

Among the neighbors, Vermont's recovery is just okay

Vermont's economy has been slowly recovering since the end of the recession. But its labor force has not. The number of Vermonters working or actively looking for work decreased more than 3 percent from 2009 to 2014—the biggest drop in New England. This year through July, Vermont's labor force has inched up by

	JUL 2015	JUN 2015	JUL 2014
Labor Force	349,412	348,995	348,859
Employment	337,007	336,602	334,486
Unemployment	12,405	12,393	14,373
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	4.1%

0.2 percent.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job growth near the top

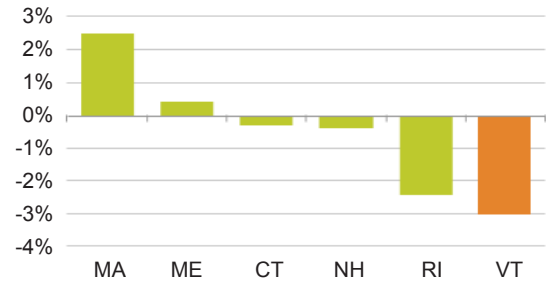
Five years after the official end of the recession, Vermont showed the second-best job growth in New England. Non-farm payroll jobs reported by employers rose just over 4 percent from 2009 to 2014. The pace of Vermont's job growth has slowed since the 1990s, as it has in many states. But in 2014 Massachusetts and Vermont were the only two New England states with more payroll jobs than before the recession.

Economy at No. 3

Since the recession, economic growth in Vermont ranked third among the New England states. After adjusting for inflation, Vermont's gross state product grew 7.4 percent from 2009, when the recession officially ended, to 2014. After job growth, the next sign of recovery should be healthier incomes. But Vermont's median household income declined in 2012 and 2013. Income data for 2014 will be released next month.

Since 2009 Vermont's Labor Force has Shrunk

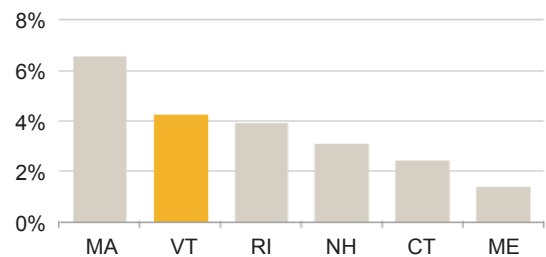
Change in labor force, 2009-2014



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Jobs Increased Second Fastest in New England

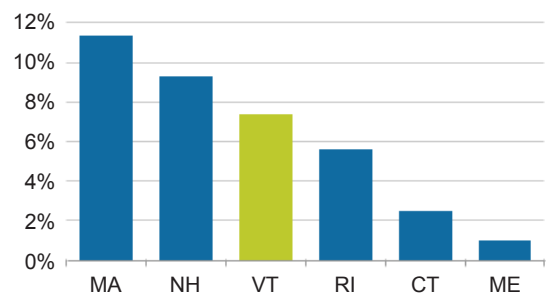
Total non-farm payroll jobs, 2009-2014



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Economic Recovery Ranked Third in the Region

Change in gross state product, adjusted for inflation, 2009-2014



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis