

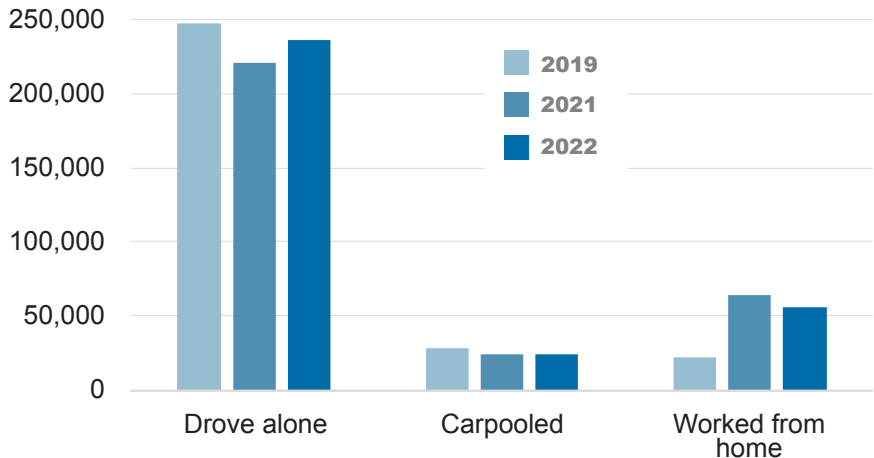
More Vermonters are finding jobs, fewer driving to work

The Covid pandemic shaped Vermonters' commuting habits. According to new U.S. Census data, nearly 15,000 fewer workers commuted daily in 2022 than did so before the pandemic. Almost 80 percent of those pre-pandemic commuters drove alone. The Census data also show nearly 56,000 Vermonters working from home last year, up from nearly 23,000 in 2019.

Vermonters may be sliding back to their old ways, however. Commuting alone inched up and remote work inched down in 2022 as compared with 2021, when Covid was regarded as more of a threat. If Vermonters continue to forgo getting in their cars, that might reduce greenhouse gas emissions—and the pandemic might have done a bit of good for the climate.

Remote work helped reduce solo commuting

Commuters and remote workers, 2019, 2021, and 2022*



* No state data were published for 2020

Data source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2022 1-year estimates
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THIS MONTH

An additional 350 Vermonters found work in September, the 11th month in a row that the number of people employed increased. Since October of last year, 9,700 more Vermonters joined the ranks of the employed. Meanwhile, the number of Vermonters without jobs and looking for work fell in nine of the last 11 months. Unemployment rose in August and September, by about 100 and 200 people, respectively.

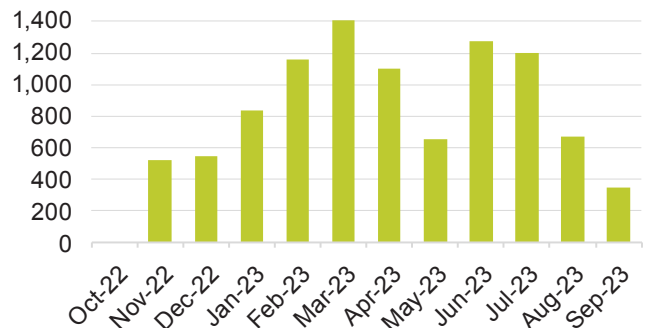
All of this has put pressure on employers. As of August—the latest month data are available—there were nearly three times as many job openings as Vermonters actively looking for work.

LATEST BLS DATA - OCTOBER 20, 2023			
	SEP 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2022
Labor Force	348,849	348,302	342,661
Employment	342,244	341,895	332,538
Unemployment	6,605	6,407	10,123
Unemployment Rate	1.9%	1.8%	3.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Vermont added workers for 11 straight months

Change in the number of Vermonters employed each month, seasonally adjusted



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor
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