

The Vermont Labor Market Quarterly

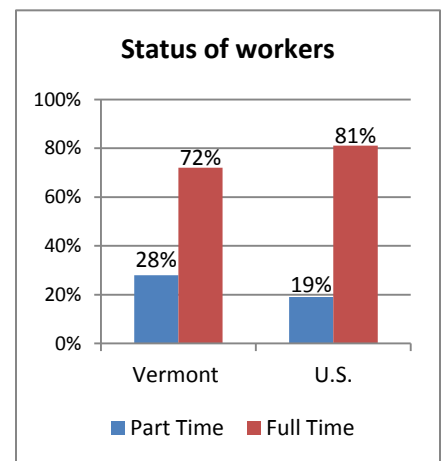
A newsletter of the Economic & Labor Market Information Division of the Vermont Department of Labor

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The Nature of Part Time Employment in Vermont

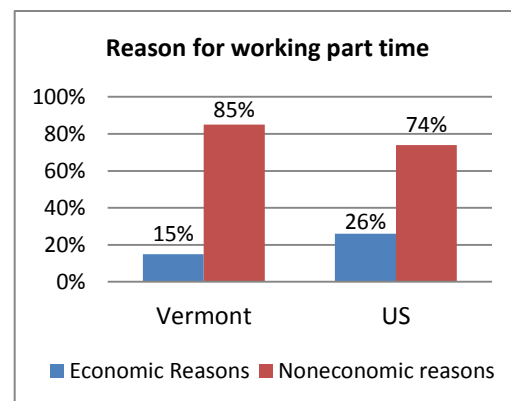
The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) defines part-time workers as “those who worked 1 to 34 hours during the survey reference week.” The BLS collects information on people who work part time as part of the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), also known as the “Household Survey”. CPS interviews approximately 60,000 households nationwide each month to learn about the work status of residents living there. This data is used to calculate the size of the labor force, the current unemployment rate and other measures of labor force underutilization. The Vermont portion of the CPS is approximately 1,200 households.

People work part-time for a variety of reasons. The Current Population Survey sorts those into people working part time for *economic reasons* and those working part time for *noneconomic reasons*. Economic reasons include slack work or unfavorable business conditions, inability to find full-time work or seasonal declines in demand. Noneconomic reasons include childcare problems, family or personal obligations, school or training, retirement or Social Security limits on earnings and other reasons. People working part time for economic reasons are considered *underutilized* and included in the BLS’s widest measure of labor market underutilization, the U6. People working part time for noneconomic reasons are not being underutilized because they are working part time for reasons unrelated to the health of the labor market.



Because Vermont’s CPS sample is small, the monthly data is too small to draw conclusions about part time employment. By using annual data, however, we find that in 2014 approximately 72% of employed people in Vermont were working full time. The remaining 28% were working part time (less than 35 hours). When compared to the national average, Vermont has a significantly larger portion of people working part time. Nationwide, about 81% of employed people work full time while 19% work part time. This difference might reflect Vermont’s mixture of industries – Leisure and Hospitality, for example, tend to have a larger portion of part time workers than other industries.

Nationally, approximately 74% of those working part time are doing so for noneconomic reasons.



26% are working part time for economic reasons. Using data extracted from the CPS, we find that the portion of people working part time for economic reasons in Vermont is much smaller. Of those Vermonters working part time, only 15% are doing so for economic reasons. The remaining 85% are doing so for noneconomic reasons.

The Economic & Labor Market Information Division (ELMI) of the Vermont Department of Labor is a primary source of labor market information in Vermont.

We provide detailed information about current employment patterns, labor market trends and workforce utilization for the state of Vermont and various sub-state geographies

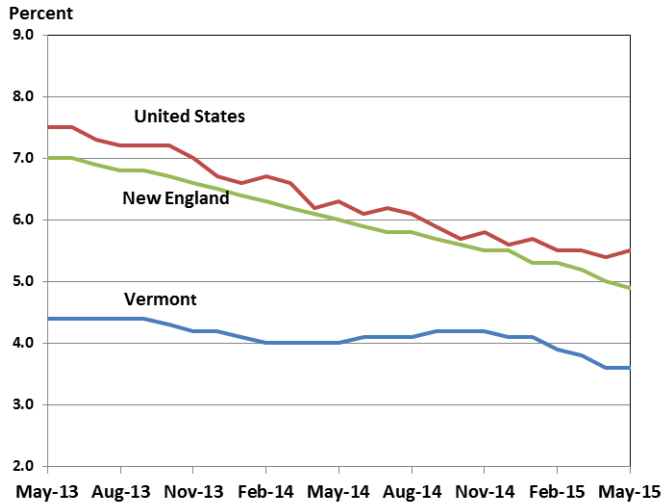
ELMI administers labor market data programs in collaboration with our federal partners at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment & Training administration.

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Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions, states, counties, metropolitan areas, and towns by place of residence. Statewide estimates are derived primarily from a survey of approximately 1,200 Vermonters each month, part of the

Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted



nationwide Current Population Survey. Monthly Current Employment Statistics figures and weekly unemployment claims are also included in the LAUS model.

The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate steadily decreased from 4.1% in January to 3.6% in April. The May seasonally adjusted estimate remained steady at 3.6%, a decline of four-tenths of a percent since May 2014. This relative stability in the rate comes after an uneven decline from its recessionary peak of 7.0% in May of 2009.

Vermont’s unemployment rate was the 4th lowest in the nation as of May 2015. The New England seasonally adjusted rate was 4.9%. Connecticut and Rhode Island had the highest rates in New England at 6.0% and 5.9%, respectively. Nationwide, West Virginia had the highest rate among states at 7.2%, though the District of Columbia was higher still at 7.3%.

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

QCEW is a quarterly census of all firms covered by unemployment insurance in the state of Vermont. Data collected includes monthly employment level and wages at each worksite. Because it is a census, QCEW serves as a benchmark for other LMI programs. Data is published on a quarterly basis with a processing delay of approximately six months. Data for the fourth quarter of 2014 was recently published, allowing an annual comparison with 2013.

Annual Change in QCEW Employment, 2013 – 2014

Industry Group	2013	2014	Change	Percent change
Total employment	301,614	304,490	2,876	1.0%
Private ownership	248,994	251,487	2,493	1.0%
Goods Producing	49,250	49,610	360	0.7%
Service Providing	199,745	201,876	2,131	1.1%
Government	52,619	53,003	384	0.7%

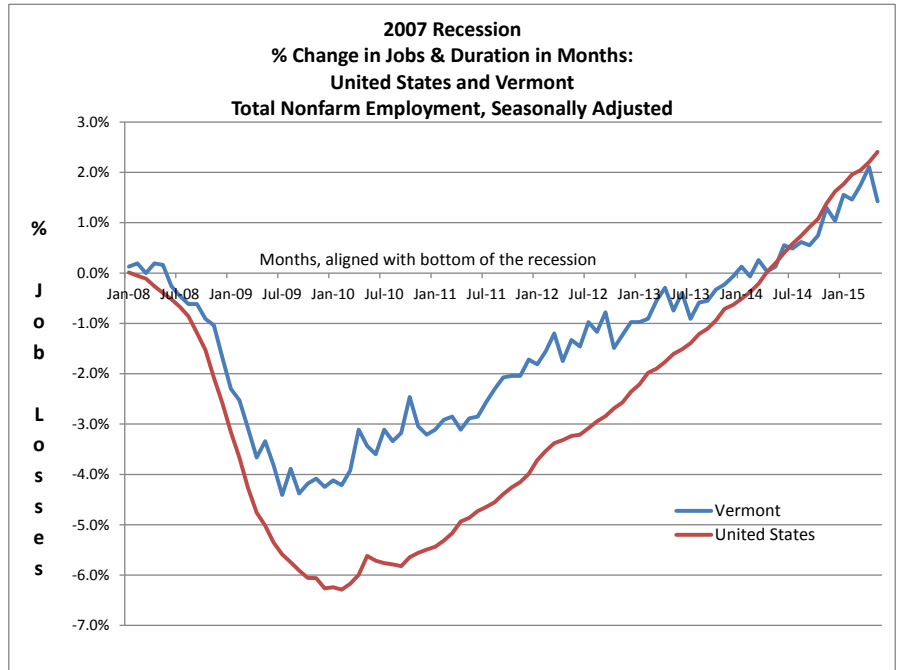
Between 2013 and 2014 total employment increased by 2,876 (about 1.0%), with private, service-providing industries accounting for the largest increase. On a percent basis, large areas of growth included Support Activities for Transportation (10%), Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing (18.6%) and Textile Mills Manufacturing (23%). The greatest increase in number of jobs was in Leisure and Hospitality (+789) followed by Construction (+681). The largest losses were in Durable Goods Manufacturing (-844). Private Ownership employment grew by 2,493 (1%). Federal government employment increased by 111 (1.7%). State government employment increased by 257 (1.6%). Local government employment was virtually unchanged, adding 16 jobs or .1%.

Current Employment Statistics

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program provides detailed industry data on employment, hours and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. It is designed to take a monthly ‘pulse’ of the economy based on historical data and a survey of approximately 144,000 business and government agencies nationwide. The sample includes approximately 2,000 firms in Vermont each month.

CES output is a modeled survey sample. As with any sample, it is subject to statistical error. Another program, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), provides a more comprehensive count but publication is delayed approximately six months.

Over the course of the past year total nonfarm has added 4,000 jobs. This is an increase of 1.3%. Since the bottom of the most recent recession (July 2009), the Vermont economy has added a seasonally adjusted 18,000 jobs. Total



seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment stood at 312,900 as of May. Over the year, the largest number of jobs were added in Education and Health Services, while the fastest growth rate was in Other Services where employment increased 3.9%. Government saw the largest loss, -400 over the year.

Labor Market Areas Redefined in 2015

The geography of Vermont’s Labor Market Areas have been redefined to reflect population estimates from the 2010 Decennial Census and commuting patterns from the American Community Survey. The updated Labor Market Areas replace areas based on the 2000 Decennial Census, which have been in use since 2005. This change took effect with the release of the January, 2015 data for Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). The January 2015 Current Employment Statistics data was also based on the new geography for Vermont’s only Metropolitan area, The Burlington – South Burlington NECTA.

It should be noted that for most areas the title did not change but there was a change in geography. For example, the Burlington – South Burlington NECTA now includes Lincoln and Swanton but no longer includes Buels Gore or Isle La Motte. In the case of Morristown – Waterbury LMA, the name changed but the geography remained the same.

Labor Market Areas are determined by combining population data and commuting patterns. The title of each area is based on town(s) forming the core area or urban cluster. Vermont has three different labor market area types: Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Small Labor Market Areas. Labor market area titles published by our office may differ from the official names for brevity or common understanding. More information, detailed maps and a comprehensive list of towns included in each Labor Market Area can be found on our website, www.vtlmi.info.

Career Planning and Employment Data Resources

The Department of Labor has a wide range of employment resources available to Vermonters seeking to find work, change careers or just explore opportunities. Our staff work to connect Vermont businesses with qualified employees and offer innovative programs to help train motivated individuals. The Economic & Labor Market Information Division also houses data related to occupations, industries, wages, income and labor force utilization for the state and various sub-state geographies.

Career Exploration Resources

American Job Centers: The Vermont Department of Labor has 13 Career Resource Centers throughout the state. These centers can assist with job searches and provide access to online resources.

www.labor.vermont.gov/workforce-development

Start Where You Are explores the variety of occupations available to Vermonters and offers guidance on where to receive the requisite education and training.

www.startwhereyouarevt.org

My Skills My Future is a place to manage your career and create a pathway to success. Tools are available to help students, businesses and career professionals.

www.careeronestop.org

My Next Move helps young people and those changing careers make informed decisions about career choices, including a unique exploration tool that allows the user to search by interests and training. www.mynextmove.org

Vermont Job Link is a free, self-service job matching system for jobseekers and employers. Job seekers can post a resume and apply for positions directly from the site. Job Link is hosted by the VT Department of Labor.

www.vermontjoblink.com

For questions about this newsletter or for more information about the Economic & Labor Market Information Division of the Vermont Department of Labor, please reach us at:

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Resources for Employers

Vermont Small Business Development Center is a source for no-cost business advising and low-cost training for Vermont entrepreneurs. www.vtsbdc.org

Think Vermont is a source for information about starting, expanding and relocating a business in VT.

www.accd.vermont.gov/business

Economic & Labor Market Data

From our homepage at www.vtlmi.info, Vermonters can access a wide range of labor market data. This includes all of the background data for sections of this newsletter as well as occupational and industrial projections, wage ranges and quintiles by occupation, fringe benefits comparisons, per capita incomes, an employer database, quarterly workforce indicators and assorted related data. Other sources for labor market data include:

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov.

The Employment and Training Administration
www.doleta.gov

Vermont Department of Labor
labor.vermont.gov