

Good news: More jobs. Bad news: Lower wages

Vermont employers added almost 20,000 jobs after the official end of the recession in June 2009. But most of that gain merely made up for lost ground. Before the recession, non-farm payroll jobs in Vermont peaked at 309,600 in June 2007. Last month, with employers adding 1,000 jobs, the total reached a new

	JUN 2015	MAY 2015	JUN 2014
Labor Force	348,945	348,666	348,820
Employment	336,557	336,167	334,571
Unemployment	12,388	12,499	14,249
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	4.1%

high of 314,700.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Disparities by age

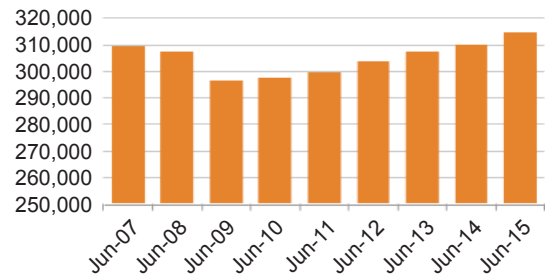
Vermont's jobless rate has remained among the lowest in the country for the last few years. But younger workers are not sharing that good fortune. According to U.S. Census data, unemployment among men ages 20 to 24 was just under 8 percent in 2014, and about 10 percent for women in that age group. The jobless rate for 45-to-64-year-old women was about half the state average.

Lower low wages

After accounting for inflation, many Vermont workers earned lower wages in 2014 than they did five years earlier. People at the top of the pay scale saw their real wages grow the most. Those at the bottom lost the most.

Jobs Surpassed Pre-Recession Levels

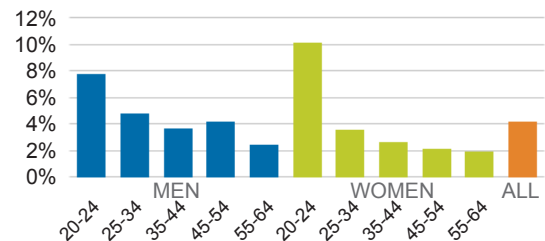
Non-farm payroll jobs, seasonally adjusted, June 2007- June 2015



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Younger Workers Still Pounding the Pavement

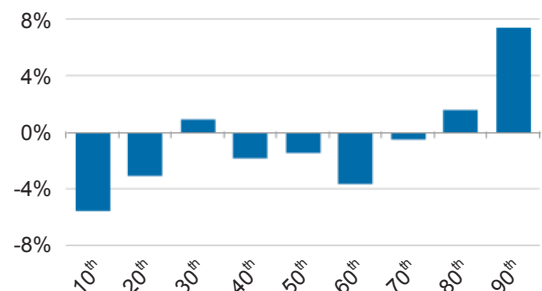
Annual unemployment rate for selected age groups, 2014



Data source: U.S. Census, Current Population Survey, 2014

For Most, Real Wages Fell in Last 5 Years

Change in inflation-adjusted wages, 2009-2014, by percentiles



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