

Vermont Jobs are Back to Pre-Recession Levels

April 2008 was the high-water mark for payroll jobs in Vermont before the recession forced layoffs. This year, the number of jobs has rebounded. Employers reported 308,900 non-farm payroll jobs last month, just 200 fewer than in April 2008. Also in April, the number of unemployed dropped by 600, and the employed rose by 650—either because people

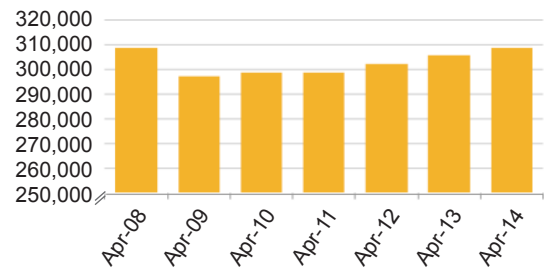
	APR 2014	MAR 2014	APR 2013
Labor Force	351,167	351,092	352,015
Employment	339,667	338,994	337,100
Unemployment	11,500	12,098	14,915
Rate	3.3%	3.4%	4.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

returned to work or new workers entered the labor force.

After 6 Years, Jobs Have Rebounded

Non-farm payroll jobs, seasonally adjusted, April 2008-April 2014



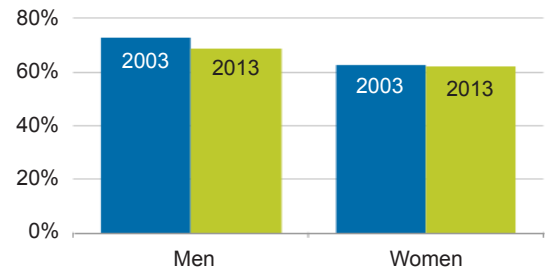
Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Women workers hanging in

Until recently, Vermont's unemployment rate was dropping not because people were getting jobs, but because they'd left the labor force, either retired, discouraged, or unable to work. New Census data for 2013 show that both the percentage of men 16 and older in the labor force and the percentage of these men who are working declined more than 4 percent in the last decade. Meanwhile, the share of women of the same age working or in the work force held nearly steady.

A Smaller Share of Vermont Men are Working

Employment as a percentage of population 16 and older, by sex, 2003 and 2013



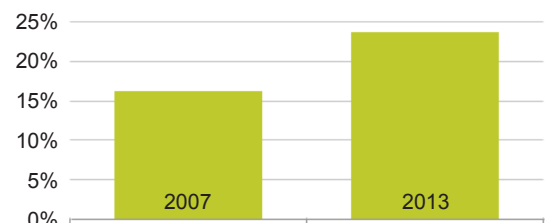
Data source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data

Joblessness stretching out

According to new Census data, Vermont's annual unemployment rate in 2013 was a little above the pre-recession rate—4.3 percent compared with 4.0 percent in 2007. But while the overall rate is going down, the long-term unemployment rate is higher. In 2007 about 16 percent of unemployed workers had been out of work for 26 weeks or more. In 2013, almost a quarter of jobless Vermonters were considered long-term unemployed.

More Unemployed Are Out of Work Longer

Percentage of unemployed Vermonters without work for at least 6 months, 2007 and 2013



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