

The state's recovery is eluding many Vermonters

New employment numbers out for September show virtually no growth in 2015. Total employment, which includes the self-employed along with payroll employees, dropped for the second month in a row. There were 2,500 fewer Vermonters working in September than in July. Meanwhile, Vermont unemployment fell from 4.1 percent in January to 3.7

	SEP 2015	AUG 2015	SEP 2014
Labor Force	347,186	348,638	348,853
Employment	334,492	336,158	334,357
Unemployment	12,694	12,480	14,496
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.6%	4.2%

percent last month.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Discouraged and underemployed

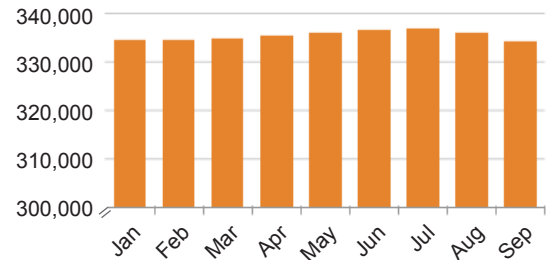
Vermont's official unemployment rate—U-3, to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics—is back where it was before the Great Recession hit in late 2007. But the broadest [unemployment indicator](#), U-6, is still higher than it was. U-6 includes discouraged and underemployed workers—respectively, those who'd like jobs but are not actively looking, and part-timers who would like to work more hours. In 2006 Vermont's U-6 rate averaged 6.4 percent; in 2014, 8.8 percent.

Rising poverty

The state's economy is growing again, but many struggling Vermonters are not seeing the rewards. After the recession of 2001, which ended in November of that year, the number of Vermonters living below the federal poverty line tallied at just over 50,000. In 2014, five years after the official end of the Great Recession, more than 73,000 were officially poor.

Employment is Flat so Far this Year

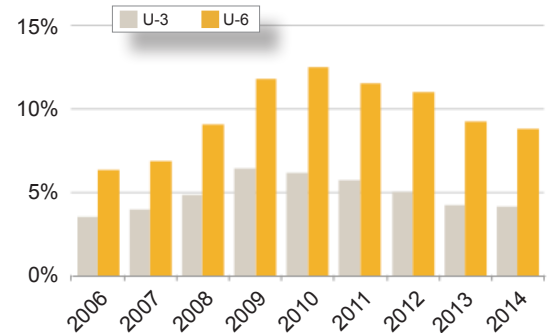
Number of Vermonters employed in 2015, by month, seasonally adjusted



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Broadest Jobless Rate is Still High

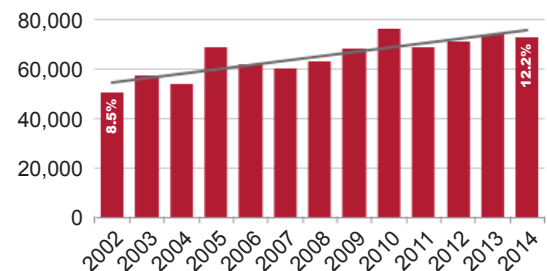
Annual average unemployment rates, U-3 and U-6



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

More Vermonters are Officially Poor

Number of Vermonters living below the federal poverty threshold



Data source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis of U.S. Census, American Community Survey data, 1-year estimates