

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

Profile America
Facts for
Features

CB14-FF.24
Oct. 3, 2014

Veterans Day 2014: Nov. 11

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary marking the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars. The day honors military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation. A national ceremony takes place at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

Veterans

19.6 million

Number of military veterans in the United States in 2013.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/DP02>

1.6 million

Number of female veterans in the United States in 2013.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/B21001>

11.3%

Percent of veterans in 2013 who were black. Additionally, 79.3 percent were non-Hispanic white; 1.4 percent were Asian; 0.7 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native; 0.2 percent were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; 1.2 percent were some other race. (The numbers for blacks, non-Hispanic whites, Asians, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and some other race cover only those reporting a single race.)

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/S2101>

6.0%

Percent of veterans in 2013 who were Hispanic.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/S2101>

9.3 million

Number of veterans 65 years and older in 2013. At the other end of the age spectrum, 1.6 million were younger than 35.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/B21001>

When They Served

7.0 million

Number of Vietnam-era veterans in 2013. Moreover, there were 5.2 million who served during the Gulf War Era (representing service from August 1990 to present); 1.3 million who served in World War II; 2.1 million who served in the Korean War; and 4.7 million who served in peacetime only.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/B21002>

58,445

Number of living veterans in 2013 who served during the Vietnam Era and both periods of the Gulf War (August 1990 to August 2001 and September 2001 or later).

Other living veterans in 2013 who served during three wartime periods:

- 39,890 served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam Era.

Number of living veterans in 2013 who served during two wartime periods:

- 1,006,501 served during Gulf War (August 1990 to August 2001) and Gulf War (September 2001 or later).
- 294,251 served during Gulf War (August 1990 to August 2001) and the Vietnam Era.
- 175,676 served during the Korean War and the Vietnam Era.
- 92,670 served during World War II and the Korean War.

Sources: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/B21002>

Where They Live

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Number of states with 1 million or more veterans in 2013. These states were California (1.7 million), Texas (1.5 million) and Florida (1.5 million).

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/S2101/0100000US.04000>

Education

26.8%

Percent of veterans 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2013. In comparison, 29.9 percent of nonveterans had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/S2101>

29.1%

Percent of veterans 25 years and older in 2013 whose highest educational attainment was a high school diploma or equivalency in 2013, compared with 27.7 percent of the nonveteran population.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/S2101>

Income

\$36,381

Annual median income of veterans in 2013, compared with \$25,820 for the nonveteran population.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/B21004>

On the Job

7.7 million

Number of veterans 18 to 64 years old in the labor force in 2013, of those 7.1 million were employed.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/C21005>

Service Connected Disabilities

3.6 million

Number of veterans with a service-connected disability rating in 2013. Of this number, 957,504 had a rating of 70 percent or higher. A “service-connected” disability is one that was a result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Severity of one’s disability is scaled from 0 to 100 percent, and eligibility for compensation depends on one’s rating.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/B21100>

Voting

14.7 million

Number of veterans who voted in the 2012 presidential election. Seventy percent of veterans cast a ballot in that election, compared with 61.8 percent of all U.S. citizens 18 years and older.

Source: *Table 13. Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Veteran Status, and Age: November 2012*

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/socdemo/voting/publications/p20/2012/tables.html>>

12.4 million

Number of veterans who voted in the 2010 congressional election. Fifty-seven percent of veterans voted in that election, compared with 45.5 percent of all U.S. citizens 18 years and

older.

Source: *Table 13. Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Veteran Status, and Age: November 2010*

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/socdemo/voting/publications/p20/2010/tables.html>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

- African-American History Month (February)
- Super Bowl
- Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
- Women's History Month (March)
- Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
- Earth Day (April 22)
- Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
- Older Americans Month (May)
- Mother's Day
- Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)
- Father's Day
- The Fourth of July (July 4)
- Anniversary of Americans With Disabilities Act (July 26)
- Back to School (August)
- Labor Day
- Grandparents Day
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
- Unmarried and Single Americans Week
- Halloween (Oct. 31)
- American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving Day
- The Holiday Season (December)

Editor's note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030 or e-mail: PIO@census.gov.