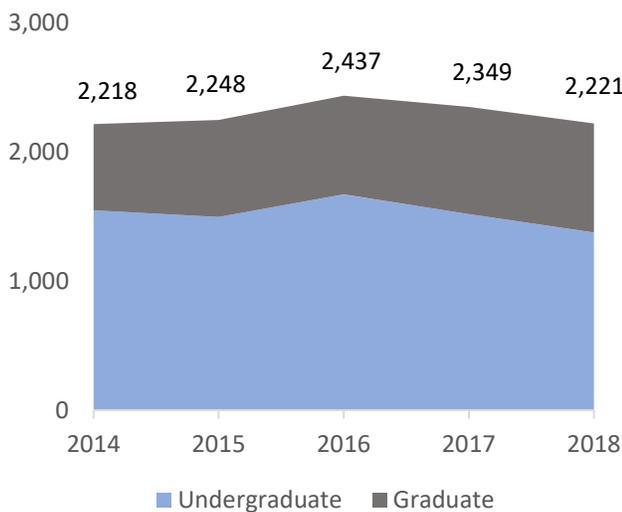


UC's student veteran community

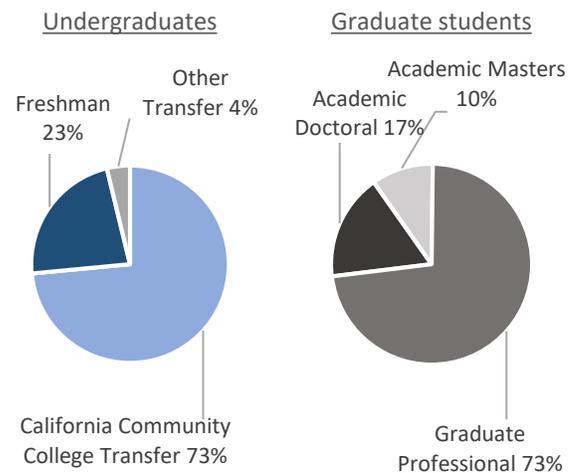
In 2018-19 UC enrolled over 2,200 students who have served in the United States Armed Forces - including veterans, those on active duty, reservists, and members of the National Guard.¹ Almost two-thirds of these students (62 percent) were enrolled at the undergraduate level, with the remainder enrolled in graduate and professional programs. This brief summarizes veteran and military student (henceforth collectively referred to as veterans) enrollment trends, demographic characteristics, fields of study, and graduation outcomes. It also describes their satisfaction with their undergraduate student experience from the 2016 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES). Lastly, this brief highlights the post-graduation employment trajectories for those who work in California.

Between Fall 2014 and Fall 2018, the total number of student veterans enrolled at UC has remained steady at about 2,200 students. Among the undergraduate student population, the number of undergraduate veterans has decreased from 1,550 students in Fall 2014 to 1,377 students in Fall 2018. However, the number of graduate student veterans has increased from 668 students in Fall 2014 to 844 in Fall 2018

UC student veteran total enrollment – Fall 2014-18



UC student veteran enrollment – Fall 2018



In Fall 2018, about three-quarters (77 percent) of undergraduate veterans were transfer students while the 23 percent entered directly from high school. Among graduate student veterans, almost three-quarters (73 percent) were enrolled in graduate professional program while about a quarter were in academic graduate programs (10 percent in academic masters programs and 17 percent in academic doctoral programs). More than half (56 percent) of UC's student veterans were enrolled at three campuses: UCLA, Berkeley, and San Diego.

¹ Veteran and military students were identified through self-report on admissions applications or receipt of qualified military financial aid awards.

UC student veteran enrollment
Headcount and percent share by campus, 2018-19

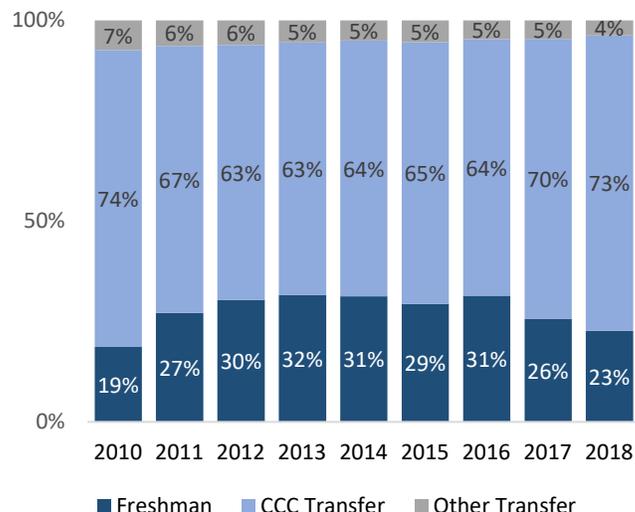
Campus	Undergraduate		Graduate		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Los Angeles	199	14%	253	30%	452	20%
Berkeley	235	17%	195	23%	430	19%
San Diego	261	19%	127	15%	388	17%
Irvine	163	12%	89	11%	252	11%
Davis	161	12%	84	10%	245	11%
Riverside	131	10%	25	3%	156	7%
Santa Barbara	110	8%	7	1%	117	5%
Santa Cruz	79	6%	12	1%	91	4%
San Francisco	0	0%	48	6%	48	2%
Merced	38	3%	4	<1%	42	2%
Systemwide	1,377		844		2,221	

Undergraduate entry pathways

The majority of undergraduate veterans entered UC as community college transfers. Over 70 percent of undergraduate veterans enrolled at UC in 2018-19 originally entered as California Community College transfers.

In terms of the freshman pathway, 23 percent of the undergraduate veterans enrolled in 2018-19 originally entered UC as freshmen, up from 19 percent in 2010—11.

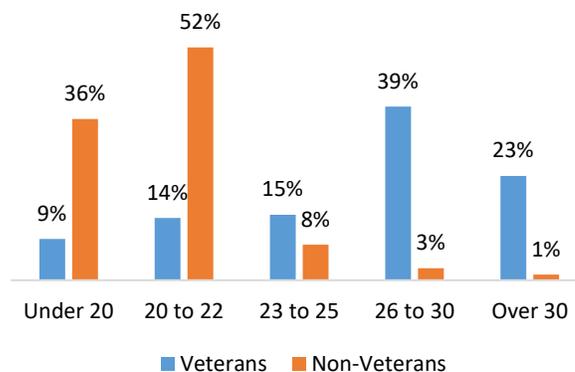
Undergraduate student veteran entry
Fall 2010—Fall 2018



The student veteran profile

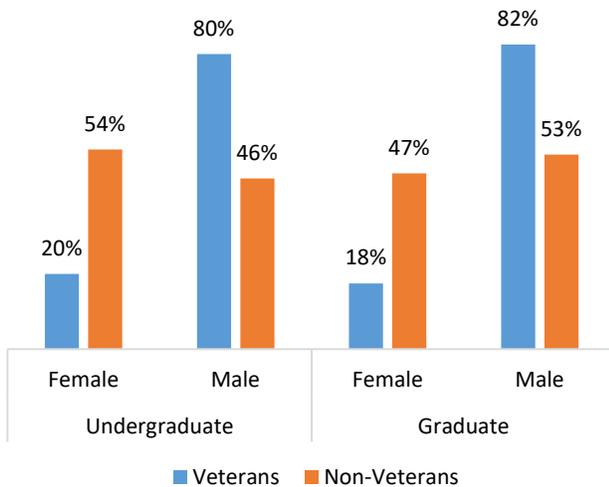
Undergraduate veterans are typically older than their undergraduate peers, likely due to years of military service prior to enrolling in a degree program. More than three-quarters (77 percent) of undergraduate veterans are aged 23 years and older, compared to only 12 percent of non-veteran undergraduates.

UC undergraduates and age groups –
Fall 2018



Undergraduate veterans are predominantly male (80 percent) compared to 46 percent for non-veteran undergraduates. Within the UC graduate student population, student veterans also are predominantly male (82 percent) compared to non-veteran graduate students (53 percent male).

UC undergraduate/graduate students and gender – Fall 2018



In addition, undergraduate veterans are more likely to be white (32 percent) and African American (8 percent) compared to non-veteran undergraduates (22 percent and 4 percent respectively). They are also less likely to be Asian/Pacific Islander (29 percent) compared to non-veteran undergraduates (33 percent).

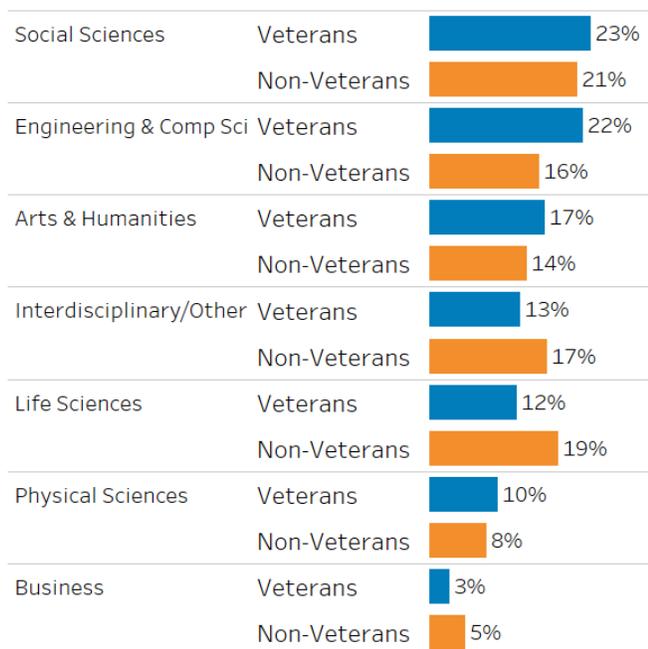
UC undergraduates and race/ethnicity – Fall 2018

Race/Ethnicity	Category	Percentage (%)
White	Veterans	32%
	Non-Veterans	22%
Asian/Pacific Islander	Veterans	29%
	Non-Veterans	33%
Hispanic/Latino(a)	Veterans	25%
	Non-Veterans	24%
African American	Veterans	8%
	Non-Veterans	4%
Unknown	Veterans	3%
	Non-Veterans	3%
International	Veterans	2%
	Non-Veterans	13%
American Indian	Veterans	1%
	Non-Veterans	1%

Most popular programs of study

With a few exceptions, undergraduate veterans' chosen fields of study closely resemble that of non-veteran undergraduates. Veterans were more likely to major in engineering and computer science or physical sciences (32 vs. 24 percent) and less likely to major in life sciences (12 vs 19 percent) compared to non-veteran undergraduates.

UC undergraduates and distribution of majors²—Fall 2018



For graduate student veterans, between Fall 2014 and Fall 2018, the most popular graduate degree programs were Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Masters degree (MA/MS), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Graduate student veterans and distribution of degree types³—Fall 2014-2018



Graduation rates

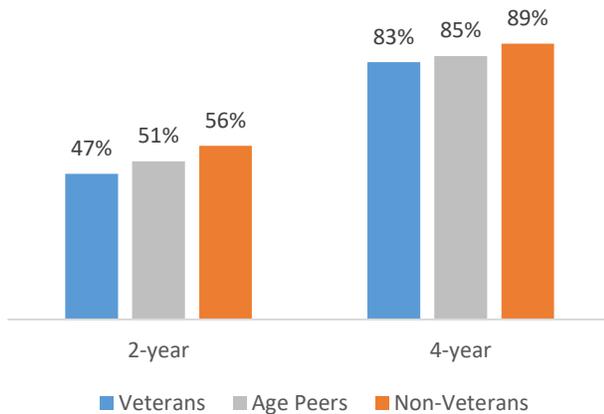
Undergraduate veterans have lower graduation rates than non-veteran undergraduates overall, but more comparable rates to their similarly-aged peer undergraduates. Undergraduate veterans who enter as transfers have lower two-year graduation rates than non-veteran transfer entrants (47 percent vs 56 percent). Their four-year graduation rates are also lower than non-veteran students at 83 percent and 89 percent, respectively. There is a similar difference when comparing freshmen undergraduate veterans with non-veteran freshmen undergraduate entrants. However,

² "Interdisciplinary/Other" includes majors such as Public Health, Public Administration, and Other Health Sciences.

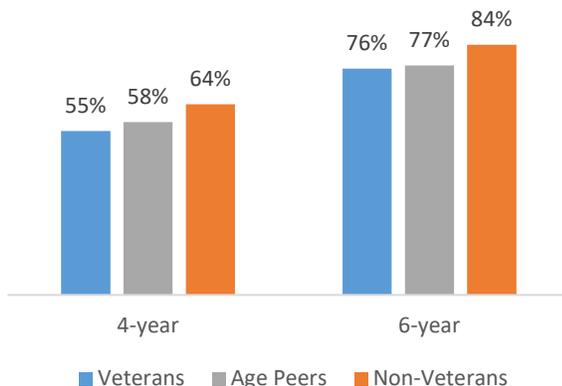
³ "Other" includes degree types such as OD Optometry, MPP Public Policy, and DVM Veterinary Medicine.

undergraduate veteran graduation rates are comparable to other non-traditional undergraduates who do not enter UC directly from high school (e.g., those who delay attending college). For example, the four-year and six-year graduation rates for freshmen who entered at age 20 or older are 58 percent and 77 percent, respectively. These rates are similar to the graduation rates for undergraduate veterans.

Transfer two-year and four-year graduation rates for entering cohorts⁴ between Fall 2011-2015



Freshman four-year and six-year graduation rates for entering cohorts⁵ between Fall 2007-2012



Satisfaction with undergraduate experience and campus climate

While undergraduate veterans report similar levels of satisfaction as non-veteran undergraduates in most aspects of the student experience, they are less likely to be satisfied in some key areas - feeling valued as an individual, feeling a sense of belonging on campus, and that their campus climate is caring. Veterans are, however, more likely to feel that the price of their education is affordable and satisfied with the value of their education relative to the price.

UC's Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) asks students a wide range of questions about campus academic and social life. In the 2016 survey, a total of 496 undergraduate student veterans responded to the survey. Of these respondents, 94 percent were ages 20 years and older. For the non-veteran respondents, 86 percent were 20 years and older. With significant age differences between veteran and non-veteran undergraduate respondents, this brief compares their experiences with the overall sample and also by age.

Students indicated their level of satisfaction with overall academic experience, social experience, and value of education on a scale from 1 to 6, with 1 being very dissatisfied and 6 being very satisfied. The figures about student satisfaction shows the percentages of students who were 'somewhat satisfied,'

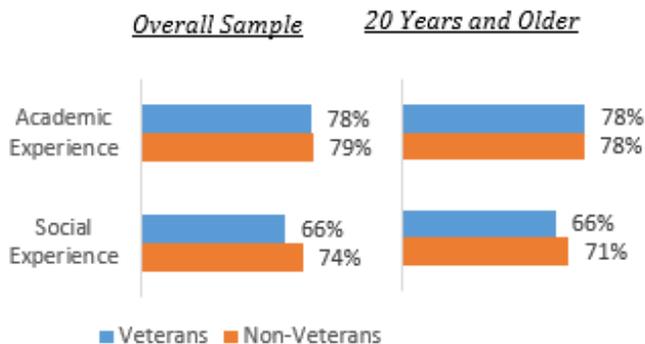
⁴ Age peers are transfer students who entered at age 23 or older.

⁵ Age peers are freshmen who entered at age 20 or older.

‘satisfied,’ or ‘very satisfied.’ As shown in the figure below, undergraduate veterans expressed similar levels of satisfaction with their overall academic experience as non-veteran undergraduates. However, they reported less satisfaction with their overall social experience compared to non-veteran undergraduates. These trends remained the same when focusing on older survey respondents.

Satisfaction with academic and social experience

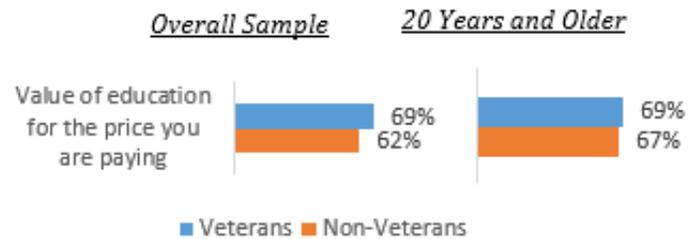
How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your campus experiences/education? (Percent of satisfied students)



Almost 70 percent of undergraduate veterans indicated that they were satisfied with the value of education for the price they are paying, compared to 62 percent for non-veteran undergraduates. For respondents 20 years and older, the difference in percent satisfaction between the two groups becomes smaller.

Satisfaction with value of education

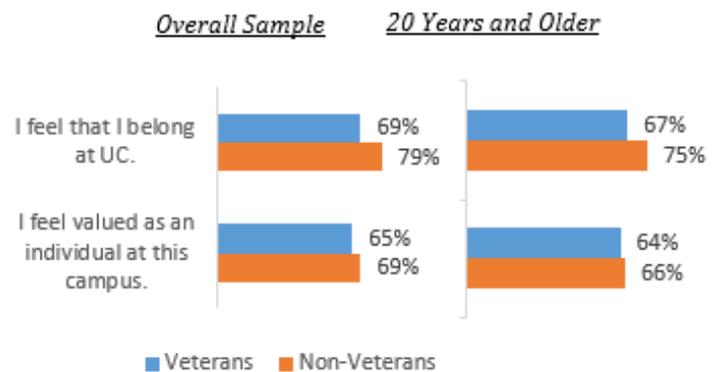
How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your campus experiences/education? (Percent of satisfied students)



Sixty-nine percent of undergraduate veterans indicated that they ‘somewhat agreed,’ ‘agreed,’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that they expressed a sense of belonging on campus, although not as high as non-veteran undergraduates (79 percent). In addition, a high proportion of undergraduate veterans (65 percent) felt valued as an individual on campus. These trends remained the same when focusing on older survey respondents.

Sense of belonging and feeling valued

Please select your level of agreement with the following statements. (Percent of students who agree)

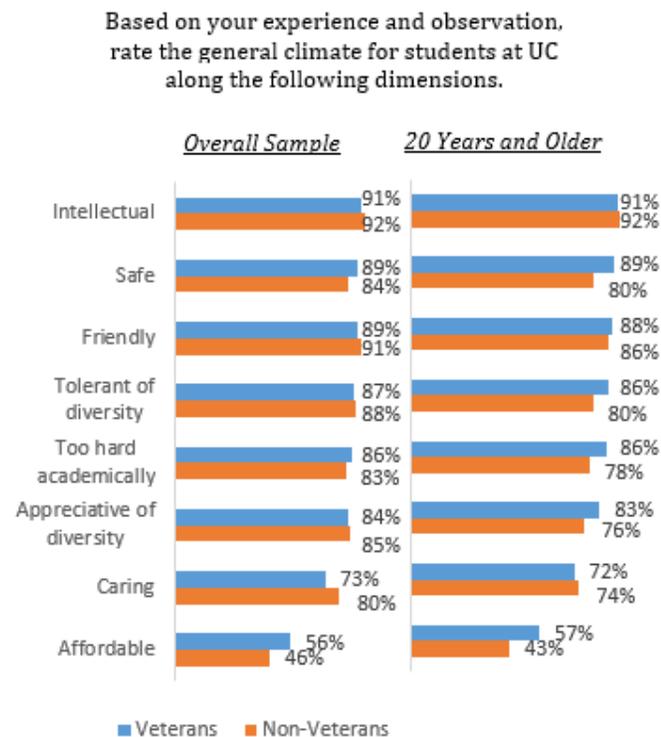


Campus climate

Undergraduates were asked to rate the general climate for students at UC on a scale from 1 to 6, with 6 being the highest score for being 'intellectual,' 'safe,' 'friendly,' 'tolerant of diversity,' and so on. The figure on campus climate shows the percentages of students who gave a rating of 4 or above on the different dimensions.

The campus climate figure shows that the majority of undergraduate veterans gave high ratings for campus climate, and those ratings were similar to the ratings given by non-veteran undergraduates.

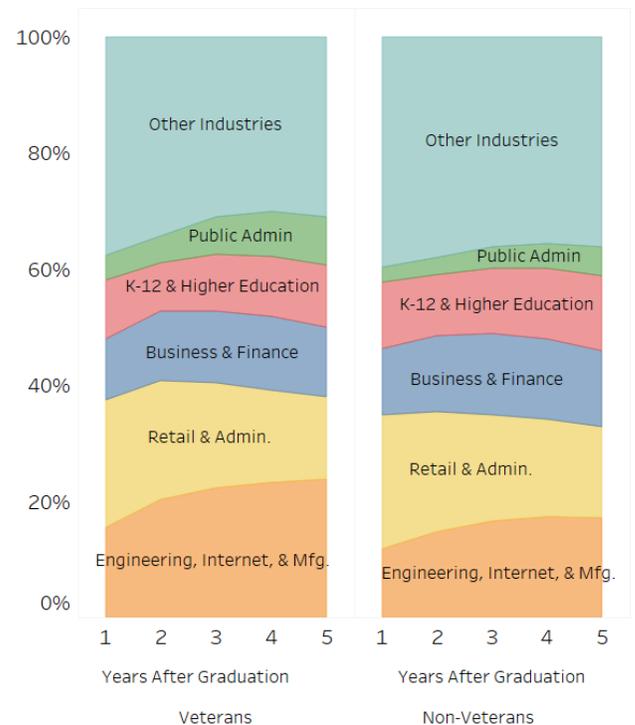
Campus climate along different dimensions



Undergraduate veteran alumni in the California workforce

UC's undergraduate veteran alumni go on to contribute to California's economy and workforce in key areas. About a quarter (24 percent) of veteran bachelor's degree recipients employed in the state go on to work in industries of engineering, internet, and manufacturing (compared to 17 percent of non-veteran undergraduate alumni). About 14 percent go on to work in retail, administrative, and support services, while 12 percent work in business and finance. In addition, undergraduate veteran alumni are almost twice as likely to work in the industry of public administration as non-veteran undergraduate alumni.

California industry of employment of UC undergraduate alumni



UC undergraduate veteran alumni who go on to work in California experience wage growth. They earn, on average, almost \$50,000 two years after graduating and entering the California workforce, and they progress to more than \$95,000 within ten years. This earnings trajectory is similar to non-veteran undergraduate alumni. Undergraduate veteran alumni earn slightly lower than non-veteran alumni in later years, likely due to differences in industry of employment (veteran alumni are more likely to work in public service).

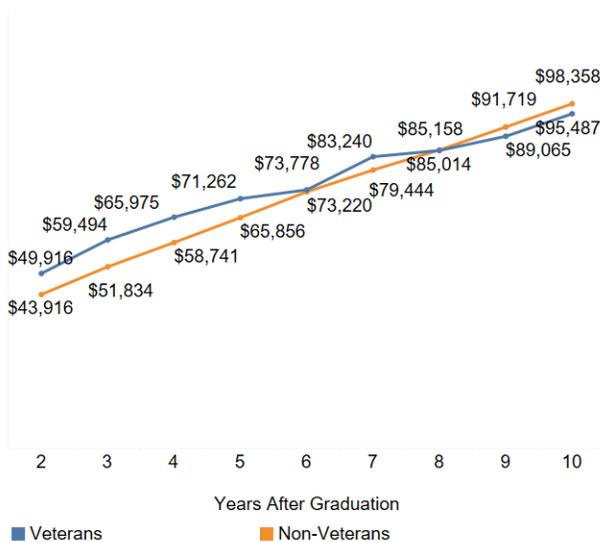
while they have slightly lower graduation rates than other undergraduates, their graduation rates are comparable to other non-traditional students who do not enter UC directly from high school.

Undergraduate veterans' satisfaction with their student experience highlights some areas of success and potential need. Veterans are more likely to feel that the price of their education is affordable and satisfied with the value of their education relative to the price.

Undergraduate veterans also report similar levels of satisfaction as non-veteran students in a range of aspects of the student experience, including academics, friendly environment, and tolerance and appreciation of diversity. However, undergraduate veterans are less likely to be satisfied in some important areas, such as the overall social experience, feeling a sense of belonging on campus, feeling valued as an individual, and that their campus climate is caring.

After graduating from UC, undergraduate veteran alumni who work in California contribute to the state's economy and workforce, mostly within the industries of engineering, internet, and manufacturing, and they are twice as likely to work in public administration as non-veteran undergraduate alumni. Additionally, undergraduate veteran alumni achieve wage growth on par with other students within ten years after graduation.

Earnings of UC undergraduate alumni working in California



Looking forward

UC enrolled over 2,200 students who have served in the United States Armed Forces with the majority of these students enrolled at the undergraduate level. Veteran undergraduates differ somewhat demographically from other UC undergraduates – they are typically older, are predominantly male, and tend to enter UC as community college transfers. And