

Vermont is digging out and building back

The number of hotel and restaurant jobs increased by 1,800 in April, out of 1,900 total new private-sector jobs last month. As COVID-19 cases declined and business restrictions loosened, jobs in the hospitality sector grew to 24,300. The sector is still down more than 20 percent from pre-pandemic levels.

LATEST BLS DATA - MAY 21, 2021			
	APR 2021	MAR 2021	APR 2020
Labor Force	312,813	313,062	353,857
Employment	303,846	303,902	301,638
Unemployment	8,967	9,160	52,219
Unemployment Rate*	2.9%	2.9%	14.8%

* The unemployment rate does not capture all out-of-work Vermonters. [Details here.](#)
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Shrunken reserves

Increased demand from jobless workers in 2020 drew down over half of the balance in Vermont's unemployment trust fund. That left it at \$222 million at the start of 2021, just short of the minimum level recommended by the U.S. Department of Labor. Vermont's unemployment fund balance usually far exceeds the federal minimum and began 2020 as the healthiest in the country. The Legislature has made adjustments to employer contributions and employee benefits to begin rebuilding the fund balance next year.

Tax credits

Thanks to increased tax credits, Vermont families will pay less for child care in 2021—over \$8,000 less for some families, compared with 2020. Federal and state child and dependent care tax credits will reimburse filers for expenses up to \$4,960 for one child and \$9,920 for two. Families with household incomes up to \$125,000 can qualify for the full credit. Families that receive support from Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) will receive smaller refunds because of their already-lower payments.

Nearly all jobs growth came from hospitality

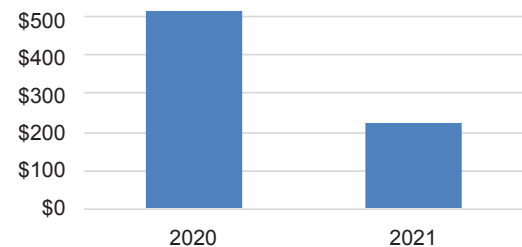
Jobs increase, hospitality and private-sector totals, April 2021



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor
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Vermont's unemployment fund fell by over half

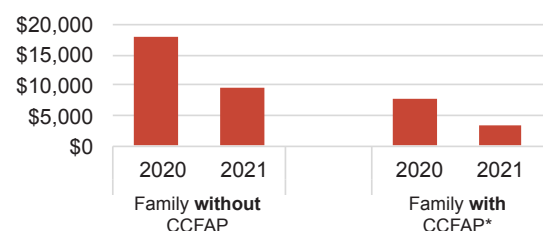
Unemployment insurance trust fund, in millions, Jan. 1, 2020 and 2021



Data source: U.S. Department of Labor
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2021 tax credits will lessen families' child care costs

Estimated out-of-pocket child care costs, two children, 2020 and 2021



*Family with child care subsidy modeled on two parents working full time, earning minimum wage

Data sources: VT Joint Fiscal Office, VT Department of Taxes, Internal Revenue Service, and VT Child Development Division
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