

Fewer are working as the holidays approach

Both the labor force and the number of jobs shrank in October. Vermont lost 2,100 non-farm payroll jobs last month, and ended up with 550 fewer people in the labor force, which includes the self-employed. October was the third straight month that jobs decreased and

	OCT 2016	SEP 2016	OCT 2015
Labor Force	344,886	345,445	343,456
Employment	333,564	333,932	331,039
Unemployment	11,322	11,513	12,417
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.3%	3.6%

the fourth that the labor force contracted.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Weak net gain in jobs

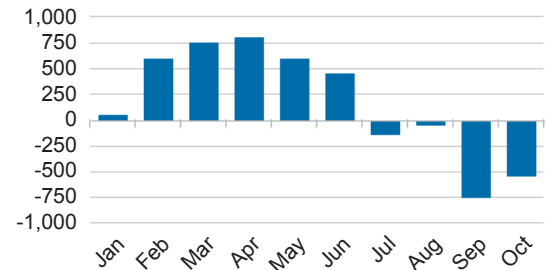
Vermont's private employers added 22,700 jobs in the 12 months that ended last March. That was better than most years since the recession. During the same period, however, Vermont lost about 22,200 private sector jobs—the most in the last six years. That left Vermont with a net gain of only about 500 private sector jobs. The average annual gain for the previous five years was about 3,200 jobs.

New businesses, fewer positions

For the last two decades, about 1,900 new private business establishments opened in Vermont each year. That number remained fairly constant, even through the recession. But the number of jobs created by those new businesses has dropped. Before the recession, Vermont gained more jobs from startups than it lost to business closures. Since the recession, the state has seen a net loss in jobs.

Vermont's workforce is shrinking again

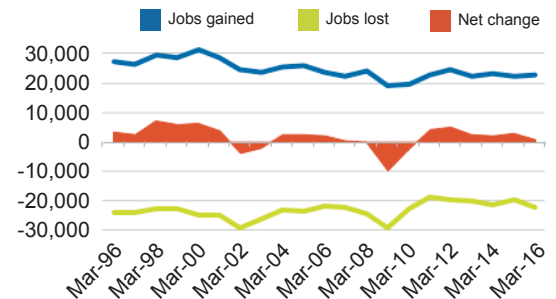
Month-over-month change in total labor force, 2016



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

New jobs barely exceeded jobs lost last year

Annual private sector jobs gains, losses,* and net change, 1996-2016

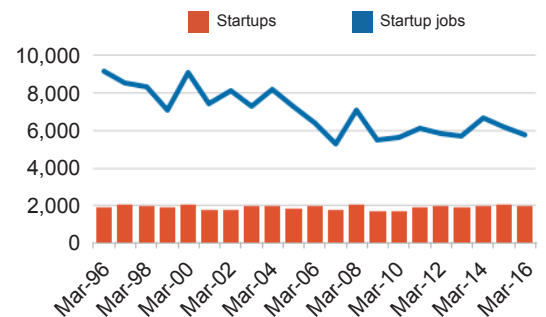


Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Job gains come from new workplaces and expanding existing ones; job losses are due to business closures and layoffs at existing businesses.

Vermont startups produce fewer jobs

New private sector businesses and jobs created, 1996-2016



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics