



Unemployment Rates of Veterans: 2000 to 2009

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

October 2010

Data Source and Methods

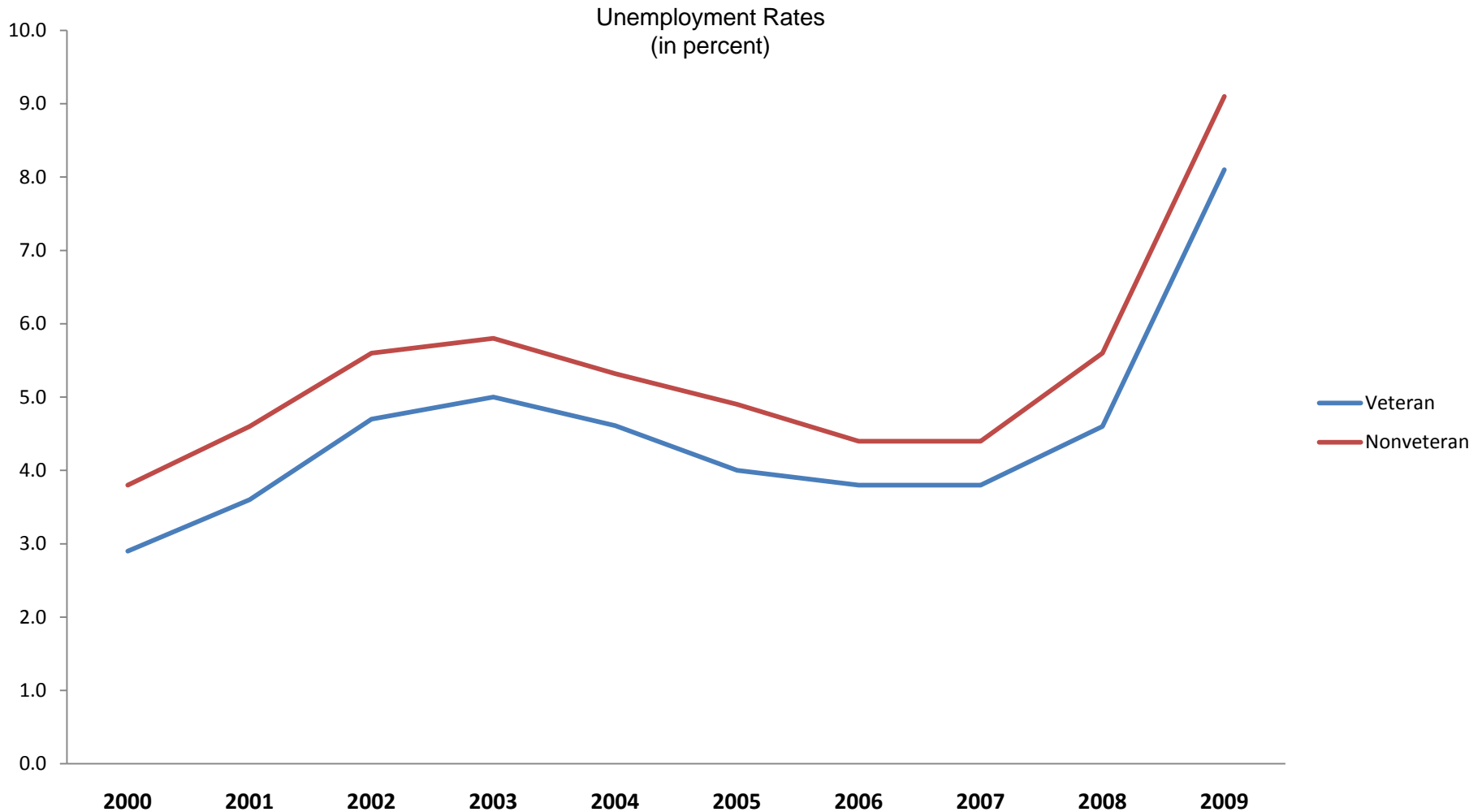
- Data for this analysis come from 10 years of Current Population Survey (CPS) data.
 - The CPS is the official source of employment statistics for the nation.
 - The CPS is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Unemployment rates were calculated as annual averages.
- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

What is an unemployment rate?

- Individuals are classified as **unemployed** if they meet all of the following criteria:
 - (1) They were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week.
 - (2) They were looking for work during the last 4 weeks.
 - (3) They were available to start a job.
- The **unemployment rate** represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force. For example, if the civilian labor force equals 100 people and 7 people are unemployed, then the unemployment rate would be 7 percent.
- The **civilian labor force** is the total employed and unemployed population. Active-duty military are excluded.

Annual Unemployment Rates of the Total Population 18 Years and Older by Veteran Status

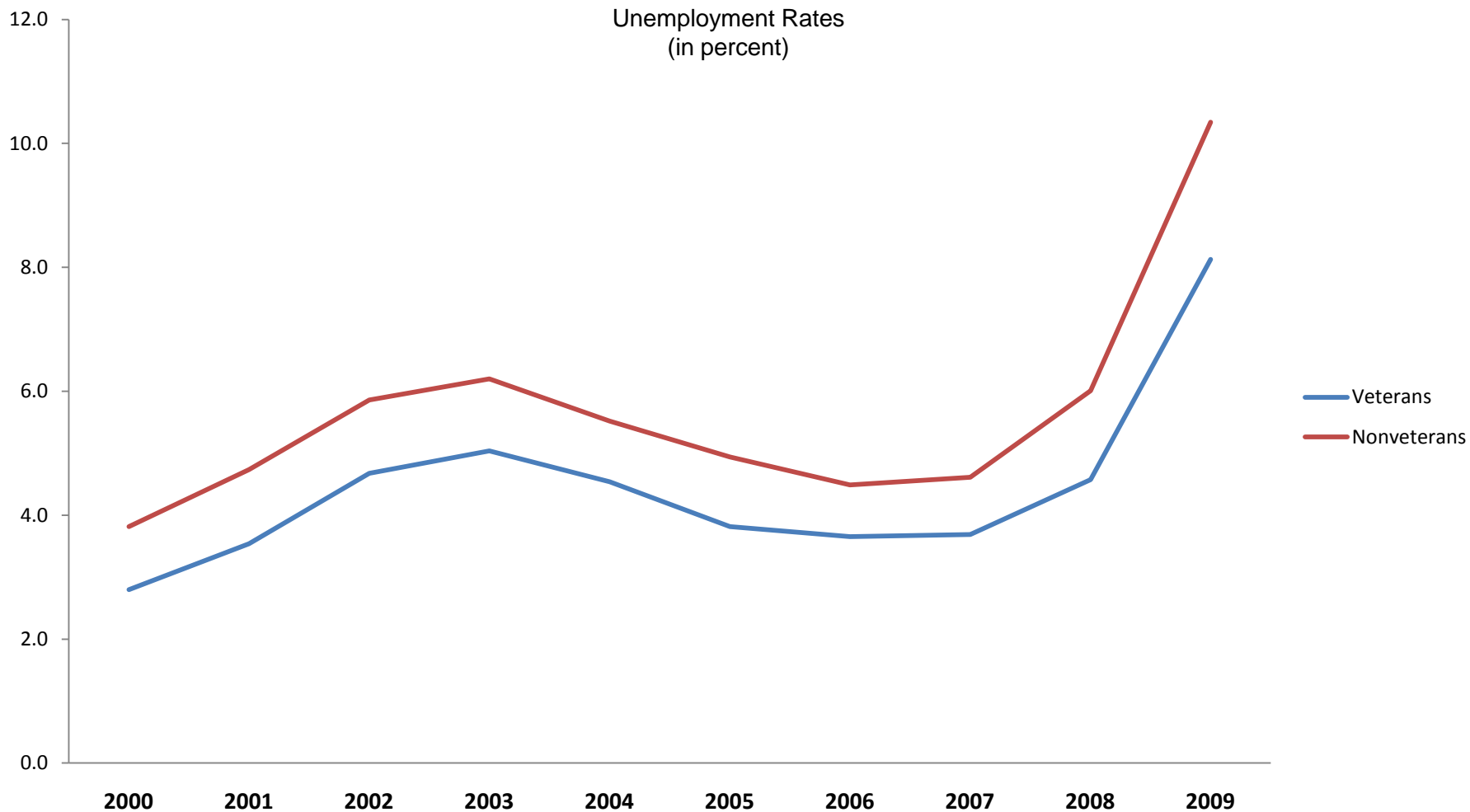
Overall, Veterans had lower unemployment rates every year compared with nonveterans.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, annual averages 2000 to 2009.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Annual Unemployment Rates of Men 18 Years and Older by Veteran Status

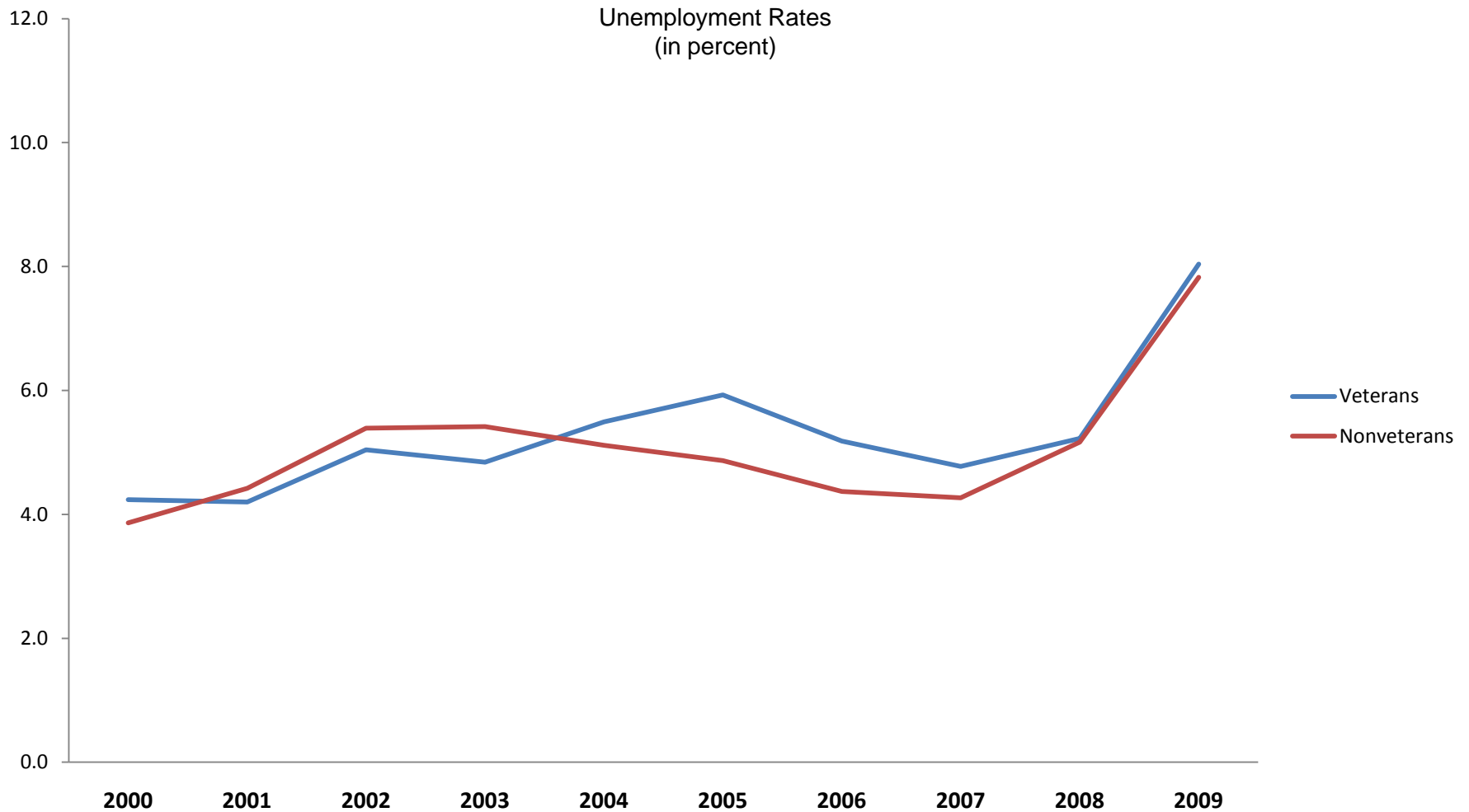
Male Veterans had lower unemployment rates than their nonveteran counterparts. Male Veterans make up about 93 percent of the Veteran population.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, annual averages 2000 to 2009.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Annual Unemployment Rates of Women 18 Years and Older by Veteran Status

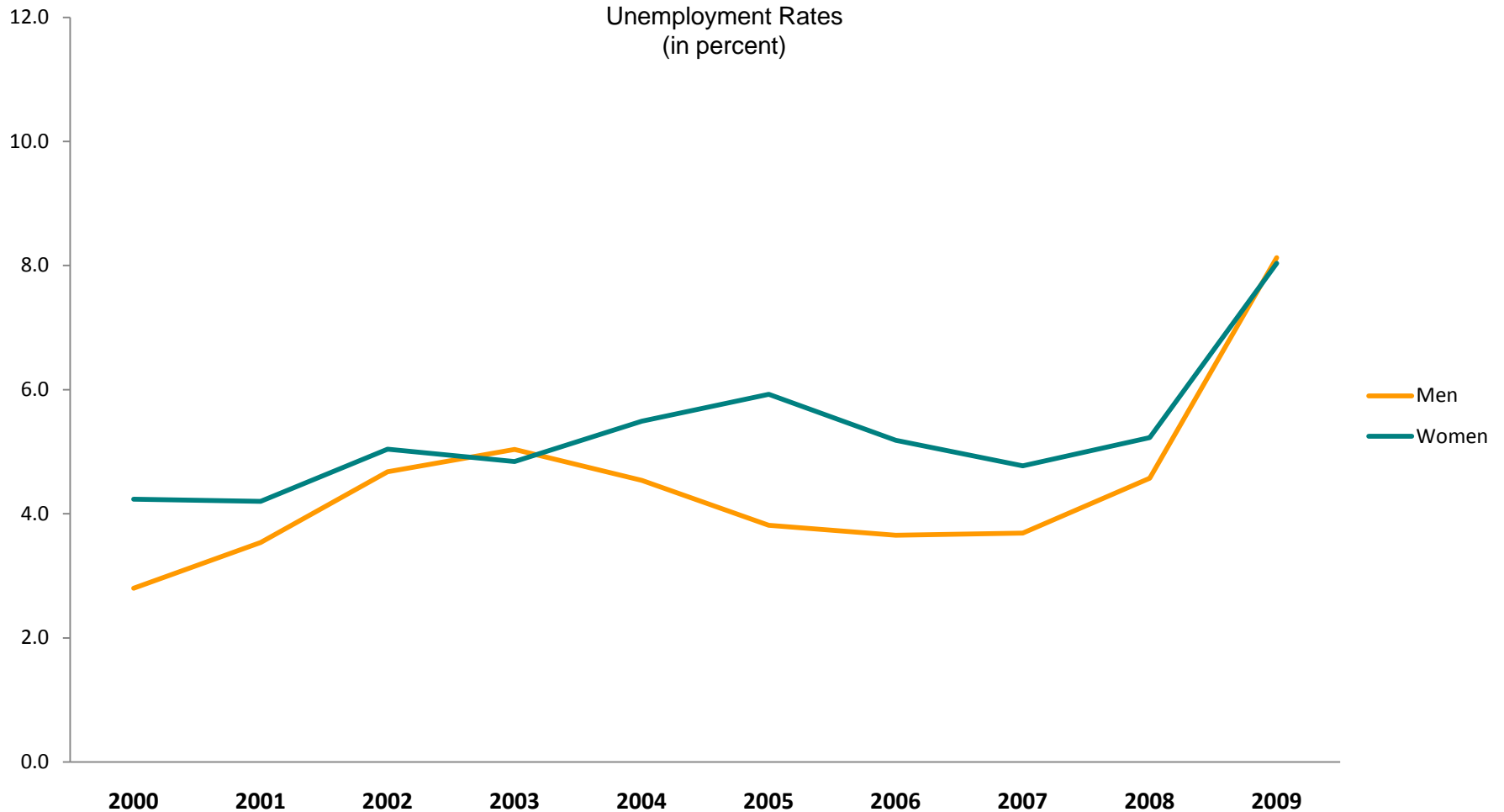
The unemployment rates of women Veterans and nonveterans were not statistically different during the decade.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, annual averages 2000 to 2009.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Annual Unemployment Rates of Veterans 18 Years and Older by Sex

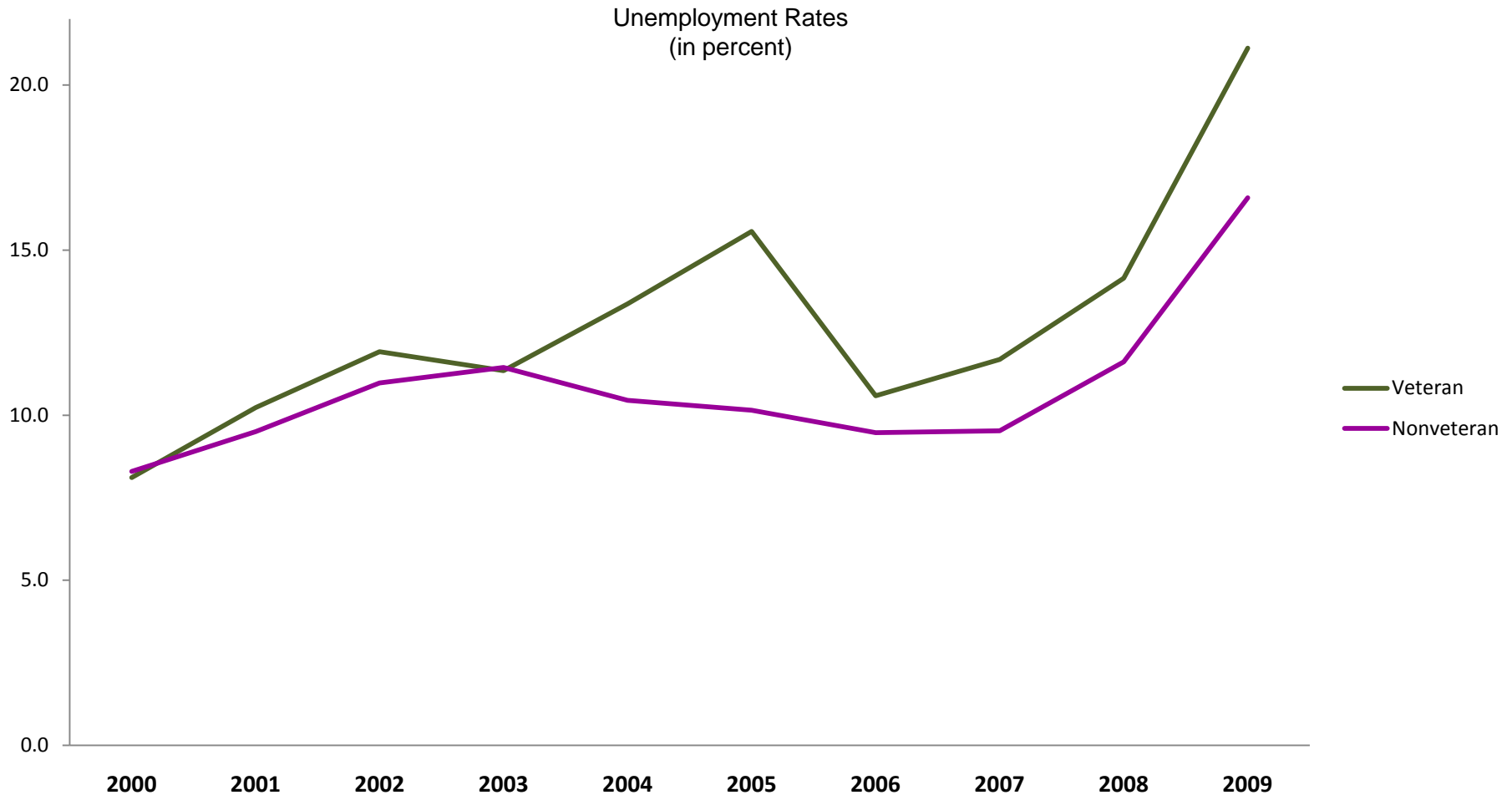
Female Veterans had higher unemployment rates than male Veterans in 2005. Otherwise, their unemployment rates were similar to those of male Veterans.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, annual averages 2000 to 2009.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

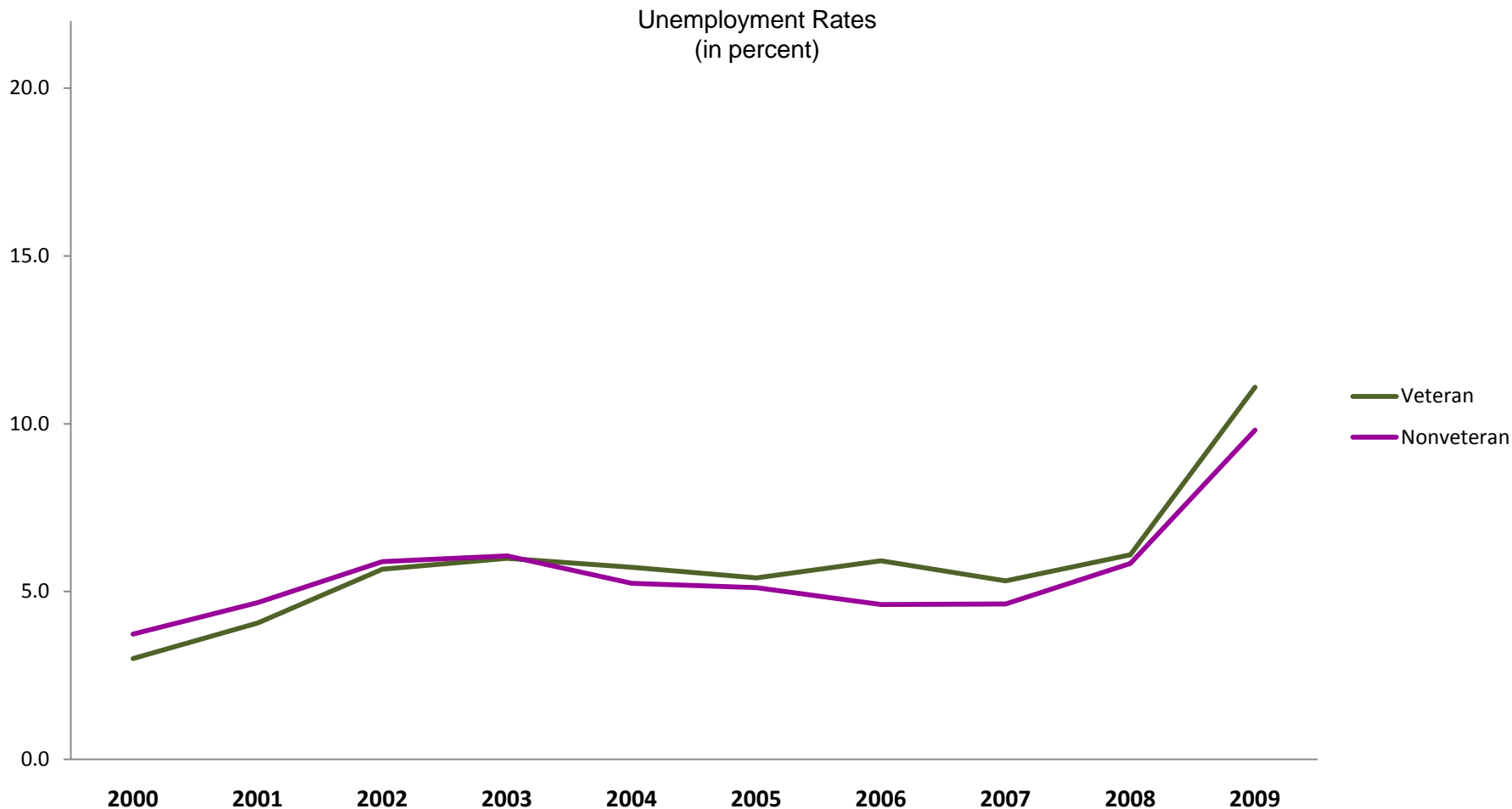
Unemployment Rates of the Population 18 to 24 Years Old by Veteran Status

The unemployment rates of 18- to 24-year old Veterans and nonveterans were not statistically different for any year. This is due to small sample sizes for Veterans in this age group. Small samples yield larger standard errors. This youngest age group of both Veterans and nonveterans had the highest unemployment rates overall.



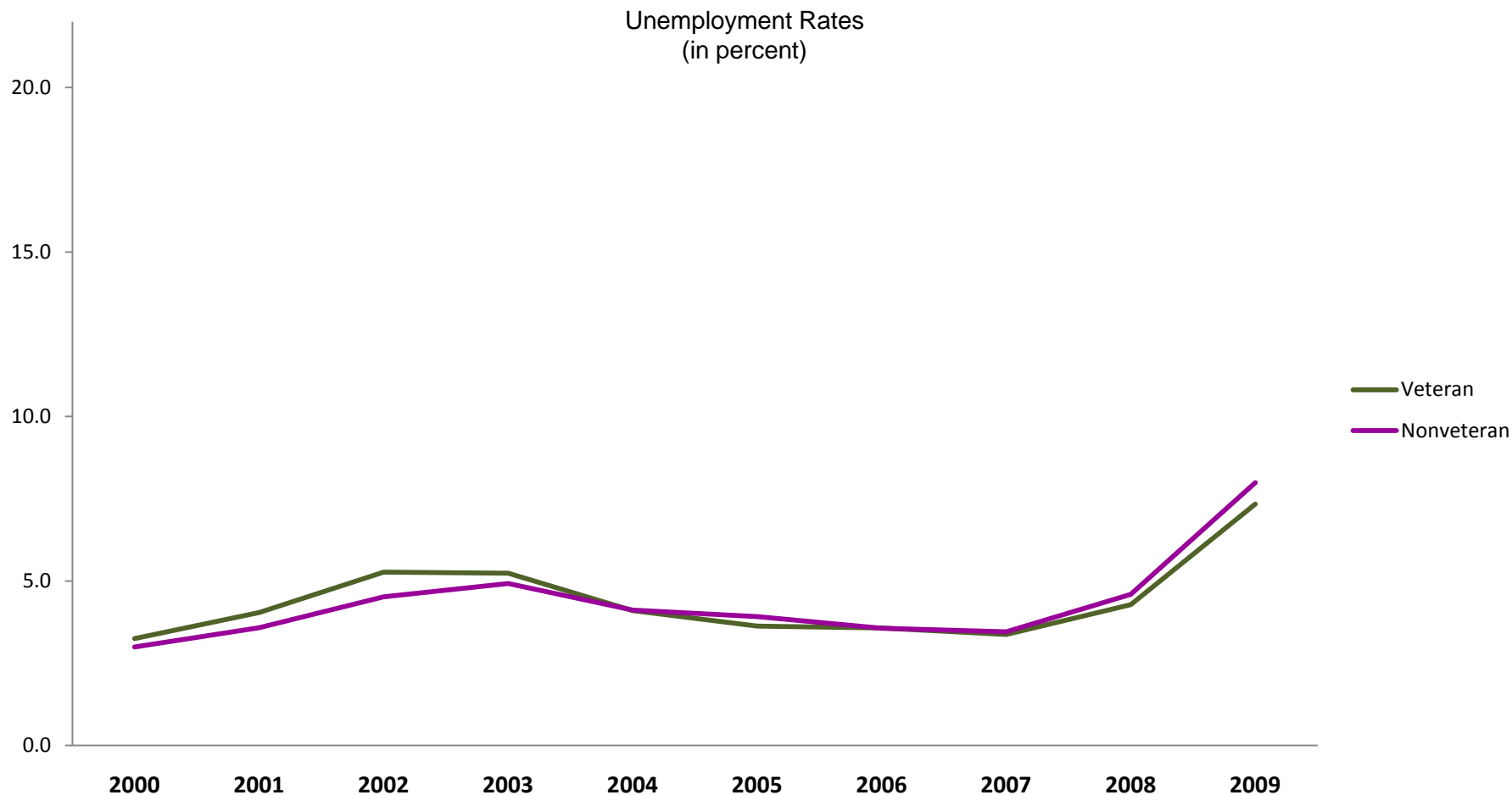
Unemployment Rates of the Population 25 to 34 Years Old by Veteran Status

Unemployment rates for 25- to 34-year old Veterans and nonveterans were similar over the decade.



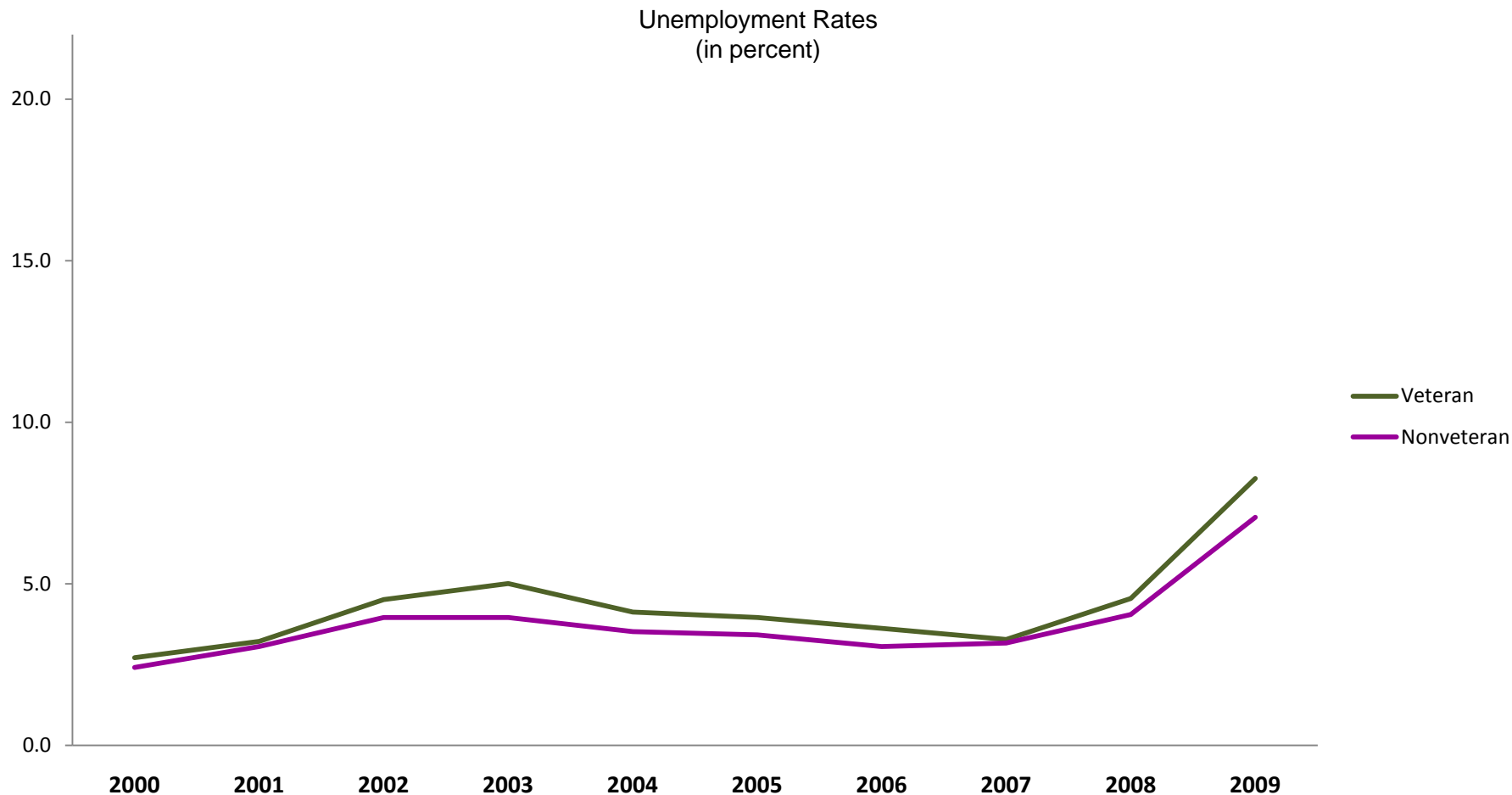
Unemployment Rates of the Population 35 to 44 Years Old by Veteran Status

Unemployment rates for 35- to 44-year old Veterans and nonveterans were similar over the decade.



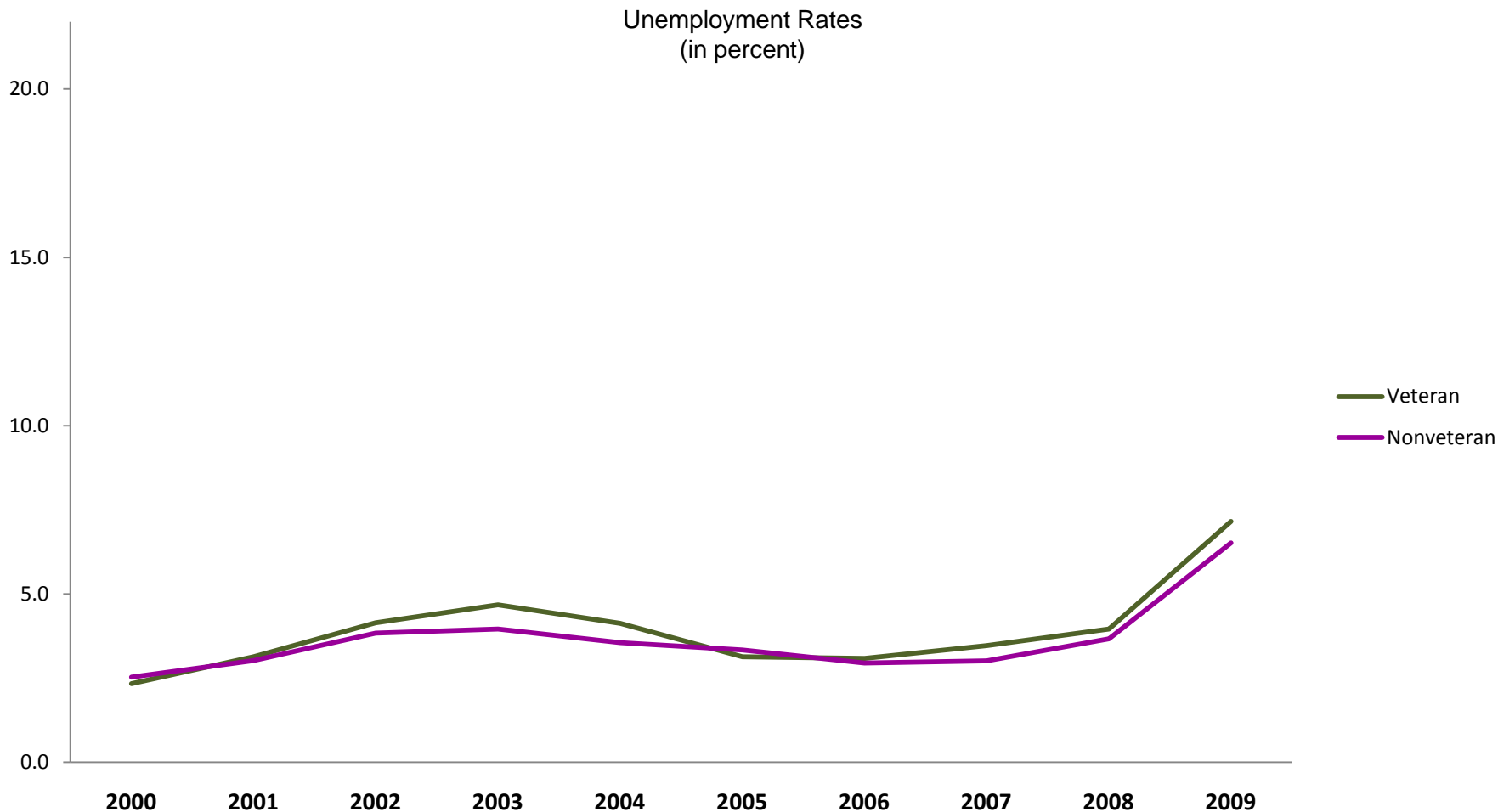
Unemployment Rates of the Population 45 to 54 Years Old by Veteran Status

Unemployment rates for 45- to 54-year old Veterans and nonveterans were similar over the decade.



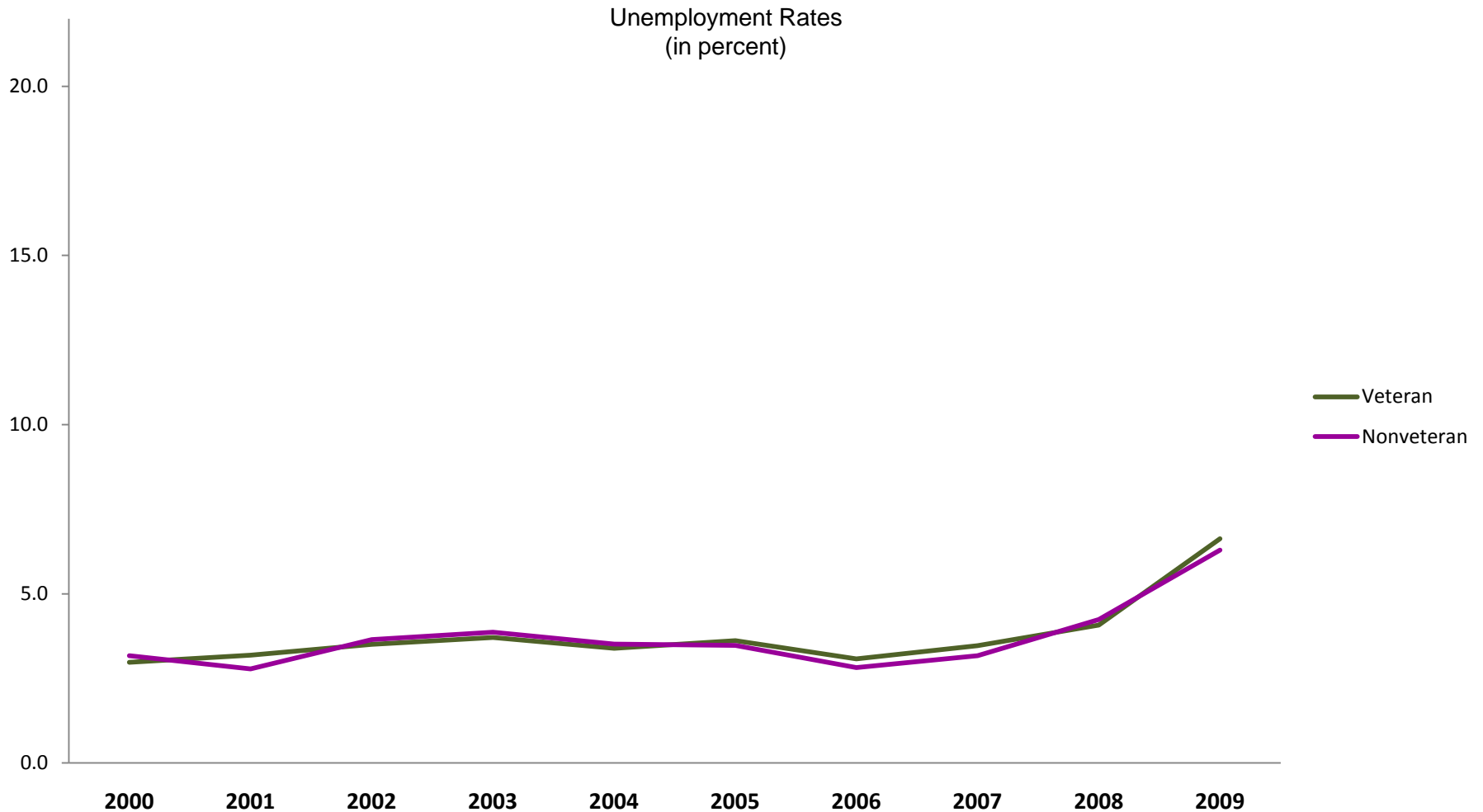
Unemployment Rates of the Population 55 to 64 Years Old by Veteran Status

Unemployment rates for 55- to 64-year old Veterans and nonveterans were similar over the decade.



Unemployment Rates of the Population 65 Years and Older by Veteran Status

Unemployment rates for Veterans and nonveterans 65 years and older were similar over the decade.



Summary

Overall, Veterans had lower unemployment rates than nonveterans during the period 2000 to 2009. Both groups experienced their highest rates of unemployment following the 2001-2002 recession and, more dramatically, during the current 2008-2009 recession.

Much has been written about the effects of the current economic downturn on certain groups within the population. There is evidence that the economic downturn has affected workers differently depending on their age. Younger workers have experienced especially high rates of unemployment during this period. Data from the Current Population Survey show that both Veterans and nonveterans ages 18 to 24 had the highest unemployment rates in 2008 and 2009.

Younger workers may be having trouble gaining initial entry into the job market. Veterans, in particular, may have trouble translating military skills into civilian terms for employers. Additionally, older workers may be postponing plans for retirement. By holding onto their current jobs, these older workers may be crowding younger workers trying to enter the labor force out of jobs.

Contact Information

Kelly Ann Holder

Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Policy and Planning

National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Kelly.Holder@va.gov

(202)266-4643

For more detailed employment information, please visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics webpage at:

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm#vets>