

Recovery? More for High Earners

New employment statistics, the first in two months, show employment in Vermont remains below its January 2013 level. September data, released this month because of the federal government shutdown in October, showed a small increase over August. But then employment declined; 3,000 fewer Vermonters were working in October than in January. Meanwhile, unemployment stood at 4.6 percent in September and

	OCT 2013	SEP 2013	OCT 2012
Labor Force	351,626	352,610	356,187
Employment	335,669	336,304	338,231
Unemployment	15,957	16,306	17,956
Rate	4.5%	4.6%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

4.5 percent last month.

Vermont's widening wage gap

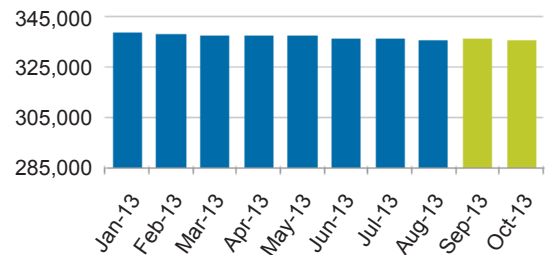
The Occupy Wall Street movement drew attention to the growth in income inequality between those at the top and everyone else. From 2002 to 2012, Vermont's wages at the high end (80th percentile) rose 6.3 percent after adjusting for inflation. Wages at the low end (20th percentile) shrank 6.2 percent. And those in the middle (50th percentile) saw their wages grow just 2 percent over the decade.

Unhoused: 1,500 Vermonters

Vermont saw a jump this year in the number of people without permanent shelter. New estimates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) show that almost 1,500 Vermonters were homeless in 2013, up from 1,160 last year. In 2008, as the recession began to take hold, Vermont reported just over 950 people with no permanent place to live. The federal estimates are based on a count on a single night each January.

Employment Is Still Trending Down

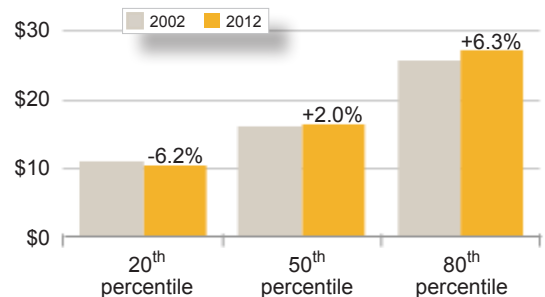
Vermont monthly employment, seasonally adjusted



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Higher Earners Gained, Lower Lost

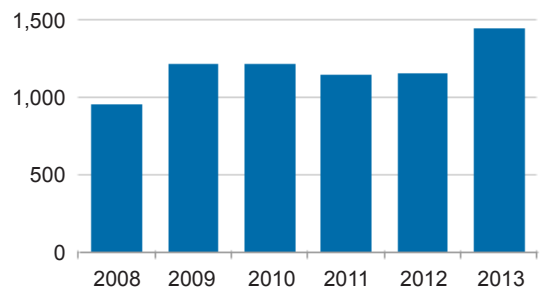
Change in hourly wages in 2012 dollars



Data source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data

More Have Nowhere to Live

Number of homeless on one night, 2008-12



Data source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development