

Job growth in 2017: So far so good

With an additional 600 new jobs in September, Vermont's private employers have added 2,700 jobs so far this year. While the growth has been uneven, 2017 has seen the strongest first three quarters since 2011. Also in September, Vermont's unemployment rate ticked down to 2.9 percent, the lowest level since December 2000.

LATEST BLS DATA - OCTOBER 20, 2017			
	SEP 2017	AUG 2017	SEP 2016
Labor Force	344,687	344,342	345,244
Employment	334,558	333,895	334,123
Unemployment	10,129	10,447	11,121
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	3.0%	3.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Lonely commuters

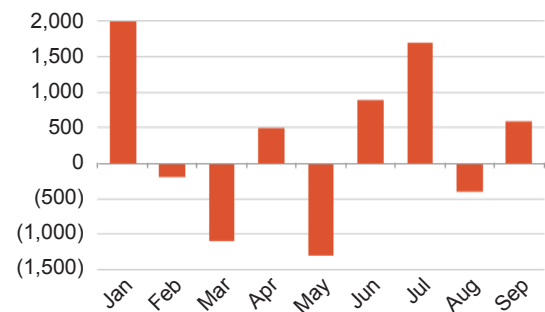
The latest U.S. Census data show that most Vermonters drive to work by themselves. In 2016 three-quarters of Vermonters were solo commuters. Just 8 percent rode with others in a carpool. The share of lone drivers was about the same as the national average and has been fairly constant for the last 10 years. Carpooling has dropped off, however. In 2006, 11 percent of Vermonters shared the ride to work.

Needed child care

New Census data help to illustrate Vermont's child care crunch. In 2016 nearly 70 percent of children under 6—more than 24,000 kids—lived in families where all parents worked: about 16,000 in two-working-parent families, 5,500 with single working mothers, and 2,900 with single working fathers. Meanwhile, the latest figures from the Department for Children and Families show Vermont has only about 18,000 slots at either licensed child care providers or registered homes.

New jobs have come in fits and starts

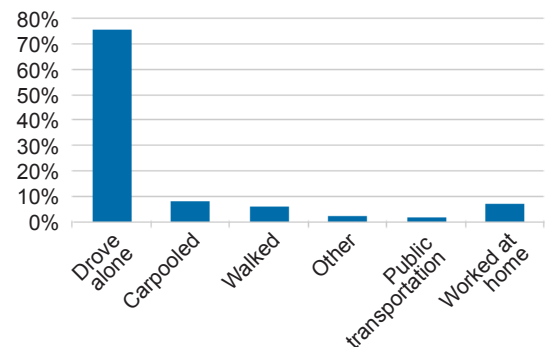
Monthly change in private sector jobs, 2017



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Vermonters ride to work alone

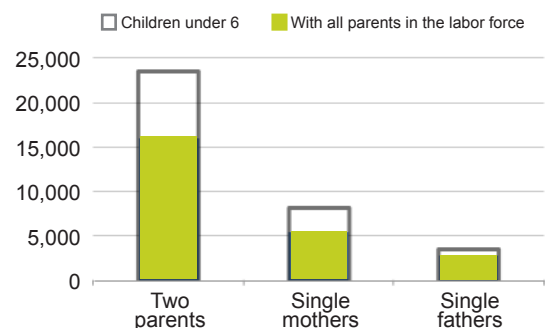
Means of travel to work, 2016



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2016 1-yr. est.

Most young kids have all parents working

Children under 6 by family type, 2016



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2016 1-yr. est.