

The Vermont Labor Market Quarterly

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

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Wage Record Counts: A New Labor Market Data Product

Beginning with the upcoming release of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) for the first quarter of 2016, the Economic and Labor Market Information Division will produce a new data product, wage records by gender. The expected release date is early September of this year. A wage record is a mandatory report of persons being employed by a firm under the Unemployment Insurance program. Wage records are submitted quarterly and contain gross wage data as well as basic demographic information including location and NAICS of the firm as well as the gender of the employee. It does not contain occupational codes or employee addresses. Because firms are organized by Unemployment Insurance account number results are organized at the firm level. This means that employment is recorded at the location of the firm's primary location instead of at the location of individual establishments within the firm.

How and when will this data be reported?

We plan to use the wage records to produce quarterly information on employment and wages in each industry (2-digit NAICS) by gender. The data will be released concurrent with the release of QCEW data for the same quarter.

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.

Will historical wage record data be made available?

Yes. Historical data from 2006 forward will be available at www.vtلمي.info concurrent with the first quarterly release. Historical data will include average wage and employment by gender for each 2-digit NAICS.

How does this differ from QCEW female counts?

QCEW employment counts are a census of all covered employment during the reference week of a given month. That data is published as quarterly averages using the reference week for three consecutive months. Female counts are only collected for one month each quarter.

Wage records provide a count of the number of instances in which an individual held a position covered by unemployment insurance during the reference period. This means that each employed person creates a unique count for each position he or she worked during a given quarter.

An example might better demonstrate the conceptual difference: A firm hires a different person each month for two months to complete a one-week project. Those two hirings coincide with the QCEW reference week. The quarterly QCEW data would report this as .66 average employment over the quarter (one person employed in 2 of the three months.) The wage record would contain employment for both persons and thus the wage record analysis would report this as two employment instances over the quarter. The net effect of these differences is that wage records produce larger counts but the share of employment by gender is very similar.

Will QCEW female counts continue to be published?

No. The fourth quarter of 2015 marks the end of female counts in QCEW.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

Questions should be directed to:

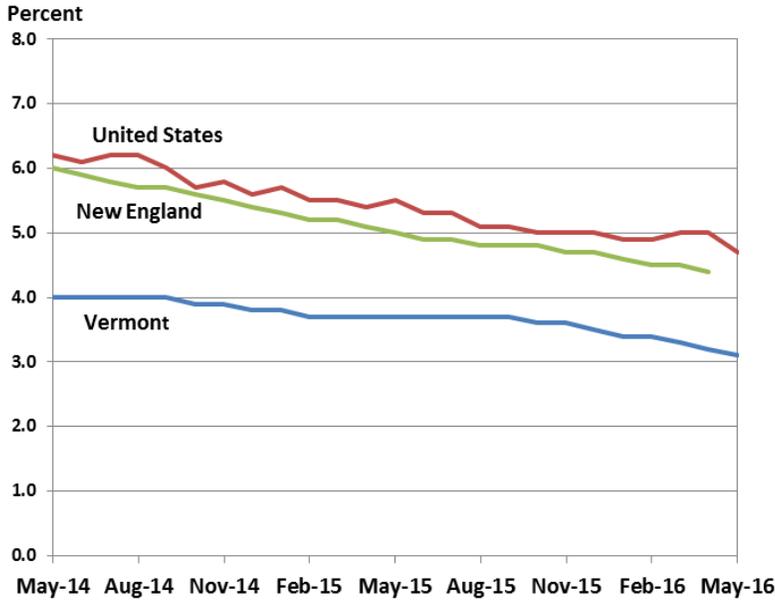
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Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted



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 Vermont households each month as part of the nationwide Current Population Survey. Monthly Current Employment Statistics figures and weekly unemployment claims are also included in the LAUS model.

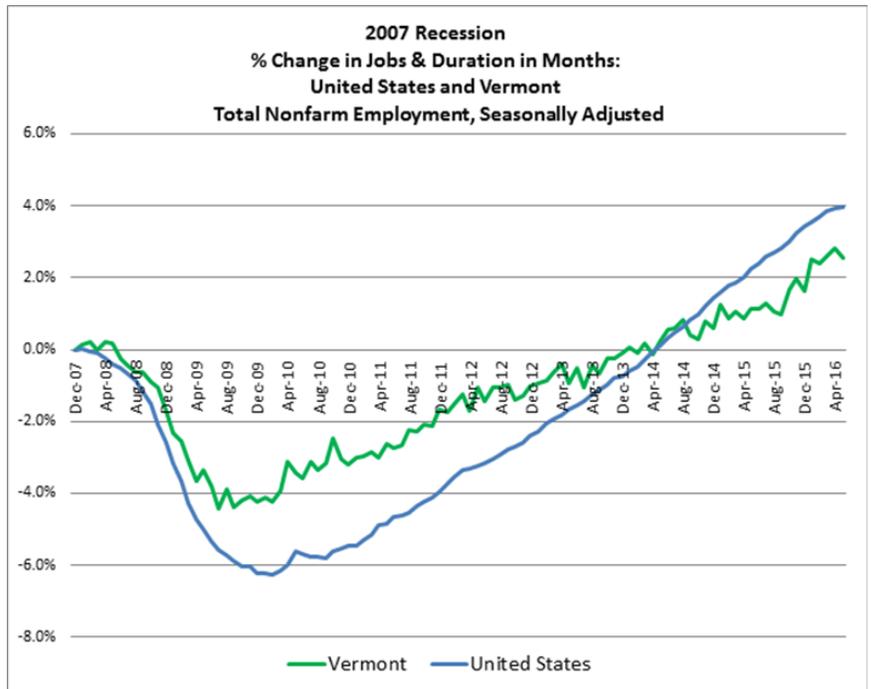
The May, 2016 seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate stood at 3.1%, down six tenths of a point since the same month last year. May's rate represents the lowest unemployment rate since March of 2001. Since its peak in in May of 2009 (7.0%), the unemployment rate has either declined or remained the same each month for seven years.

Chittenden County continues to have the lowest unemployment rate at 2.0%. The Burlington – South Burlington MSA is tied with Ames, Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the lowest rate in the nation at 2.1%. Essex County has the highest unemployment rate at 5.1%. While Essex has the highest rate, it has also seen the largest percentage point decline over the past year, down 1.1 points. Every county experienced a decline in unemployment rate over the year with Windham showing the smallest, a drop of three tenths of a point. Sub-state unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Current Employment Statistics

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program provides 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 2,000 Vermont firms each month.

Total seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment stood at 316,400 in May. Over the past year employment has increased by 4,400 or 1.4%. Over the month employment decreased by 800 or -0.3%. Over the year the private sector added 3,400 jobs while the public sector added 1,000. The largest annual private sector growth was in Education and Health Services, where 2,300 jobs were added. Arts, Entertainment & Recreation experienced the largest percentage growth, expanding by 4.9% (200 jobs). The largest decline was in Manufacturing where 700 jobs (2.3%) were lost. The majority of those were in Durable Goods Manufacturing which declined by 600 jobs. Local government is the only other industry to show an annual decline, losing 300 jobs.



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:

Phone: (802) 828 4202

Email: labor.lmi@vermont.gov

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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.vtlni.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