

The Vermont Labor Market Quarterly

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

March, 2017

A Review of the Vermont Economy in 2016

The economic expansion that started in 2009 continued in 2016. Personal income increased by 3.3% over the year compared to 3.6% nationwide. Nevada experienced the fastest growth at 5.9% while Wyoming saw the greatest decline, -1.7%. Vermont per capita personal income in 2016 stood at \$50,321, the 19th highest in the nation. Among states, the highest per capita personal income was in Connecticut (\$71,033). The lowest per capita personal income was in Mississippi where the figure was \$35,936, just over half of Connecticut's. Vermont is ranked fifth among New England States, about \$7,000 higher than Maine.

Statewide Overview

The labor market continued to improve in 2016. Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 2,200 (0.7%) to 313,900 between December of 2015 and 2016. Private sector employment increased 1,900 (0.7%) while government employment increased 300 (0.5%). This represents the seventh straight year of employment gains in the Current Employment

Statistics series. Employment gains were concentrated in Accommodation & Food Service (+1,500), Health Care & Social Assistance (+700), Other Services (+500) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+400). The largest losses were found in Durable Goods Manufacturing (-1,200), Administrative & Waste Services (-400) and Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (-400).

The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.4% in December of 2015 to 3.2% in December of 2016, the lowest unemployment rate since May of 2001. The comparable national unemployment rates were 5.0% in December 2015 and 4.7% in December, 2016. The labor force, which had declined every year since 2010, increased by 950 persons over the year. The increase was driven exclusively by the number of employed persons which increased 1,550, the first increase in employed persons since 2010. The number of unemployed persons fell by 650 to 10,900, the seventh straight year of decline and the lowest number of unemployed persons since May of 2001.

After peaking at 7.0% in May of 2009, the unemployment rate has gradually declined for almost 8 years. The number of unemployed persons peaked at 25,200 in May of 2009 and, as mentioned, has declined in every year since.

The number of employed persons has not experienced as much improvement, growing unsteadily between 2009 and 2011 (from 335,900 in May, 2009 to 338,750 in February, 2011). It declined in similar unsteady fashion until October of 2015, at which point the number of employed persons stood at a post-recession-era low of 332,500. It has since recovered some of those losses, increasing to 334,200 by December, 2016.

Labor Market Areas

While most areas of the state experienced an increase in employed persons, the largest growth was once again in the Burlington – South Burlington Labor Market Areas (LMA) where the number increased by 1,750 or 1.4%. Other areas with large percentage increases in the number of employed persons include Middlebury (up 2.6%), White River Junction (up 1.9%), and Morristown – Waterbury (up 1.8%). The

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. This newsletter was produced with support from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration.

Labor Market Information Quarterly

number of unemployed persons either remained flat or fell in every LMA. The largest declines were seen in Burlington- South Burlington (-300 over the year), Barre – Montpelier (-150) and Brattleboro (-100).

Labor force data for labor market areas is not seasonally adjusted. See Table 1 for a comparison of LMA data for December 2015 and 2016.

Table 1: Changes in LMA Labor Force Data

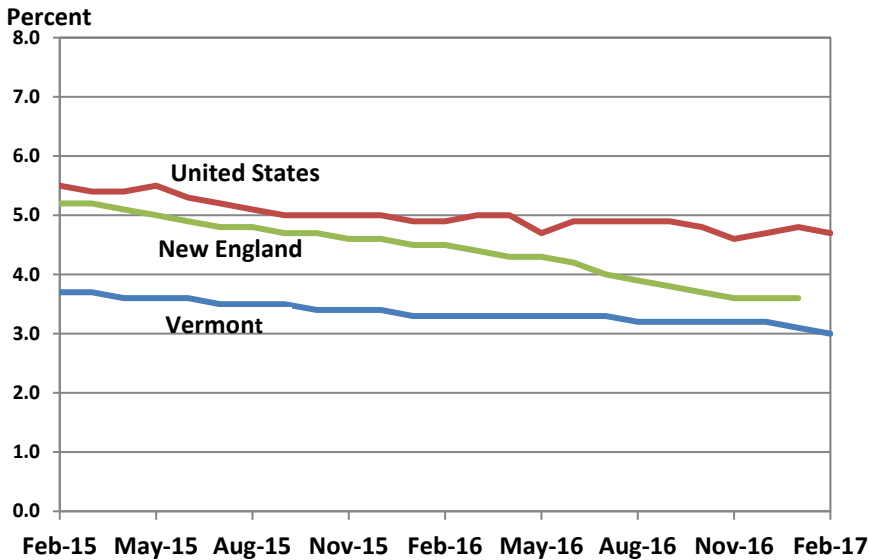
Labor Force Data, December Comparison					
Labor Market Area	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate (%)
Barre-Montpelier	2016	25,600	24,900	700	2.7
	2015	25,400	24,600	850	3.3
Bennington	2016	10,850	10,500	400	3.5
	2015	10,950	10,500	450	4.3
Brattleboro	2016	22,500	21,900	600	2.7
	2015	22,500	21,800	700	3.2
Burlington-South Burlington	2016	125,350	122,650	2,700	2.1
	2015	123,900	120,900	3,000	2.4
Colebrook, NH-VT (Vt part)	2016	500	450	50	7.5
	2015	550	500	50	6.7
Derby	2016	12,500	11,850	650	5.0
	2015	12,500	11,750	700	5.7
Highgate	2016	10,000	9,650	350	3.3
	2015	9,950	9,600	350	3.4
Littleton, NH-VT (Vt part)	2016	850	850	50	4.0
	2015	850	800	50	3.9
Manchester	2016	11,600	11,250	350	3.1
	2015	11,600	11,150	450	3.8
Middlebury	2016	18,300	17,750	550	2.9
	2015	17,900	17,300	600	3.4
Morristown-Waterbury	2016	17,350	16,700	700	4.0
	2015	17,100	16,400	750	4.2
Newbury	2016	2,750	2,650	100	3.1
	2015	2,700	2,650	100	3.1
Northfield-Waitsfield	2016	6,900	6,750	200	2.7
	2015	6,950	6,750	200	3.1
Randolph	2016	7,250	7,050	200	3.1
	2015	7,400	7,150	250	3.5
Rutland	2016	22,050	21,350	650	3.0
	2015	21,850	21,150	700	3.2
Springfield	2016	10,750	10,450	300	2.8
	2015	11,050	10,700	350	3.0
St. Johnsbury	2016	13,350	12,850	500	3.8
	2015	13,250	12,700	550	4.1
White River Junction	2016	19,550	19,150	400	2.1
	2015	19,200	18,800	450	2.2
Woodstock	2016	4,050	3,950	100	3.0
	2015	4,300	4,200	150	3.1

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. Estimates are derived primarily from a survey of approximately 1,200 Vermont households each month as part of the Current Population Survey.

The February, 2017 seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate stood at 3.0%, down one tenth of a point from January and three-tenths of a point from the same month last year. The labor force increased by 800 over the month, composed of a

Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted



150-person reduction in unemployment and a 900-person increase employment (figures may not sum due to rounding). February's labor force was 2,650 people larger than the same time last year.

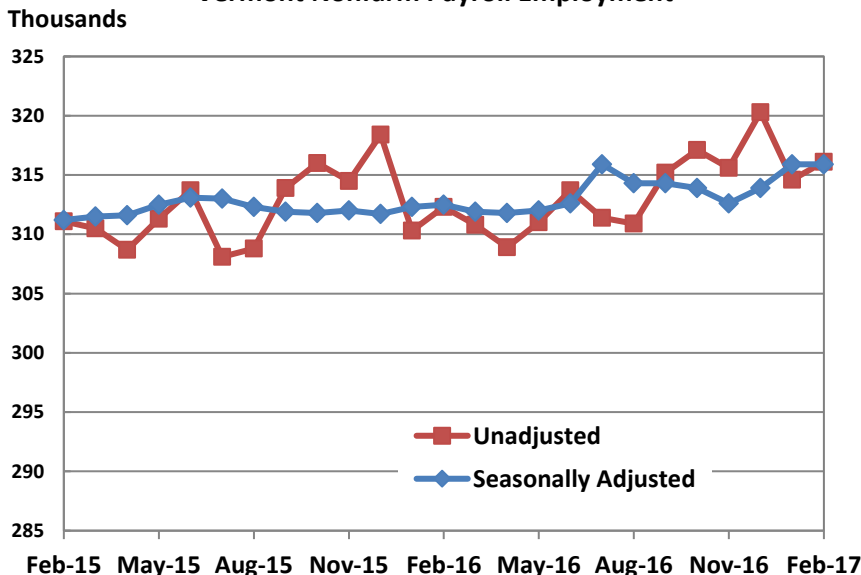
The not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for February was 3.4% statewide, a two-tenths of one point decline relative the same period last year. The Burlington-South Burlington labor market area (LMA) continues to have the lowest unemployment rate at 2.4%, a decline of two-tenths of a point over the month and the year. The Derby LMA has the highest rate, 7.2%. This is a three-tenths decline over the year. In addition to Burlington-South Burlington, four other LMA's have unemployment rates below 3%: Brattleboro (Vermont part, 2.9%), Lebanon (Vermont

part, 2.5%), Springfield (2.9%) and Woodstock (2.5%). The most significant over-the-year declines were in the North Adams LMA (Vermont part, -1.8 percentage points), Colebrook (VT part, -0.9), St. Johnsbury (-0.6). One LMA experienced an increase in the unemployment rate over the year: the Vermont part of Littleton, NH which increased from 4.9% to 5.4%.

Current Employment Statistics

Seasonally-adjusted Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 3,400 (1.1%) between February of 2016 and 2017. It

Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment



was effectively unchanged over the month. The private sector added 200 jobs over the month (3,500 over the year) while Government lost 200 over the month (-100 over the year).

The largest monthly gains were found in Construction and Leisure & Hospitality (both +600) while the largest over-the-year gains were found in Accommodation & Food Service (+2,700) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,000).

The largest over-the-month losses were in Retail Trade (-500) and State Government (-400). Over-the-year, the largest losses were in Durable Goods Manufacturing (-1,100).

Career Planning and Employment Data Resources

The VT Department of Labor has a wide range of 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 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 12 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, 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

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development 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
www.labor.vermont.gov