

Update to Veteran Weighting Methodology in January 2014

Beginning with data for January 2014, estimates for veterans incorporate updated weighting procedures. The new weighting methodology more accurately reflects the current demographic composition of the veteran population. The primary impact of the change was an increase in the “Gulf War-era I” veteran population and a decrease in the number of veterans in the “Other service periods” category. The updated methodology had little effect on unemployment rates for veterans, regardless of gender or period of service.

To show the impact on the labor force data, the Bureau of Labor Statistics used special tabulations of December data that incorporate the updated veteran weighting procedures. When applied to December 2013, the updated weighting procedures increased the size of several veteran estimates: civilian noninstitutional population 18 years and over by 105,000, the civilian labor force by 63,000, employment by 59,000, unemployment by 4,000, and the number of persons not in the labor force by 42,000. The unemployment rate, the labor force participation rate, and the employment-population ratio for veterans were not affected. The table below shows the effect of the updated weighting procedures on labor force series for selected groups.

The table also reflects changes due to the annual adjustments to the population controls. For more information about the population control adjustments, see www.bls.gov/cps/cps14adj.pdf.

Effect of the updated veteran weights on December 2013 estimates by veteran status, sex, and period of service, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status	Veterans							Non-veterans
	Total	Men	Women	Gulf War II	Gulf War I	World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam-era	Other service periods	
Civilian noninstitutional population	105	101	4	63	242	-26	-175	-94
Civilian labor force	63	67	-4	50	192	16	-194	-38
Participation rate	0.0	0.1	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.2	-1.9	0.0
Employed	59	64	-4	47	183	15	-186	-36
Employment-population ratio ..	0.0	0.1	-0.3	0	-0.4	0.2	-1.8	0.0
Unemployed	4	3	1	3	8	1	-8	-2
Unemployment rate	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not in labor force	42	34	8	13	51	-42	20	-56

Note: The estimates reflect updated weighting procedures and updated population controls, not separately identified. Data refer to persons 18 years and over. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.