

For jobs, a year of gains, losses, and a final net loss

Vermont's private employers started 2018 on a roll, adding jobs in five of the first six months. But they lost ground in the second half of the year. Vermont finished 2018 with 257,500 private sector jobs, a decline of 100 for the year. In June Vermont hit an all-time high of 259,800 private-sector jobs. July saw the fifth-largest

LATEST BLS DATA - JANUARY 18, 2019			
	DEC 2018	NOV 2018	DEC 2017
Labor Force	344,405	345,113	344,870
Employment	335,223	335,733	334,820
Unemployment	9,182	9,380	10,050
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.7%	2.9%

monthly job loss in the last 28 years.

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

Women workers

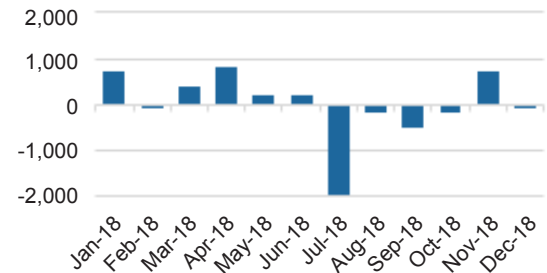
Vermont women have consistently participated in the labor force at higher rates than women in New England and the U.S. as a whole. Labor force participation is the percentage of women age 16 and older who are working or actively looking for work. But after a high of nearly 69 percent in 2009 (still lower than male participation rates in Vermont and the U.S. over the last 30 years), the percentage of Vermont women who are in the workforce has declined.

Unequal households

Households in the northwest corner of Vermont have the highest median incomes—higher than the state's overall median. This is according to the U.S. Census Bureau's five-year estimates, released in December. In Vermont as a whole, half of households earn more than \$57,808 a year and half earn less. Median household incomes are lowest in the Northeast Kingdom.

The year ended with 100 fewer jobs

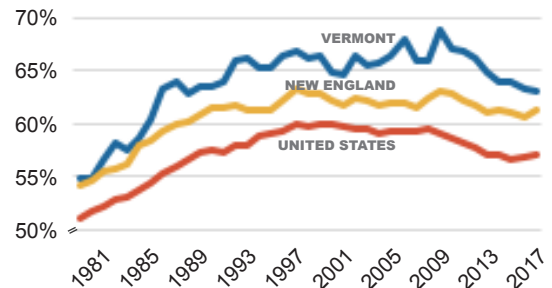
Monthly change in Vermont private-sector jobs, seasonally adjusted, 2018



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Women are moving out of the workforce

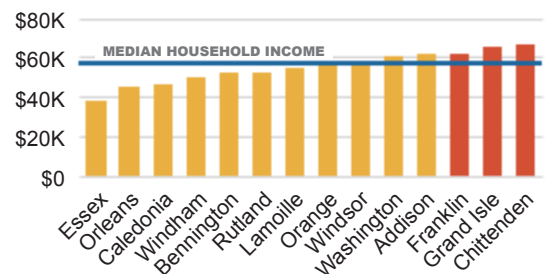
Percent of working-age women in the workforce, Vermont, New England, and U.S., 1979-2017



Data source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data

Vermonters in northwestern counties have the highest incomes

Median household income by Vermont county, 2017



Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-yr. estimates