



## FACT SHEET

### Veterans and Unemployment

- Of the 3.2 million Americans who have been unemployed longer than six months and have lost their federal emergency unemployment benefits, nearly [300,000 are veterans](#), according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
- Nationwide, 6.6 percent of veterans in the workforce are unemployed. Veterans in seven states face [unemployment rates](#) over eight percent:
  - New Jersey 10.8 percent
  - Michigan 10.6 percent
  - Illinois 9.2 percent
  - Mississippi 9.2 percent
  - Rhode Island 8.7 percent
  - Nevada 8.4 percent
  - New York 8.2 percent
- 60 percent of unemployed veterans are over the age of 45; 35 percent are between the ages of 25-44; and five percent are 18-24.
- The unemployment rate for male veterans is 6.5 percent; for female vets, the unemployment rate is higher at 6.9 percent.
- Unemployment rates are higher among minority veterans:
  - African American veterans: 8.2 percent
  - Asian American veterans: 8.1 percent
  - Hispanic veterans: 7.5 percent
  - White veterans: 6.2 percent
- Veteran unemployment would have been worse if not for efforts by the federal government to hire veterans. In FY 2012, the federal government [hired the highest percentage of military veterans in over 20 years](#); 28.9 percent of new federal hires were veterans.

