



Definitions of who is counted as a veteran varies by data source. These data are from the Census Bureau who defines veterans this way: "A "civilian veteran" is a person 18 years old or over who has served (even for a short time), but is 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. People who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians 16 years old and over are classified as nonveterans."

For counties with small populations and small population groups, the margins of error (indicated by a +/- ___) can be quite large.

The **margin of error** tells us how precise the estimate is by indicating the **range within which the estimate most likely falls**.

For help in understanding the margin of error, see the brief Kentucky: By The Numbers publication "[And Now for the Grain of Salt.](#)"

The 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2019-2023) that there were 235,118 (+/- 3,869) veterans in Kentucky. This issue of Kentucky: By The Numbers is in conjunction with the **Kentucky Extension Military Collaborative**. With funding from the UK Engage initiative, the Extension Military Collaborative is designed to increase awareness of the University's military engagement across the Commonwealth through developing a multidisciplinary statewide collaborative. <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/military>

For more info, contact: Nichole Huff, PhD, CFLE, University of Kentucky: nichole.huff@uky.edu

Overview

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total number of Veterans	2,871	+/- 316
Male Veterans	2,561	+/- 313
Female Veterans	310	+/- 111
Percent of civilian population ages 18 and over who are Veterans	8.0%	+/- 0.9

Period of Service

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) Veterans	600	+/- 163
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) Veterans	674	+/- 217
Vietnam era Veterans	1,012	+/- 196
Korean War Veterans	133	+/- 77
World War II Veterans	9	+/- 16

Veterans may have served in more than one period. To see estimates of veterans only serving during peace time, see ACS Table B21002.

Age Groups

	Veterans	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
18-34 years	182	+/- 81
35-54 years	806	+/- 241
55-64 years	396	+/- 147
65-74 years	713	+/- 126
75 years and over	774	+/- 118

Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent of Veterans		Percent of Nonveterans	
		Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
6.3%	+/- 2.8	28.8%	+/- 0.5		
28.1%	+/- 6.9	33.1%	+/- 0.6		
13.8%	+/- 4.6	18.7%	+/- 0.4		
24.8%	+/- 4.4	12.9%	+/- 0.5		
27.0%	+/- 4.0	6.5%	+/- 0.3		



Veterans Across Kentucky

Nelson County



Julie N. Zimmerman, 2025

Kentucky: By The Numbers
<http://kybtn.ca.uky.edu>

Educational Attainment

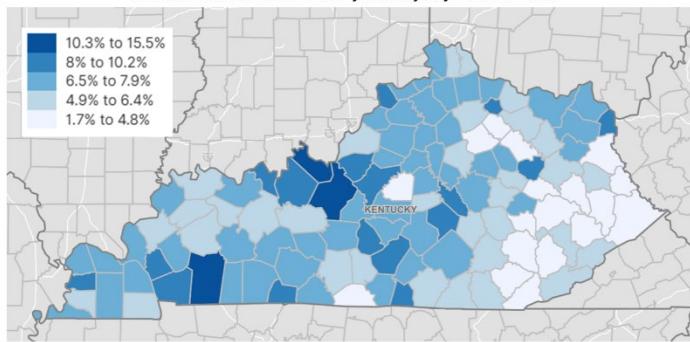
(Population ages 25 and over)	Veterans		Percent of Veterans		Percent of Nonveterans	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Less than high school graduate	134	+/- 65	4.7%	+/- 2.2	8.5%	+/- 1.5
High school graduate (includes equiv.)	998	+/- 180	34.9%	+/- 5.6	37.0%	+/- 2.4
Some college or associate's degree	1,082	+/- 232	37.9%	+/- 6.5	31.6%	+/- 2.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	644	+/- 166	22.5%	+/- 5.2	22.9%	+/- 2.2

Economic Characteristics

	Veterans		Nonveterans	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Poverty Rate	7.0%	+/- 3.5	8.7%	+/- 1.3
Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 18-64 years)	80.9%	+/- 8.6	76.3%	+/- 2.1
Median Income	\$42,696	+/- \$7,587	\$35,054	+/- \$1,734

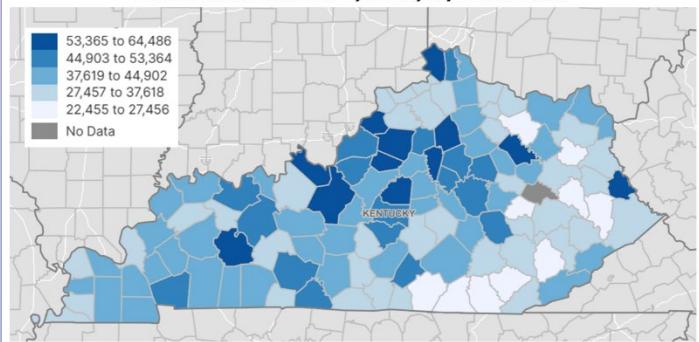
Percent of Civilian Population 18 Years and over who are Veterans

2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates



Median Income of Veterans

2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates



These data are from Table S2101 of the 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates and can be accessed at <https://data.census.gov/>

Kentucky: By The Numbers is an Extension program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension office or Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman, Professor of Rural Sociology, Department of Community and Leadership Development, 500 Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215. email: jzimm@uky.edu. The entire series is online at <http://kybtn.ca.uky.edu>

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