

HOW DO WE KNOW?

A Snapshot of Our Nation's Veterans

Federal, state and community leaders; private businesses; non-profits; and community organizations use information about the military veteran population from the American Community Survey and Economic Census to determine the programs, services and infrastructure that serve the needs of our veterans. What follows is the most recent snapshot of veterans statistics.

Who Are U.S. Veterans?

There are 21.8 million veterans in the United States.

Male Veterans: 20.2 million

Female Veterans: 1.6 million

Breakdown by Race and Ethnicity*

White alone not Hispanic or Latino: 17.5 million

Black: 2.4 million

Asian: 265,000

American Indian or Alaska Native: 157,000

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 28,000

Hispanic or Latino: 1.2 million

** Covers only those reporting a single race*

Where Do They Live?

Cities with a High % of Veterans

Killeen, TX: 28.9%

Clarksville, TN: 24%

Jacksonville, NC: 22.6%

Fayetteville, NC: 22.1%

Hampton, VA: 20.9%

States with More Than 1 Million Veterans

California: 2 million

Texas: 1.6 million

Florida: 1.6 million

What Are Their Education Levels?

A veteran is more likely than the average American to have earned a high school diploma, but less likely to have completed a college degree.

92% of veterans 25 and older have at least a **high school diploma**

compared with 86% of the total population

26% of veterans 25 and older have at least a **bachelor's degree**

compared with 28% of the total population

When Did They Serve?

Of the 21.8 million veterans in the United States, more than 1.3 million served during multiple wars.

Veterans of 2 Wars

Gulf 1 & Gulf 2

837,000 Served during **both Gulf War eras**

Korea & Vietnam

211,000 Served during **both the Korean War and the Vietnam era**

WWII & Korea

147,000 Served during **both World War II and the Korean War**

Veterans of 3 Wars

Vietnam, Gulf 1 and Gulf 2

49,500 Served during the **Vietnam era and both Gulf War eras**

WWII, Korea & Vietnam

54,000 Served during **World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam era**

Where Do They Work?

A veteran is more than twice as likely as a non-veteran to hold a job in a public administration industry.

Public Administration

Transportation, warehousing, utilities

Manufacturing
Retail
Professional, scientific mgmt, admin, waste mgmt
Education, health care, social assistance
Arts, entertainment, accommodation, food, recreation

Veterans own 9% of all U.S. businesses. †

\$1.2 trillion

The amount of money in receipts generated by these businesses

5.8 million

People employed by veteran-owned businesses

What Are Their Incomes?

Veterans' annual income is about \$10,000 higher than that of the average American.*

\$35,367

Median income of **veterans**

\$24,521

Median income of **non-veterans**

\$25,605

Median income of **total U.S. population**

**Median income refers to those who are 18 years and over with income in the past 12 months. Income includes not only wages and self-employment, but also Social Security, retirement pensions, VA payments, and other forms of income.*

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, † 2007 Economic Census (Survey of Business Owners)

The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.