

## Vermont sees precarious signs of recovery

The pandemic has hurt employment in every corner of the state. Nearly 25,000 fewer Vermonters worked in September 2020 than in September 2019—a decline of 7.5 percent. Employment fell by as much as 9 percent, depending on the county, with the northwest corner of Vermont—Grand Isle, Chittenden, and Franklin counties—seeing the largest drops.

LATEST BLS DATA - OCTOBER 20, 2020			
	SEP 2020	AUG 2020	SEP 2019
Labor Force	321,693	324,286	340,947
Employment	308,140	308,847	332,709
Unemployment	13,553	15,439	8,238
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.8%	2.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Rooms and meals

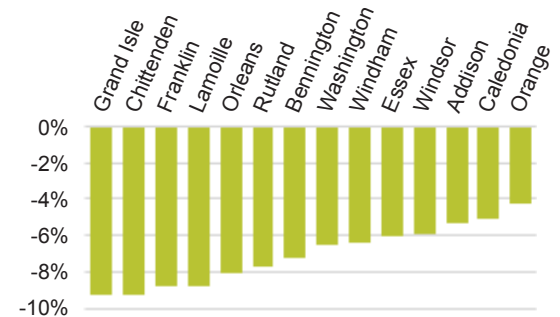
Pandemic regulations and fears kept people away from restaurants and hotels this spring. Customers spent \$182 million in Vermont on lodging and on food and beverages in restaurants from April to June of 2020—down 58 percent from the same period in 2019. While Vermont’s hospitality businesses have gradually reopened since June, so far this fiscal year rooms and meals taxes are 37 percent lower than they were at the same time last fiscal year.

### Back to work

No industry has been harder hit by the COVID-19 shutdown than hotels and restaurants. But since April some of its workers have returned. The industry has seen an increase of 7,600 jobs—to 19,600—regaining more than a third of those lost since this year’s January peak. That improvement is precarious, however, as new infections are rising in Vermont and around the country. Overall, private-sector jobs in Vermont are down by 10.9 percent.

### Fewer people worked in every county in Vermont

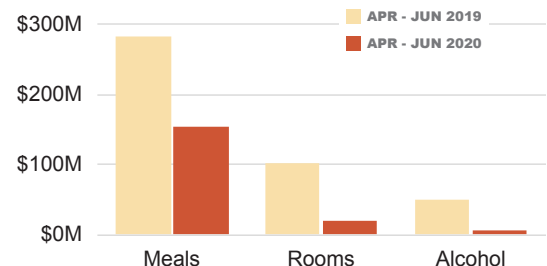
Change in employment by county, Sept 2019 to Sept 2020



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor  
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### Hotel and restaurant sales fell \$250 million this spring

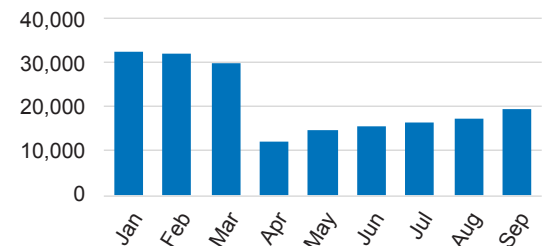
Hotel and restaurant sales receipts, April-June, 2019, 2020



Data source: Vermont Department of Taxes  
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### Hospitality jobs return slowly

Seasonally adjusted payroll jobs in hotels and restaurants, 2020



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor  
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