Monthly Employment Situation for Veterans

Released Monthly on the day of the U.S. Employment Situation

Economic Information & Analysis, Illinois Department of Employment Security

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National Data (Only data from the Monthly Report, Table A-5 will be updated monthly)

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports monthly the employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service and sex, not seasonally adjusted. (Table A-5) **In May 2026, the unemployment rate for all Veterans over 18 was 3.2%, down from 3.6% in May 2025. The unemployment rate for Gulf War-era II Veterans over 18 was 4.1% in May 2026, up from 3.3% in May 2025**. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted; they come from a small sample and are highly volatile from one month to the next.

The June 2026 veteran's employment situation figures will be available on July 2, 2026.

Here is a link to the May U.S. Employment Situation: https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released a detailed report on the Employment Situation of Veterans-2025 on April 28, 2026. The table below shows some key national figures for 2025 from this report. Here is a link to the report: http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf

U.S. Unemployment Rates, annual averages	**2025**	**2024**
Total Veterans, 18 & older	3.5	3.0
Gulf War-era II Veterans	3.6	3.2
Nonveterans	4.2	3.9
Gulf War era II		
Total, 18 & Over	3.6	3.2
18 - 24	9.0	6.4
25 - 34	5.0	4.3
35 - 44	3.3	3.0
45 - 54	1.9	2.3
55 – 64	3.2	1.3

Please note, veterans' annual average unemployment provided in the Veterans' Employment Situation are more accurate than the monthly estimates discussed here and thus are better suited for inclusion in public presentations, grant applications, etc.

State Data

Employment and unemployment statistics by Veteran status for the state of Illinois presented here are annual averages produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Veteran's Employment and Training Services (VETS) in the Department of Labor. These figures are used by VETS in their State allocations under the Jobs for Veterans Act. **The Illinois unemployment rate for Veterans aged 18 years and older in 2025 was 4.5 percent, down from 4.9 percent in 2024.** The BLS cautions that these data come from a small sample and are subject to large sampling error.

Historical Data

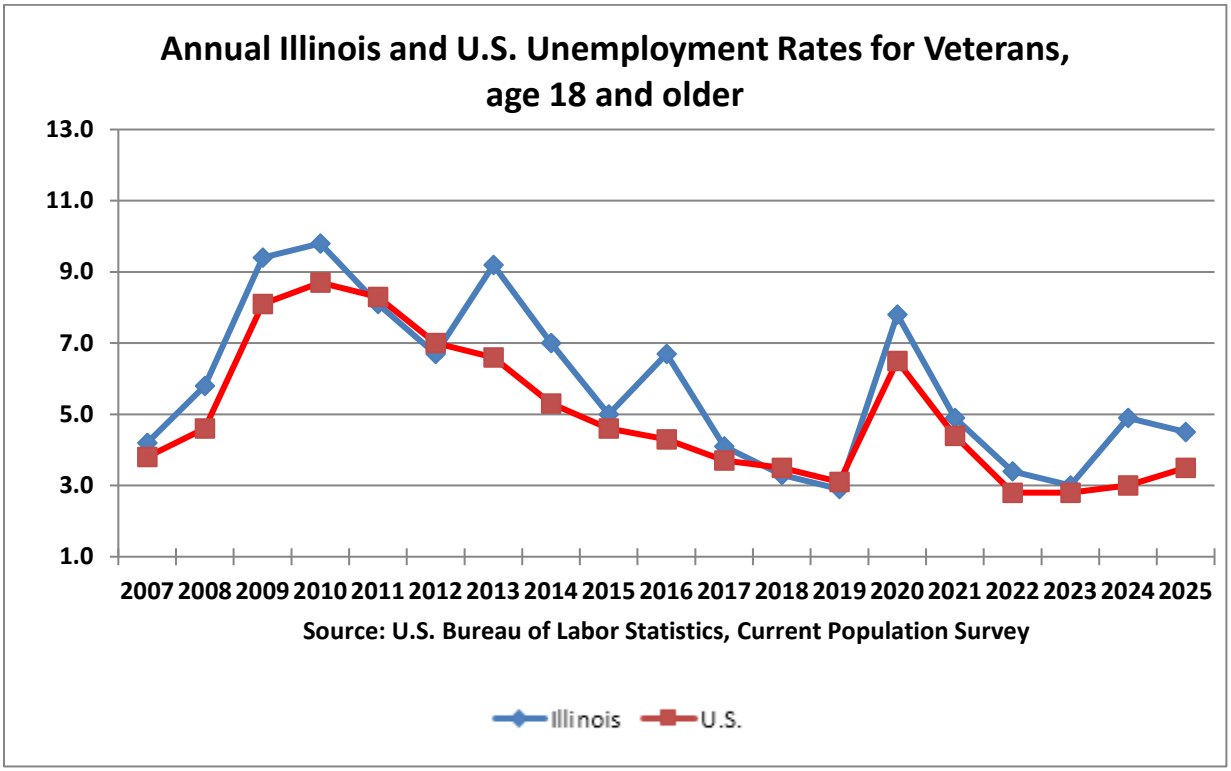
Annual Average Unemployment Rates for Veterans, age 18 and older
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Year	Illinois	U.S.
2007	4.2	3.8
2008	5.8	4.6
2009	9.4	8.1
2010	9.8	8.7
2011	8.1	8.3
2012	6.7	7.0
2013	9.2	6.6
2014	7.0	5.3
2015	5.0	4.6
2016	6.7	4.3
2017	4.1	3.7
2018	3.3	3.5
2019	2.9	3.1
2020	7.8	6.5
2021	4.9	4.4
2022	3.4	2.8
2023	3.0	2.8
2024	4.9	3.0
2025	4.5	3.5

Note:
The unemployment rates in the above table are based on unpublished data from the household survey known as the Current Population Survey.

State-level data from the CPS may be subject to large sampling error.

Caution should be used when interpreting annual changes in the unemployment rate.


Annual Illinois and U.S. Unemployment Rates for Veterans, age 18 and older
13.0
11.0
9.0
7.0
5.0
3.0
1.0
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey
Illinois
U.S.