

Employment Situation of Veterans 2021

Presentation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Topics this presentation will cover

- Background of the Current Population Survey and the Veteran Supplement
- Highlights of the veteran supplement and annual average data
- Data visualizations for the veteran supplement data, veteran labor force participation and unemployment
- Additional industry and occupation data for the veteran population

The CPS and Data on Veterans

- The Current Population Survey is the main source of labor market information for the nation and the source of the unemployment rate
- Between 6,000 and 7,000 veteran respondents per month, with data are tabulated for veterans age 18 and over
- 2021 annual averages from the monthly CPS; August 2021 supplement data
- Redesigned supplement with new questions fielded in August 2021

How do we define veterans?

■ *Veterans*

- ▶ Men and women who previously served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and were civilians at the time of the survey
- ▶ Members of the Reserve and National Guard are only counted as veterans if they have ever been called to active duty by a Presidential Order

■ *Nonveterans*

- ▶ Men and women who have never served on active duty in the U.S. military

Periods of Service

- Data about veterans are available by these periods of service:

Gulf War era II → Sept. 2001 - present

Gulf War era I → Aug. 1990 - Aug. 2001

Vietnam era → Aug. 1964 - April 1975

Korean War → July 1950 - Jan. 1955

World War II → Dec. 1941 - Dec. 1946

- “Other service periods” are the dates outside the war periods mentioned above:

May 1975 - July 1990

Jan. 1947 - June 1950

Feb. 1955 - July 1964

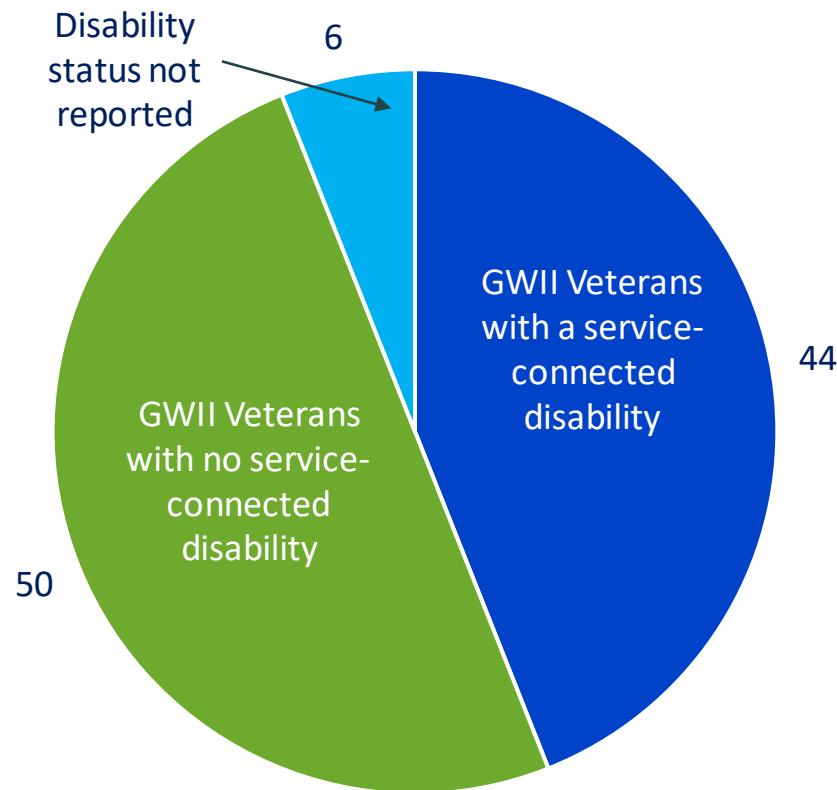
Nov. 1941 or earlier

Note: Veterans may have served anywhere in the world during these periods of service and are only counted in one period of service, their most recent wartime period.

Highlights from the August 2021 Veterans Supplement

- Among **Gulf War-era II veterans**, the **unemployment rate of veterans with a service-connected disability declined by 5.0 percentage points to 3.2 percent** and the rate for **veterans with no disability decreased by 5.2 percentage points to 3.6 percent** in August 2021.
- **Gulf War-era II veterans** who reported a service-connected **disability rating of less than 30 percent (94.4 percent)** were much more likely to be in the labor force than those with a **rating of 60 percent or higher (63.8 percent)** in August 2021.
- In August 2021, **27 percent of employed veterans** with a service-connected disability worked in the **public sector**, compared with **21 percent of veterans with no disability** and **13 percent of nonveterans**.

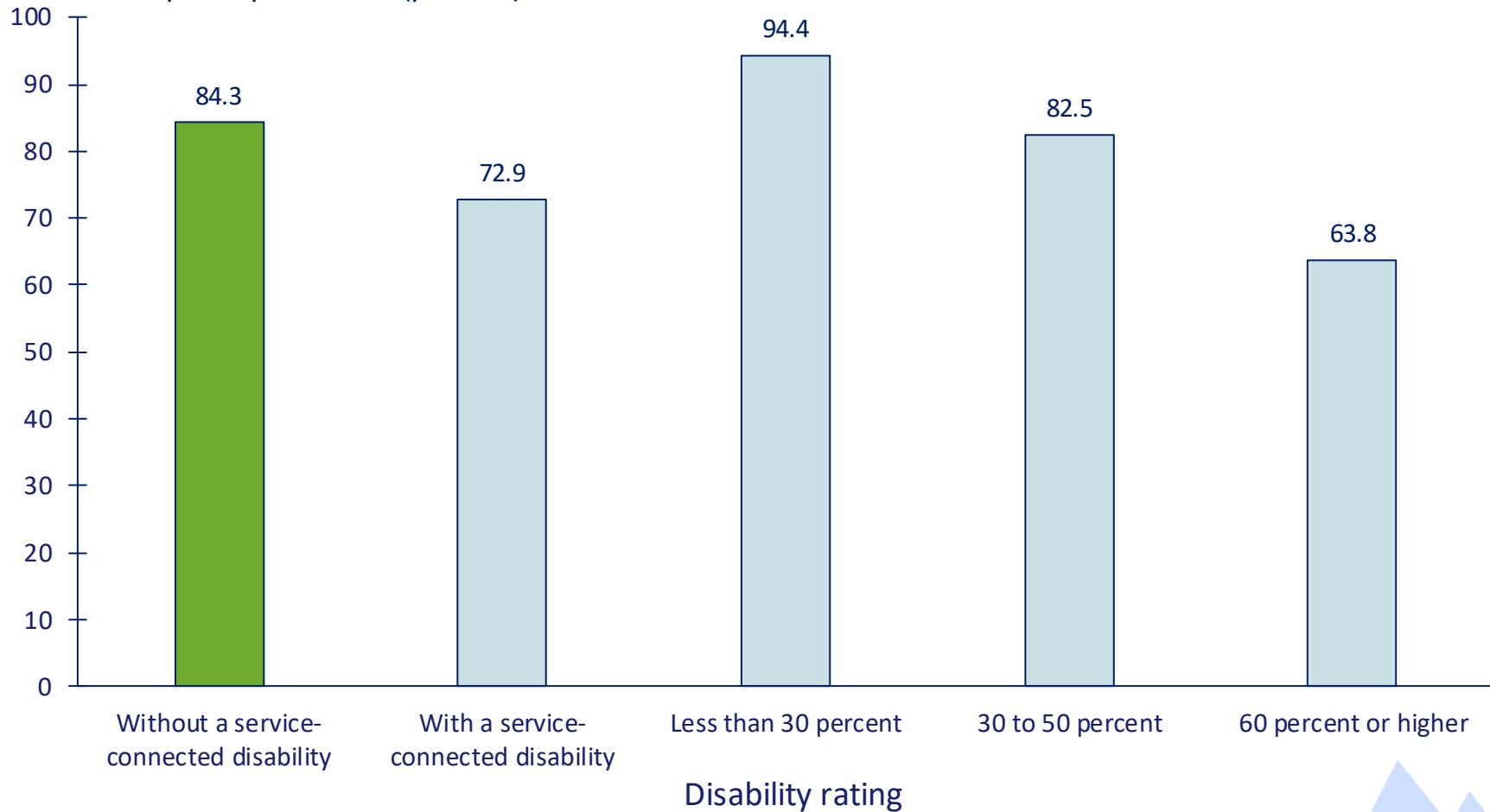
Chart 1. Percent Distribution of Gulf War-era II veterans by Service-connected disability status, August 2021



NOTE: Gulf War-era II veterans are those who served anywhere in the world sometime since September 2001. Totals may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

Chart 2. Labor force participation rates of Gulf War-era II veterans are affected by presence and degree of disability, August 2021

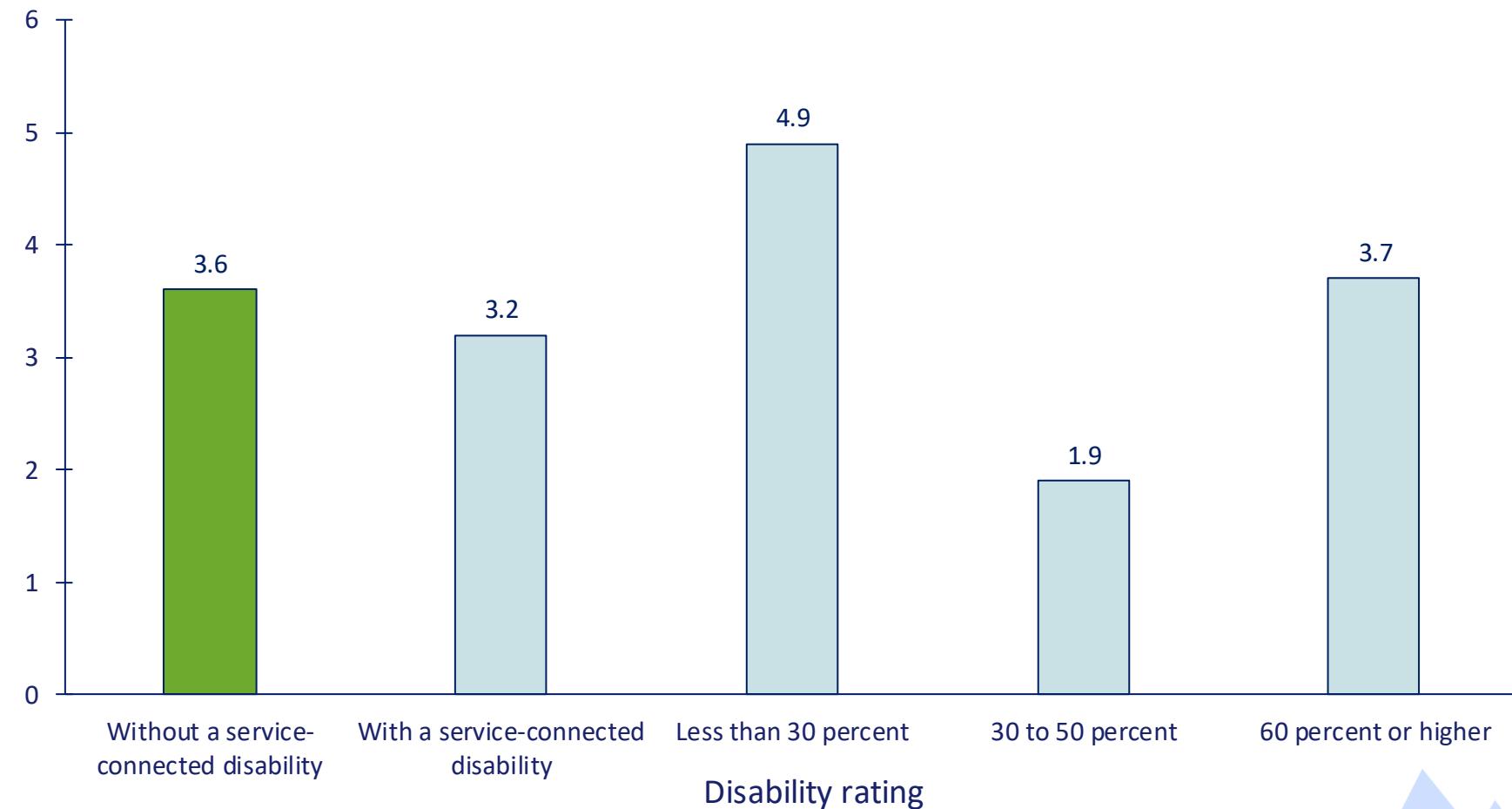
Labor force participation rate (percent)



Note: Labor force participation rate is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively seeking work. Gulf War-era II veterans are those who previously served on active duty since September 2001.

Chart 3. The unemployment rates of Gulf War-era II veterans are affected by presence and degree of disability, August 2021

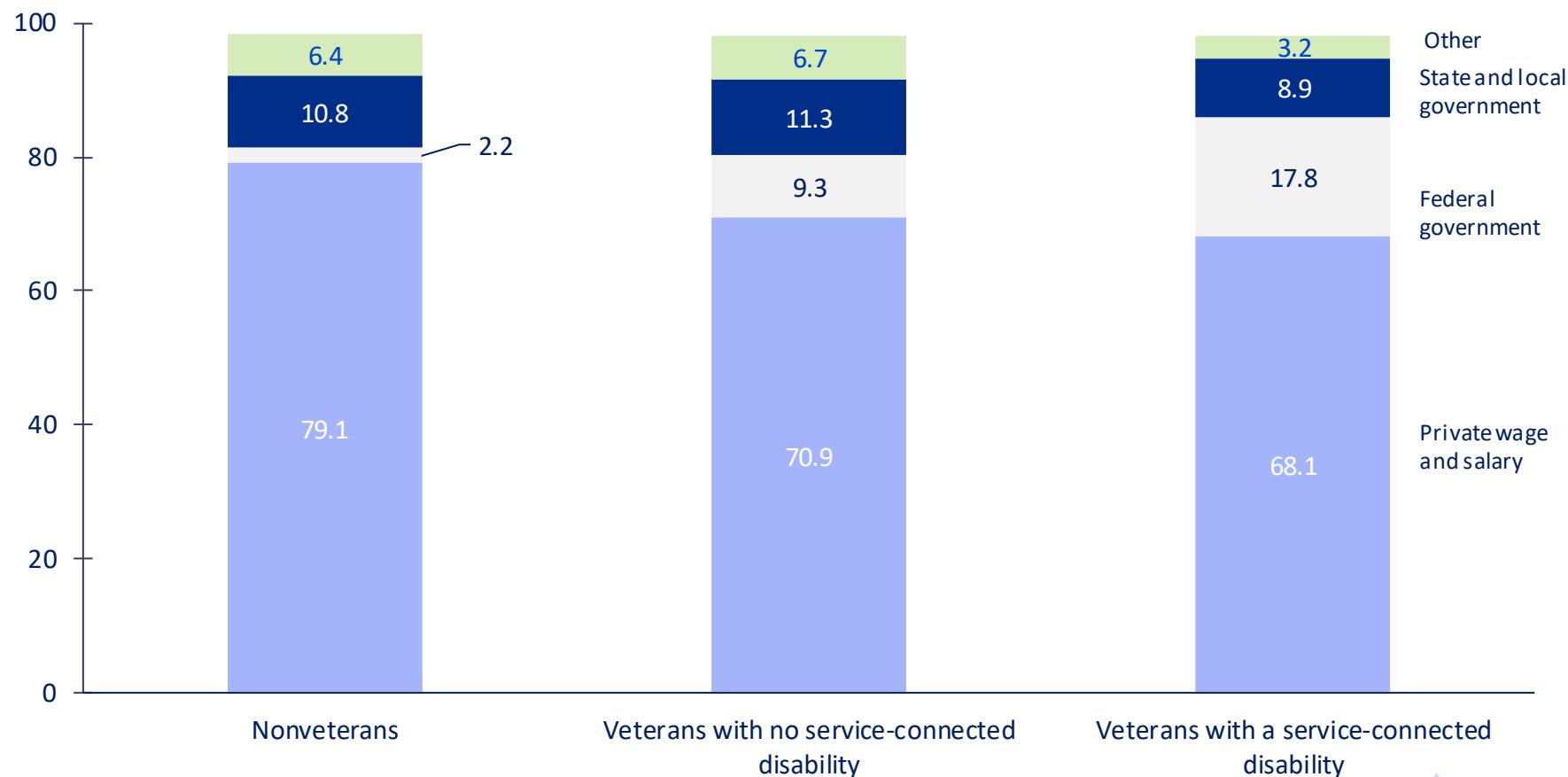
Unemployment rate (percent)



Note: The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force (the labor force is the sum of the employed and unemployed). Gulf War-era II veterans are those who previously served on active duty since September 2001.

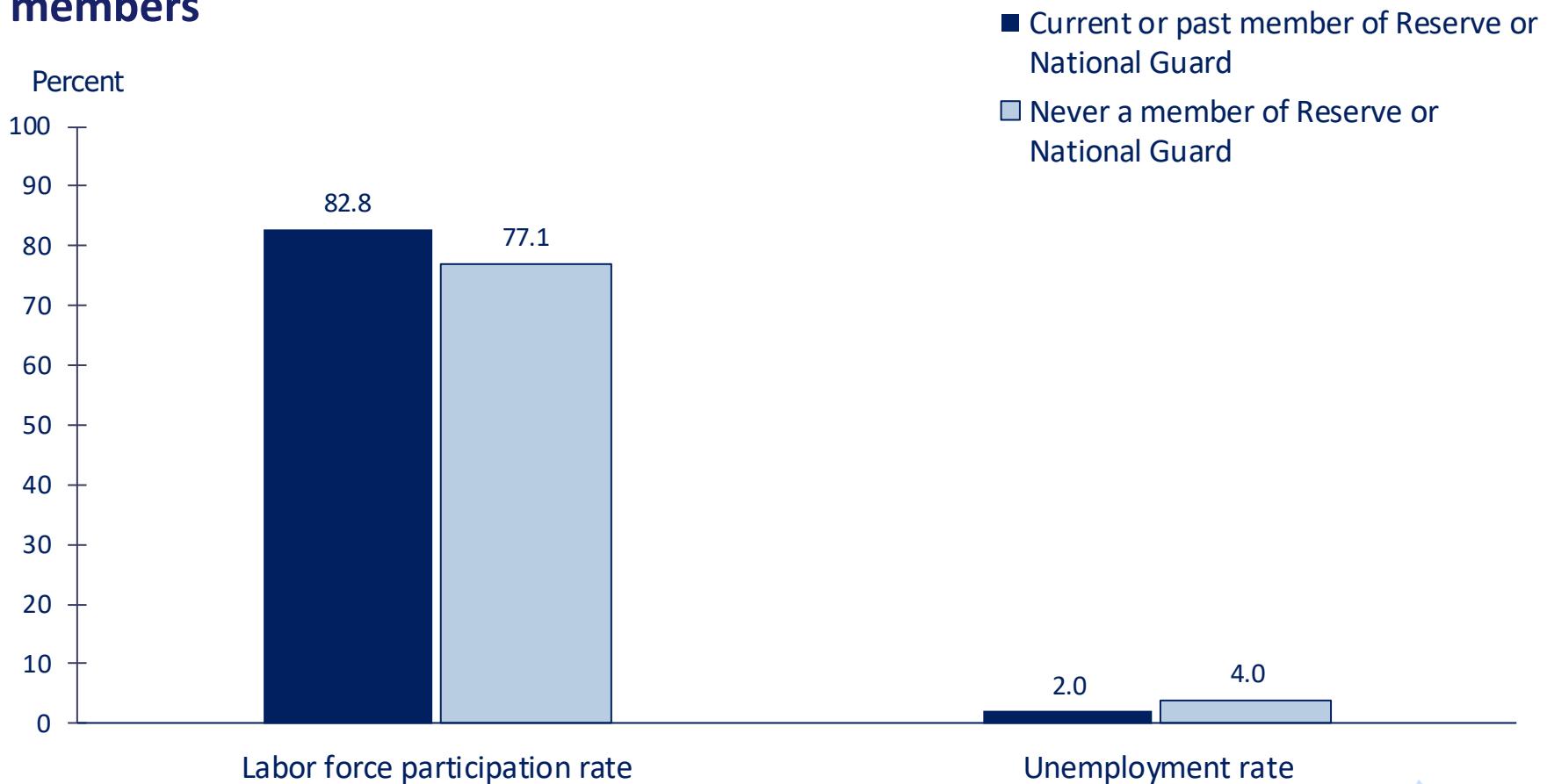
Chart 4. Veterans with a service-connected disability are more likely to work for the Federal government than veterans with no disability, August 2021

Percent of employed



NOTE: "Other workers" includes persons employed in agriculture, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers. Totals may not add to 100 because of rounding.

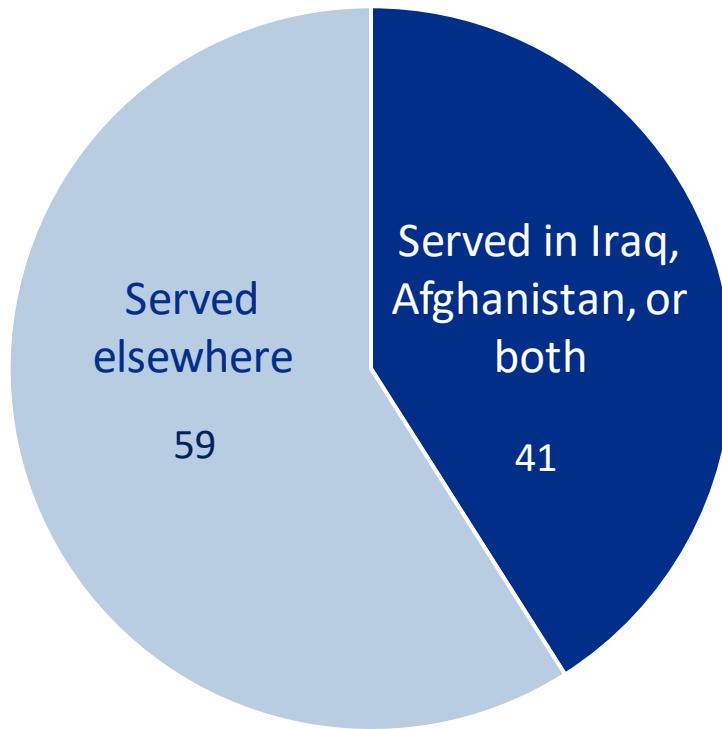
Chart 5. Gulf War-era II veterans who are current or past members of the Reserve or National Guard had a higher labor force participation rate and a lower unemployment rate than Gulf War-era II veterans who were never members



Note: Gulf War-era II veterans are those who previously served on active duty since September 2001.

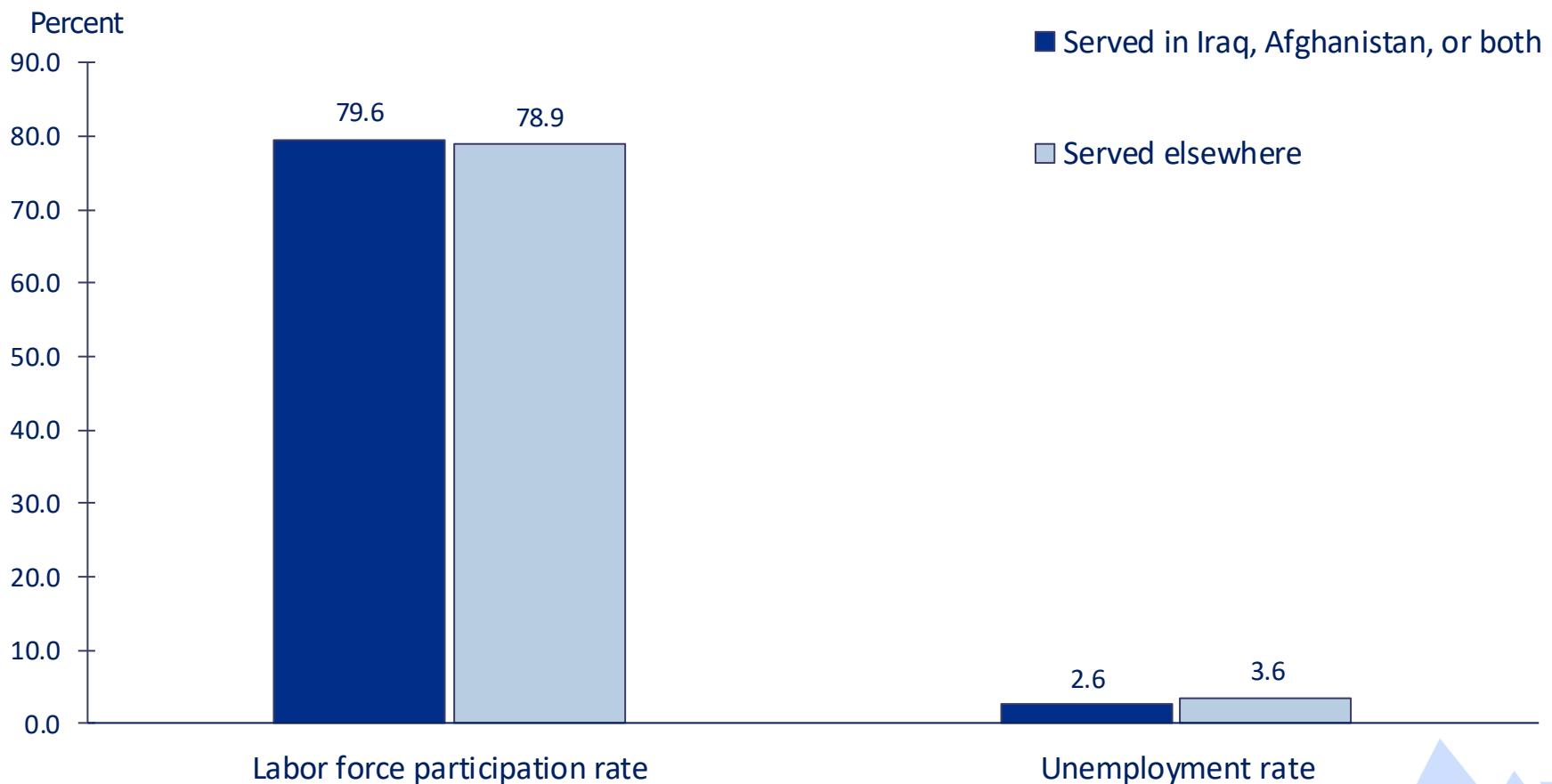
Chart 6. Gulf War-era II veterans by location of service, August 2021

Percent distribution



Note: Gulf War-era II veterans are those who previously served on active duty since September 2001.

Chart 7. Among Gulf War-era II veterans, the unemployment rate and labor force participation rate were little different for those who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both compared with those who served elsewhere in August 2021



Note: Gulf War-era II veterans are those who previously served on active duty since September 2001.

Highlights from the Annual Average 2021 data:

- The unemployment rate for all veterans (4.4 percent) was lower than the rate for nonveterans (5.3 percent) in 2021.
- Unemployment rates for both male and female veterans decreased in 2021. The rate for male veterans was 4.4 percent, little different from the rate of 4.2 percent for female veterans.
- Unemployment rates declined in 2021 for veterans of all service periods: Gulf War-era II veterans (4.6 percent), Gulf War-era I veterans (3.5 percent), WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam era veterans (4.4 percent), and veterans of other service periods (5.0 percent). However, these rates remain above their pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

Highlights from the 2021 data:

- Unemployment rates for White and Black veterans were lower than for their nonveteran counterparts in 2021, while the rates for Asian and Hispanic veterans were not statistically different than their nonveteran counterparts.
- Among the 386,000 unemployed veterans in 2021, 56 percent were ages 25 to 54, 39 percent were age 55 and over, and 5 percent were ages 18 to 24.
- In 2021, the unemployment rate of veterans varied across the country, ranging from 1.6 percent in Kentucky to 7.6 percent in Washington.

How to make comparisons?

- Gender and age profiles of veterans and nonveterans are very different
 - ▶ More veterans are men and older compared with the nonveteran population
- Best to compare veterans and nonveterans of the same gender and age groups

Chart 8. Male veterans age 45-54 had lower unemployment rates than their nonveteran counterparts

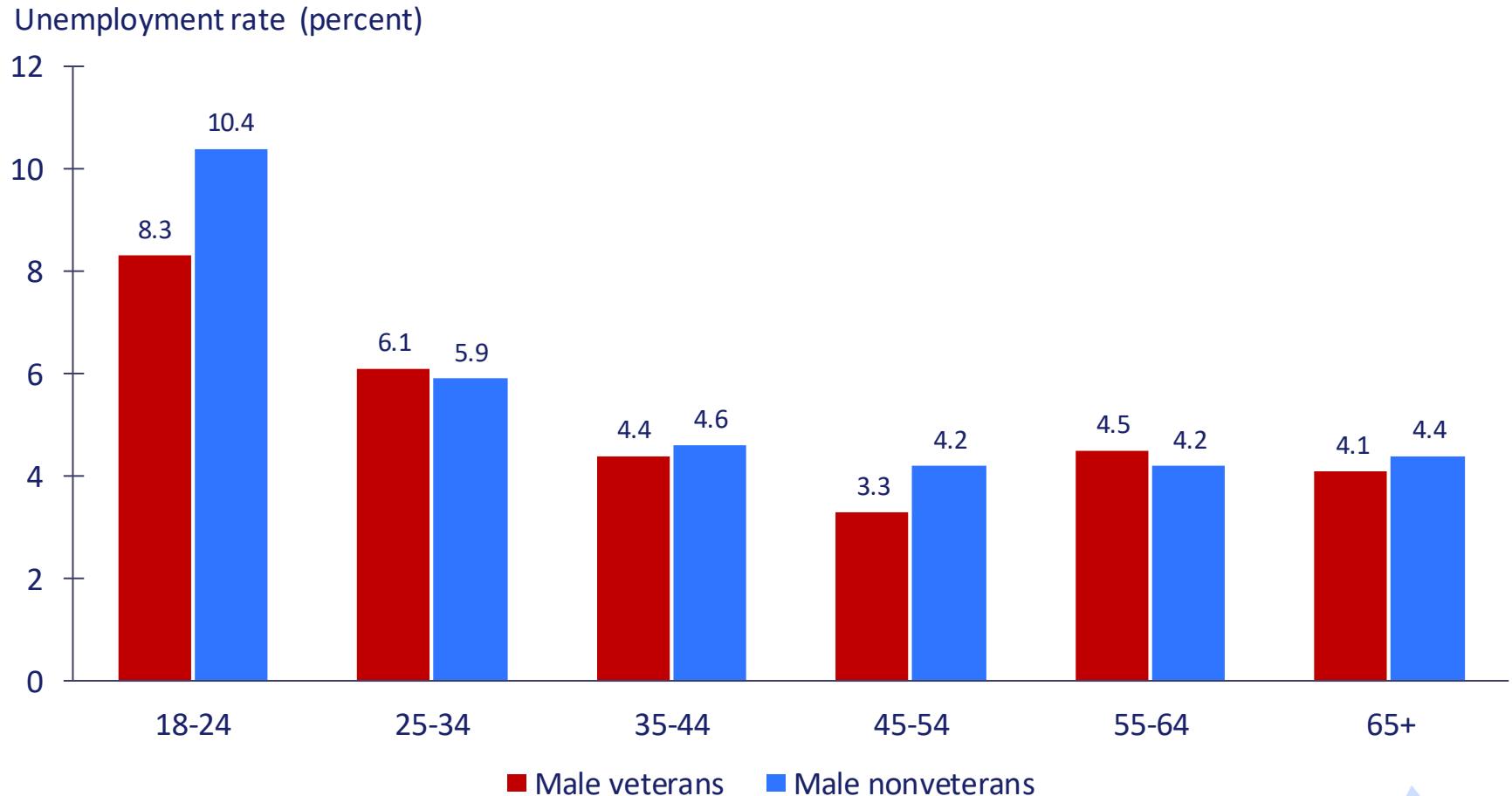


Chart 9. By age, female veteran unemployment rates were not statistically different from their nonveteran counterparts in 2021

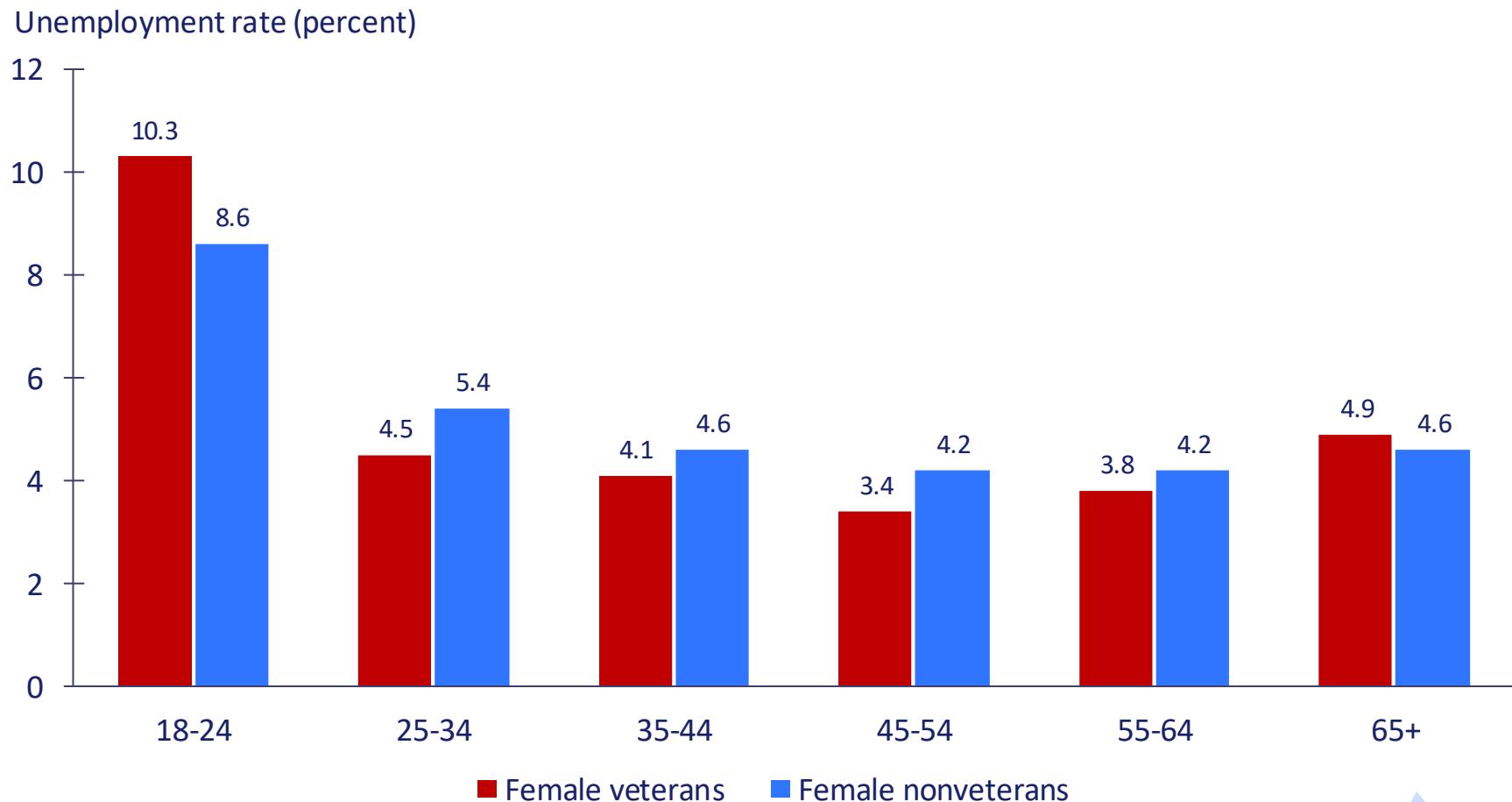


Chart 10. Female veterans unemployment rates were not statistically different than male veterans by age in 2021

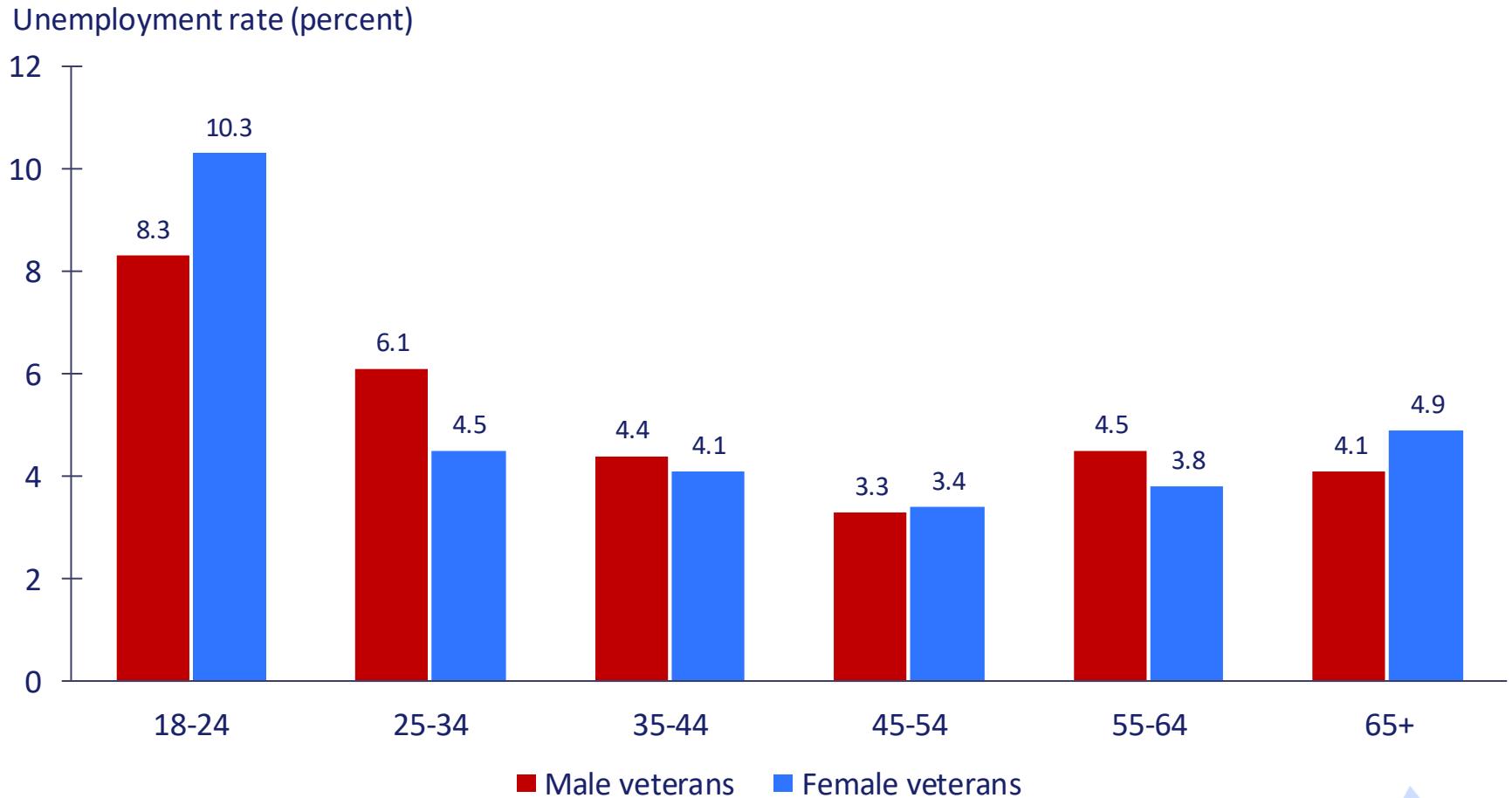
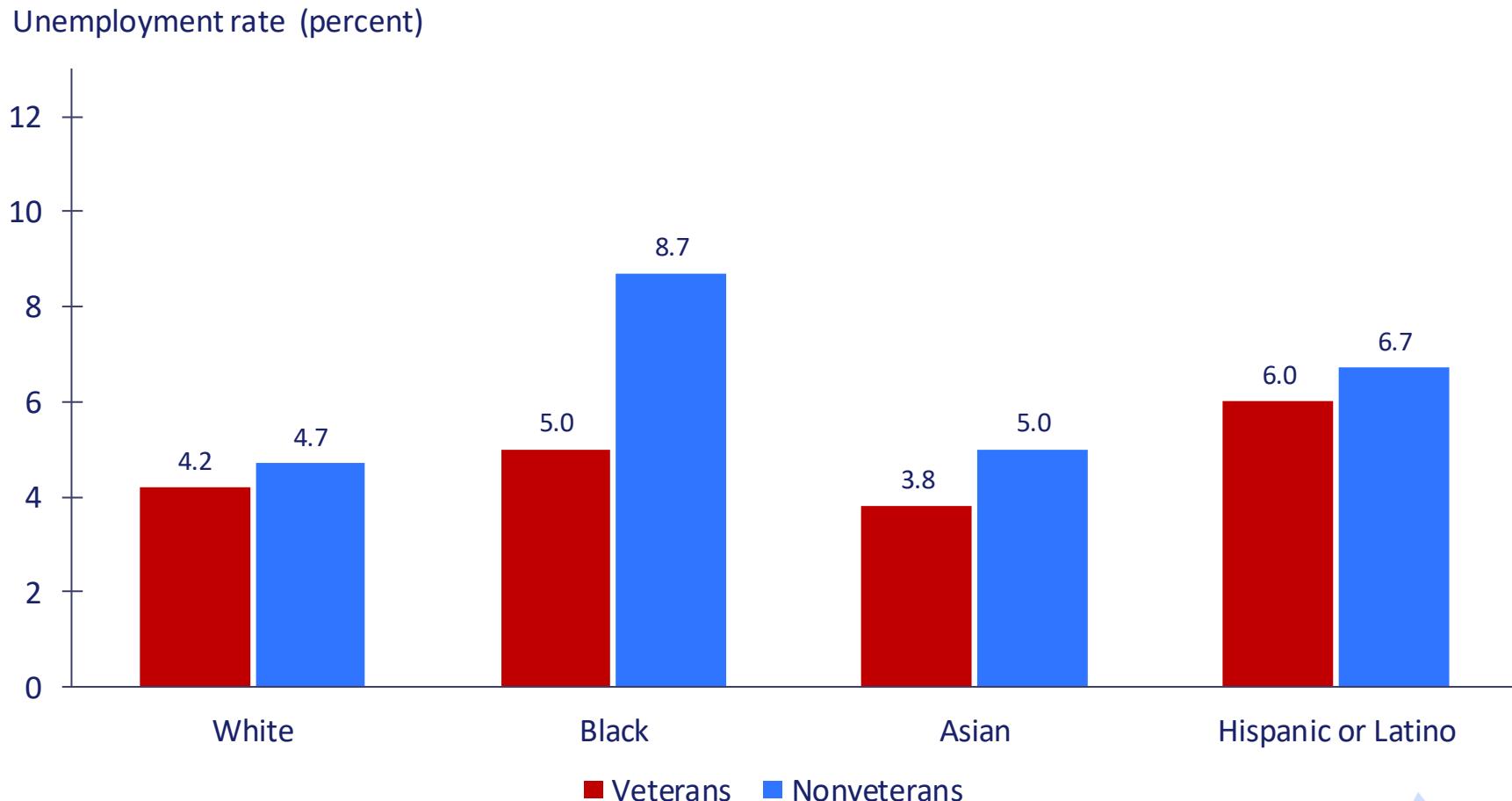


Chart 11. By race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, White and Black veterans had lower unemployment rates than their nonveteran counterparts in 2021



NOTE: Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Chart 12. Unemployment rates of veterans and nonveterans decreased in 2021

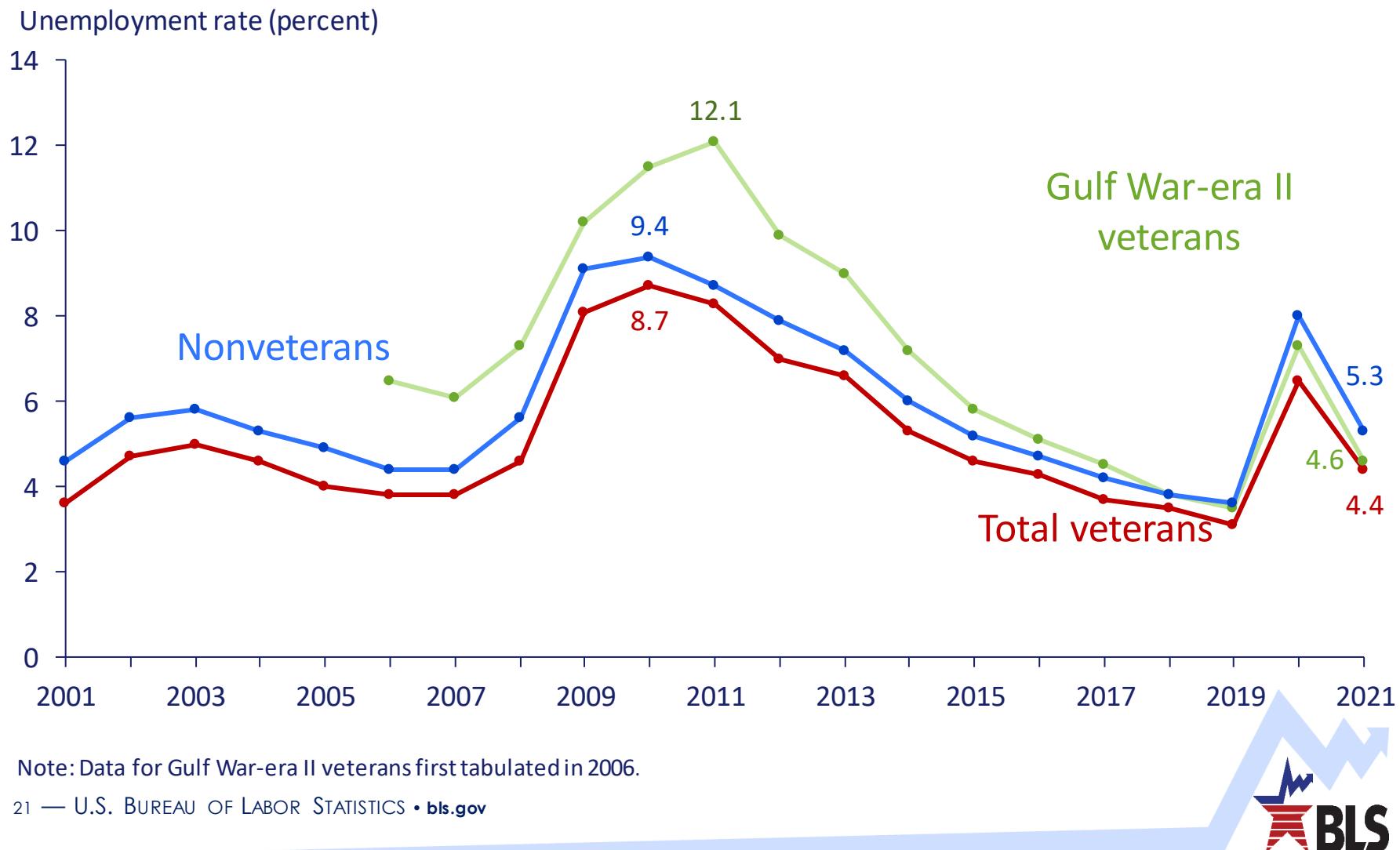
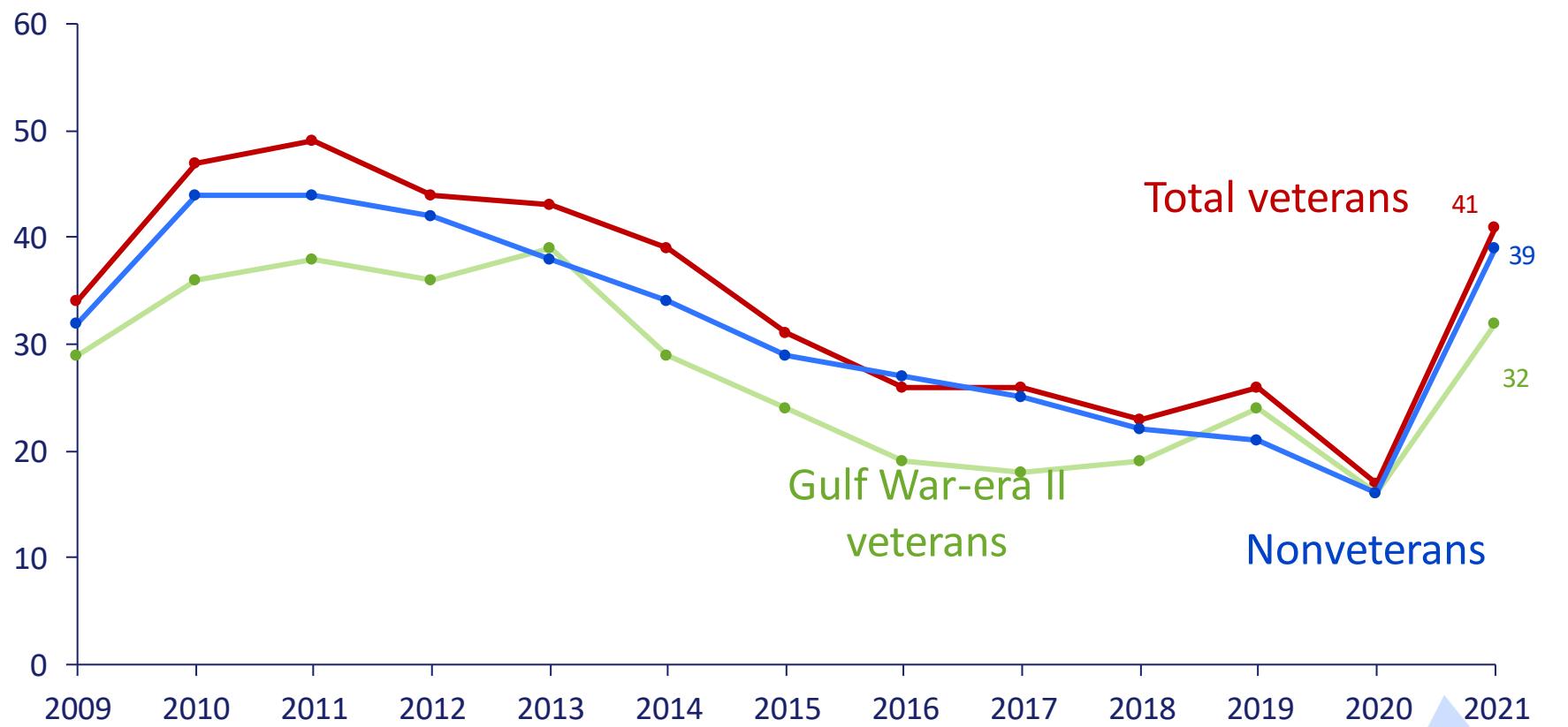


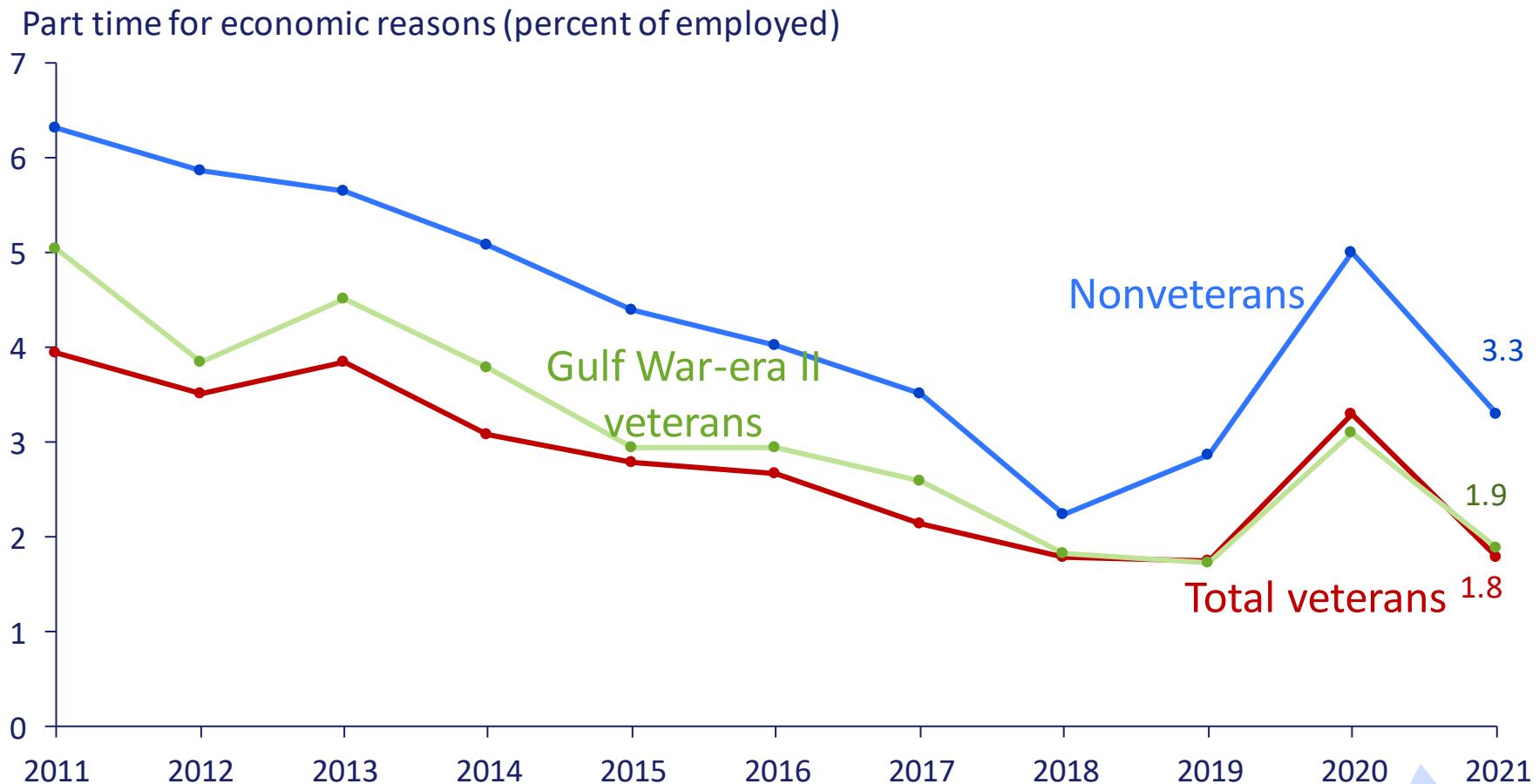
Chart 13. Gulf War-era II veterans were less likely than total veterans and nonveterans to be unemployed for 27 weeks or longer in 2021

Long-term unemployed as a percentage of total unemployed



Note: Long-term unemployment refers to an ongoing spell of unemployment that has lasted 27 continuous weeks or more.

Chart 15. Veterans were less likely to be employed part time involuntarily than nonveterans in 2021



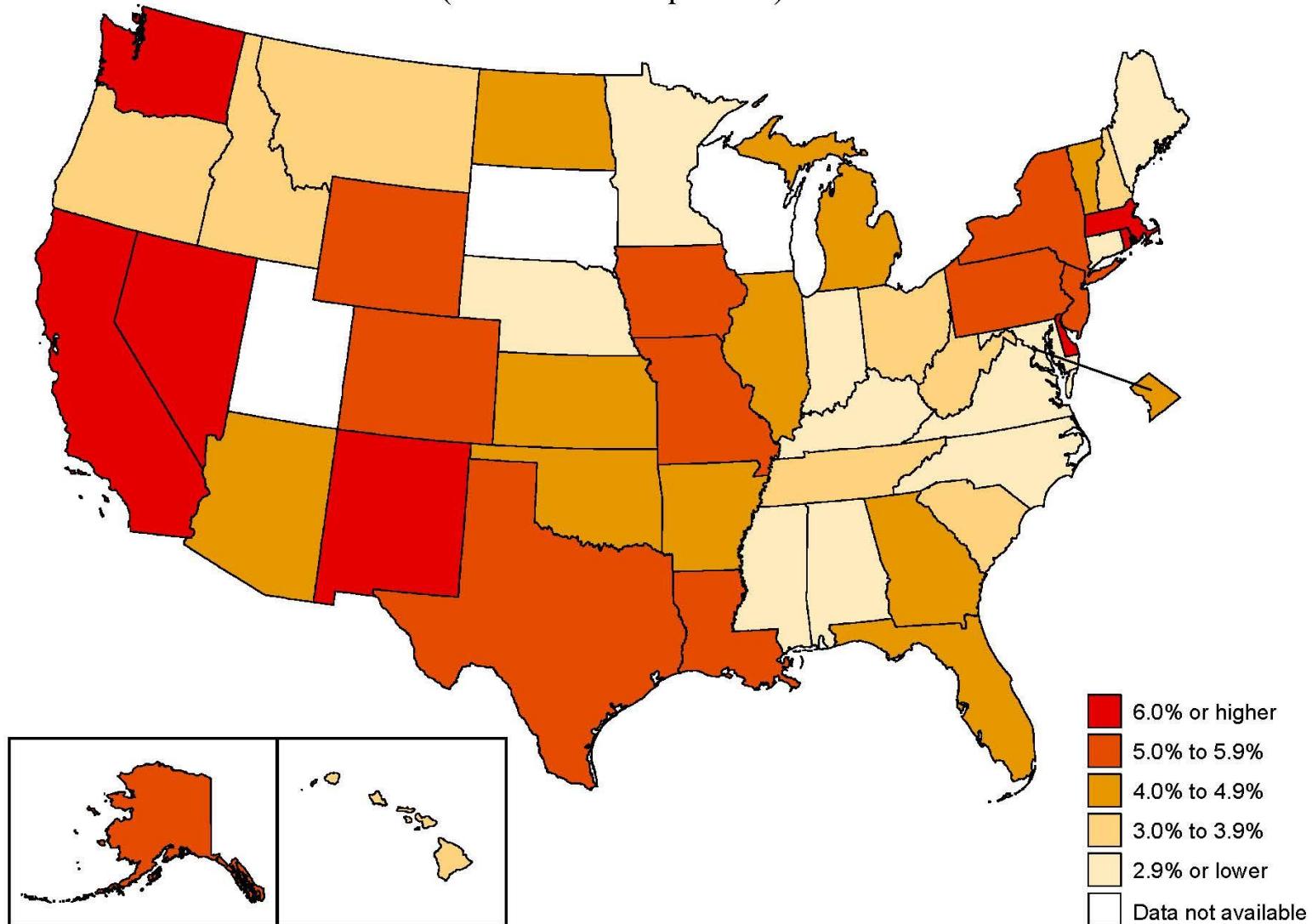
NOTE: This category includes persons who would like to work full time but were working part time (1 to 34 hours) because of an economic reason, such as slack work, inability to find full-time work, reduced hours, or unfavorable business conditions.

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Unemployment rates by state for veterans, 2021 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 4.4 percent)



Unemployment rates by state for nonveterans, 2021 annual averages

(U.S. rate = 5.3 percent)

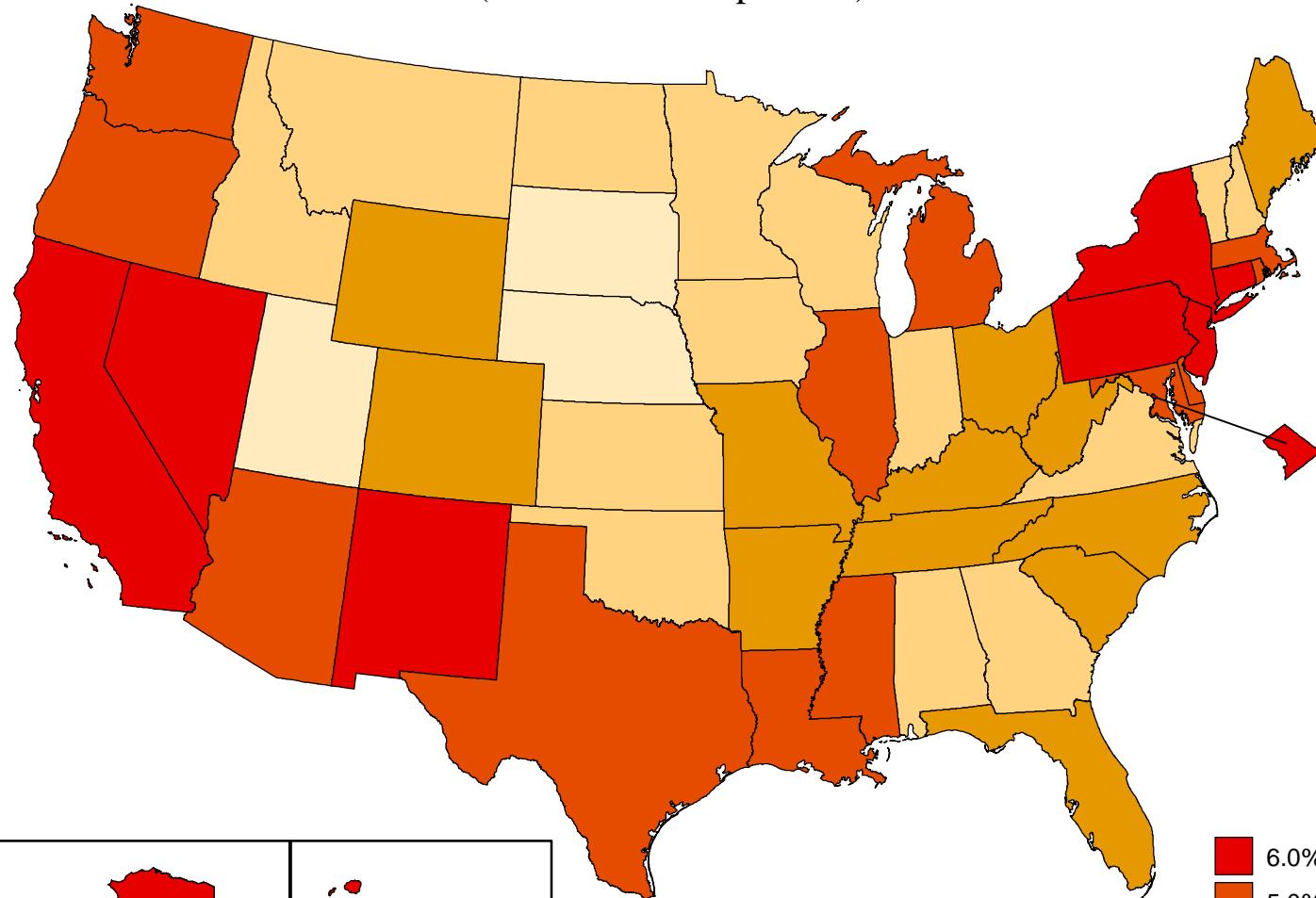
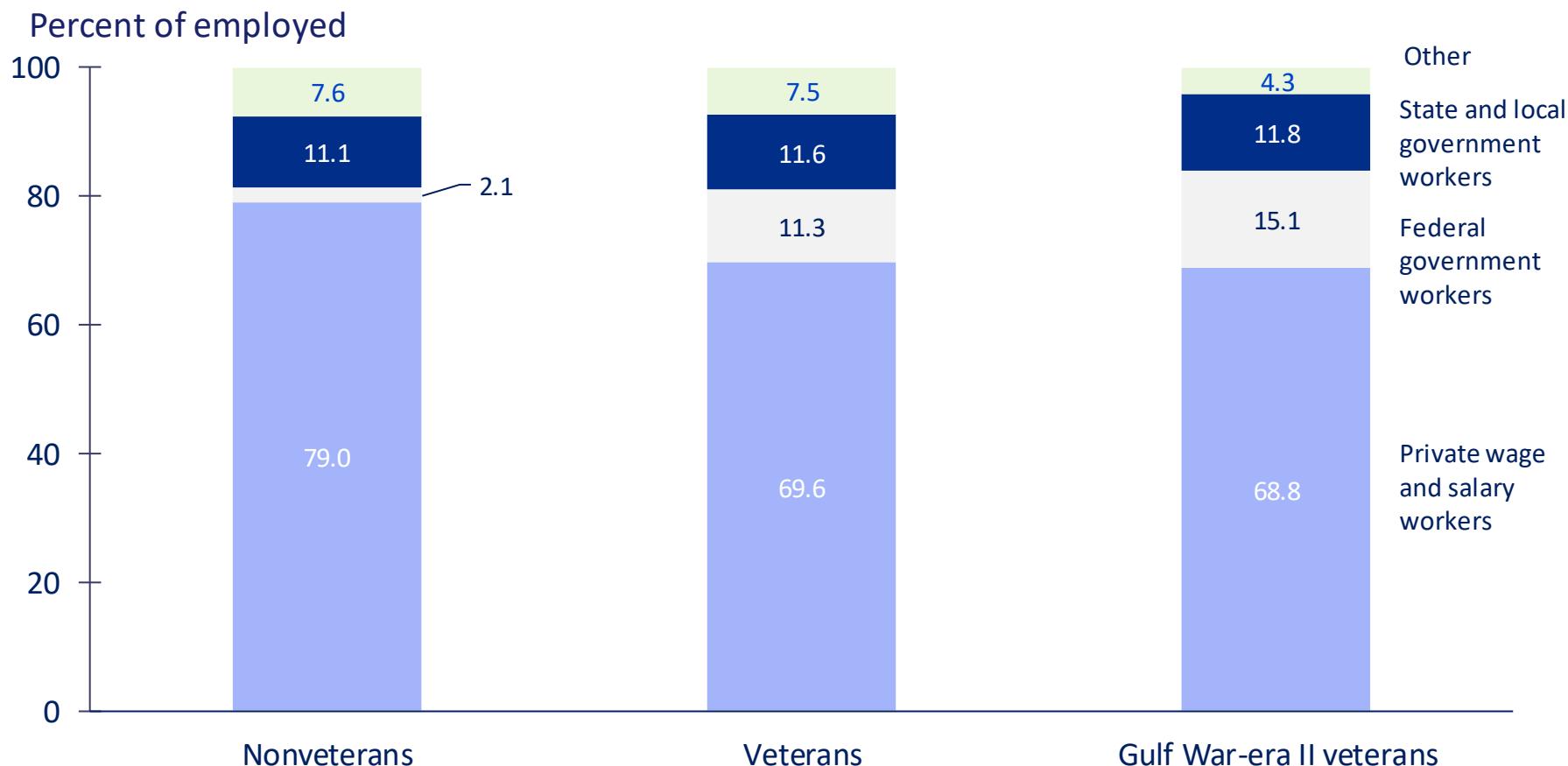
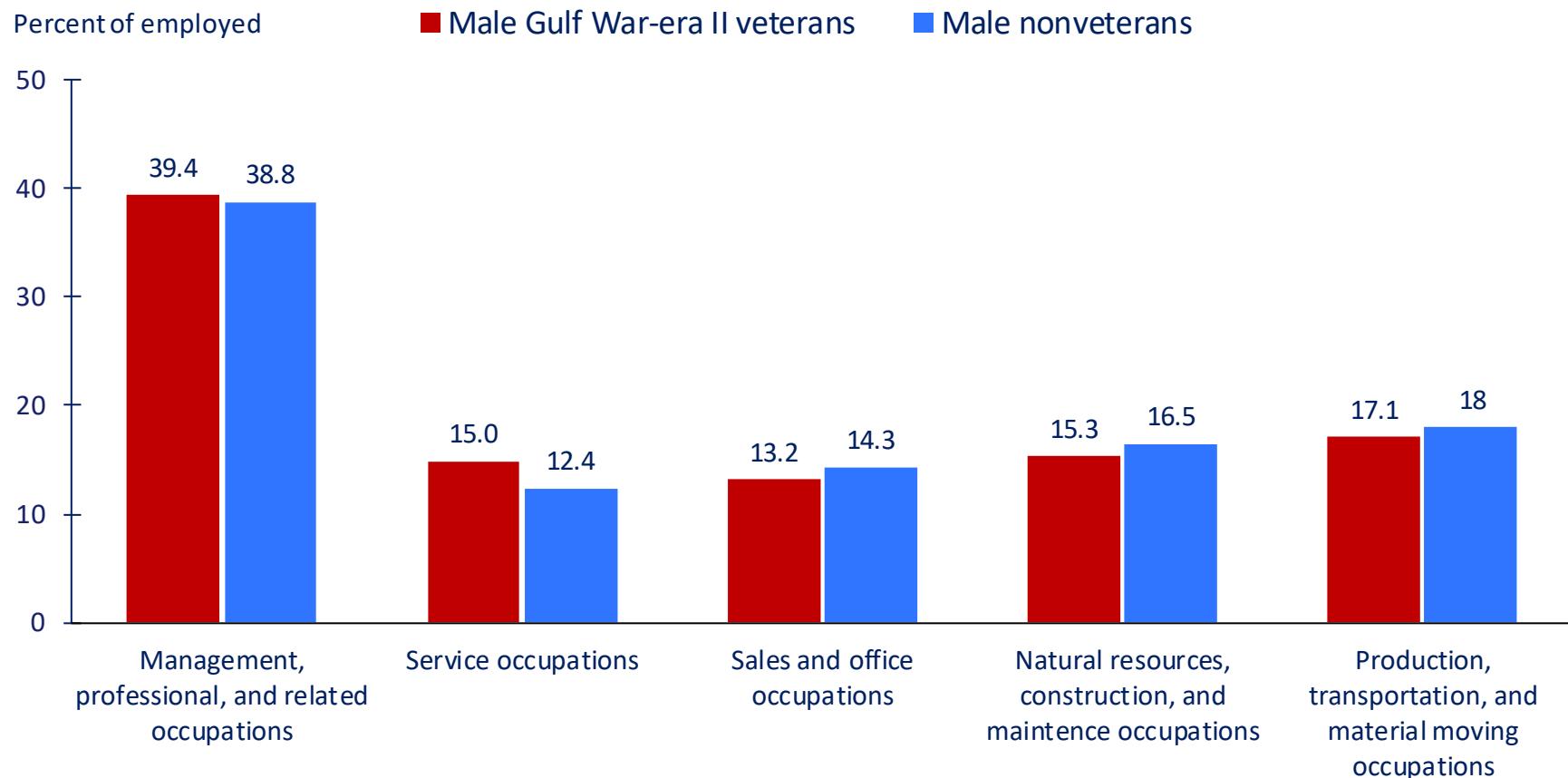


Chart 14. Veterans were much more likely to work for the Federal government than nonveterans



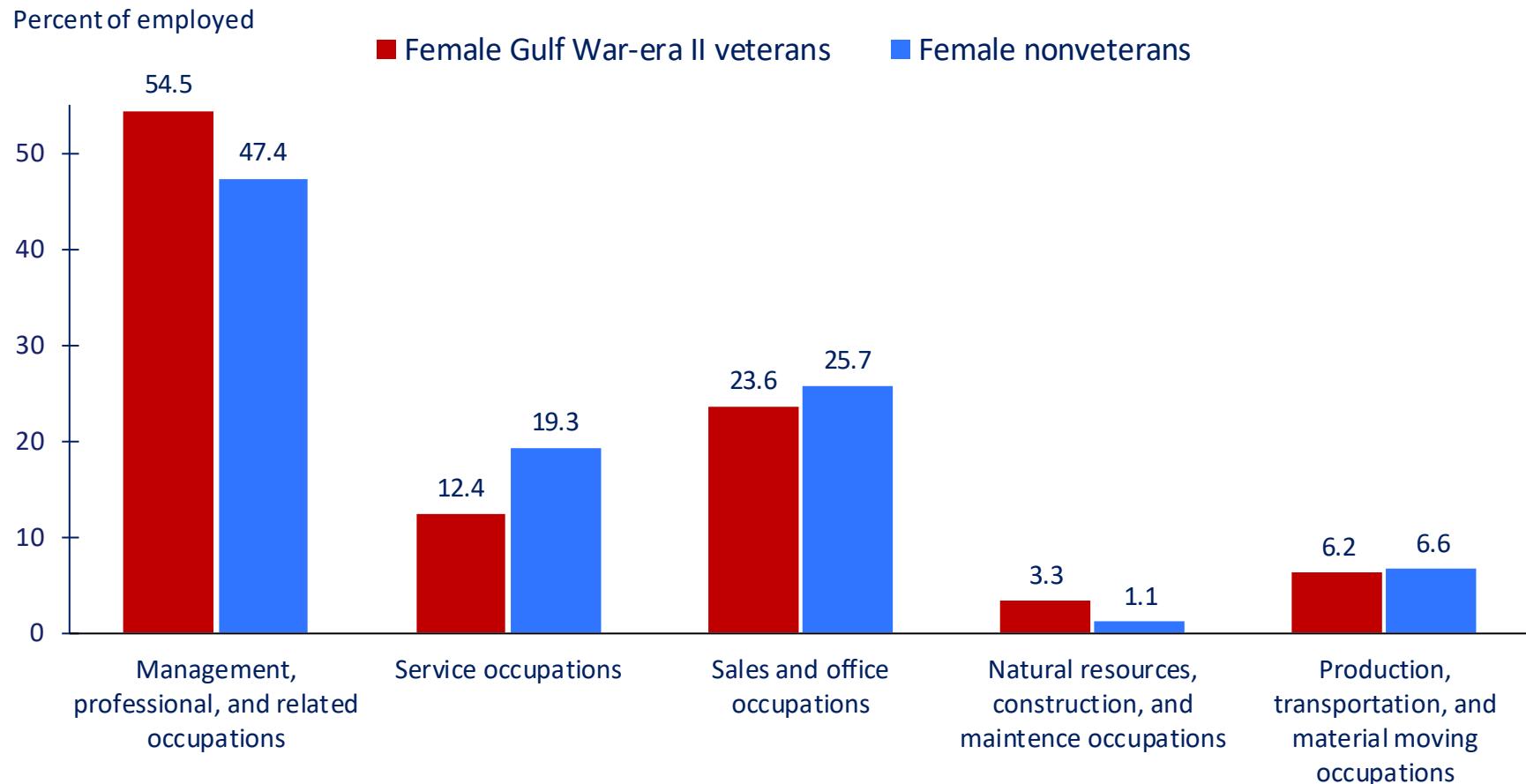
NOTE: "Other workers" includes persons employed in agriculture, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers. Totals may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Chart 15. Male Gulf War-era II veterans were more likely to work in service occupations than male nonveterans in 2021



NOTE: Service occupations include a wide variety of professions: healthcare support, protective service, food preparation and serving, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, and personal care and service.

Chart 16. Female Gulf War-era II veterans were more likely to work in management, professional, and related occupations and natural resource, construction, and maintenance occupations than female nonveterans



NOTE: Service occupations include a wide variety of professions: healthcare support, protective service, food preparation and serving, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, and personal care and service.

Summary

- The unemployment rate of veterans with a service-connected disability was **declined to 3.4 percent** in August 2021, while the rate for veterans with no disability **declined to 4.1 percent**.
- The unemployment rate for male veterans **declined to 4.4 percent** in 2021, and the rate for female veterans **declined to 4.2 percent**.
- The unemployment rate **decreased for veterans of nearly all periods of service, race and gender groups** in 2021.

Annual Veteran Survey Supplement Revision

- Annual survey to veterans revised by VETS and VA
- Revised existing questions, removed antiquated questions, and added questions such as:
 - ▶ Typical activities/tasks while in the military
 - ▶ Impact of service-connected disability to get a job
 - ▶ Requesting an accommodation due to a disability
 - ▶ First application for a civilian job; first job type
 - ▶ Did civilian job match military job duties
 - ▶ Desired education or training
- Revised survey launched August 2021

Tabulated veterans data available from the BLS

- General information on veterans: CPS webpage
 - ▶ <https://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm#vets>
- Monthly data by period of service: *Employment Situation* news release (table A-5)
 - ▶ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t05.htm>
- Veterans supplement data (August 2020): *Employment Situation of Veterans* news release
 - ▶ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf>
- Unpublished tables available upon request

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