

## Progress is Sputtering for Vermont's Jobless

Vermont's labor force continued to shrink in April. While there were fewer people officially unemployed—which helped to push down the unemployment rate—the number of Vermonters who had jobs also decreased. Seasonally adjusted employment in April was down slightly from January, but

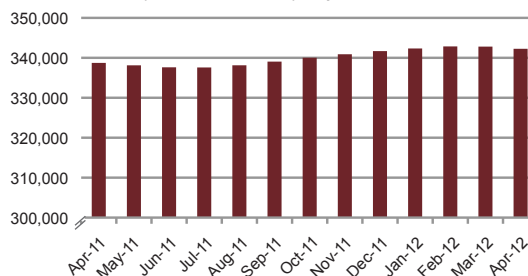
up about 3,500 from April 2011.

	Apr 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2011
Labor Force	358,754	359,922	359,110
Employment	342,260	342,807	338,729
Unemployment	16,494	17,115	20,381
Rate	4.6%	4.8%	5.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Employment Fell Again in April

Vermont employment, seasonally adjusted



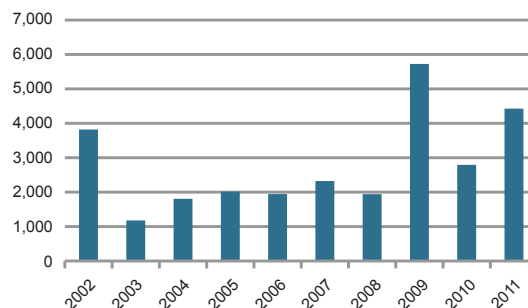
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### More big layoffs last year

Vermont saw a jump in extended mass layoffs in 2011. A mass layoff occurs when an employer lets go 50 or more people within a five-week period. To be counted as extended, at least 50 of those people have to be out of work for at least 30 days. In 2009, in the depths of the recession, more than 5,700 Vermonters lost jobs as the result of 35 extended mass layoffs. The number dropped in 2010, but last year saw 27 extended mass layoffs, hitting almost 4,500 people. The bulk of those layoffs happened in the spring, before Tropical Storm Irene arrived.

### Vermont Mass Layoffs Rose in 2011

Private, non-farm jobs lost in extended mass layoffs



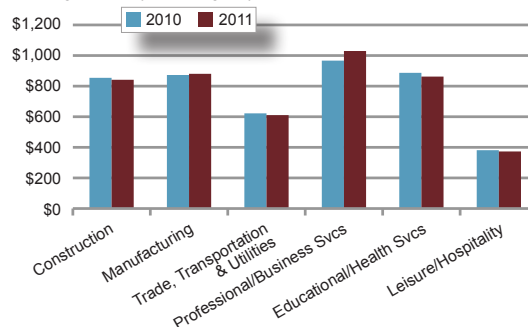
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Smaller average paychecks

A slight decrease in the average workweek and essentially no change in average hourly wages meant that Vermonters' average weekly earnings dipped a little in 2011. That was the average of all private sector workers, but the story varied by sector. Professional and business services saw the biggest increase in weekly earnings last year, about 6.5 percent; earnings also rose in manufacturing. The other major sectors experienced declines.

### Many Vermonters are Earning Less

Average weekly earnings by sector, 2010-2011



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics