

The workforce shrank. The gender divide persisted

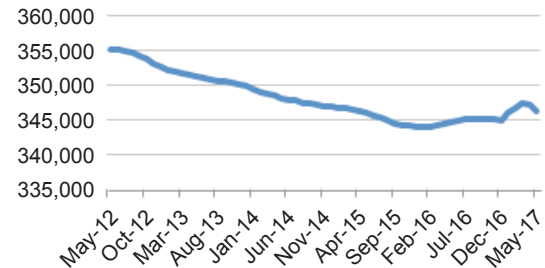
After trending up for 14 months, the labor force—people working or actively seeking work—decreased slightly in April and more in May. The losses came from the ranks of the employed, leaving the workforce below its 2009 peak by nearly 15,000 workers.

	MAY 2017	APR 2017	MAY 2016
Labor Force	346,339	347,311	344,801
Employment	335,436	336,623	333,448
Unemployment	10,903	10,688	11,353
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.1%	3.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The labor force gave back some gains

Vermont labor force, seasonally adjusted, May 2012-May 2017



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Women: Stuck in a few fields

The share of women workers in any field has not changed much in a decade. Women comprise the minority in most sectors and are especially underrepresented in construction, utilities, and transportation. They make up the majority in many service-oriented jobs, such as health care and educational services, but tend to be more equally represented in other service fields, such as accommodation and food services and retail stores.

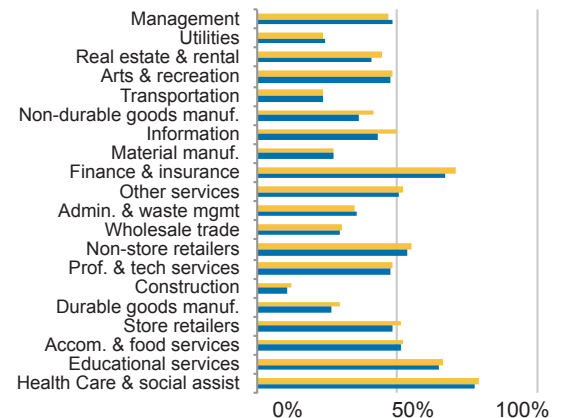
... and still paid less

Although the gender gap in earnings has closed in certain sectors—including wholesale trade, utilities, and arts, entertainment, and recreation—women’s average pay lags behind men’s across the board. In 2016 women in management and in finance and insurance earned about half as much as men. Women’s earnings exceeded 90 cents on a man’s dollar in only one sector out of 23. The gap may reflect both lower wages and fewer hours worked.

*For readability, the charts include only 20 of the 23 sectors for which the Vermont Department of Labor collects these data. Find the [full list](#) at the VDOL website.

Where women work hasn’t changed much

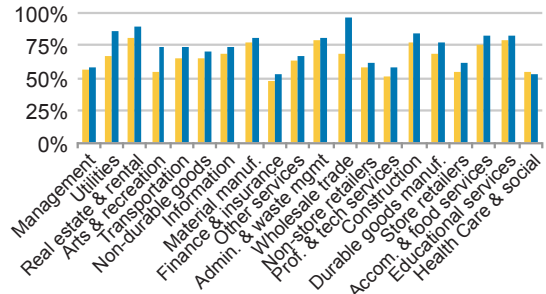
Share of female workers by sector, 4th-quarter averages 2006 & 2016*



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

The wage gap has not narrowed

Female to male earnings ratio, 4th-quarter averages 2006 & 2016*



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor