A Century of Serving
Size of the U.S. Armed Forces and Number of Veterans Since 1915

A Century of Serving
(Numbers in millions)
- U.S. armed forces

World War I
2.9 million men in arms, 1918

World War II
12.1 million men in arms, 1945

Korean War
3.6 million men in arms, 1952

Surge in American troops in Vietnam
3.5 million men in arms, 1968

All-Volunteer Force
Draft ends. U.S. moves to an all-volunteer force, 1973

Those Who Served
(Numbers in millions)
- U.S. veterans
- Percent of the male 18+ population
- Percent of the female 18+ population

*Note: The 1980 decennial census was the first to ask veteran status of both men and women.