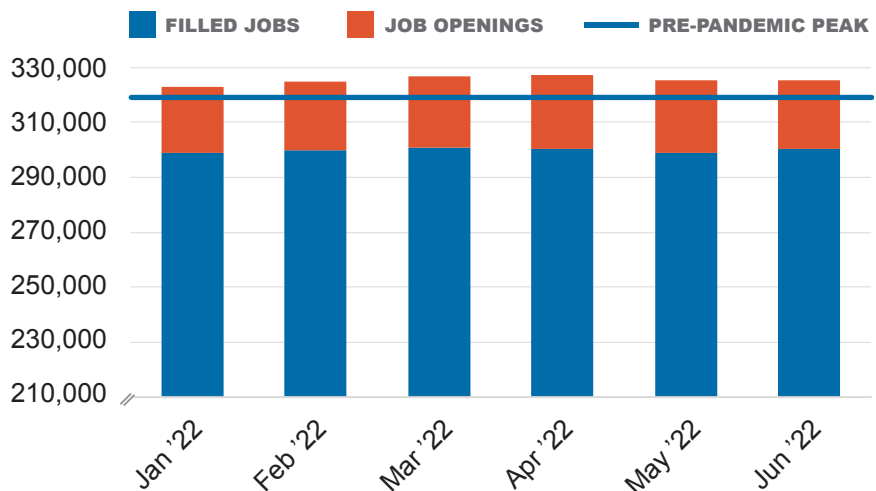


Vermont lacks available workers, not jobs

Nationally, the big news is that [employers have added back more jobs than were lost in the pandemic](#). That's not the case in all states, though, including Vermont. If employers here could find workers for their open positions, jobs would be at an all-time high, bringing the state above the 319,000 filled jobs it had at its peak in March 2019.

This is a tall order, because job openings in Vermont outnumber job seekers. In June there were more than three openings for each person looking for work. In contrast, at the end of the Great Recession, in June 2009, there were three workers for each available job. [Increasing wages and opportunities for advancement, creating respectful workplaces](#), and improving other conditions might help fill these vacant positions. But it is still not clear what would encourage more people to seek work.

Filling vacancies would return Vermont to pre-pandemic jobs peak Nonfarm jobs and job openings, seasonally adjusted, Jan 2022-Jun 2022, and pre-pandemic jobs peak, Mar 2019



Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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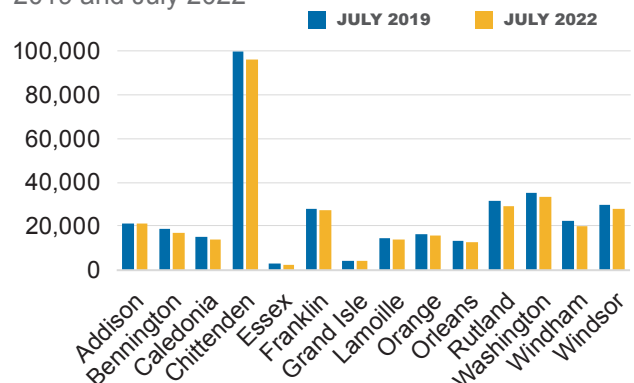
THIS MONTH

In July, Vermont employment—people currently holding jobs—was still down more than 18,000 workers compared with the start of 2020. Not a single Vermont county has recovered the number of employees it had before the pandemic.

LATEST BLS DATA - AUGUST 19, 2022			
	JUL 2022	JUN 2022	JUL 2021
Labor Force	335,585	334,725	328,436
Employment	328,609	327,480	317,455
Unemployment	6,976	7,245	10,981
Unemployment Rate	2.1%	2.2%	3.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment hasn't recovered in any Vermont county Employment by county, July 2019 and July 2022



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor
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