Military Spouse
DEMOGRAPHICS AND EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

POPULATION\(^1\)  
There are approximately 1 million military spouses.  
- Active duty spouses: 624,000.  
- Selected Reserve/National Guard spouses: 372,000.  
*These numbers are based on the assigned duty stations of their Service members.

AGE\(^1\)  
Approximately 50% of Active Duty spouses are under the age of 30.  
Average Active Duty spouse age is 31.5 years old.  
- 25 years of age or younger: 25%  
- 26-30 years of age: 25%  
- 31-35 years of age: 22%  
- 36-40 years of age: 14%  
- 41 years of age or older: 14%

GENDER\(^1\)  
92% of Active Duty spouses are female.  
- 93% of Army spouses are female.  
- 91% of Navy spouses are female.  
- 97% of Marine Corps spouses are female.  
- 89% of Air Force spouses are female.

EDUCATION\(^2\)  
89% of Active Duty spouses have some college education or higher (with 28% having attained a 4-year degree, 14% having an advanced degree).  
- 88% of Army spouses have some college education, with 26% having attained a four-year degree and 14% having an advanced degree.  
- 84% of Navy spouses have some college education, with 31% having attained a four-year degree and 15% having an advanced degree.  
- 82% of Marine Corps spouses have some college education, with 27% having attained a four-year degree and 12% having an advanced degree.  
- 87% of Air Force spouses have some college education, with 29% having attained a four-year degree and 16% having an advanced degree.
EMPLOYMENT
While military spouses are employed in every sector, they predominantly pursue employment in the industries of Health Care, Information Technology, Education and Business Management.

UNEMPLOYMENT
Active Duty spouses have a 24% unemployment rate, which is much higher than national unemployment rate.² Female military spouses earn, on average, 25% less than their civilian counterparts.³

RELOCATION
Military families relocate more than civilian families, moving approximately every 2-3 years.
- 33% of Active Duty spouses reported moving in the last year.²
- Military families relocate 14% more frequently than their civilian counterparts.⁴

CHILDREN
74% of Active duty spouses have children at home.²
- 42% of Active duty military children are 0-5 years of age.²

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT AND LICENSURE
About 53% of Active Duty military spouses are in the workforce (employed or unemployed seeking work).⁵ Approximately 34%⁶ of employed spouses require licenses. Their current professional fields are broken down into the following categories⁷:
- 19% work in health-related services (such as nurses, physical therapists, audiologists/speech pathologists, occupational therapists, mental health counselors, pharmacists, and dental hygienists).
- 10% work in education (such as teachers and administrators).
- 2% work in crafts and trades (such as cosmetologists, aestheticians, electricians, plumbers and construction welders).
- 5% work in other occupations requiring state licenses (such as real estate agents, architects, and accountants).

Data Sources
¹ Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) (Data as of September 2016).
⁶ Ibid, Question 38, page 96.
⁷ Ibid, Question 32, page 84.