

Employment dipped, the gender gap persisted

After a steady rise in the first half of 2019, the number of Vermonters working declined by more than 2,000 in August and September, offsetting half the growth tallied from January to July. Vermont's unemployment rate, which was at an all-time low during the summer,

LATEST BLS DATA - OCTOBER 18, 2019			
	SEP 2019	AUG 2019	SEP 2018
Labor Force	345,888	347,131	345,719
Employment	338,305	339,718	336,668
Unemployment	7,583	7,413	9,051
Unemployment Rate	2.2%	2.1%	2.6%

ticked up to 2.2 percent in September.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Poor moms and kids

Single mothers represented a disproportionate share of families with children in poverty, according to U.S. Census data for 2018. About 20 percent of all families with children—13,000 of 60,000—were headed by single mothers. But single-female-headed households made up 60 percent of families with children living below the federal poverty threshold, or 4,000 of about 7,000 families.

2018 Poverty Thresholds (annual cash income)

One parent with	
One child	\$17,308
Two children	\$20,231

Women's pay

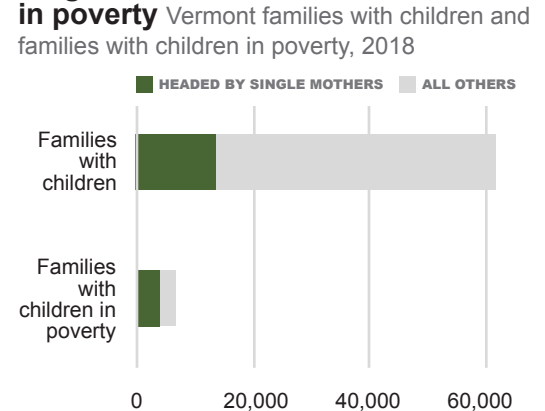
Vermont women's earnings equaled about 85 percent of Vermont men's last year. That was a gap of almost \$7,500 a year, based on the median earnings for full-time, year-round workers, according to 2018 Census data released in September. Earnings include salary or wage income, or net income for people who are self-employed.

Number of working Vermonters fell again



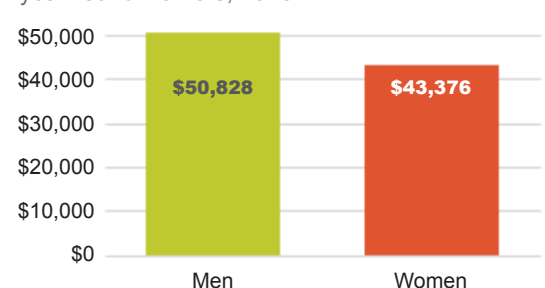
Data source: Vermont Department of Labor

Single mothers headed most families in poverty



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2018

Women made 85 cents to a man's dollar in 2018



Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2018