

Vermont jobs exceed pre-recession levels

The total number of jobs in Vermont finally exceeded the previous high, reached in the summer of 2007, before the recession began. The latest figures show there were 311,700 non-farm payroll jobs in November, an increase of 3,600 from October. Most new jobs—2,200—were in the accommodations and food services sector. The number of employed Vermont-

	NOV 2014	OCT 2014	NOV 2013
Labor Force	351,777	350,943	350,295
Employment	336,546	335,471	335,144
Unemployment	15,231	15,472	15,151
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.4%	4.3%

ers also rose last month, to 336,546.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Shrinking jobless claims

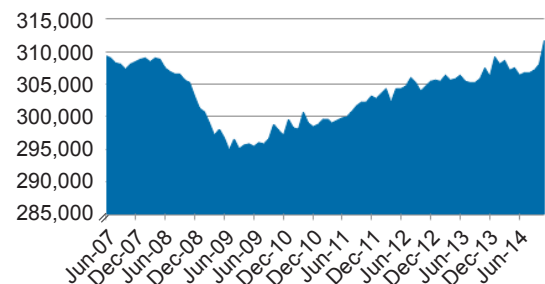
At the low point of the recession, in 2009, an average 5,500 Vermonters a month were being laid off and signing up for unemployment compensation. So far this year, initial claims have averaged about 3,000 a month. In November 15,231 Vermonters were unemployed—that is, without a job and actively seeking work. Fewer than half, about 6,300, received unemployment benefits in the final week of November.

Closing wage gap

The good news: The wage gap between men and women was smaller in Vermont than any other state in 2013. Also positive: It closed, in part, because female workers were earning more per hour last year. The bad news: Men's median hourly wage fell in 2013, narrowing the gap. For both sexes, after adjusting for inflation, the median wage was lower in 2013 than in 2009. Half of workers earn more than median, half earn less.

Jobs Finally Surpass 2007 High

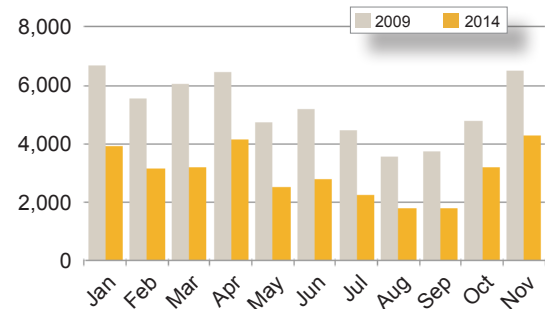
Total non-farm payroll jobs, seasonally adjusted



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Fewer Vermonters Seek Unemployment Benefits

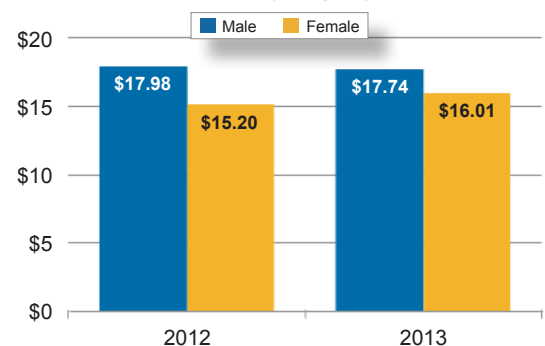
Initial monthly claims for unemployment compensation, 2009 and 2014



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

The Wage Gap Shrank, Which Is Good and Bad

Median hourly wage by sex, 2012, 2013



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