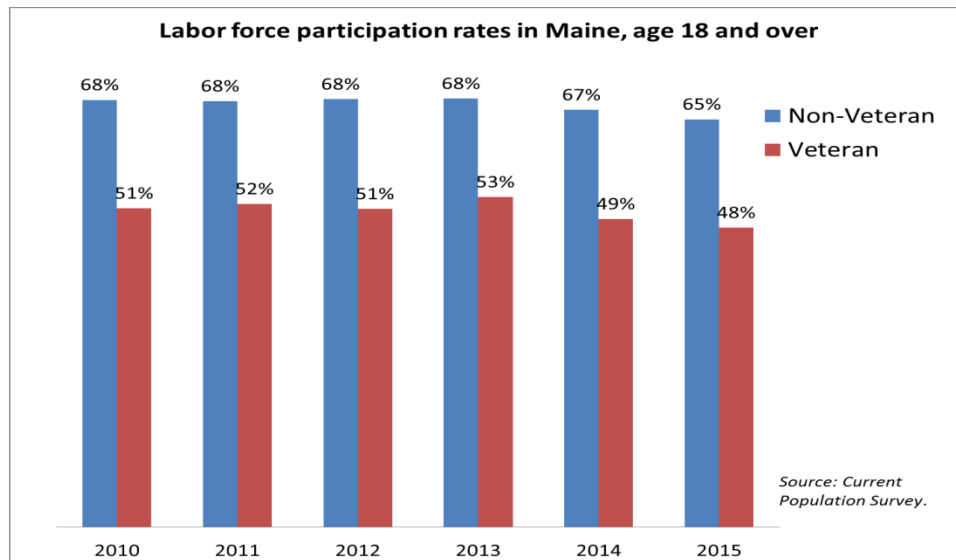


Veterans in Maine's Workforce

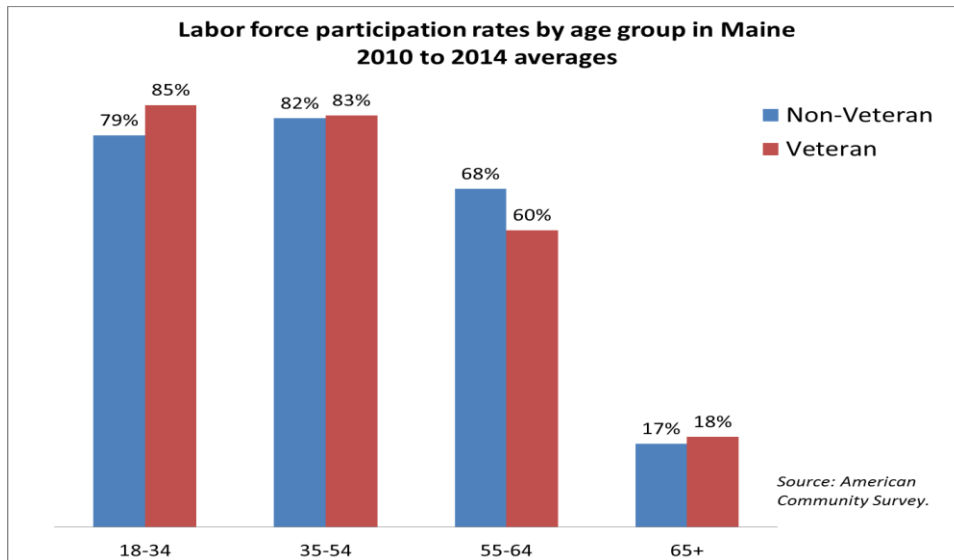
Maine's 127,000 veterans comprised 12 percent of the population age 18 and over, the fifth-highest share in the nation in 2015. Veterans are men and women who previously served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, but were civilians when surveyed.

Close to 48 percent of the state's veterans (61,000) were in the labor force, working (58,000) or looking for work (3,000), but well below the 65 percent of non-veterans in 2015. Labor force participation rates for both groups have declined since 2013, reflecting both an advancing age structure and higher shares of retirees.

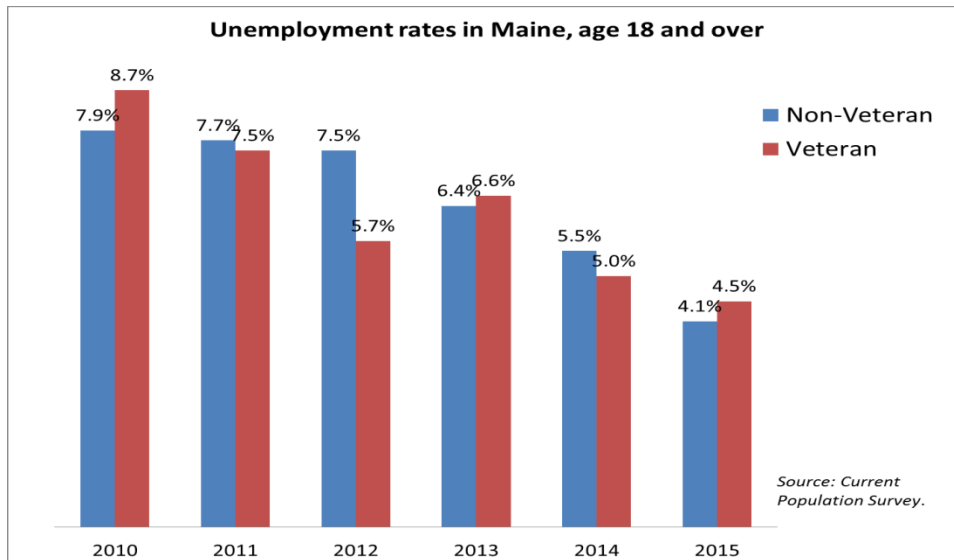


The veterans' labor force participation rate is lower because a much larger share of them are retirement age, reflecting those who served in Vietnam and earlier conflicts. Almost half of veterans are 65 and older, compared to just 18 percent of non-veterans.

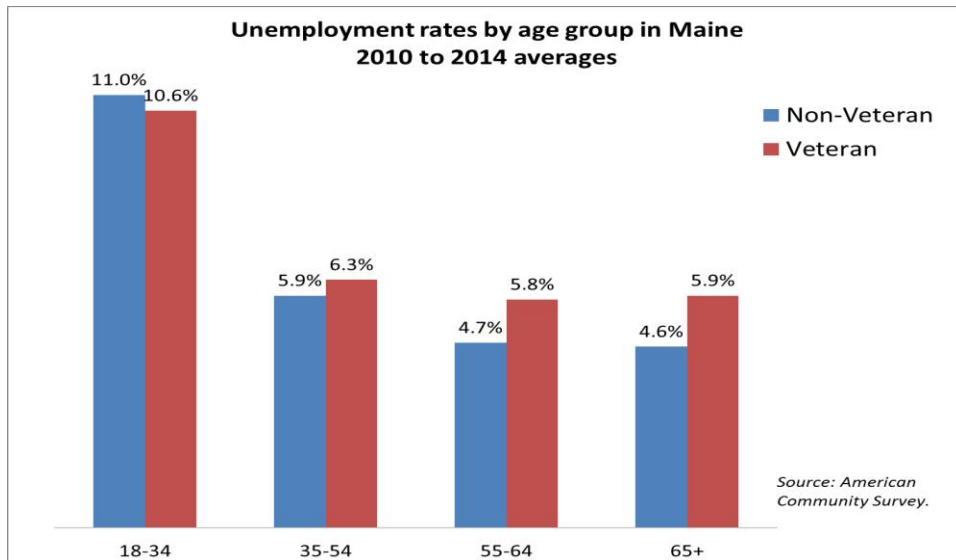
Within age groups, labor force participation rates of veterans and non-veterans are similar.



Unemployment has declined substantially the last five years. In 2015, unemployment rates were about the same for both veterans and non-veterans.



For the period from 2010 to 2014, unemployment rates for veterans and non-veterans were similar for those under the age 55, but somewhat higher for older veterans.



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey annual estimates and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010 to 2014 averages.