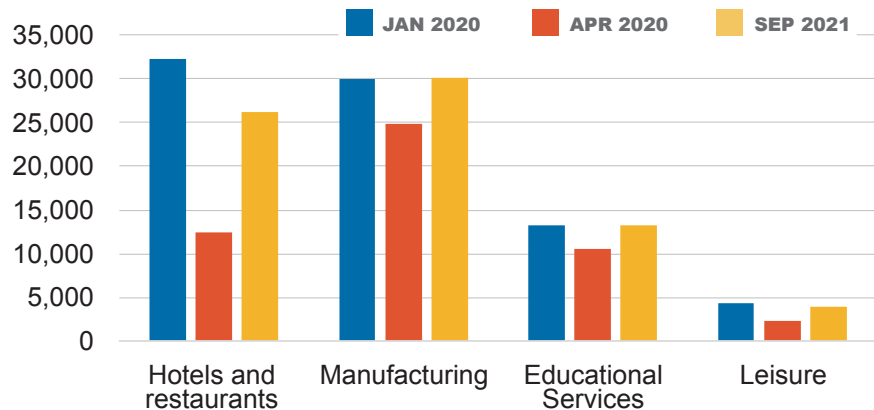


## Jobs and workers are returning, if not rushing back

Vermont has recovered nearly 80 percent of the private sector jobs lost in the early days of the pandemic.

The four industries with the most growth in 2021 were among the hardest hit over the last year and a half. Manufacturing, educational services, and entertainment are pretty much back to pre-pandemic levels, while the restaurant industry remains about 20 percent below where it was at the beginning of 2020.

**Four industries drove job growth** Private sector jobs, seasonally adjusted, by month by select industry, 2020 and 2021



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor  
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Still, 2021 has not seen steady growth. Thanks to the delta variant of COVID-19, Vermont backslid over the summer, losing more than 1,000 private sector jobs in August and September, many of them in the restaurant industry. The public sector isn't faring much better, with local government down nearly 1,600 positions in September.

### THIS MONTH

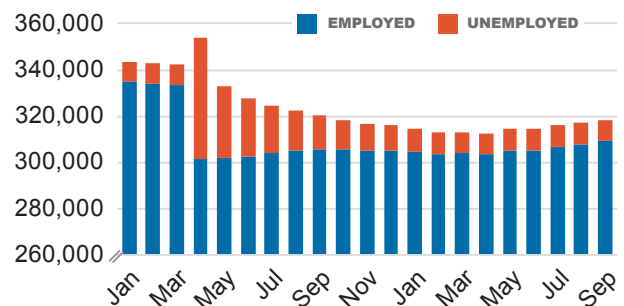
In January 2020, before the pandemic, the Vermont labor force—people working or unemployed and looking for work—totaled 343,628. In September, that number was 318,222, still more than 25,000 below the pre-pandemic level. September was the fifth month of steady workforce expansion.

LATEST BLS DATA - OCTOBER 22, 2021			
	SEP 2021	AUG 2021	SEP 2020
Labor Force	318,222	317,426	320,189
Employment	309,151	307,773	305,589
Unemployment	9,071	9,653	14,600
Unemployment Rate*	2.9%	3.0%	4.6%

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

### Workforce grew in 2021 but hasn't caught up to pre-pandemic levels

Employed and unemployed Vermonters by month, seasonally adjusted, 2020 and 2021



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor  
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