

Another flood casualty: Vermont jobs

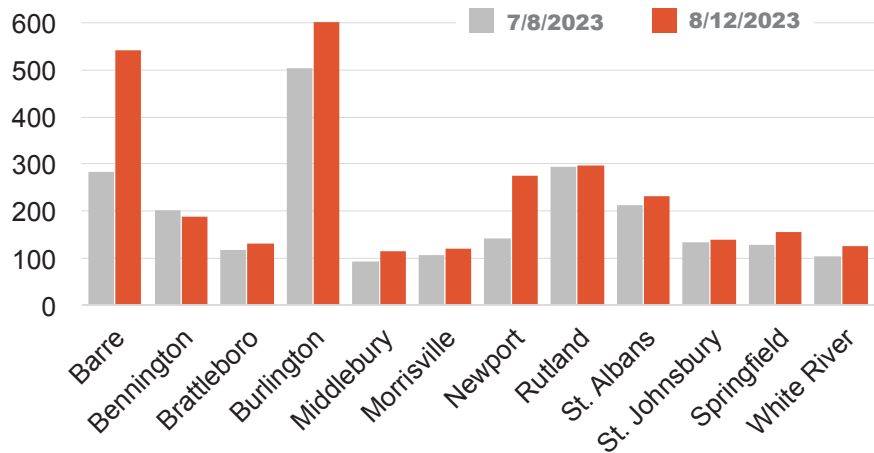
Last month's devastating floods washed away jobs along with homes, cars, crops, office equipment, and documents.

Job Centers serving areas hit hard by the floods saw a jump in regular jobless insurance claims. At the Barre area office, which also serves Montpelier, the number of people receiving benefits nearly doubled from early July through the week that ended Aug. 12. The Newport area saw a similar rise.

Nine counties—Caledonia, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland, Orange, Orleans, Washington, Windham, and Windsor—have qualified for federal

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). This assistance is available only to people who are ineligible for regular jobless benefits, such as self-employed workers. An applicant must first file a regular unemployment insurance claim, and be rejected, before being considered for the federal assistance. No data are available yet on DUA claims, and the deadline for filing has been extended until the end of September. More information can be found at the [Vermont Department of Labor](https://www.vermont.gov/business/industries/labor).

Floods triggered a rise in unemployment Regular weekly unemployment claims at area Job Centers, before and after July floods



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor
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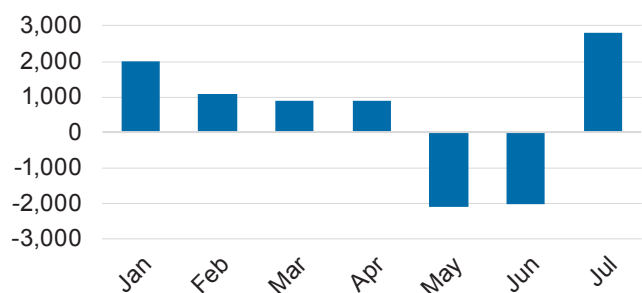
THIS MONTH

Statistics for August, which will come out next month, could provide more clues to how last month's flooding affected Vermont jobs and employment. July data, which was released late last week, showed employers added almost 3,000 jobs, following declines in May and June. Meanwhile, unemployment dropped to 1.8 percent in July, the second-lowest rate in the nation.

LATEST BLS DATA - AUGUST 18, 2023			
	JUL 2023	JUN 2023	JUL 2022
Labor Force	347,474	346,746	342,369
Employment	341,181	340,024	333,742
Unemployment	6,293	6,722	8,627
Unemployment Rate	1.8%	1.9%	2.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employers made up some job losses in July Monthly change in nonfarm payroll jobs, seasonally adjusted, Jan-Jul 2023



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