

So far this century, Vermonters' fortunes are stuck

If a lot of Vermonters feel they're not getting ahead, they're right. New Census data show that median household income in 2014 inched up to \$54,166. But after adjusting for inflation, that's 5 percent lower than before the recession. The buying power of the median Vermont household—half have incomes below the median and half have incomes above it—has basically stayed put since 2000.

Growing child poverty

For child poverty in Vermont, 2014 was the second worst year of the 21st century. The percentage of kids living below the poverty level hit 15.3 percent—a rate topped only in 2010, during the depths of the recession. Single mothers with children under 5 continued to be hit hardest. More than half lived below the poverty level in 2014, although the percentage dropped from the previous year.

Still-low unemployment

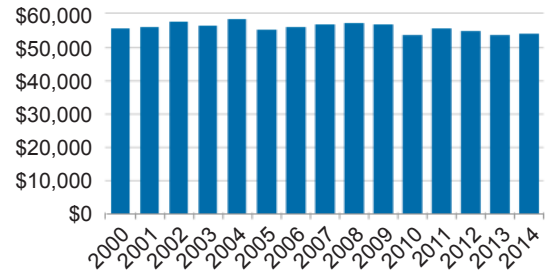
Vermont's jobless rate held steady at 3.6 percent in August—the fifth straight month at that rate. But low unemployment does not necessarily signal economic recovery. The rate remained unchanged in August, but fewer Vermonters were working than in July. And since the end of the recession, as the jobless rate has fallen, other measures of Vermonters' wellbeing—income and child poverty—has continued to worsen.

| | AUG 2015 | JUL 2015 | AUG 2014 |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Labor Force | 348,723 | 349,386 | 348,872 |
| Employment | 336,214 | 336,977 | 334,417 |
| Unemployment | 12,509 | 12,409 | 14,455 |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.6% | 3.6% | 4.1% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Many Vermonters are Losing Ground

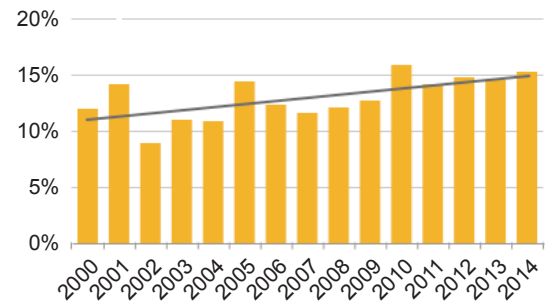
Median household income 2000-2014, adjusted for inflation



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Child Poverty is Rising Steadily

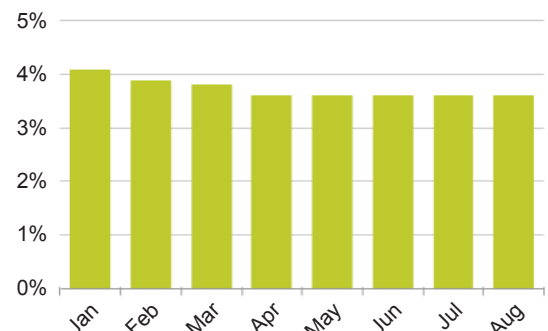
Percentage of children under 18 below the poverty level with trend line, 2000-2014



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Vermont's Jobless Rate is the Nation's 4th Lowest

Monthly unemployment rate for 2015, seasonally adjusted



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor