

Jobless rate recalls better times. Employment, not so much

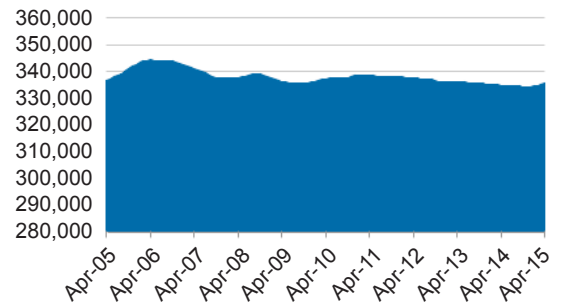
Vermont's unemployment rate dropped to 3.6 percent in April, its lowest level in nearly nine years. But while joblessness hit a low last seen in June 2006, the number of Vermonters working still lags. The spring and summer of 2006 marked Vermont's all-time employment peak, when more than 344,000 people were working. Last month, the number of employed stood at 335,673.

	APR 2015	MAR 2015	APR 2014
Labor Force	348,311	348,253	348,777
Employment	335,673	335,048	334,765
Unemployment	12,638	13,205	14,012
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.8%	4.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Fewer are Working Now than at 2006 Peak

Vermont monthly employment, April 2005-April 2015



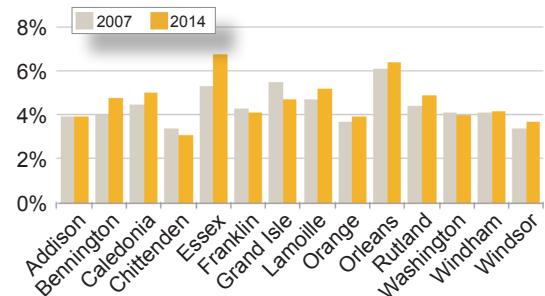
Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Lingering recession

The unemployment rates in Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, and Washington Counties were lower in 2014 than in 2007, before the start of the Great Recession. But recovery hasn't been that strong in most Vermont counties. Joblessness among residents of nine counties was higher in 2014 than it was seven years earlier. The county unemployment rate is measured by place of residence, not employment.

Joblessness Persists in Most Counties

Annual average unemployment rate, by county, 2007 and 2014



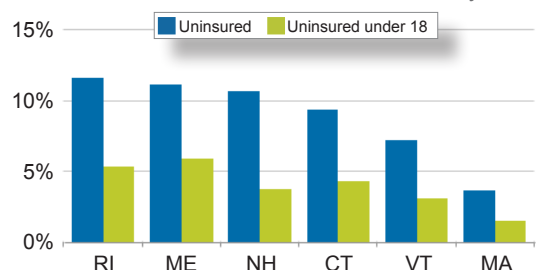
Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Wide health coverage

Just 7.2 percent of Vermonters lacked health insurance in 2013, according to the U.S. Census*—the second-lowest share of uninsured residents among the New England states. Only Massachusetts, which requires everyone to have coverage, was lower. Vermont also had the second-lowest percentage of uninsured children under 18. Nearly 4 in 10 Vermonters received some public health insurance—Medicaid, Medicare, or Veterans Administration benefits.

Few Vermonters Lack Health Insurance

Percentage of all residents and children under 18 without health insurance, by state



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

*In 2014, the state's own research (Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey) showed the uninsured rate had dropped to 3.7 percent.