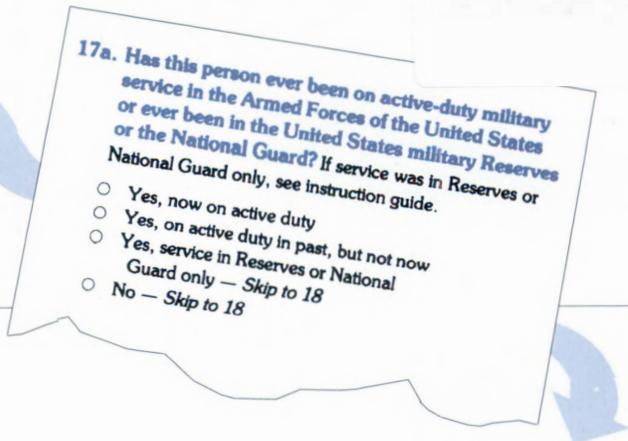


We asked... You told us

Veterans

The Census Bureau conducts a census of population and housing every 10 years. This bulletin is one of a series that shows the questions asked in the 1990 census and the answers that you, the American people, gave. Each bulletin focuses on a question or group of questions appearing on the 1990 census questionnaires.



In question 17a on the 1990 census forms, we asked people if they had ever been on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or served in the military Reserves or National Guard.

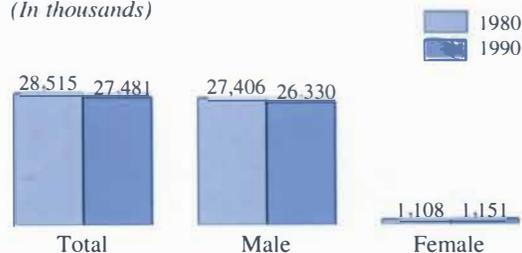
Veteran Status

From what you told us, we learned that:

- About 27.5 million Americans were veterans¹ in 1990 or roughly 1 in every 7 civilians 16 years and over (see chart).
- The total veteran population declined by nearly 4 percent between 1980 and 1990, due entirely to the drop in the number of male veterans, which fell from 27.4 million in 1980 to 26.3 million in 1990.² During this time, the number of female veterans increased by 4 percent, from 1.1 to 1.2 million.
- Men still made up the overwhelming majority of the veteran population in 1990—96 percent—about the same proportion as in 1980.
- Nearly 1 of every 3 civilian males 16 years and over was a veteran in 1990, compared with about 1 of every 100 corresponding females.

Total Veteran Population Declined During 1980s

Civilian Veterans 16 Years and Over: 1980 and 1990
(In thousands)

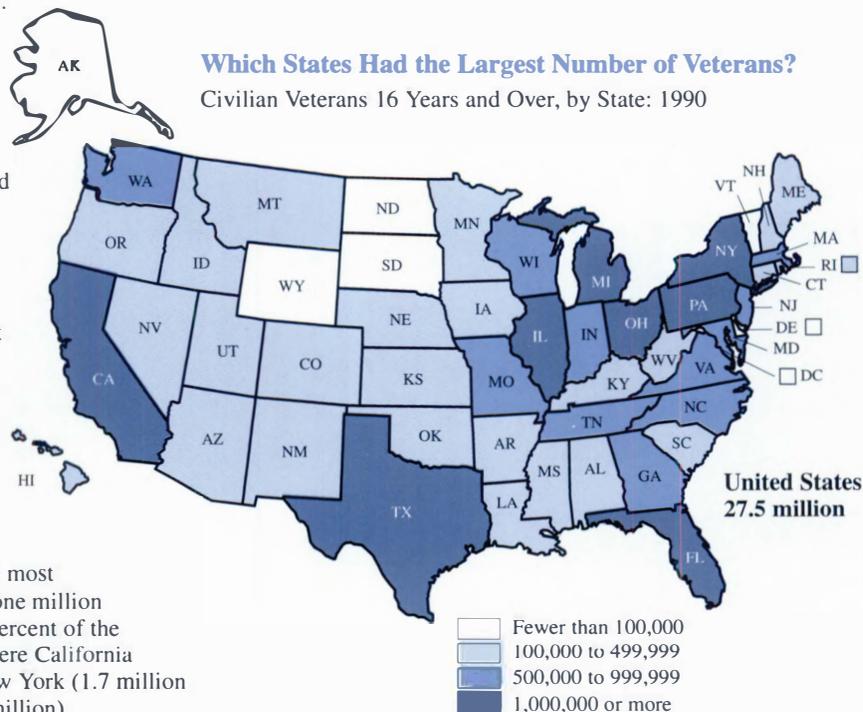


Where Did Veterans Live?

- Among regions, the South had both the largest veteran population in 1990—at 9.5 million or about 35 percent of all veterans—and fastest growth in veterans between 1980 and 1990 (5 percent). For the population as a whole, the South was also the largest region in 1990, but the West showed the largest growth over the 10-year period.
- Not surprisingly, veterans tended to live in the most populous States. Eight States had more than one million veterans each and together accounted for 47 percent of the veteran population (see map). These States were California (3.0 million veterans), Texas, Florida, and New York (1.7 million each), Pennsylvania (1.5 million), Ohio (1.3 million), Illinois (1.2 million), and Michigan (1.0 million).
- Thirty-three States showed declines in their veteran populations over the 1980-90 decade; only five of these States experienced overall population declines.

Which States Had the Largest Number of Veterans?

Civilian Veterans 16 Years and Over, by State: 1990



Census Trivia: According to the 1990 census, which State had the highest percentage of veterans? Which one(s) had the lowest? (Answer on reverse.)

¹ The Census Bureau defined a civilian veteran as a person 16 years and over who had served on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard and who was not currently on active duty in the Armed Forces.

² Information on gender was collected from question 3. (See CQC-3, *Gender*.)

When Did Veterans Serve?

For persons who answered in question 17a that they were “now on active duty” or had been on “active duty in the past,” we asked their period(s) of service (question 17b) and length of time they had served (17c).

- You told us that in 1990, veterans who had served during World War II totaled nearly 9.0 million (see chart). They outnumbered those who had served in the Vietnam era, with 8.2 million veterans.
- In 1990, there were also 4.9 million Korean-conflict veterans. World War I veterans numbered only about 62,000.
- The table below shows veterans who served in more than one wartime period of service. For example, over a half million veterans (586,000), or 2 percent of all veterans, served in *both* Vietnam and Korea. Similarly, another 2 percent, or 625,000 veterans, served in *both* Korea and World War II.
- The table also provides information on the peacetime service of veterans. It shows, for instance, that 3.4 million veterans were on active duty sometime during the period between May 1975 and the 1990 census.

Years of Military Service

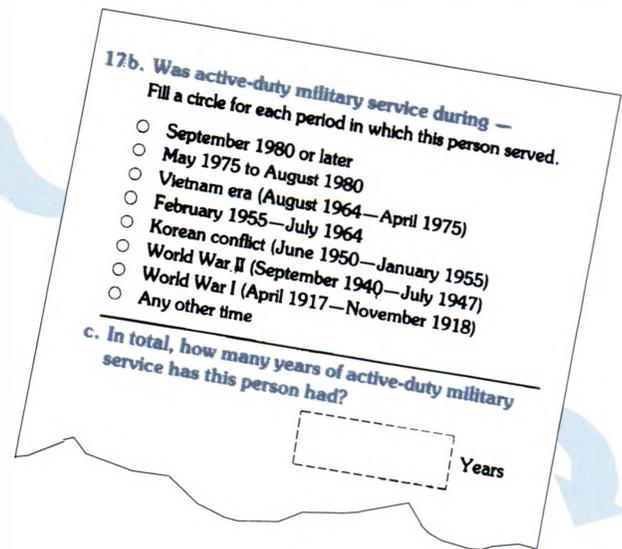
- In 1990, the majority of veterans—about 84 percent—had served fewer than 5 years in the Armed Forces on active duty. Only 3 percent had served 20 years or more.

Period of Service	Number (thousands)	Percent
All civilian veterans	27,481	100.0
May 1975 to April 1990 only (peacetime)	3,352	12.2
Vietnam era, <i>no</i> Korean conflict	7,647	27.8
Vietnam era <i>and</i> Korean conflict	586	2.1
February 1955 to July 1964 only (peacetime)	2,944	10.7
Korean conflict, <i>no</i> World War II	3,721	13.5
Korean conflict <i>and</i> World War II	625	2.3
World War II, <i>no</i> Korean conflict	8,345	30.4
World War I	62	.2
Other peacetime service	199	.7

Who Uses This Information? Just a few examples:

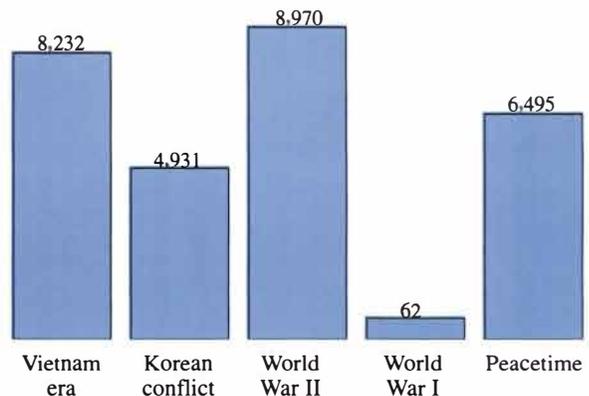
- Federal Government to establish baseline data for veteran population projections and to report to Congress on the needs of selected groups of veterans such as Vietnam era and female veterans
- State and local governments to determine veteran needs for employment and social services
- Private organizations to provide veteran support services and promote the need for veteran services and facilities

Trivia Answer: About 20 percent of civilians 16 years and over in Nevada were veterans in 1990, the highest of any State. The District of Columbia and New York had the lowest, with around 12 percent.



World War II Vets Outnumbered Vietnam Vets in 1990

Period of Service of Civilian Veterans 16 Years and Over: 1990 (In thousands. Persons serving in two wartime periods are included in both periods)



Want to Know More?

Consult the series of 1990 census reports, CP-2, *Social and Economic Characteristics*, at a large public or university library. Also for sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). Or call:

- Customer Services at the Census Bureau, **301-457-4100**, for ordering information about the GPO reports listed above or to order copies of CQC bulletins or other Census Bureau products
- Karen Mills, **301-457-3953**, for general information on CQC bulletins
- Thomas Palumbo, **301-763-8330**, for more information on veterans



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