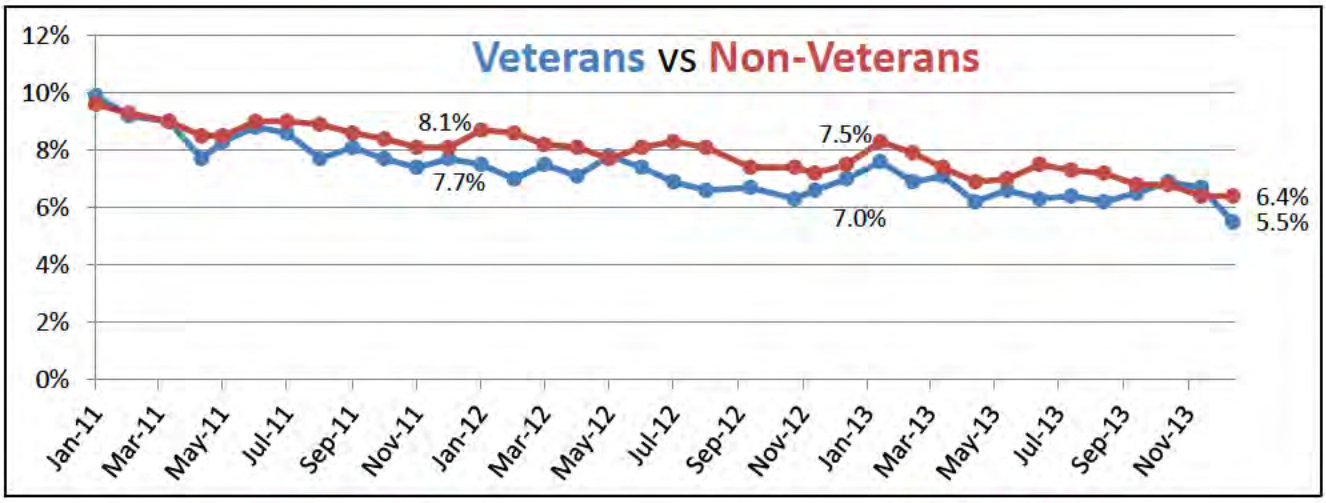
Highest Levels (32% of total)	Level	Highest Rates	Rate
California	55,000	Mississippi*	14.7%
Illinois	51,000	Rhode Island*	12.5%
Florida	39,000	Illinois	12.0%
New York	34,000	Hawaii*	10.7%
Texas	32,000	Massachusetts	10.3%

* Does not meet BLS publication Criteria

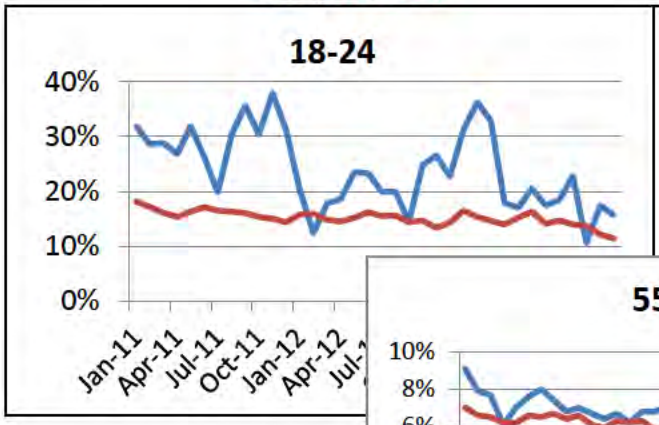
Employment Sector

Sector	+/-	Sector	+/-
Retail	55,000	Leisure/Hospitatlity	Even
Professional/Business	19,000	Financial	Even
Wholesale Trade	15,000	Government	Even
Manufacturing	9,000	Healthcare	-6,000
Transportation/Warehousing	Even	Construction	-16,000

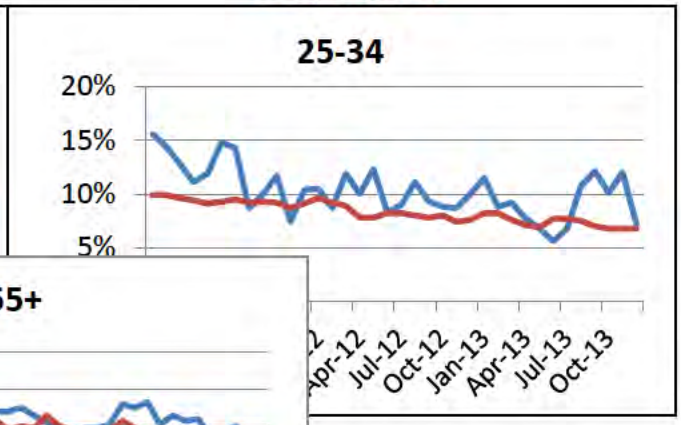


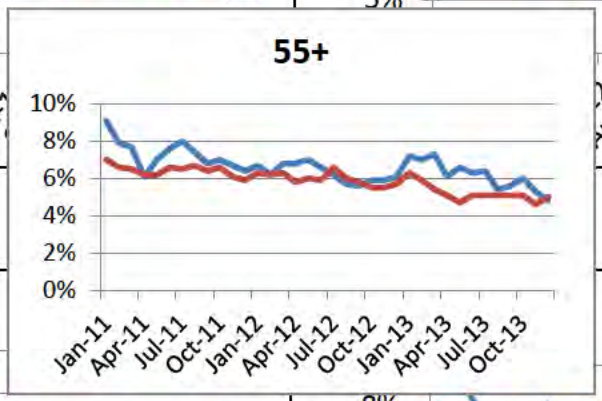


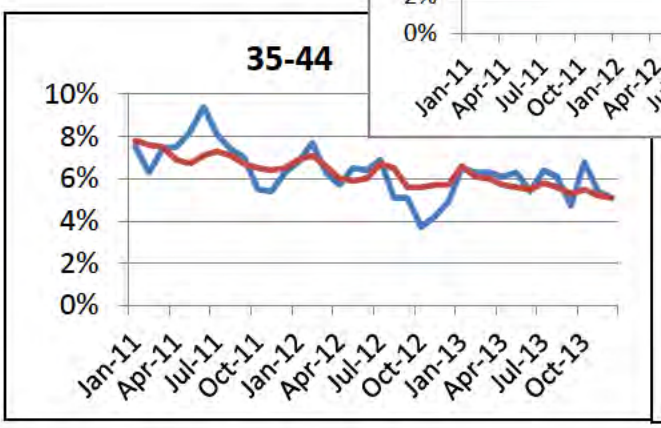
Vets / Non-Vets

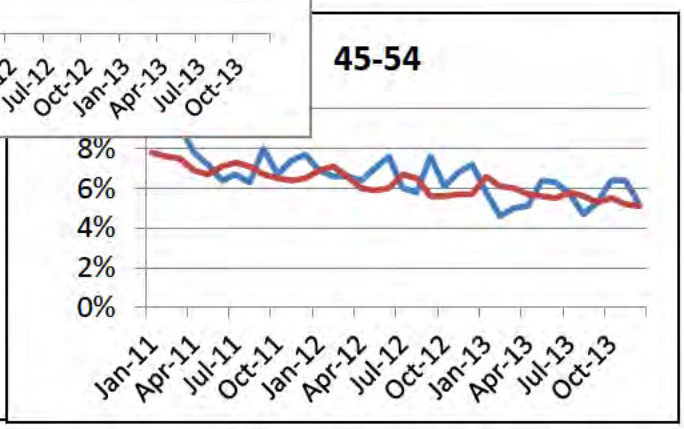


Vets / Non-Vets









Employment Facts and Statistics

Office of Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
BLS Figures (non-seasonally adjusted)

4th Quarter 2013

Unemployment

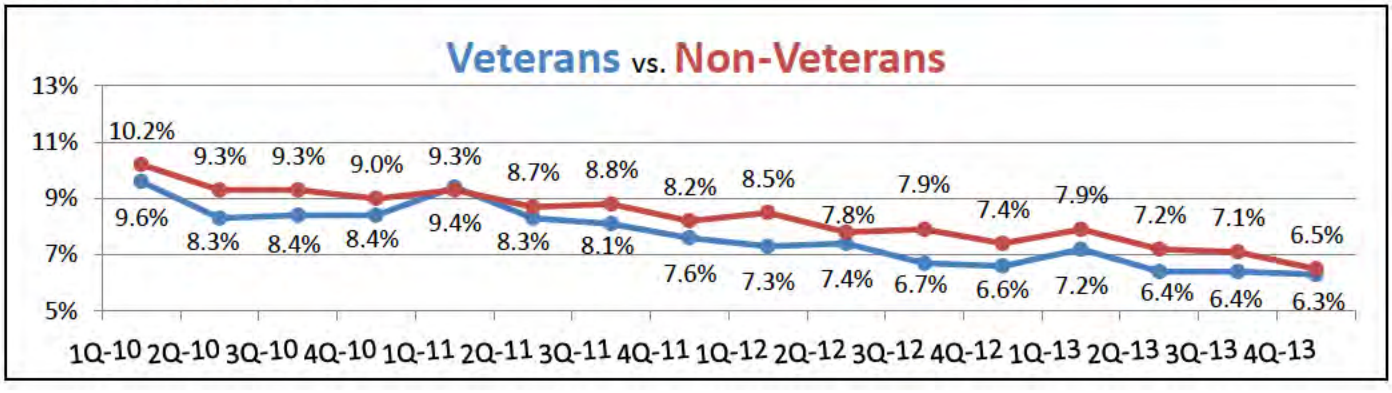
Cohort (% of total)	Rate	Change	Level	Change	Non-Vets
All Veterans (100%)	**6.3%**	-0.1%	**688,000**	-6,000	**6.5%**
Male	6.4%	0.2%	598,000	6,000	6.8%
Female	6.3%	-1.0%	90,000	-12,000	6.2%
Post-9/11 Veterans (32%)	**9.1%**	-0.2%	**222,000**	**10,000**	-
Male	9.4%	0.3%	184,000	13,000	-
Female	7.9%	-2.2%	38,000	-3,000	-
18-24 Veterans* (3%)	**14.2%**	-5.3%	**22,000**	-9,000	**12.4%**
Male	20.8%	-2.9%	21,000	-5,000	13.7%
Female**	1.1%	-8.3%	1,000	-3,000	11.1%
25-34 Veterans (21%)	**9.8%**	-0.1%	**146,000**	**8,000**	**6.8%**
Male	9.7%	0.3%	116,000	10,000	6.8%
Female	10.4%	-1.9%	30,000	-3,000	6.8%
35-44 Veterans (17%)	**5.8%**	**0.1%**	**119,000**	**2,000**	**5.4%**
Male	6.3%	0.6%	108,000	11,000	5.4%
Female	3.2%	-2.9%	11,000	-9,000	5.4%
45-54 Veterans (25%)	**6.0%**	**0.8%**	**167,000**	**18,000**	**5.2%**
Male	5.6%	0.7%	130,000	12,000	5.4%
Female	8.2%	1.1%	37,000	6,000	5.1%
55+ Veterans (34%)	**5.4%**	-0.4%	**234,000**	-25,000	**4.9%**
Male	5.5%	-0.4%	223,000	-23,000	5.2%
Female	3.7%	-0.5%	11,000	-3,000	4.6%

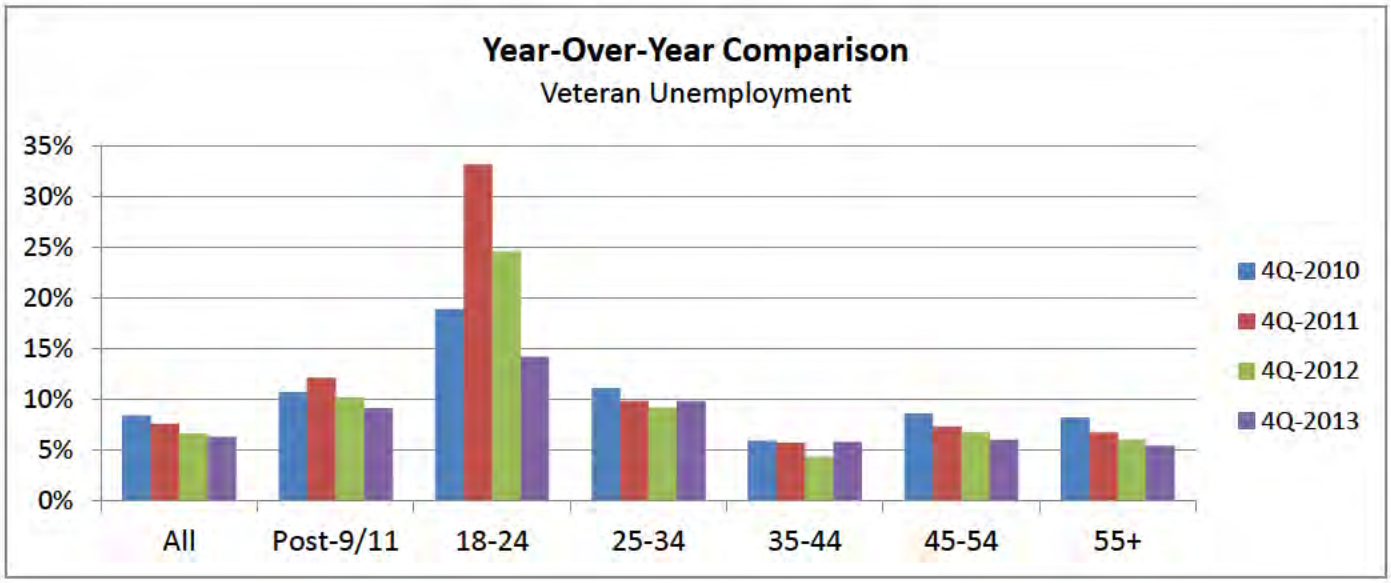
* 2k in school (9% of all 18-24)
** Does not meet BLS publication criteria

Unemployment by State

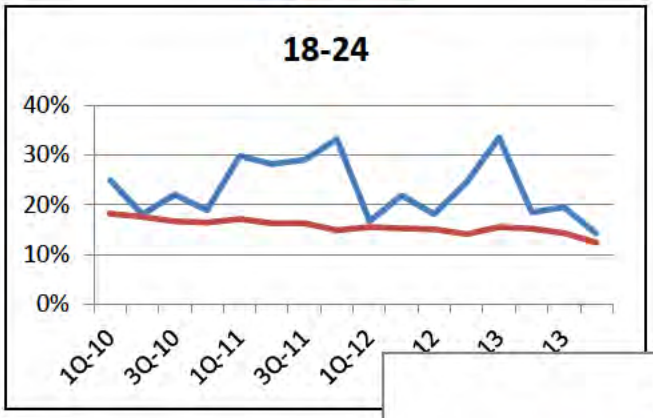
Highest Levels (33% of total)	Level	Highest Rates	Rate
California	59,000	Mississippi	18.7%
Texas	46,000	Rhode Island*	12.5%
Illinois	44,000	Illinois	11.1%
Florida	40,000	Michigan	9.7%
New York	37,000	Tennessee	9.7%

* Does not meet BLS publication criteria

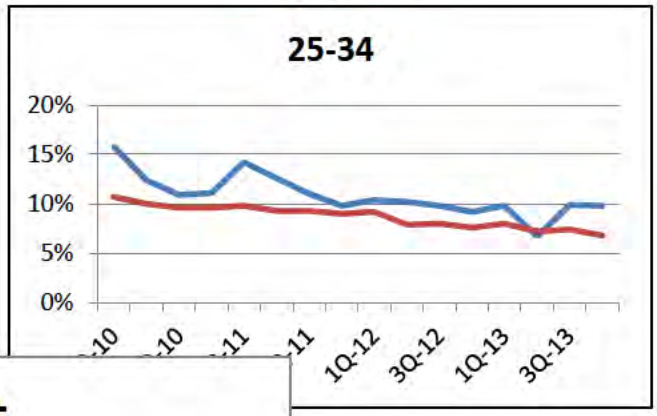


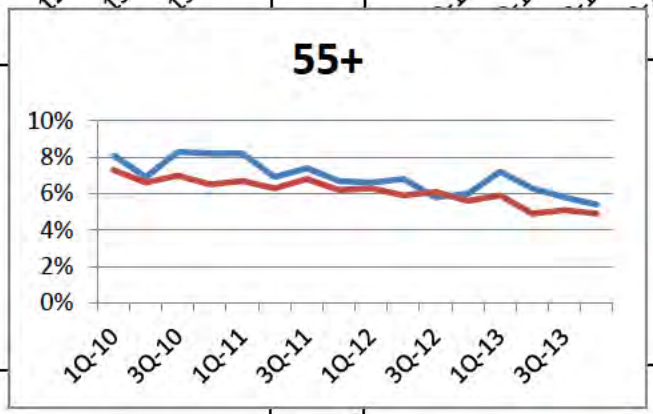


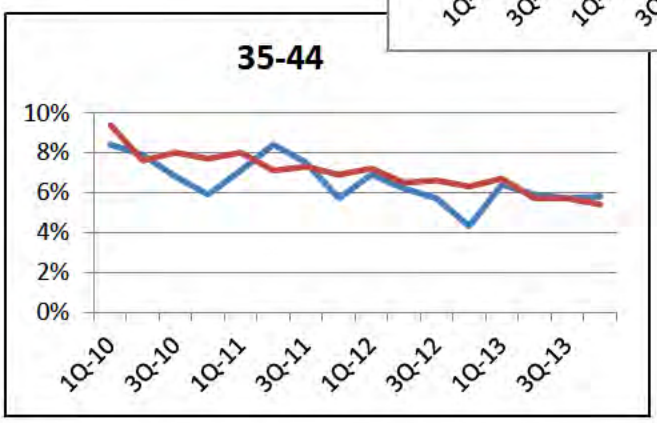
Vets/Non-Vets

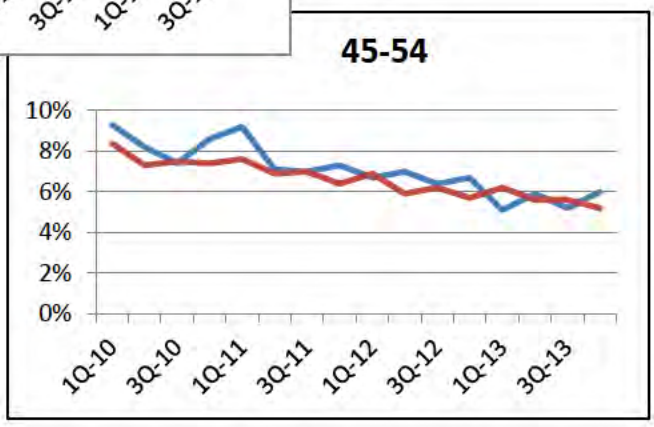


Vets/Non-Vets









Employment Facts and Statistics

Office of Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
BLS Figures (non-seasonally adjusted)

2013 Annual Averages

Unemployment

Cohort (% of total)	Rate	Change	Level	Change	Non-Vets
All Veterans (100%)	**6.6%**	**-0.4%**	**722,000**	**-51,000**	**7.2%**
Male	6.5%	-0.4%	625,000	-55,000	7.5%
Female	6.9%	-1.4%	97,000	4,000	6.8%
Post-9/11 Veterans (28%)	**9.0%**	**-0.9%**	**205,000**	**0**	-
Male	8.8%	-0.7%	166,000	-2,000	-
Female	9.6%	-2.9%	39,000	2,000	-
18-24 Veterans* (5%)	**21.4%**	**1.0%**	**34,000**	**-12,000**	**14.3%**
Male	24.3%	4.3%	27,000	-12,000	15.8%
Female**	14.3%	-8.4%	6,000	-1,000	12.8%
25-34 Veterans (18%)	**9.1%**	**-0.8%**	**129,000**	**8,000**	**7.3%**
Male	6.0%	-0.7%	104,000	-3,000	7.5%
Female	9.8%	-1.8%	25,000	4,000	7.2%
35-44 Veterans (17%)	**6.0%**	**0.2%**	**124,000**	**8,000**	**5.9%**
Male	5.9%	0.1%	102,000	3,000	5.8%
Female	6.4%	0.6%	23,000	6,000	6.0%
45-54 Veterans (22%)	**5.6%**	**-1.1%**	**156,000**	**-39,000**	**5.6%**
Male	5.5%	-0.8%	129,000	-32,000	5.8%
Female	6.2%	-3.0%	27,000	-7,000	5.5%
55+ Veterans (38%)	**6.2%**	**-0.1%**	**279,000**	**-9,000**	**5.2%**
Male	6.3%	0.0%	263,000	-11,000	5.4%
Female	5.2%	-0.3%	17,000	3,000	5.0%

* 9k in school (26% of all 18-24)
** Does not meet BLS publication criteria

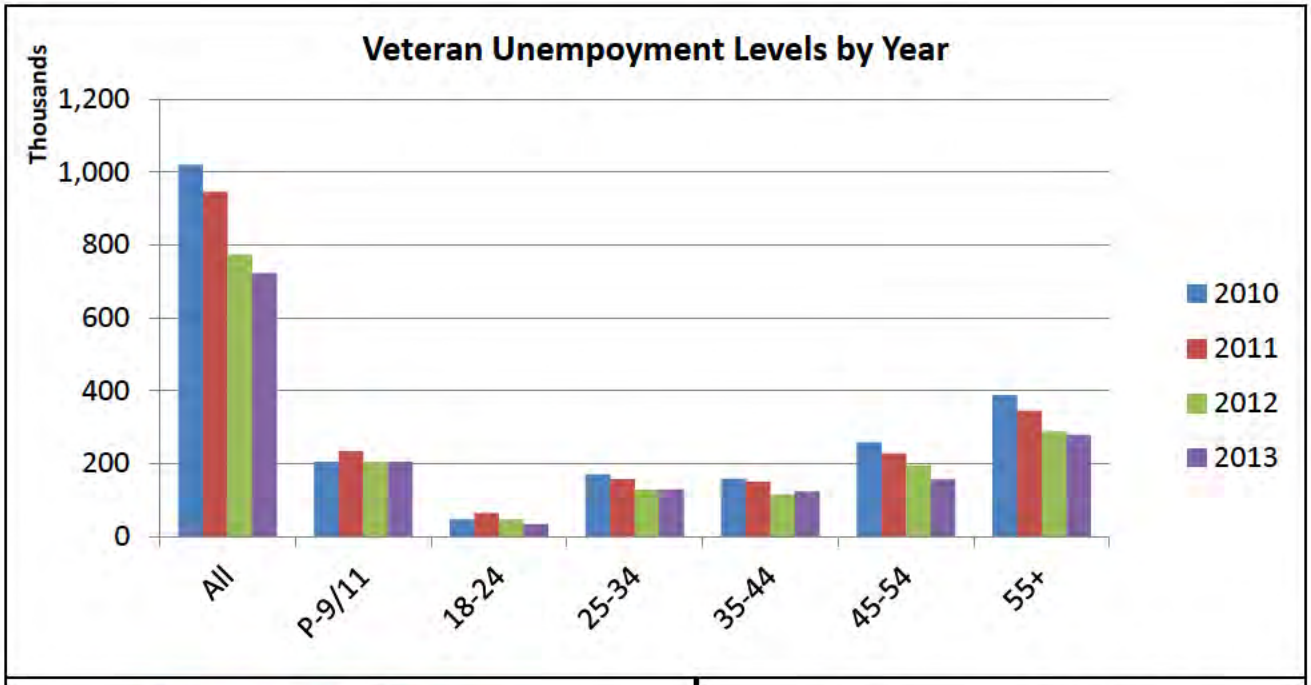
Unemployed by State Data

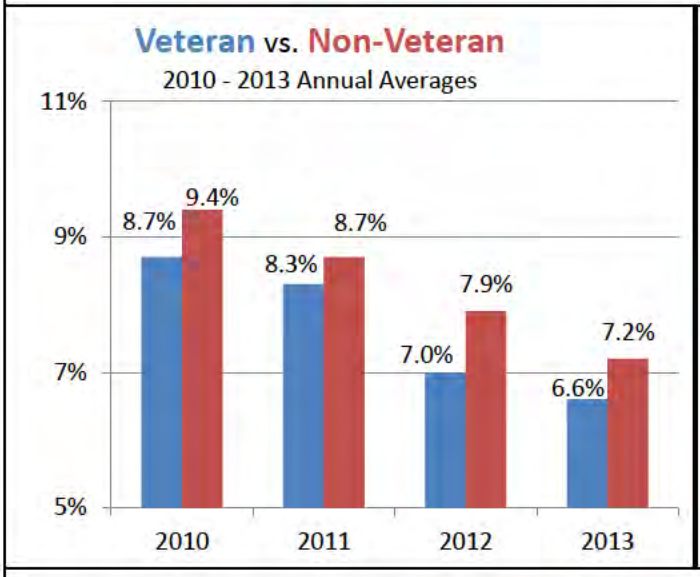
Highest Levels (32% of total)	Level	Highest Rates	Rate
California	59,000	Mississippi	18.7%
Texas	46,000	Rhode Island*	12.5%
Illinois	44,000	Illinois	11.1%
Florida	40,000	Michigan	9.7%
New York	37,000	Tennessee	9.7%

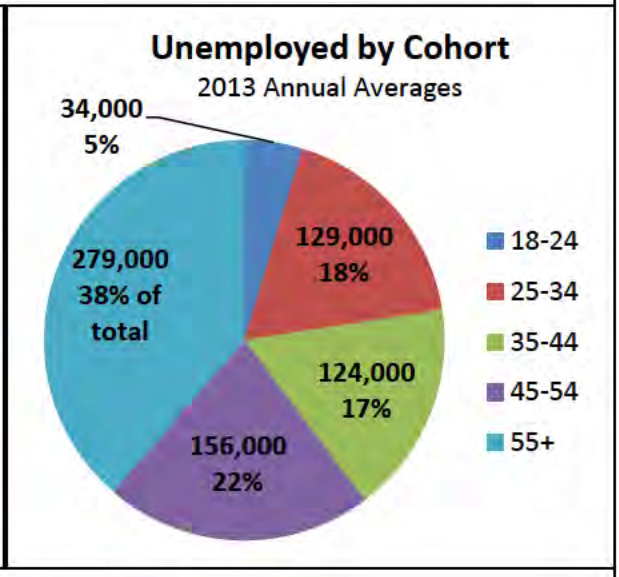
* Does not meet BLS publication criteria

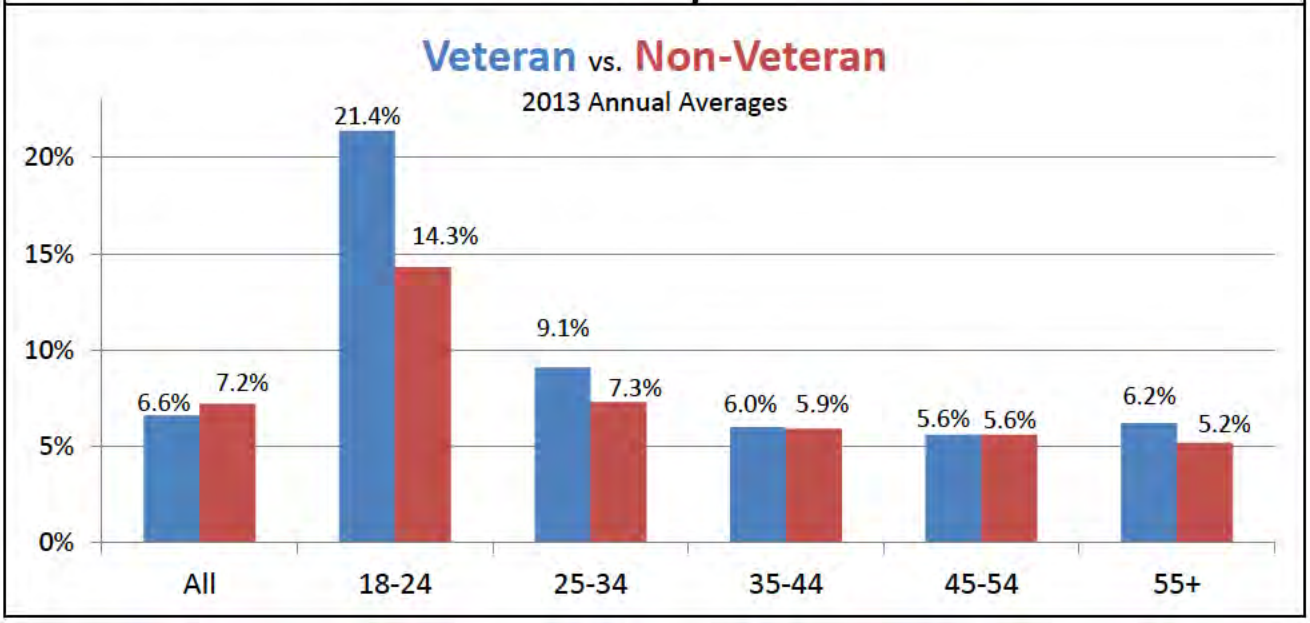
Total Unemployed

Cohort	2010	2011	2012	2013
All	1,020,000	945,000	773,000	**722,000**
Post-9/11	205,000	234,000	205,000	**205,000**
18-24	46,000	64,000	46,000	**34,000**
25-34	170,000	158,000	128,000	**129,000**
35-44	159,000	150,000	116,000	**124,000**
45-54	258,000	228,000	195,000	**156,000**
55+	388,000	345,000	288,000	**279,000**


Veteran Unempoyment Levels by Year
Thousands
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
All
P-9/11
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55+
2010
2011
2012
2013


Veteran vs. Non-Veteran
2010 - 2013 Annual Averages
11%
9%
7%
5%
8.7%
9.4%
8.3%
8.7%
7.0%
7.9%
6.6%
7.2%
2010
2011
2012
2013


Unemployed by Cohort
2013 Annual Averages
34,000
5%
129,000
18%
279,000
38% of
total
124,000
17%
156,000
22%
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55+


Veteran vs. Non-Veteran
2013 Annual Averages
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%
6.6%
7.2%
21.4%
14.3%
9.1%
7.3%
6.0%
5.9%
5.6%
5.6%
6.2%
5.2%
All
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55+