

Workers' lot improves but the gender gap endures

In May the Vermont labor force increased for the fifth straight month, the best stretch of growth in seven years. The labor force, which includes people working and those actively looking for work, climbed to 345,821, the highest level in 15 months. Employment

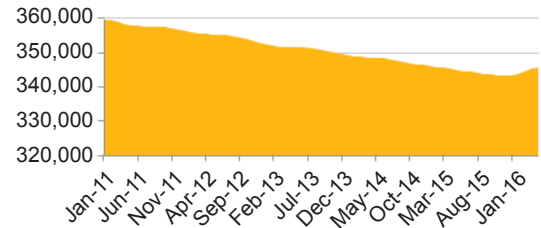
	MAY 2016	APR 2016	MAY 2015
Labor Force	345,821	345,351	344,934
Employment	335,034	334,365	332,322
Unemployment	10,787	10,986	12,612
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.2%	3.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

also rose in May, while unemployment dropped.

Vermont's labor force is growing again

Monthly labor force, seasonally adjusted, Jan. 2011- May 2016



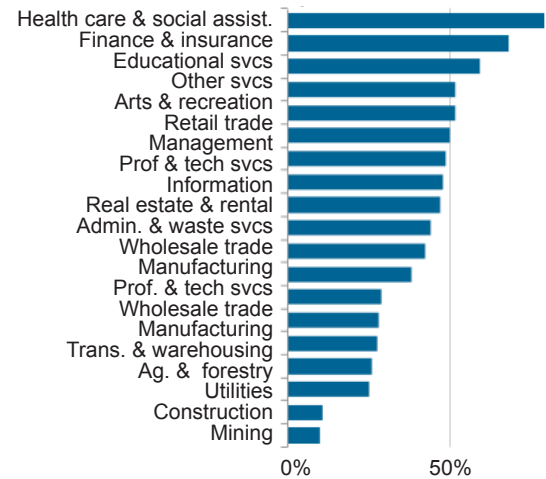
Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Where women work

Since 2001 Vermont has required employers to report the gender of their employees, which helps to track how women fare in the labor market. As of 2014, Vermont was the only state to collect such data. Many industries tend to be dominated by one gender or the other. Jobs traditionally held by women—in education, health care, and certain services—remain mostly female. In the private sector the average yearly wages for female-dominated jobs tend to be lower than wages in majority-male industries.

Women outnumber men in few industries

Private sector payroll jobs held by women, by industry, 2015



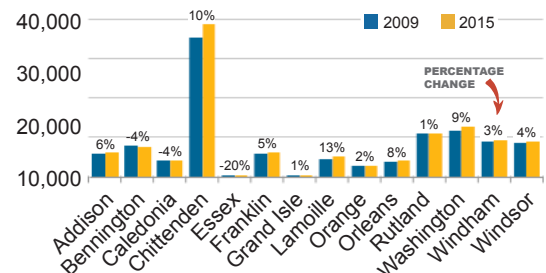
Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Post-recession job gains

Since the recession officially ended in 2009, the number of women in private sector payroll jobs increased in most counties. The biggest gains were in Lamoille County and Chittenden County between 2009 and 2015. Statewide, private sector jobs held by women grew 5.6 percent. But men did better, with gains of 6.4 percent during the same period.

In most counties women are getting more jobs

Private sector payroll jobs held by women, and percentage change, 2009 and 2015



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor