Veterans Employment 2000 to 2013

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

December 2014

Data source is Current Population Survey

- The Current Population Survey (CPS), sponsored jointly by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), is the primary source of labor force statistics for the population of the United States and District of Columbia

- Current Population Survey, a sample of 60,000 households, data are collected by personal and telephone interviews. Basic labor force data are gathered monthly; data on special topics are gathered in periodic supplemental surveys

- CPS covers the *civilian noninstitutional population,* which includes persons age 16 and over but excludes people living in institutions (correctional institutions, residential nursing, or mental health care facilities) and Active Duty Service Members in the Armed Forces

Key definitions

- ***Veterans*** are men and women who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and were civilians at the time of the survey. Members of the Reserve and National Guard are considered to be Veterans if they have been mobilized for active military service

- ***Non-Veterans*** are men and women who have never served on active duty in the United States military

- The ***civilian labor force*** is made up of the employed and the unemployed, excluding active military Service Members and others living in institutions

- Persons not in the labor force combined with those in the civilian labor force constitute the ***civilian noninstitutional population***

Definition of unemployed and unemployment rate

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines the **unemployed** as

  - Persons who do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work

  - Workers expecting to be recalled from layoff are counted as unemployed, whether or not they have engaged in a specific job seeking activity. In all other cases, the individual must have been engaged in at least one active job search activity in the 4 weeks preceding the interview and be available for work (except for temporary illness)

- The **unemployment rate** reflects the number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force
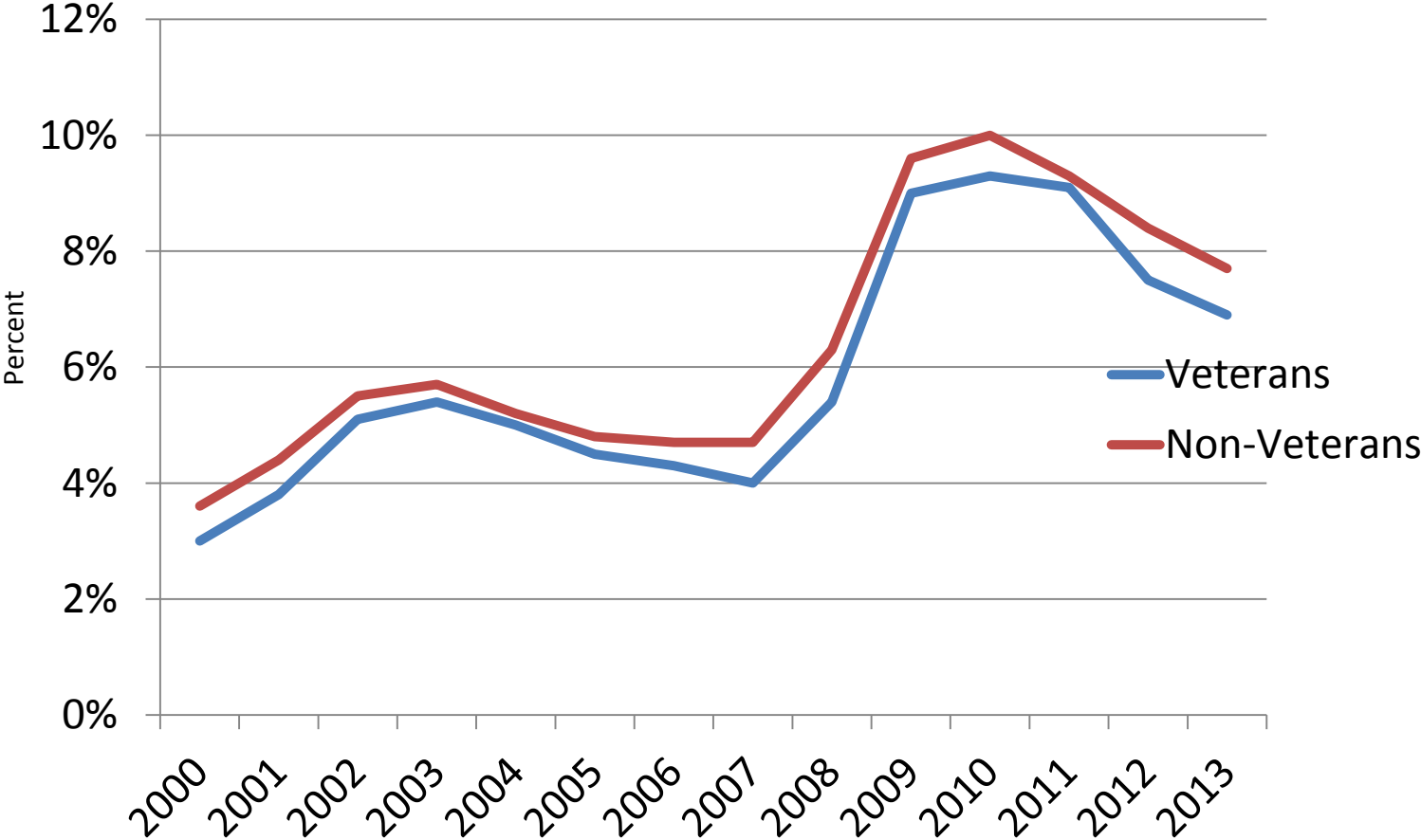
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov/cps/faq.htm

Veterans had slightly lower unemployment rates than non-Veterans between 2000 and 2013
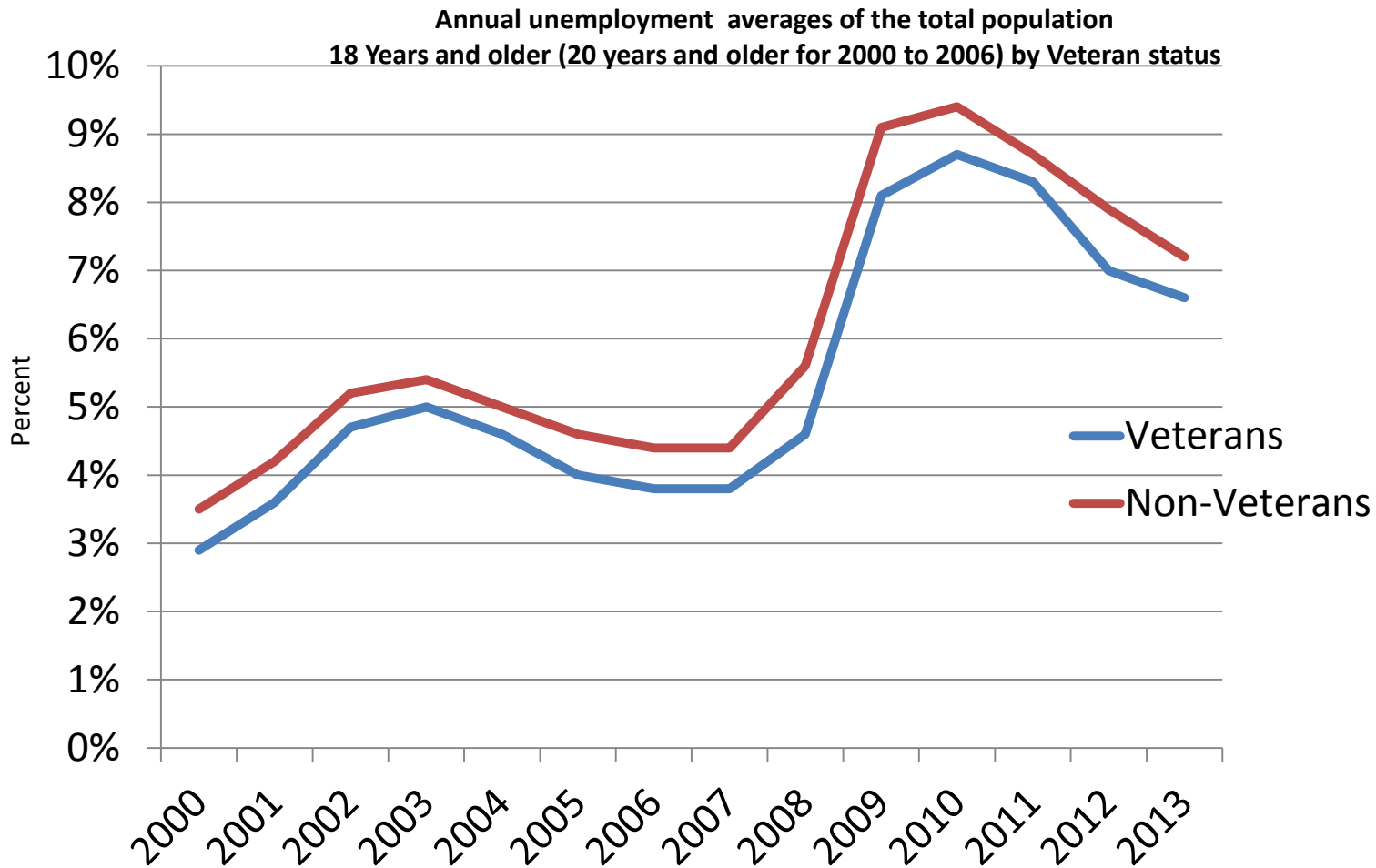
Annual unemployment averages of the total population
18 Years and older (20 years and older for 2000 to 2006) by Veteran status

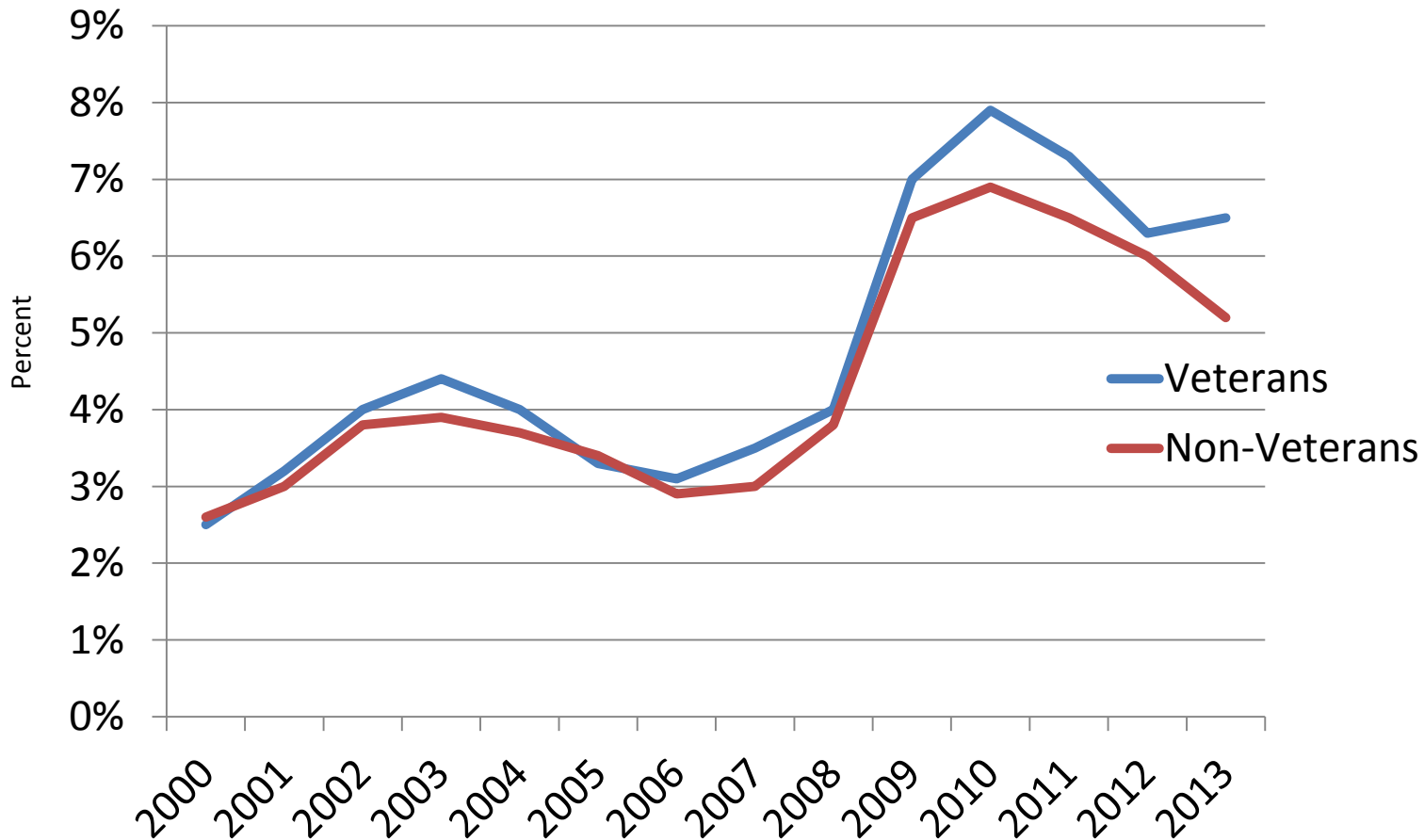# Veterans 18 to 54 had similar or slightly lower unemployment rates than non-Veterans

**Annual unemployment averages of the population
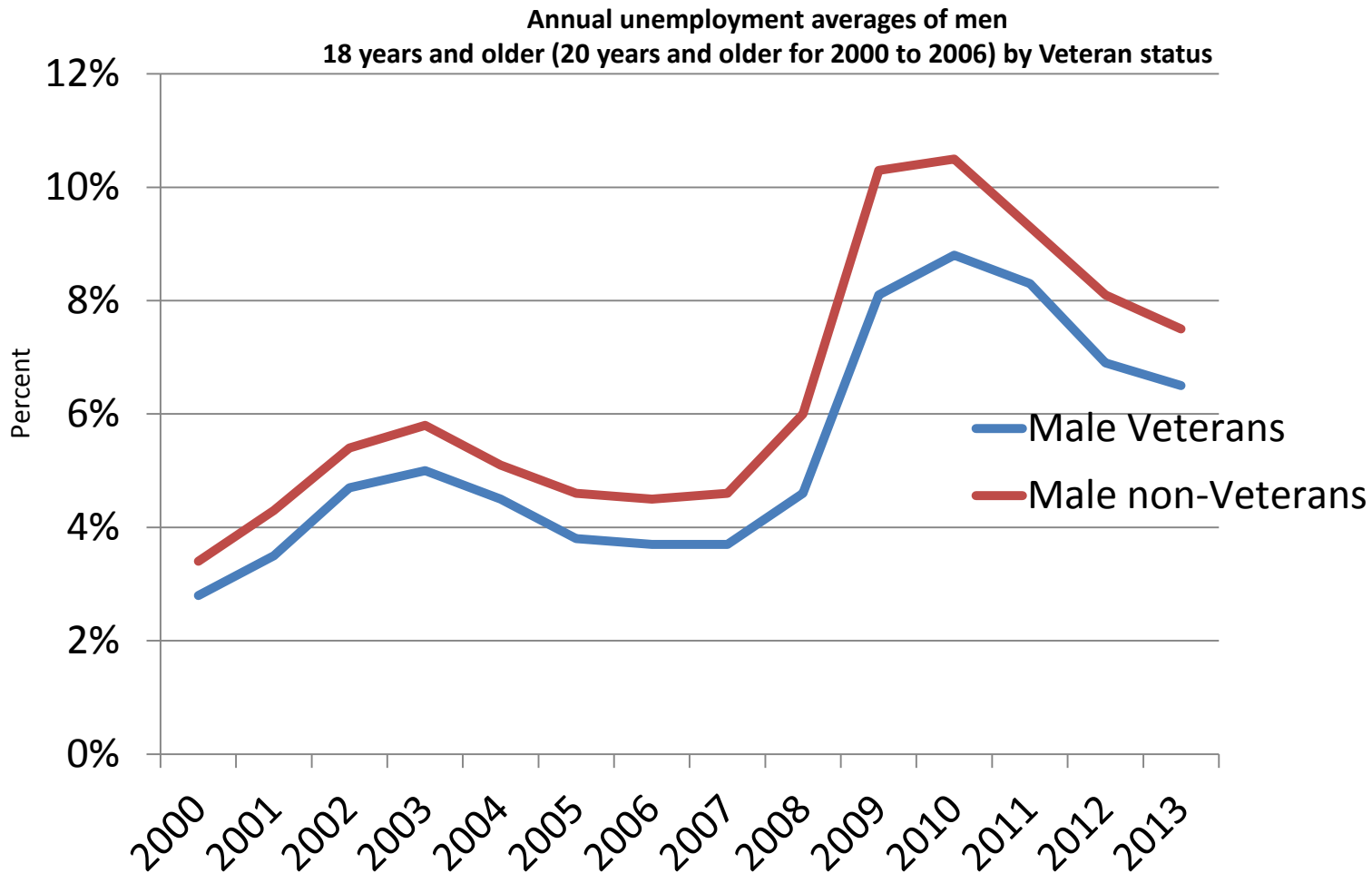18 to 54 years old (20 years and older for 2000 to 2006) by Veteran status**

Unemployment rates for Veterans 55 and over were similar or slightly higher than those of non-Veterans

**Annual unemployment averages of the population
55 years and over, by Veteran status**

Male Veterans had lower unemployment rates than their non-Veteran contemporaries

Annual unemployment averages of men
18 years and older (20 years and older for 2000 to 2006) by Veteran status

Women Veterans experienced similar unemployment rates as non-Veteran women

**Annual unemployment averages of women
18 years and older (20 years and older for 2000 to 2006) by Veteran status**

Legend:
— Female Veterans
— Female non-Veterans

Y-axis: Percent (0% to 10%)
X-axis: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
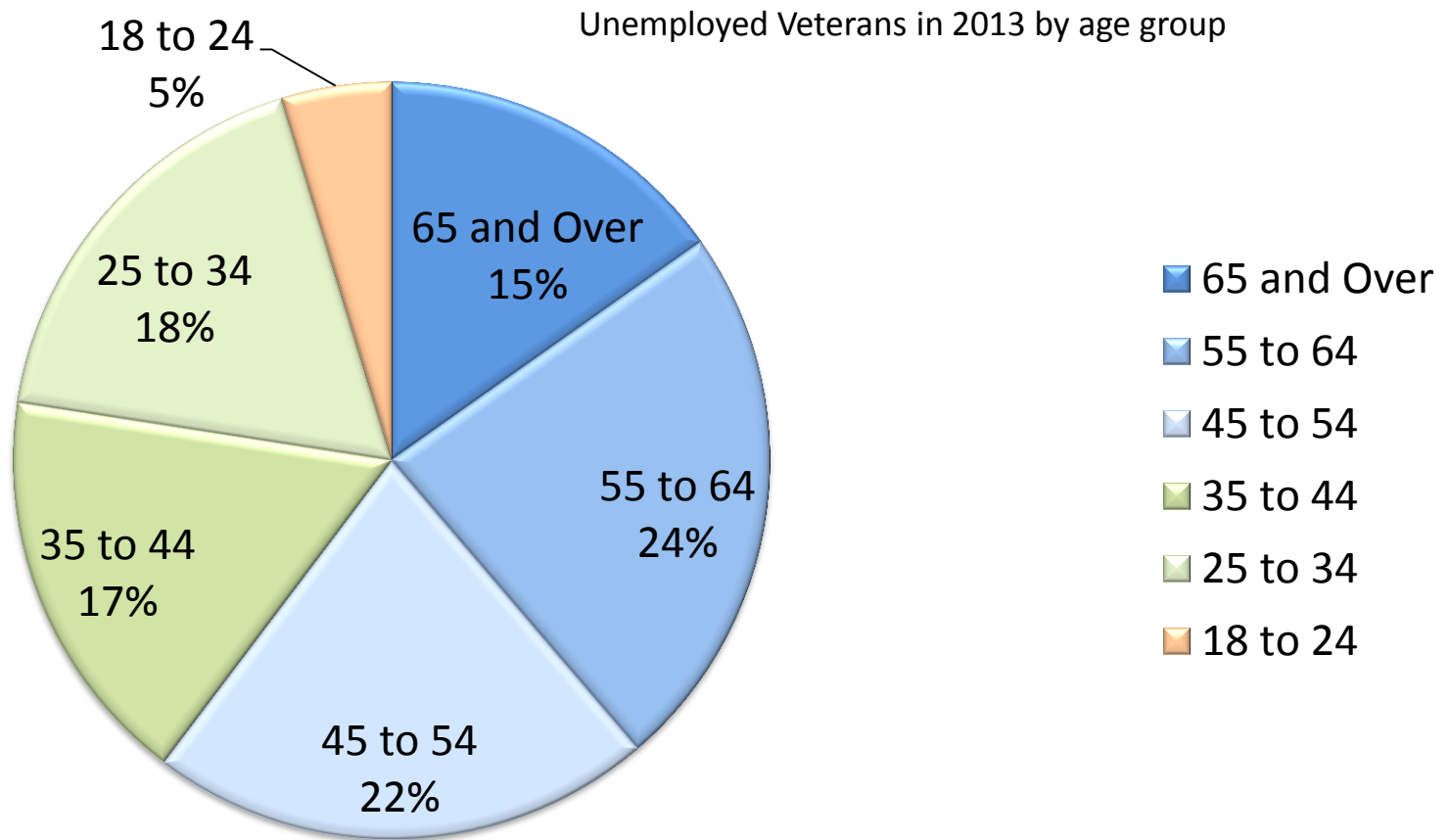
Veterans ages 25-34 as well as ages 65 and over were a growing segment of the Veteran unemployed population

Proportion of unemployed Veterans by age group, 18 years and older (20 to 24 years from 2000 to 2003)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov/cps
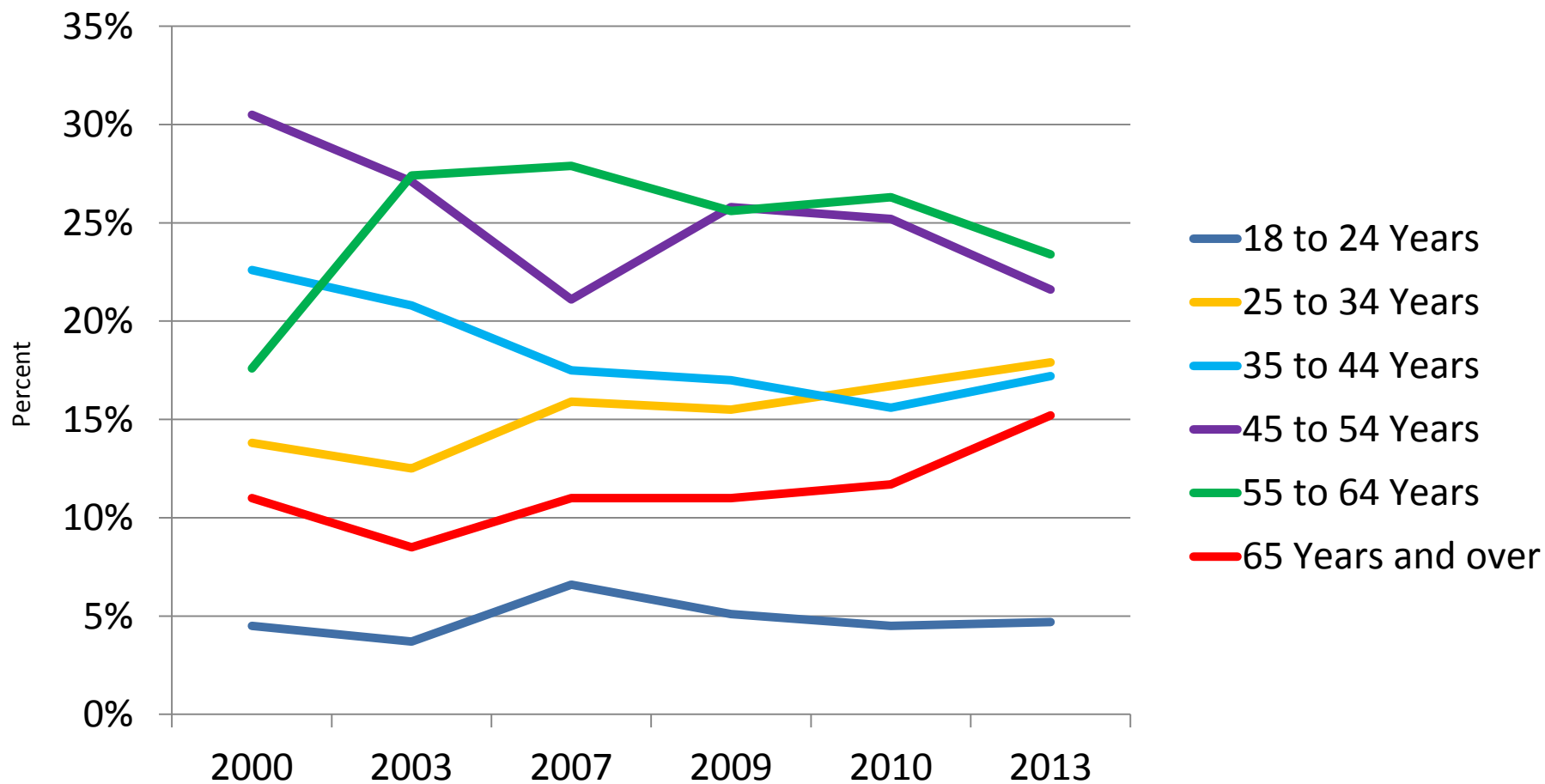
Totals may not add to 100% because of rounding

Among 722,000 unemployed Veterans in 2013 about 60% were age 45 year and over

Unemployed Veterans in 2013 by age group

18 to 24
5%

25 to 34
18%

35 to 44
17%

45 to 54
22%

55 to 64
24%

65 and Over
15%

Legend:
- 65 and Over
- 55 to 64
- 45 to 54
- 35 to 44
- 25 to 34
- 18 to 24

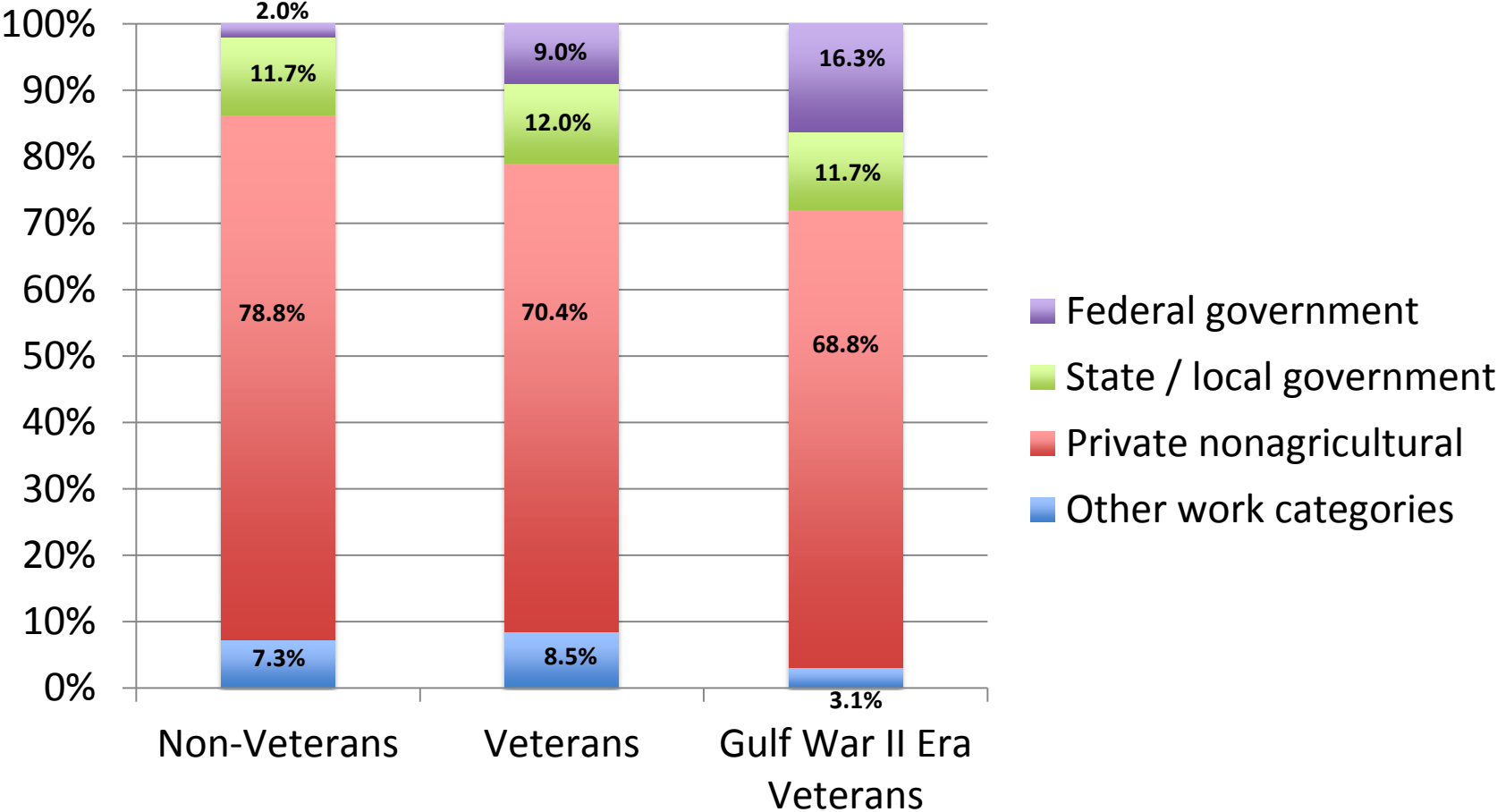# Gulf War-era Veterans (1990-present) were about half of all unemployed Veterans in 2013

Unemployed Veterans in 2013 by period of service

Gulf War era II — September 2001-present
Gulf War era I — August 1990-August 2001

Pie chart:
- Gulf War II — 28%
- Other periods — 24%
- WWII, Korea, Vietnam — 27%
- Gulf War I — 21%

Legend:
- Gulf War II
- Gulf War I
- WWII, Korea, Vietnam
- Other periods
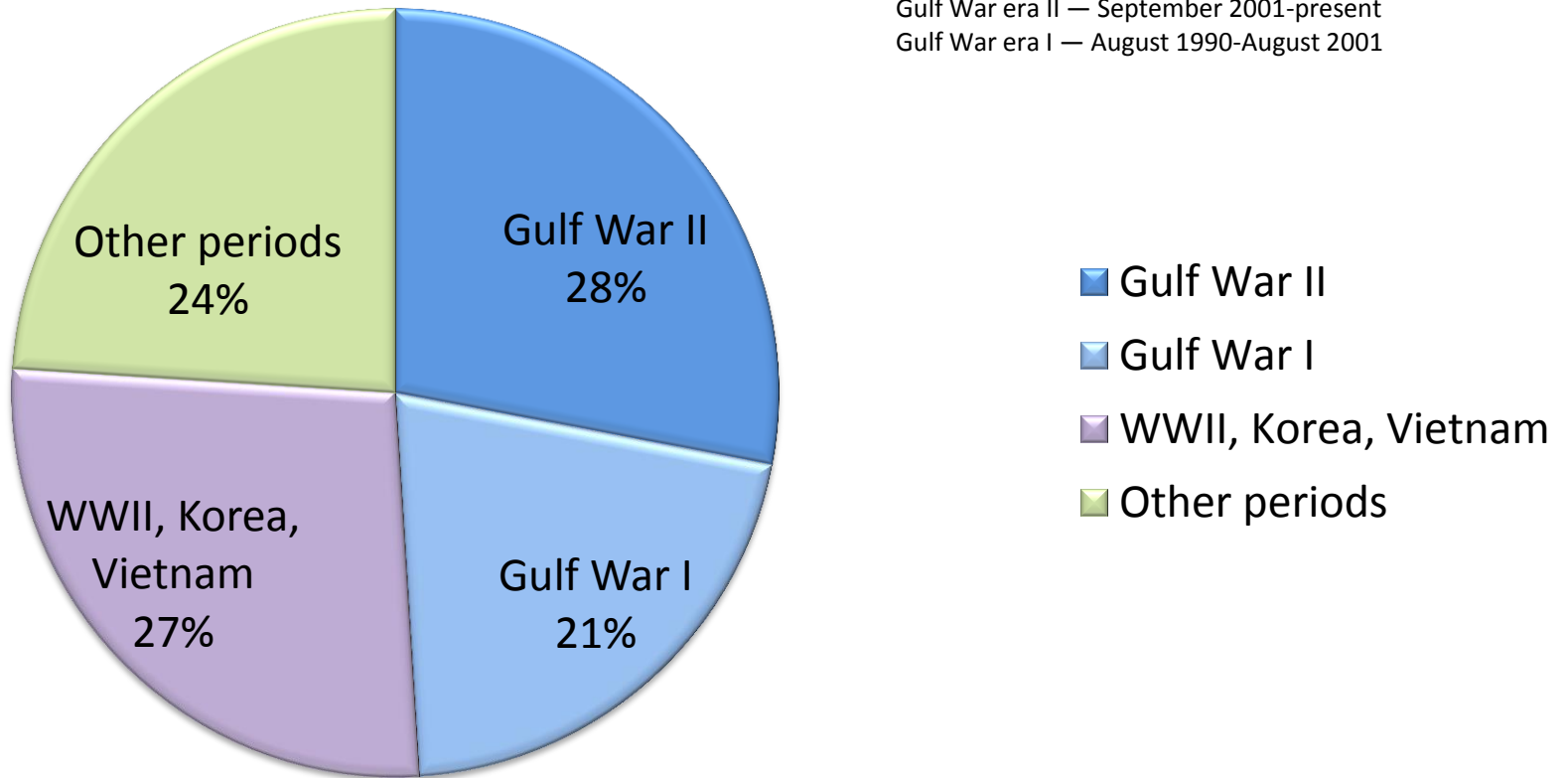
Veterans and especially Gulf War II Era Veterans were more likely to work for the Federal government than non-Veterans

Employed Veterans in 2013

	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Gulf War II Era Veterans
Federal government	2.0%	9.0%	16.3%
State / local government	11.7%	12.0%	11.7%
Private nonagricultural	78.8%	70.4%	68.8%
Other work categories	7.3%	8.5%	3.1%

For more information

- Employment Situation of Veterans is available at:
  http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf

- "Veteran Labor Force in the Recovery" is available at:
  http://www.dol.gov/_sec/media/reports/VeteransLaborForce/VeteransLaborForce.pdf

- "Women Veterans in the Labor Force" is available at:
  http://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2014/women-vets/

- Women Veterans' employment is available at:
  http://www.dol.gov/vets/womenveterans/women-vets.htm

- "Employment and earnings of recent Veterans: data from the CPS" is available at:
  http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2010/07/art1full.pdf

- How the Government Measures Unemployment is available at:
  http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm

- CPS technical documentation is available at:
  http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#concepts