



California Veterans in the Workforce—2014

Introduction

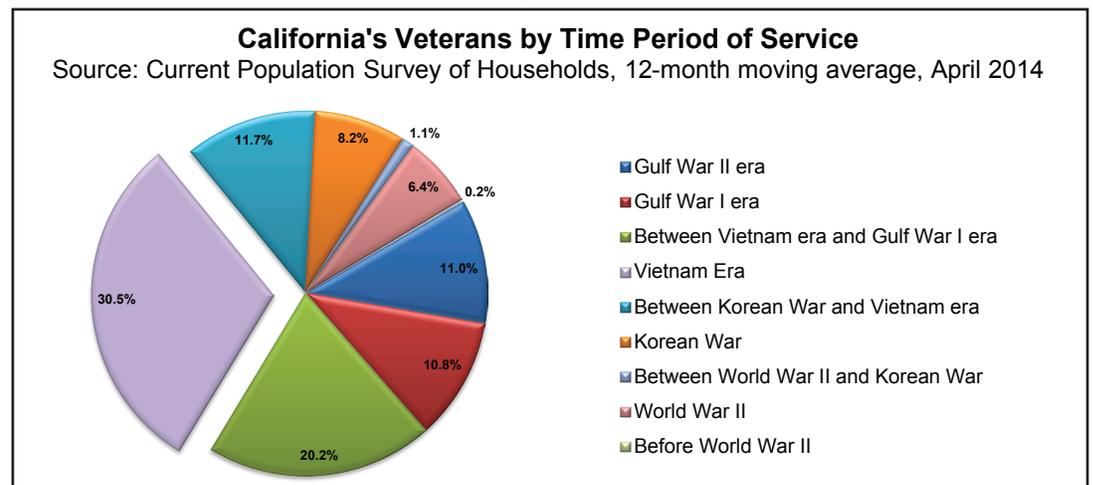
According to the Current Population Survey of Households (CPS), there were 21.3 million military veterans in the United States in April 2014. These veterans served in various capacities and time periods that ranged from Pre-World War II to the latest armed conflicts in the Middle East. More than 8 percent of the nation’s veterans were located in California. In April 2014, California’s 1.8 million veterans made up 6.5 percent of the state’s 27.6 million civilians aged 20 years and over. The latest CPS figures indicate that nearly 50 percent of these veterans (47.8 percent) and more than two-thirds of non-veterans (66.5 percent) participated in California’s labor force in April 2014 (see Table 1).

This report distinguishes between veterans from two periods of the Gulf War: Gulf War I-era veterans and Gulf War II-era veterans. Gulf War I-era veterans are those who served between August 1990 and August 2001. Gulf War II-era veterans served in the armed forces since 2001.

CPS data for the months of April 2013 and April 2014 were used to complete this report. The CPS is a monthly survey of households conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It provides a comprehensive body of data on the labor force, employment, unemployment, persons not in the labor force, hours of work, earnings, and other demographic and labor force characteristics.

Time Period of Service

Figure 1



California Labor Market Trends

- Within California's veterans' population, Vietnam-era veterans made up the largest share, accounting for nearly one-third of the entire population (30.5 percent). More than 20 percent of the state's veterans served in either Gulf War I or II (21.8).
- The Gulf War I/II share was comparable to the share of veterans that served between the Vietnam era and Gulf War I (20.2). Veterans that served before the Korean War made up nearly 8 percent (7.7) of the state's veterans population.

Population and Labor Force Statistics

Table 1

California Veterans Workforce Analysis									
Population	All Persons			Veterans Only			Non-Veterans Only		
	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference
All ages, 20+	27,196,000	27,600,200	404,200	1,778,000	1,798,400	20,400	25,418,000	25,801,900	383,900
Age 20-24	2,924,000	3,014,600	90,600	24,000	16,100	-7,900	2,900,000	2,998,500	98,500
Age 25-34	5,340,000	5,401,800	61,800	152,000	160,800	8,800	5,188,000	5,241,000	53,000
Age 35-44	4,938,000	4,911,200	-26,800	152,000	158,600	6,600	4,786,000	4,752,600	-33,400
Age 45-54	5,102,000	5,145,600	43,600	254,000	256,900	2,900	4,848,000	4,888,700	40,700
Age 55-64	4,338,000	4,435,700	97,700	380,000	364,600	-15,400	3,958,000	4,071,200	113,200
Age 65-74	2,553,000	2,630,300	77,300	404,000	423,600	19,600	2,150,000	2,206,700	56,700
Age 75+	2,001,000	2,061,000	60,000	414,000	417,800	3,800	1,587,000	1,643,200	56,200
Share of Population	All Persons			Veterans Only			Non-Veterans Only		
	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference
Age 20-24	10.8%	10.9%	0.2%	1.4%	0.9%	-0.5%	11.4%	11.6%	0.2%
Age 25-34	19.6%	19.6%	-0.1%	8.5%	8.9%	0.4%	20.4%	20.3%	-0.1%
Age 35-44	18.2%	17.8%	-0.4%	8.5%	8.8%	0.3%	18.8%	18.4%	-0.4%
Age 45-54	18.8%	18.6%	-0.1%	14.3%	14.3%	0.0%	19.1%	18.9%	-0.1%
Age 55-64	16.0%	16.1%	0.1%	21.4%	20.3%	-1.1%	15.6%	15.8%	0.2%
Age 65-74	9.4%	9.5%	0.1%	22.7%	23.6%	0.9%	8.5%	8.6%	0.1%
Age 75+	7.4%	7.5%	0.1%	23.3%	23.2%	0.0%	6.2%	6.4%	0.1%
Unemployment Rate	All Persons			Veterans Only			Non-Veterans Only		
	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference
All ages, 20+	9.0%	7.8%	-1.2%	8.6%	7.9%	-0.8%	9.0%	7.8%	-1.2%
Age 20-24	15.3%	14.1%	-1.2%	33.1%	14.8%	-18.3%	15.2%	14.1%	-1.1%
Age 25-34	9.4%	8.3%	-1.1%	13.9%	13.9%	0.0%	9.3%	8.1%	-1.1%
Age 35-44	7.9%	7.1%	-0.8%	6.6%	6.5%	-0.1%	7.9%	7.1%	-0.9%
Age 45-54	7.7%	6.7%	-1.0%	8.3%	7.7%	-0.7%	7.6%	6.6%	-1.0%
Age 55-64	8.0%	6.1%	-1.8%	6.9%	6.6%	-0.3%	8.1%	6.1%	-2.0%
Age 65-74	8.1%	5.7%	-2.4%	9.1%	7.4%	-1.7%	7.9%	5.4%	-2.5%
Age 75+	7.2%	3.1%	-4.1%	1.2%	1.3%	0.2%	9.6%	3.7%	-5.9%
Labor Force Participation Rate	All Persons			Veterans Only			Non-Veterans Only		
	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference	April 2013	April 2014	Difference
All ages, 20+	65.8%	65.3%	-0.6%	49.8%	47.8%	-2.0%	67.0%	66.5%	-0.5%
Age 20-24	66.5%	67.0%	0.5%	62.6%	47.6%	-15.0%	66.5%	67.1%	0.6%
Age 25-34	79.9%	79.5%	-0.4%	79.5%	75.9%	-3.6%	79.9%	79.6%	-0.3%
Age 35-44	81.2%	80.0%	-1.2%	88.4%	84.5%	-3.9%	81.0%	79.9%	-1.1%
Age 45-54	78.7%	78.7%	0.0%	84.2%	85.6%	1.4%	78.5%	78.3%	-0.1%
Age 55-64	64.6%	63.6%	-1.0%	62.7%	60.3%	-2.4%	64.8%	63.9%	-0.9%
Age 65-74	28.0%	28.1%	0.2%	30.7%	28.2%	-2.5%	27.5%	28.1%	0.7%
Age 75+	7.3%	7.6%	0.3%	9.9%	8.8%	-1.1%	6.6%	7.3%	0.7%

Source: Current Population Survey of Households, 12-month moving average

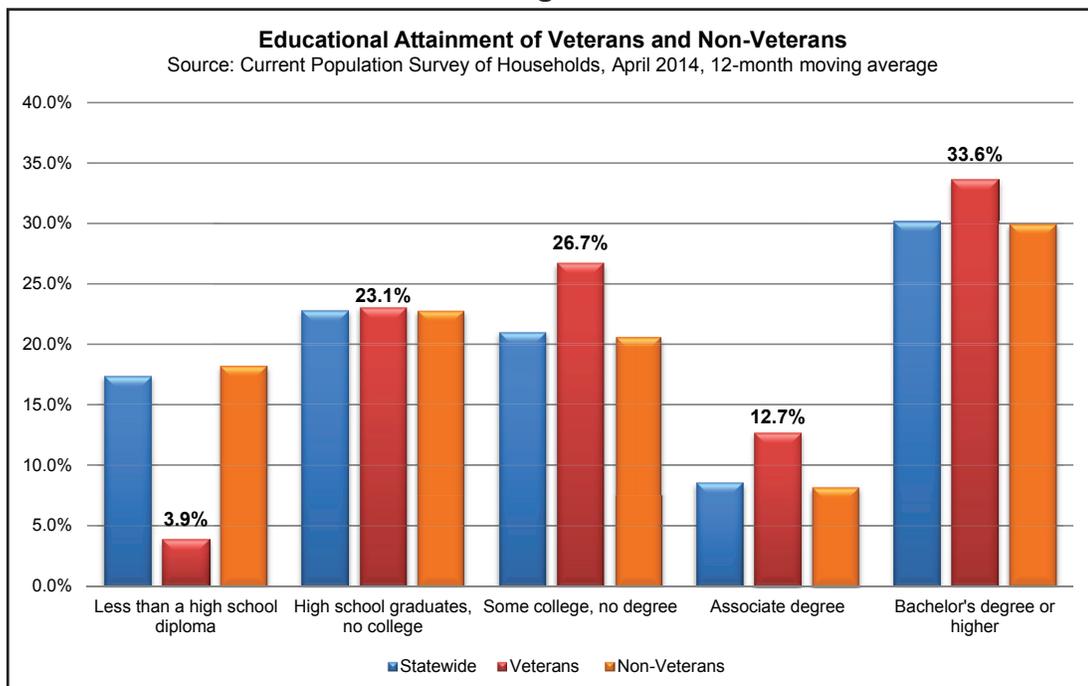
- The latest CPS data indicates that persons aged 65 and over made up a larger share of the veterans population than the non-veterans. This age group accounted for nearly 50 percent (46.8 percent) of the veterans' population and only 15 percent of the non-veteran population in April 2014 (see Table 1).

California Labor Market Trends

- However, persons between the ages of 20 and 44 represented a larger share of non-veterans in California, accounting for more than 50 percent of its population. Veterans between the ages of 20 and 44 made up a much smaller share, just under 20 percent (18.6 percent), of the veterans population on the whole.
- The unemployment rate amongst veterans (7.9 percent) and non-veterans (7.8) were comparable to the statewide rate (7.8) amongst persons 20 years and older in April 2014. Veterans between the ages of 20 and 24; and 25 and 34 had higher unemployment rates than their non-veteran counterparts in April 2014.
- Veterans and non-veterans within the other age groups (e.g., 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65-74; 75 and older) studied had unemployment rates that differentiated from one another by less than 3 percentage points. For example, the non-veterans unemployment rate of persons aged 75 years and older was 3.7 percent and for veterans within the same age group it was 1.3 percent; a difference of 2.4 percentage points.
- The labor force participation rate of veterans was lower than figures for non-veterans and the state on the whole. The labor force participation rate of veterans aged 20 years or more was 47.8 percent in April 2014, nearly 20 percentage points lower than non-veterans (66.5 percent) and the statewide rate (65.3). Persons between the ages of 25 and 54 had some of the highest labor force participation rates among veterans and non-veterans alike.

Education and the Workforce

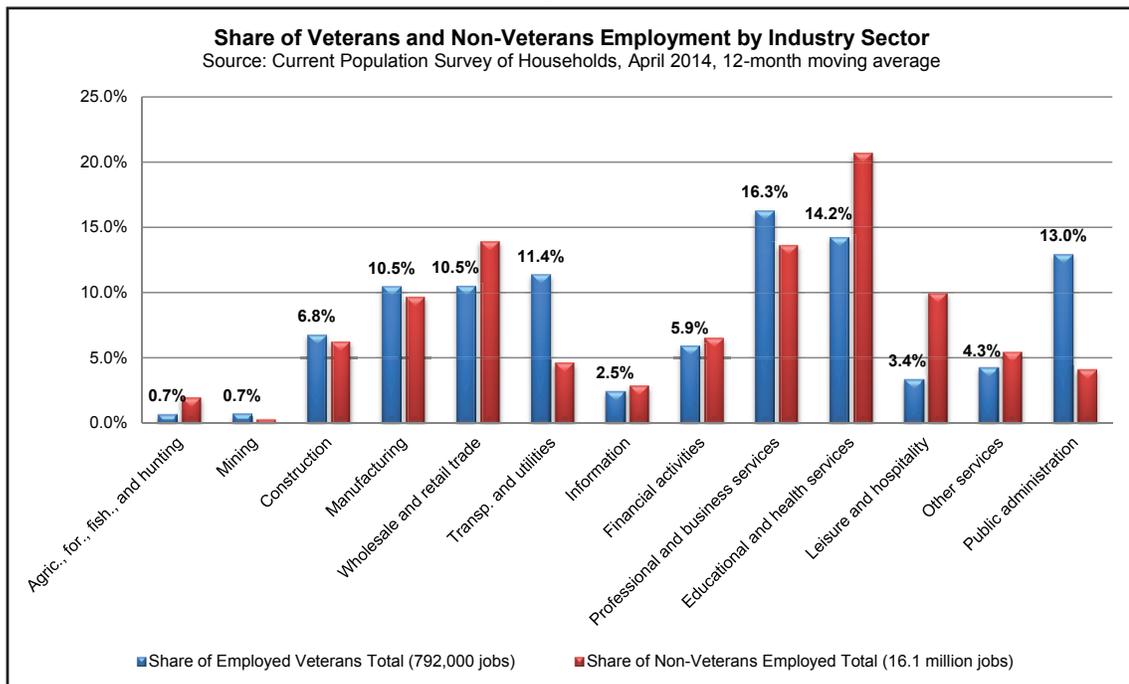
Figure 2



California Labor Market Trends

- The share of veterans with some college or more (e.g., Associate degree, Bachelor's degree, etc.) was higher than that of non-veterans and statewide figures overall. More than one-third (33.6 percent) of California's veterans had a Bachelor's degree or higher, a figure 3 percentage points higher than non-veterans (30.0 percent). The latest CPS figures indicated that one in four veterans had some college and no degree, while one in five non-veterans attained the same level of education (see Figure 2).
- Less than 4 percent of the state's veteran's population had less than a high school diploma; this figure was more than four times as large for non-veterans (18.3 percent) in April 2014. The share of high school graduates was comparable for both veterans (23.1 percent) and non-veterans (22.8).

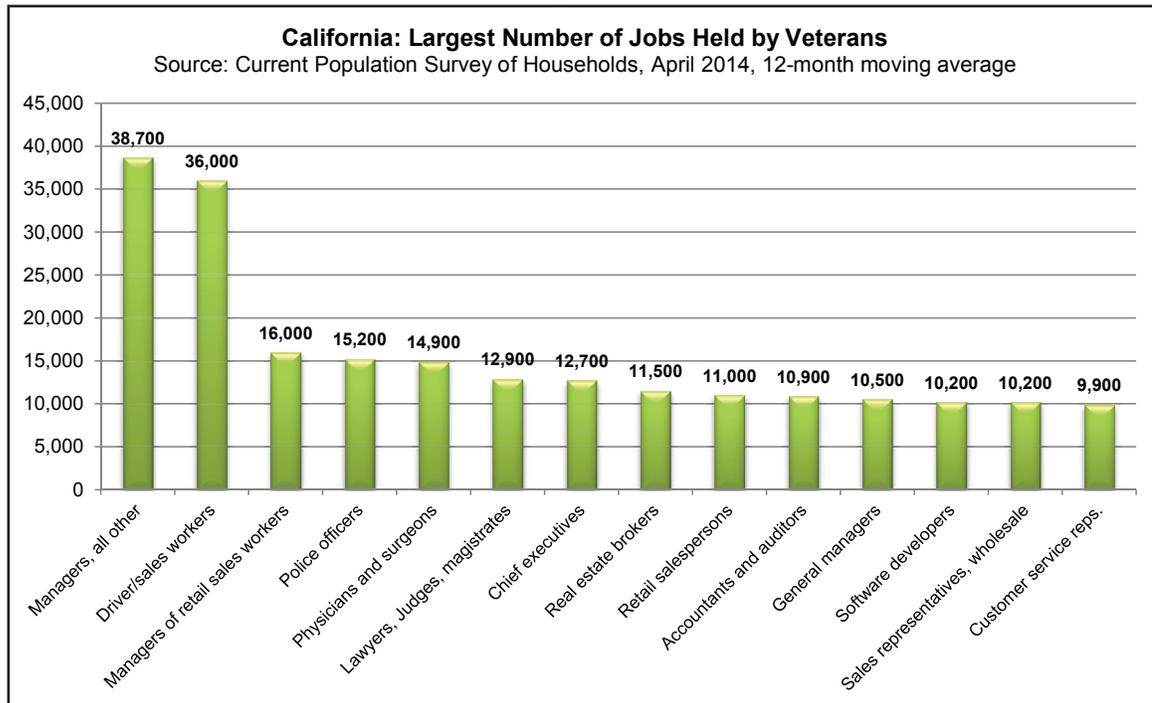
Figure 3



- In April 2014, there were nearly 800,000 veterans employed in the state of California. The largest shares of veterans were employed in the following industry sectors: professional and business services (16.3 percent); educational and health services (14.2); public administration (13.0); and transportation and utilities (11.4) (see Figure 3).
- Fewer than 3 percent of the state's veterans worked in the information (2.5 percent); mining (0.7); and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (0.7) sectors. Comparable shares of veterans and non-veterans employment were seen in the following industries: construction; manufacturing; financial activities; and the other services sectors.

California Labor Market Trends

Figure 4

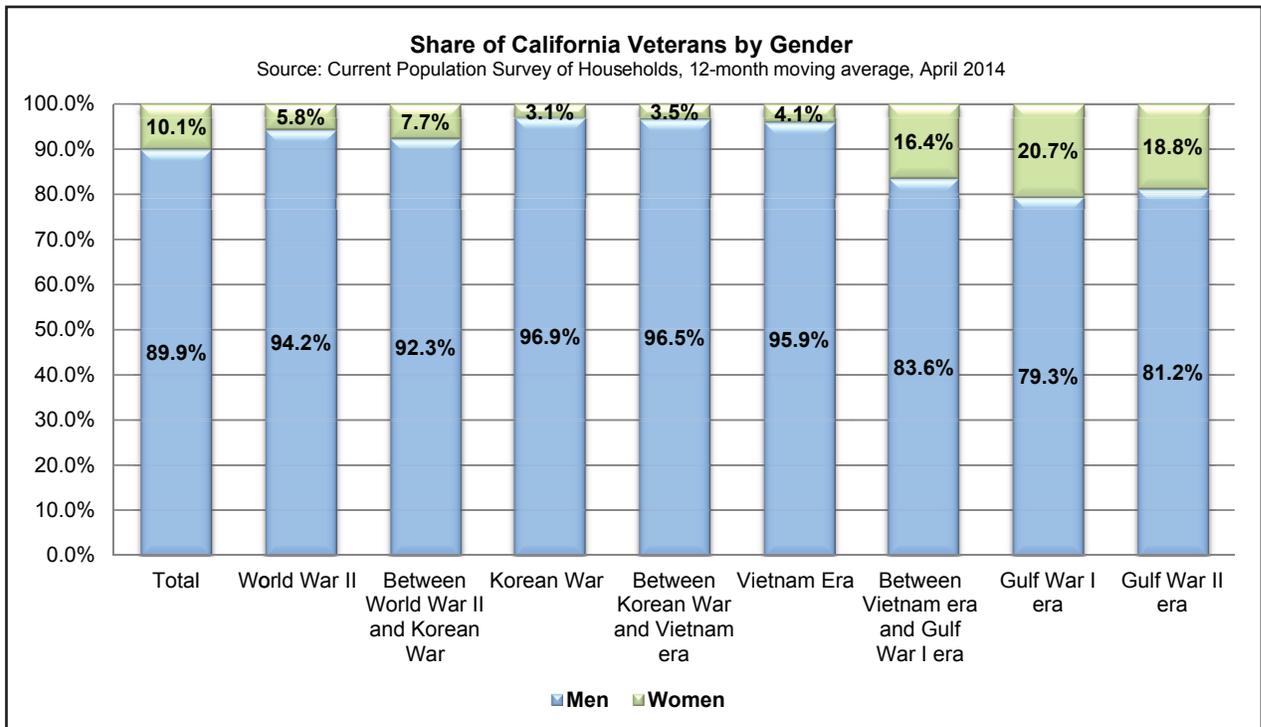


- The aforementioned industry concentration analysis (see Figure 3) served to provide information on which industries employed the largest concentrations of veterans (e.g., professional and business services; educational and health services; public administration; transportation and utilities) and insight into the types of jobs held by the state's veteran workforce.
- CPS data shows that positions in management were one of the jobs most often held by California's veterans. These types of jobs varied from chief executives to managers of retail sales workers. Large concentrations of veterans in physician or surgeon positions; and various law enforcement positions (e.g., judges, lawyers, police officers) support the data within the industry analysis which found large concentrations of veterans employed in the educational and health services; and public administration sectors.

California Labor Market Trends

Demographics

Figure 5



- In April 2014, just over ten percent (181,000) of California's 1.8 million veterans were women. Women held a 20.7 percent share of veterans that served during the Gulf War I era. Before and during the Vietnam era, women's share of the veterans' population was below 10 percent. Their lowest representative shares occurred during the periods of the Korean War (3.1 percent); and between the Korean War and the Vietnam era (3.5). During the post-Vietnam era, women's share of the veterans' population has not dropped below 16 percent (see Figure 5).

Table 2

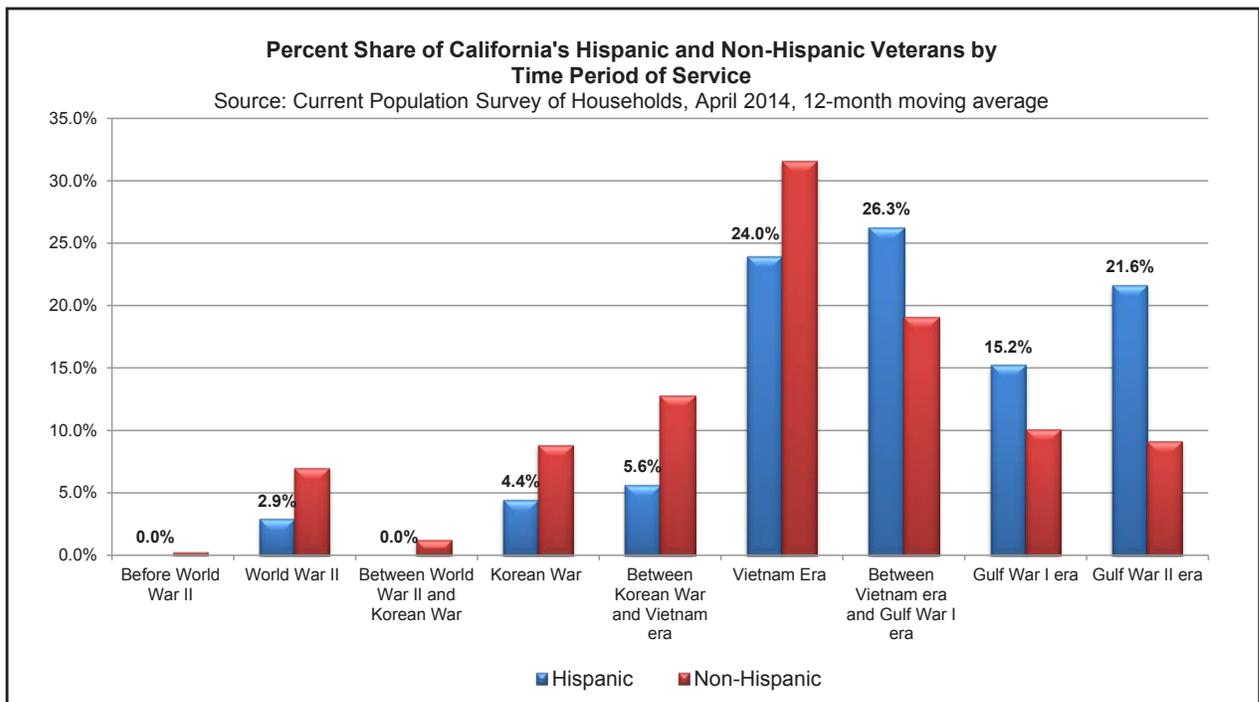
An Analysis of California Veterans by Race and Time Period of Service							
Time Period of Service	Total	White Only	Black Only	American Indian, Alaskan Native Only	Asian Only	Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Only	2 or more races
Gulf War II era	198,300	137,800	19,200	< 5,000	24,900	< 5,000	9,800
Gulf War I era	194,600	141,300	25,500	< 5,000	17,400	5,800	< 5,000
Between Vietnam era and Gulf War I era	363,100	264,900	62,000	< 5,000	22,300	< 5,000	7,000
Vietnam Era	548,300	447,500	53,800	5,600	24,600	6,100	10,700
Between Korean War and Vietnam era	210,600	181,400	14,500	< 5,000	10,000	< 5,000	< 5,000
Korean War	146,700	124,000	9,200	< 5,000	11,700	< 5,000	< 5,000
Between World War II and Korean War	19,000	17,300	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000
World War II	114,800	101,300	< 5,000	< 5,000	9,100	< 5,000	< 5,000
Before World War II	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000	< 5,000
Total	1,799,500	1,418,700	189,700	13,900	120,800	18,400	38,100

Source: Current Population Survey of Households, 12-month moving average, April 2014

California Labor Market Trends

- CPS figures for April 2014 indicate that Hispanics made up roughly one out of every seven veterans within the state of California. Of the state's 1.8 million veterans, nearly 15 percent (268,400 veterans) of them were Hispanic (see Figure 6).
- Across the time periods examined, the largest percent share (26.3 percent) of California's Hispanic veterans derived from the time period between the Vietnam era and the Gulf War I era.

Figure 6



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