

Veterans Day 2017: Nov. 11

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary marking the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars. The day honors military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation and a remembrance ceremony takes place at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. The ceremony honors and thanks all who served in the U.S. armed forces.

The following facts are made possible by the invaluable responses to the U.S. Census Bureau’s surveys. We appreciate the public’s cooperation as we continuously measure America’s people, places and economy.

Veterans

18.5 million

The number of military veterans in the United States in 2016.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/DP02

1.6 million

The number of female veterans in the United States in 2016.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/B21001

11.6%

The percentage of veterans in 2016 who were black. Additionally, 78.0 percent were non-Hispanic white, 1.6 percent were Asian, 0.7 percent were American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.2 percent were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 1.3 percent were some other race. (The numbers for blacks, non-Hispanic whites, Asians, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and some other race cover only those reporting a single race.)

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/S2101

6.5%

The percentage of veterans in 2016 who were Hispanic.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/S2101

9.2 million

The number of veterans age 65 and older in 2016. At the other end of the age spectrum, 1.6 million were younger than age 35.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/S2101

When They Served

6.7 million

The number of Vietnam Era veterans in 2016. Moreover, there were 7.1 million who served during the Gulf War (representing service from August 1990 to present); 768,000 who served in World War II; 1.6 million who served in the Korean War; and 2.4 million who served in peacetime only.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/S2101

The number of living veterans in 2016 who served during three wartime periods:

- 65,562 served during the Vietnam Era and both periods of the Gulf War (August 1990 to August 2001 and September 2001 or later).
- 25,703 served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam Era.

The number of living veterans in 2016 who served during two wartime periods:

- 1,150,328 served during both periods of the Gulf War (August 1990 to August 2001 and September 2001 or later).
- 285,649 served during the Gulf War (August 1990 to August 2001) and the Vietnam Era.
- 140,101 served during the Korean War and the Vietnam Era.
- 56,105 served during World War II and the Korean War.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/B21002

Where They Live

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The number of states with 1.0 million or more veterans in 2016. These states were California (1.6 million), Texas (1.5 million) and Florida (1.4 million).

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/S2101/0100000US.04000

Education

28.3%

The percentage of veterans 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2016. In comparison, 31.5 percent of nonveterans had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/S2101

Income

\$40,076

The annual median income of male veterans in 2016, compared with \$35,365 for male nonveterans.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/B21004

\$34,178

The annual median income of female veterans in 2016, compared with \$23,445 for female nonveterans.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/B21004

On the Job

7.2 million

The number of veterans 18 to 64 years old in the labor force in 2016. Of those veterans, 6.8 million were employed.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

http://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/C21005

Service-Connected Disabilities

4.0 million

The number of veterans with a service-connected disability rating in 2016. Of this number, 1.3 million had a rating of 70.0 percent or higher. A "service-connected" disability is one that was a result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Severity of one's disability is scaled from 0.0 to 100.0 percent, and eligibility for compensation depends on one's rating.

Source: 2016 American Community Survey

https://factfinder.census.gov/bk/mk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_1YR/B21100

Voting

14.4 million

The number of veterans who voted in the 2016 presidential election. In that election, 69.6 percent of veterans cast a ballot, compared with 60.6 percent of nonveterans. These rates reflect the citizen voting-age population.

Source: Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Veteran Status, and Age: November 2016, Table 13

www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-580.html

Business Owners

398,453

The number of all U.S. employer firms that are majority owned by veterans. Veteran-owned firms comprised 7.2 percent of the nation's 5.5 million employer businesses.

Source: 2015 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ase.html

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)	Labor Day (1st Monday in September)
Super Bowl (first Sunday in February)	Grandparents Day (1st Sunday after Labor Day)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Women's History Month (March)	Unmarried and Single Americans Week (3rd week of September)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/ St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Earth Day (April 22)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Older Americans Month (May)	Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)
Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May)	The Holiday Season (December)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)	
Father's Day (third Sunday in June)	
The Fourth of July (July 4)	
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)	
Back to School (August)	

Editor's note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines.

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