

At year-end for workers, it's ho ho ho hum

Nonfarm payroll jobs decreased in November to 315,000—a drop of more than 1,000 jobs since January. But the total number of employed Vermonters, both payroll workers and those who are self-employed, has held steady for most of 2016, up less than 1 percent

	NOV 2016	OCT 2016	NOV 2015
Labor Force	344,758	345,004	343,279
Employment	333,872	333,682	331,032
Unemployment	10,886	11,322	12,247
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.3%	3.6%

since the start of the year.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment ticks up, jobs down

Vermont nonfarm payroll jobs vs. people employed, 2016



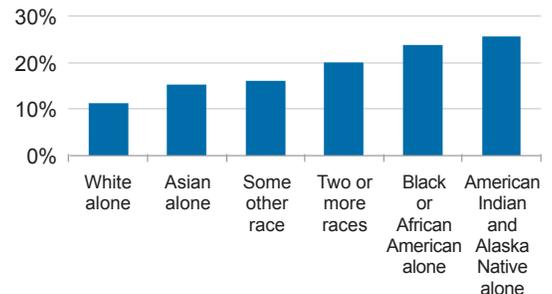
Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Race matters

Newly released U.S. Census data show that nearly a quarter of black Vermonters live in poverty, as do 20 percent of those who check two or more races on the Census form. More than a quarter of the 1,900 American Indians and Alaska Natives in Vermont are poor—the highest percentage of any category. The poverty rate is lowest for white Vermonters: 11 percent. Although the sample size for nonwhites is small, the estimates take in five years of data, increasing the reliability of the picture.

Vermonters of color are more likely to be poor

Poverty rate by race, 2015



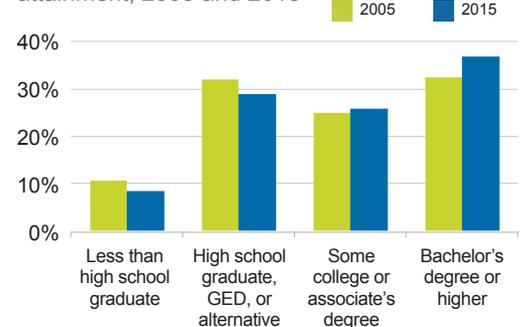
Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, 5-year estimates

More college degrees

More Vermonters had high school diplomas in 2015 than a decade earlier. Since 2005, the proportion of Vermonters without a high school degree has shrunk, while the share with a four-year college degree has grown. The U.S. as a whole has also seen improvement in both the share completing high school and those finishing college, but Vermont remains better educated than the nation.

Vermont is better educated than 10 years ago

Share of Vermonters by educational attainment, 2005 and 2015



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2015, 1-year estimates