

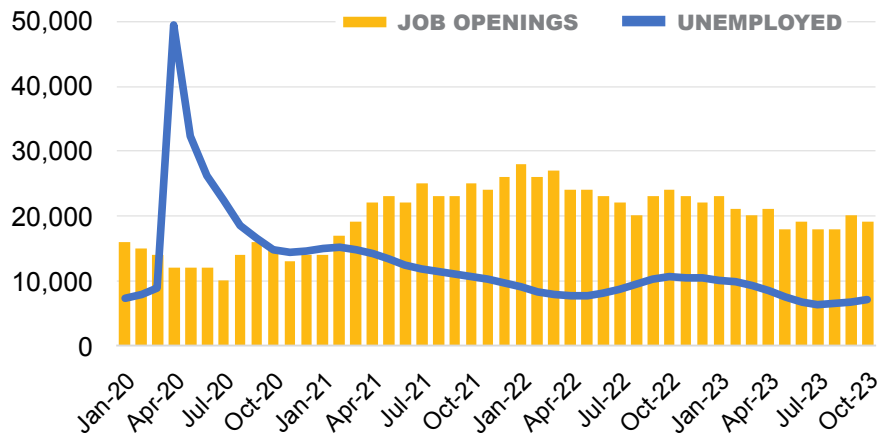
## Vermont's workforce is growing, but not fast enough

Vermonters continued to [find work](#) in recent months, and at the start of the year employers [filled jobs](#) at a record pace. But Vermont still has more jobs than people to fill them.

According to the most recent reports from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Vermont workplaces had 2.7 jobs openings in October 2023 for every unemployed person—that is, someone without work who is actively seeking it. That ratio was down slightly from the summer months, but an increase over October 2022. Vermont's ratio of job openings to job-seekers was nearly double the U.S. ratio in October.

### Job openings still outnumber job-seekers

Job openings and unemployed Vermonters looking for work, Jan 2020-Oct 2023



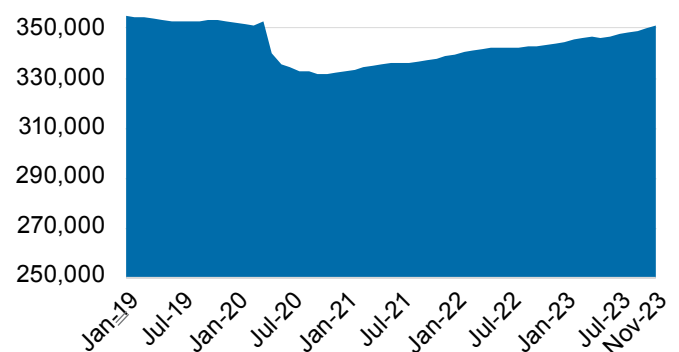
Data source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
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### THIS MONTH

Vermont's labor force exceeded 350,000 for the first time since the start of the pandemic, and November marked the 13th straight month that the number of employed people increased. The labor force, which includes people working and those actively looking for work, rose to 351,080 in November. That's still smaller than the workforce was in 2018 and 2019, when it topped 355,000. But November was the first month it has risen above 350,000 since April of 2020. Unemployment also was up. The jobless rate increased to 2.1 percent from 2.0 percent in October.

### Labor force climbed back above 350,000

Monthly labor force, seasonally adjusted, Jan 2019-Nov 2023



Data source: Vermont Department of Labor  
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LATEST BLS DATA - DECEMBER 22, 2023			
	NOV 2023	OCT 2023	NOV 2022
Labor Force	351,080	349,914	343,549
Employment	343,538	342,779	333,046
Unemployment	7,542	7,135	10,503
Unemployment Rate	2.1%	2.0%	3.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics