

## Rises and Dips for Workers, But Little Headway

Vermont saw the second-biggest jump in unemployment among the states in August—to 4.1 percent from 3.7 percent in July. Longer unemployment lines aren't necessarily a bad sign, if they mean more people are returning to the labor force and looking for work. But the number in Vermont's labor force fell in August, as did the number of Vermonters who were working.

	AUG 2014	JUL 2014	AUG 2013
Labor Force	350,175	351,038	350,892
Employment	335,808	337,962	335,021
Unemployment	14,367	13,076	15,871
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	3.7%	4.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Shrinking incomes

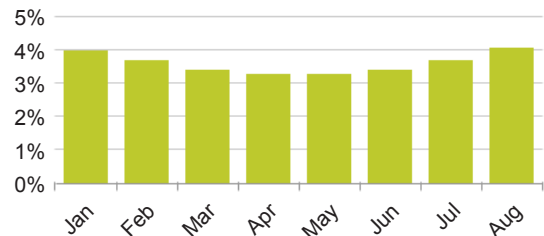
U.S. Census data released this week show Vermonters continued to lose ground after the official end of the Great Recession in 2009. Median annual household income, after adjusting for inflation, fell just over 6 percent between 2009 and 2013. Half of households have annual incomes greater than the median and half have less. In 2013, a median-income household earned \$52,578. Adjusted for inflation, its income was \$56,096 in 2009 and \$54,791 in 2000.

### Persisting poverty

More than 74,000 Vermonters were living in poverty last year, the latest Census data show. The poverty rate rose to 12.3 percent in 2013, a statistically insignificant change. After past recessions, poverty has dropped along with joblessness, according to the [Brookings Institution](#). Vermont's unemployment rate fell from 6.9 to 4.4 percent from 2009 to 2013, but poverty was essentially unchanged. The federal poverty threshold varies with family size. For a family of four with two kids in 2013 it was \$23,624.

### Unemployment is Rising Again

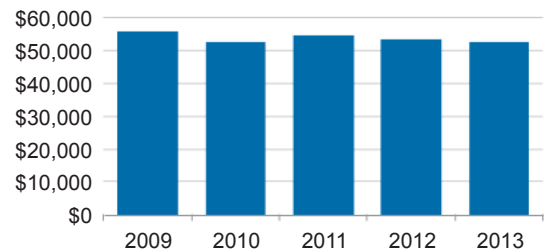
Vermont's monthly unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, 2014



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

### Vermonters Have Less Buying Power

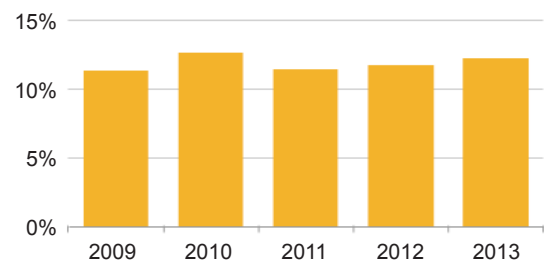
Median annual household income, adjusted for inflation, 2009-2013



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2013, 1-year estimate

### Recession's End Brought No Relief to the Poor

Percentage of Vermonters in poverty, 2009-2013



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2013, 1-year estimate