



# Vermont Economic Update

September 20, 2016

## Summary

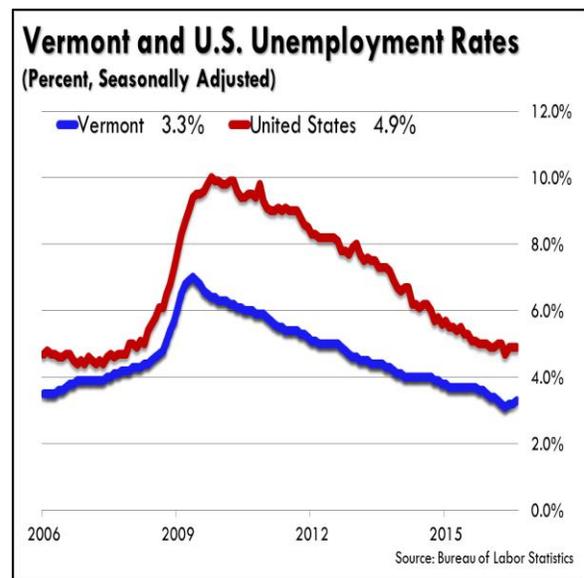
Nonfarm payroll employment in Vermont declined by 300 jobs, and the unemployment rate rose to 3.3 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Vermont Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Vermont increased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.3 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 220 in August to 11,446, while the labor force fell by 61 to 346,182. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, only 4 posted lower unemployment rates. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Vermont stood at 3.7 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Vermont was 7.0 percent in May 2009. The series high for the unemployment rate in Vermont occurred in February 1976 when the unemployment rate reached 8.8 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Vermont was 3.1 percent in May 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Vermont occurred in March 2000 when the unemployment rate was 2.6 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Vermont Payroll Employment

Vermont nonfarm payrolls declined by 300 jobs, or 0.09 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,800. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Vermont increased by 6,500, or 2.09 percent. Vermont nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

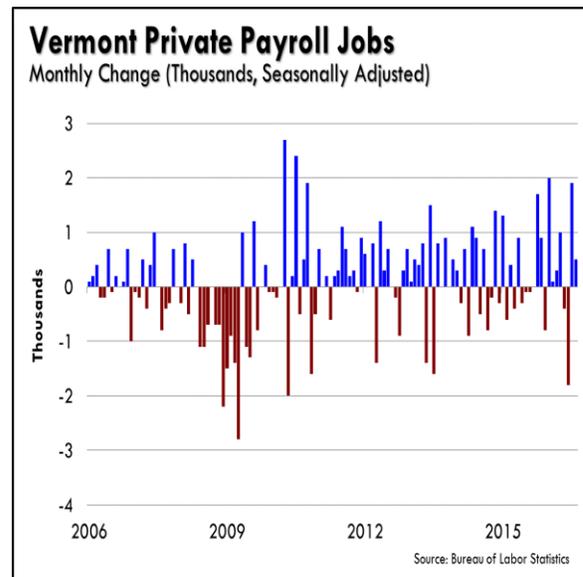
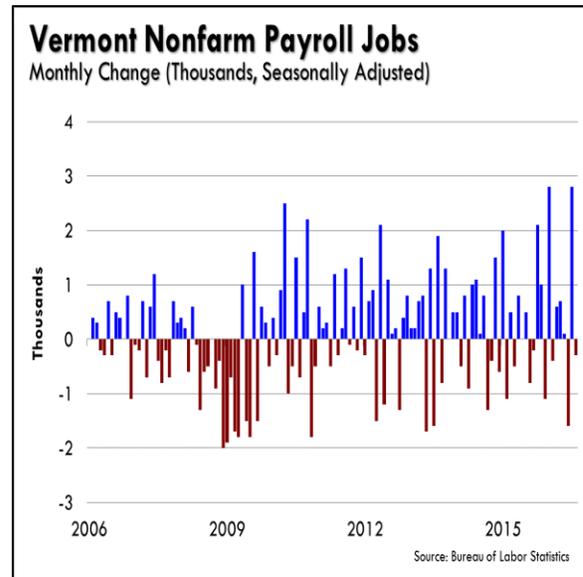
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Vermont ranks 14th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Vermont private-sector payrolls increased by 500, or 0.19 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 1,900 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Vermont increased by 5,400, or 2.11 percent. Vermont private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 126,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,283,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.9 percent. Vermont ranks 19th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, total government payroll employment in Vermont declined by 800, or 1.38 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 1.45 percent. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment declined by 900, or 2.88 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 1,100, or 1.97 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 700, or 3.70 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.66 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Leisure & Hospitality (+900) and Manufacturing (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-800) and Total Government (-800).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+2,500) and Leisure & Hospitality (+1,700). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-200) and Other Services (-100).

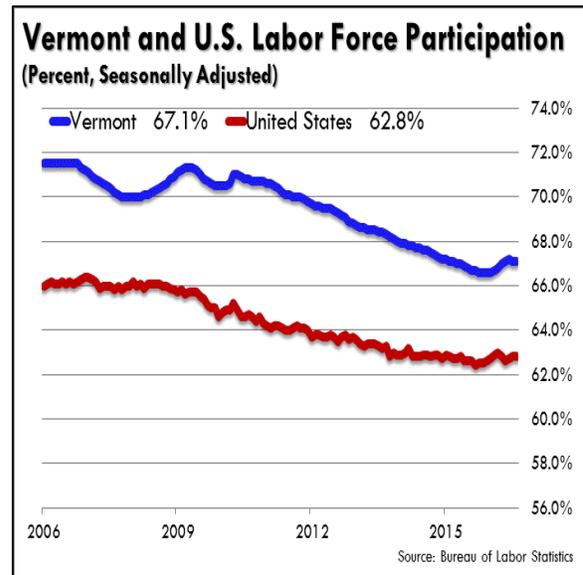
### Other Vermont Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Vermont was unchanged at 67.1 percent in August. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 have a higher labor force participation rate than Vermont. The labor force participation rate in Vermont is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Vermont was 71.5 percent in October 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Vermont occurred in September 1999 when the labor force participation rate hit 72.6 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.6 percent in January 2016. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 62.6 percent.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.8 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Vermont civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 64.9 percent in August. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Vermont. The employment-to-population ratio in Vermont is 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier.



The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Vermont was 68.8 percent in October 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Vermont occurred in August 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 70.5 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.2 percent in January 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in April 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 57.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.7 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 21, 2016. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 7, 2016.

