

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Mathew Barewicz, E & LMI Director, Department of Labor
802-828-4153 | mathew.barewicz@vermont.gov

Vermont's Unemployment Rate Held Steady at 2.6 Percent in May

Today, the Vermont Department of Labor released data on the Vermont economy for the time period covering May 2025. According to household data, the seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate for May was 2.6 percent. This reflects no change from the prior month's revised estimate. The preliminary estimates for April showed an unemployment rate of 2.7% but the initially reported increase of one-tenth of one percentage point disappeared due to the inclusion of more data. The civilian labor force participation rate was 65.0 percent in May, a decrease of one-tenth of one percentage point from the prior month's revised estimate.

Commissioner's Message

"Survey data from Vermont employers indicate the summer hiring season is starting strong. Over the last month, the Vermont economy added 900 jobs after including seasonal adjustment factors, and many Vermont businesses are still recruiting for both seasonal and full-time work. Youth employment is particularly vital to Vermont's summer economy, but don't forget, there are special rules to consider when hiring workers between the ages of 14 and 18.

Whether you're a business looking to fill open positions or a job seeker exploring training and employment opportunities, the Vermont Department of Labor's Workforce Development Division is here to help. Learn more at: <https://labor.vermont.gov/workforce-development> and <https://labor.vermont.gov/child-labor>."

- Michael Harrington, Commissioner

Chart 1. Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted

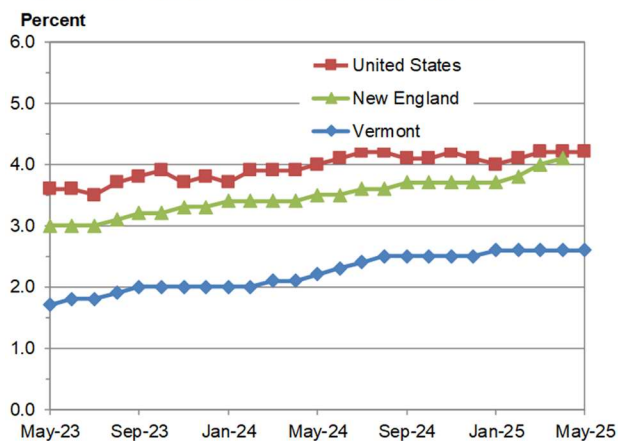
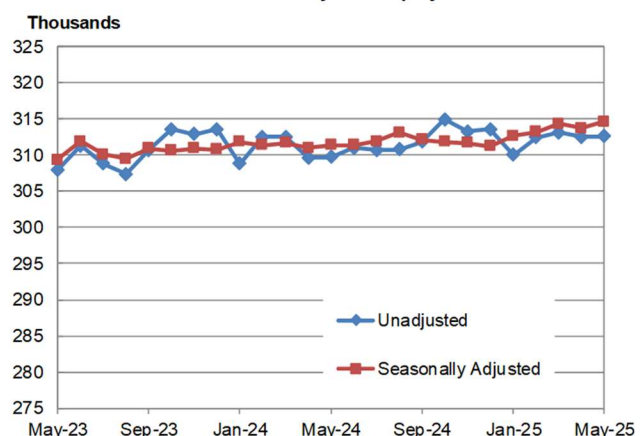


Chart 2. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment



State of Vermont Overview

The Vermont seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate remained at 2.6 percent in May. The comparable United States rate in May was 4.2 percent, no change from the revised April estimate. The seasonally-adjusted Vermont data for May show the Vermont civilian labor force decreased by 494 from the prior month's revised estimate (see Table 1). The number of employed persons decreased by 343 and the number of unemployed persons decreased by 151. No changes were statistically significant in the seasonally-adjusted series.

The May unemployment rates for Vermont's 14 counties ranged from 1.8 percent in Addison and Chittenden Counties to 2.9 percent in Orleans County (note: county unemployment rates are not seasonally-adjusted – see Table 2). For comparison, the May unadjusted unemployment rate for Vermont was 2.2 percent, a decrease of five-tenths of one percentage point from the revised unadjusted April level and an increase of two-tenths of one percentage point from a year ago.

*** BLS note on LAUS geography and data changes in 2025: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/geography-and-data-changes-in-2025.htm> ***

Analysis of Job Changes by Industry

Seasonally-Adjusted (Table 3)

The seasonally-adjusted data for May reported an increase of 900 jobs from the revised April data. There was no change between the preliminary and the revised April estimates due to the inclusion of more data. The seasonally-adjusted over-the-month changes in May varied at the industry level. The industries with a notable increase were Administrative & Waste Services (+800 jobs or +5.7%), Other Services (+300 jobs or +2.9%), and Accommodation & Food Services (+300 jobs or +1.0%). The industries with a notable decrease were Construction (-300 jobs or -1.9%), Private Educational Services (-200 jobs or -1.5%), and Durable Manufacturing (-200 jobs or -1.3%).

Not-Seasonally-Adjusted (Table 4)

The preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' jobs estimates for May showed an increase of 100 jobs when compared to the revised April numbers. As with the seasonally-adjusted data, this over-the-month change is from the revised April numbers which experienced a decrease of 300 jobs from the preliminary estimates. The broader economic picture can be seen by focusing on the over-the-year changes in this data series. As detailed in the preliminary not-seasonally-adjusted May data, Total Private industries increased by 4,500 jobs (+1.8%) over the year and Government (including public education) employment decreased by 1,600 jobs (-2.8%) in the past year.

The Unemployment and Jobs Report for June is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.



Table 1. Vermont Labor Force Estimates, seasonally adjusted

	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	Change From:	
				April 2025	May 2024
Civilian Labor Force	354,941	355,435	355,547	-494	-606
Employed	345,678	346,021	347,725	-343	-2,047
Unemployed	9,263	9,414	7,822	-151	1,441
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.6	2.6	2.2	0.0	0.4

Vermont's labor force, employment and unemployment statistics are produced from a combination of a Statewide survey of households and statistical modeling. The data are produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), a cooperative program with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau) and the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtmi.info/laus.cfm).

Table 2. Vermont Counties, Labor Force Estimates
not seasonally adjusted

County	Civilian Labor Force	May 2025		Unemployment Rate ¹ (%)		
		Employed	Unemployed	May-25	Apr-25	May-24
Vermont Total	351,546	343,979	7,567	2.2	2.7	2.0
Addison	21,876	21,481	395	1.8	2.3	1.6
Bennington	18,074	17,619	455	2.5	3.2	2.5
Caledonia	16,313	15,996	317	1.9	2.8	1.9
Chittenden	99,880	98,044	1,836	1.8	2.1	1.7
Essex	2,840	2,774	66	2.3	3.6	2.6
Franklin	26,916	26,377	539	2.0	2.6	1.9
Grand Isle	4,039	3,950	89	2.2	2.8	1.8
Lamoille	14,902	14,500	402	2.7	3.6	2.6
Orange	16,108	15,775	333	2.1	3.1	1.9
Orleans	13,684	13,294	390	2.9	5.1	2.8
Rutland	29,915	29,140	775	2.6	3.1	2.5
Washington	33,016	32,306	710	2.2	2.7	2.0
Windham	24,402	23,791	611	2.5	2.9	2.5
Windsor	29,582	28,933	649	2.2	2.6	2.0

¹Rate is an estimate for number of unemployed divided by total labor force, expressed as a percent.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS) produced by the Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtmi.info/laus.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/lau).



Table 3. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, seasonally adjusted (thousands)

NAICS Industry	May-25	Apr-25	May-24	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Apr-25	May-24	Apr-25	May-24
Statewide, Total Nonfarm	314.6	313.7	311.4	0.9	3.2	0.3	1.0
Total Private	258.2	257.3	255.5	0.9	2.7	0.3	1.1
Mining, Logging and Construction	16.7	17.0	17.0	-0.3	-0.3	-1.8	-1.8
Mining & Logging	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.9	16.2	16.2	-0.3	-0.3	-1.9	-1.9
Manufacturing	27.0	27.2	27.8	-0.2	-0.8	-0.7	-2.9
Durable Goods	15.8	16.0	16.4	-0.2	-0.6	-1.3	-3.7
Non-Durable Goods	11.2	11.2	11.4	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-1.8
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	52.8	52.7	52.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.8
Wholesale Trade	8.8	8.7	8.9	0.1	-0.1	1.1	-1.1
Retail Trade	36.1	36.0	35.7	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7.9	8.0	7.8	-0.1	0.1	-1.3	1.3
Information	4.4	4.4	4.6	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-4.3
Financial Activities	11.6	11.5	11.6	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.0
Finance & Insurance	8.6	8.5	8.6	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.0
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	34.5	34.1	33.0	0.4	1.5	1.2	4.5
Professional & Technical Services	17.9	18.1	17.8	-0.2	0.1	-1.1	0.6
Administrative & Waste Services	14.8	14.0	13.1	0.8	1.7	5.7	13.0
Education and Health Services	65.3	65.1	63.9	0.2	1.4	0.3	2.2
Private Educational Services	12.9	13.1	12.5	-0.2	0.4	-1.5	3.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	52.4	52.0	51.4	0.4	1.0	0.8	1.9
Leisure and Hospitality	35.4	35.1	35.2	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4.9	4.9	4.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.1
Accommodation & Food Services	30.5	30.2	30.4	0.3	0.1	1.0	0.3
Other Services	10.5	10.2	10.0	0.3	0.5	2.9	5.0
Government	56.4	56.4	55.9	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.9
Federal	6.9	7.0	6.9	-0.1	0.0	-1.4	0.0
State	18.7	18.7	18.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6
Local	30.8	30.7	30.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7
Burlington-S. Burlington (MSA)	126.6	126.1	124.2	0.5	2.4	0.4	1.9
Total Nonfarm							

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtlimi.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. See Annual Summary for details.



Table 4. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, not seasonally adjusted

NAICS Industry	May-25	Apr-25	May-24	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Apr-25	May-24	Apr-25	May-24
TOTAL NONFARM	312,600	312,500	309,700	100	2,900	0.0	0.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	257,000	254,700	252,500	2,300	4,500	0.9	1.8
GOODS-PRODUCING	44,100	43,400	45,100	700	-1,000	1.6	-2.2
MINING, LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION	17,200	16,400	17,500	800	-300	4.9	-1.7
Mining & Logging	800	800	800	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	16,400	15,600	16,700	800	-300	5.1	-1.8
MANUFACTURING	26,900	27,000	27,600	-100	-700	-0.4	-2.5
Durable Goods	15,800	16,000	16,300	-200	-500	-1.3	-3.1
Non-Durable Goods	11,100	11,000	11,300	100	-200	0.9	-1.8
Food Mfg.	5,200	5,200	5,400	0	-200	0.0	-3.7
SERVICE-PROVIDING	268,500	269,100	264,600	-600	3,900	-0.2	1.5
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	52,800	52,300	52,200	500	600	1.0	1.1
Wholesale Trade	8,800	8,700	8,900	100	-100	1.1	-1.1
Retail Trade	36,100	35,800	35,500	300	600	0.8	1.7
Food & Beverage Retailers	9,900	9,800	9,700	100	200	1.0	2.1
General Merchandise Retailers	3,700	3,800	3,600	-100	100	-2.6	2.8
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	7,900	7,800	7,800	100	100	1.3	1.3
Transportation & Warehousing	6,700	6,600	6,600	100	100	1.5	1.5
Utilities	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0	0.0	0.0
INFORMATION	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	-200	0.0	-4.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	11,600	11,400	11,600	200	0	1.8	0.0
Finance & Insurance	8,600	8,500	8,600	100	0	1.2	0.0
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3,000	2,900	3,000	100	0	3.4	0.0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	34,700	34,000	33,100	700	1,600	2.1	4.8
Professional & Technical Services	17,800	18,300	17,800	-500	0	-2.7	0.0
Administrative & Waste Services	15,000	13,700	13,300	1,300	1,700	9.5	12.8
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	65,400	66,400	63,600	-1,000	1,800	-1.5	2.8
Private Educational Services	13,000	14,600	12,300	-1,600	700	-11.0	5.7
Colleges and Universities	7,400	8,800	6,700	-1,400	700	-15.9	10.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	52,400	51,800	51,300	600	1,100	1.2	2.1
Ambulatory Health Care Services	17,000	16,900	17,100	100	-100	0.6	-0.6
Hospitals	15,200	15,000	14,500	200	700	1.3	4.8
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	6,900	6,800	6,700	100	200	1.5	3.0
Social Assistance	13,300	13,100	13,000	200	300	1.5	2.3
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	33,600	32,600	32,300	1,000	1,300	3.1	4.0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5,000	4,400	4,700	600	300	13.6	6.4
Accommodation & Food Services	28,600	28,200	27,600	400	1,000	1.4	3.6
Accommodation	8,600	9,200	8,300	-600	300	-6.5	3.6
Hotels & Motels	7,300	8,000	7,000	-700	300	-8.8	4.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	20,000	19,000	19,300	1,000	700	5.3	3.6
OTHER SERVICES	10,400	10,200	10,000	200	400	2.0	4.0
GOVERNMENT	55,600	57,800	57,200	-2,200	-1,600	-3.8	-2.8
Federal Government	6,900	7,000	6,900	-100	0	-1.4	0.0
State Government Education	7,100	9,700	9,200	-2,600	-2,100	-26.8	-22.8
Other State Government	10,000	9,900	9,600	100	400	1.0	4.2
Local Government Education	23,600	23,200	23,500	400	100	1.7	0.4
Other Local Government	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0	0.0	0.0

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor (www.vtلمي.info/ces.cfm) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/sae).

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