Workforce Conditions for Veterans in Maine

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Unemployment and labor force participation rates differ among demographic groups, which is important to consider when comparing workforce conditions for Veterans and non-Veterans. Veterans are:

- 94% male
- Older than the general adult population
- More likely to have a disability that prevents them from being in the labor force (those not looking for work are not counted as unemployed — they are not in the labor force).

Maine has a lot of Veterans:
- 127,000 age 20+ population, the 4th highest share in U.S.
Labor force participation rate, age 18+

Labor force participation of Veterans is lower and declining relative to non-Vets.
Participation is lower because a much larger share of Vets are retirement age.
By age group participation rates are similar

Labor force Participation rate by age

2010 to 2014 averages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Nonveteran</th>
<th>Veteran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-54</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The share of Veterans is generally higher in areas that have an older population.
Labor force participation of Veterans 18–64 is generally higher where the economy is strongest.
There is a less clear pattern with unemployment rates of Veterans 18–64 around the state.

Unemployment Rates, Age 18–64

2010 to 2014 averages

Franklin 3.6% 9.3%
Piscataquis 4.4% 11.0%
York 4.8% 6.8%
Hancock 4.9% 8.2%
Cumberland 5.6% 5.3%
Waldo 5.9% 8.3%
Lincoln 4.8% 6.1%
Washington 6.3% 11.1%
Oxford 7.3% 9.9%
Somerset 7.4% 9.6%
Sagadahoc 6.7% 7.6%
Penobscot 7.9% 8.0%
Aroostook 7.4% 8.0%
Kennebec 8.2% 8.1%
Knox 5.7% 8.7%
Androscoggin 8.0% 8.5%
By service period, participation rates are highest among those who served in the Gulf era.

2015 U.S. averages

- Non Vets: 65%
- Vets: 51%
- Gulf II: 81%
- Gulf I: 80%
- WW II, Korea, Vietnam: 26%
- Other periods: 52%
Veterans of the Gulf II era are the most likely to be 60% or more service-connected disabled

*2015 U.S. averages*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era</th>
<th>Share of Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 60% or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vets</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf II</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf I</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WW II, Korea, Vietnam</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other periods</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Higher rates of disability among Veterans are another factor reducing their employment rates.

2015 U.S. averages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Employment to Population Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonveterans</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Vets</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service-connected disability</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;30% disability</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-50% disability</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%+ disability</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No service-connected disability</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>