Veterans in New Hampshire

Veterans are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as men and women age 18 or over who have served, even for a short time, but are not now serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Those who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are considered veterans if they were ever called or ordered to active duty.

Veteran Share of Population by Age
- In 2021, there were 87,604 veterans in New Hampshire, 7.8 percent of the population age 18 and over.
- Nearly half of New Hampshire veterans were age 65 and over.
- Residents age 75 and over accounted for the smallest share of the total age 18 and over population, 8.9 percent. However, this age group included 21,045 veterans, the second-largest number of veterans. One-fifth of New Hampshire residents age 75 and over were veterans.
- A much smaller share (two percent) of age 18 to 34 years residents are veterans, largely because younger military members are more likely to still be in active service and are not yet considered veterans.

Veteran-Owned Businesses
- In 2019, there were 2,753 veteran-owned businesses in New Hampshire with paid employees. This represented 9.3 percent of all firms with paid employees.
- Veteran-owned businesses employed 17,654 workers, roughly 2.9 percent of all workers at businesses with paid employees.
- The largest number of veteran-owned firms was in the construction industry. Veteran-owned businesses in the accommodation and food services and professional, scientific, and technical services industries employed the largest number of workers, between 2,500 and 4,999, in 2019.
Labor Force Participation

- The largest number of employed veterans were in the 35 to 54 years age group.
- Labor force participation was highest among veterans age 18 to 34 years, at 93 percent, although veterans in this age range also had the highest unemployment rate, 2.9 percent. This was below the unemployment rate for nonveterans age 18 to 34 years, 3.9 percent.
- While the labor force participation rate among veterans aged 55 to 64 (72 percent) was lower than the participation rate among younger veterans, it was similar to nonveterans in the same age cohort (73 percent).

Disability Status

- Veterans were approximately twice as likely as nonveterans to have a disability.
- Because likelihood of disability increases with age, the high percentage of veterans age 65 or older contributes to this disparity. However, in every age cohort, veterans were more likely to have a disability than nonveterans.
- Among veterans with a disability, 93 percent had a service-connected disability.

Period of Service

- One quarter of New Hampshire veterans served in peace time.
- Among veterans who served during a war era, the largest share, 46 percent, served during the Vietnam Era.
- Veterans of the first Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001, Desert Storm) accounted for 32 percent of New Hampshire veterans who served during a war era.
- Among all New Hampshire veterans, 7,534 served during more than one war era.