

Employment Down, Wages Flat, Help Waning

Although Vermont's unemployment rate remains relatively low, the slow but steady drop in the number of Vermonters working continued for the fourth consecutive month. In June, the number of employed fell by 450; since February, that number has dropped by more than 1,700. June's unemployment rate ticked up to 4.7 percent from 4.6 percent in May. The change was not deemed statistically significant by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, but it was the first

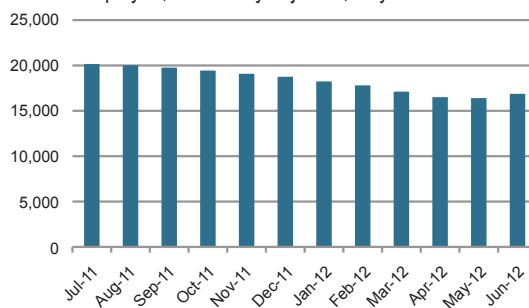
	June 2012	May 2012	June 2011
Labor Force	357,990	357,969	357,797
Employment	341,114	341,564	337,622
Unemployment	16,876	16,405	20,175
Rate	4.7%	4.6%	5.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

rate increase registered in Vermont in two and a half years.

More Vermonters Were Unemployed in June

Total unemployed, seasonally adjusted, July 2011-June 2012



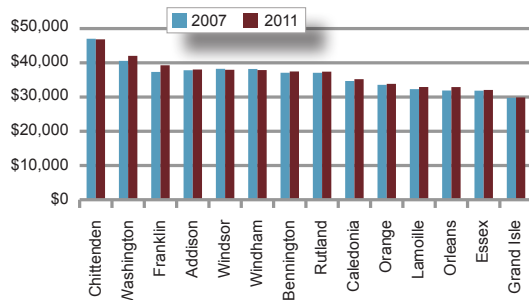
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Inflation Still Beating Wage Gains

Average annual wages in most of Vermont's 14 counties rose in 2011. Statewide, the average annual wage increased 2.2 percent over the previous year. But after adjusting for inflation, pay almost everywhere in Vermont has remained flat since 2007, just before the recession hit. In fact, real wages—after adjusting for inflation—fell a fraction in Chittenden, Windham, and Windsor counties. A few counties saw notable gains: Franklin, 5.2 percent between 2007 and 2011; Washington, 3.6 percent, and Orleans, 3.1 percent.

Most Workers Have No Added Buying Power

Average annual wage by county in 2011 dollars



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Lower Joblessness, Less Help for the Jobless

In the depths of the recession, laid-off Vermonters could qualify for up to 86 weeks of unemployment compensation, thanks largely to federal programs that provided extended benefits. But as the state's unemployment rate has dropped, so has eligibility for the extra help from Washington. Currently, jobless Vermonters may be eligible to receive up to 26 weeks of unemployment compensation through the regular state program and an additional 20 weeks through a federal program, Tier 1.

Unemployment Compensation Program	Trigger*	Max. Weeks	Vermont Eligibility	
			Start	End
State Regular	None	26		
Federal Emergency (Tier 1)	None	20	Jul-08	
Federal Emergency (Tier 2)	None	14	Feb-09	May-12
Federal Emergency (Tier 3)	6%/4%	13	Nov-09	Nov-10
Federal Emergency (Tier 4)	8.5%/6%	6	(Not eligible)	
State Extended Benefits**		13	Mar-09	Jul-10
*Minimum total or insured unemployment rate to qualify for program (TUR/IUR)				
**After all other benefits have been exhausted				

Data source: Vermont Department of Labor