# Employer Survey

2023



Economic and Labor Market Information VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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# INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Labor Market Information Division (LMI) of the Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) surveyed Vermont firms about various benefits including healthcare, leave, and retirement. Employers were also asked about other topics such as employee retention, remote work, and in-demand skills. This 2023 Employer Survey is an evolution of the Fringe Benefit Survey conducted by The Department in the past. The following pages are a summary of the findings. All information presented here is based on employer provided responses to a voluntary survey even if not explicitly stated.

# SURVEY DESIGN

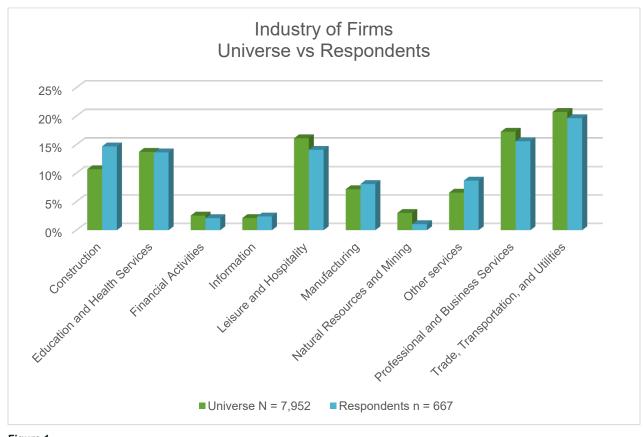
LMI distributed the survey using Survey Monkey, a web-based survey development software. In total, it was distributed to 1,842 firms. During the 22 days the survey was open, 667 employers provided usable responses. This resulted in a response rate of 36.2%. The survey recipients included firms covered by Vermont Unemployment Insurance (UI) law. For the purpose of the study, the universe population is active

private firms in Vermont with employment of five or more employees in quarter 3 of 2022. In total, the universe was approximately eight-thousand firms. Only firms with a valid email were included in the sample.

Please see the Appendix for the complete survey instrument.

#### INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

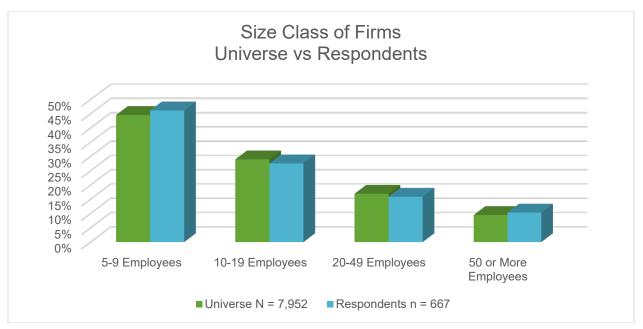
The industry composition of the universe and survey respondents was broadly similar (see Figure 1).



#### Figure 1

#### SIZE CLASS REPRESENTATION

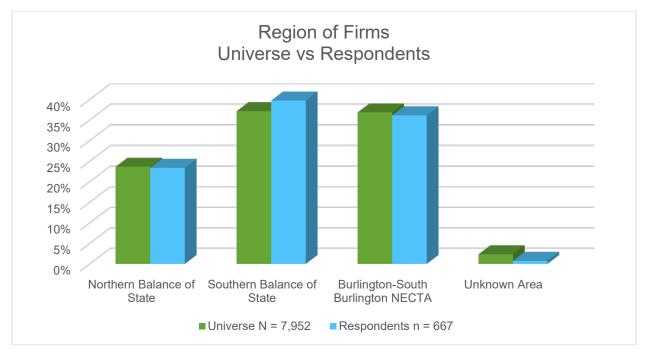
The employer size classes of respondents were broadly similar to the universe (Figure 2). The universe is predominantly smaller employers.





# GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

The three areas of the state (as defined by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics program) were well represented by respondents (Figure 3).





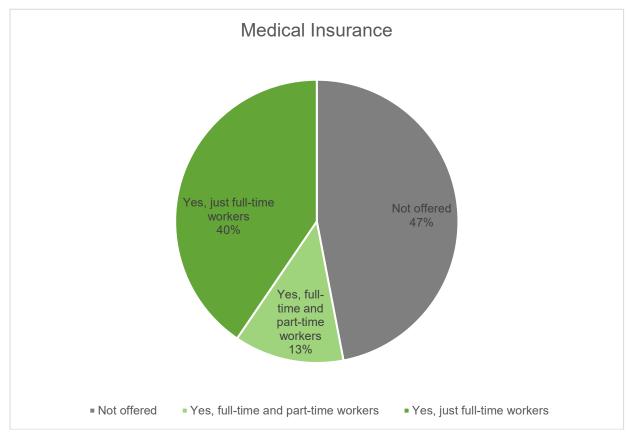
#### HIGHLIGHTS

- 53.0% of respondents offered Medical Insurance
- ✤ 46.9% of respondents reported having vacant positions
- ✤ 64.9% of respondents offered a flexible work schedule to employees
- ✤ 57.9% of respondents offered a retirement plan with employer contribution

### BENEFITS

#### HEALTHCARE

Employers were surveyed about nine different types of healthcare benefits (see Table 1 and Table 2). They were asked to indicate whether the benefits were "not offered", offered to "Full-time workers", or offered to "Full-time and Part-time workers". Medical insurance was the most widely offered healthcare benefit, offered by 53.0% of respondents, with 40.5% offering it to just full-time workers and 12.5% of respondents offering it to both full-time and part-time workers. Prescription Drug Insurance (39.0%), Dental Insurance (36.3%), and Vision Insurance (32.1%) were the second, third, and fourth, respectively, most reported healthcare benefit, offered benefits offered. Health Reimbursement Arrangements were the least common healthcare benefit, offered by 16.0% of survey respondents.



#### **Table 1. Healthcare Benefits**

	Yes, offered	Not offered	n
Medical Insurance	53.0%	47.0%	662
Prescription Drug Insurance	39.0%	61.0%	631
Dental Insurance	36.3%	63.7%	641
Vision Insurance	32.1%	67.9%	633
Health Savings Account (HSA)	22.9%	77.1%	616
Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)	16.0%	84.0%	595
Short-term Disability	29.2%	70.8%	617
Long-term Disability	25.4%	74.6%	610
Life Insurance	27.4%	72.6%	613

### Table 2. Healthcare Benefits: Full-Time and Part-Time

	Yes, just full-time workers	Yes, full- time and part-time workers	Not offered	n
Medical Insurance	40.5%	12.5%	47.0%	662
Prescription Drug Insurance	29.5%	9.5%	61.0%	631
Dental Insurance	23.9%	12.5%	63.7%	641
Vision Insurance	21.2%	10.9%	67.9%	633
Health Savings Account (HSA)	16.4%	6.5%	77.1%	616
Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)	10.4%	5.5%	84.0%	595
Short-term Disability	18.6%	10.5%	70.8%	617
Long-term Disability	16.4%	9.0%	74.6%	610
Life Insurance	17.3%	10.1%	72.6%	613

### LEAVE

Paid holidays (77.9%), paid vacation time (70.0%), and paid sick leave (65.8%) were the most offered leave benefits. Consolidated leave was also common, offered by 44.0% of respondents. Consolidated leave is when vacation, sick, and sometimes other types of leave are all combined into a single bucket for use at the employee's discretion (Table 3).

#### **Table 3. Leave Benefits**

	Yes, offered	Not offered	n
Paid holidays	77.9%	22.1%	597
Paid vacation leave	70.0%	30.0%	584
Paid sick leave	65.8%	34.2%	579
Consolidated leave (paid time off, time banks)	44.0%	56.0%	554
Paid family leave (separate from accrued vacation or sick time)	23.1%	76.9%	533

#### Table 4. Leave Benefits: Full-Time and Part-Time Yes, full-time and Yes, just fullpart-time Not offered n time workers workers Paid holidays 42.0% 35.8% 22.1% 597 Paid vacation leave 43.3% 26.7% 30.0% 584 Paid sick leave 32.3% 33.5% 34.2% 579 Consolidated leave 24.9% 19.1% 56.0% 554 Paid family leave 13.5% 9.6% 76.9% 533

Respondents reported offering a median of 15 days of Consolidated leave for employees with 5 years of tenure. Consolidated and Vacation leave types both increased with tenure, while sick leave remained the same. A small percentage of respondents indicated they offered unlimited leave. This was not calculated as part of the median (Table 5).

#### Table 5. How many days of leave does your firm offer for full-time workers?

	Median	n
Consolidated days (after 1 year)	10	242
Consolidated days (after 5 years)	15	222
Vacation leave (after 1 year)	7	334
Vacation leave (after 5 years)	14	323
Sick leave (after 1 year)	5	292
Sick leave (after 5 years)	5	270
Paid Holidays	7	419

# JOB VACANCY, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION

#### VACANCY

Respondents were asked if they have any job vacancies and if so, how many. Nearly half of firms (46.9%) indicated "Yes". "One" vacancy was the most common answer (31.2%) closely followed by "Two" (27.6%) (Table 6 and Table 7).

Table 6. Do you currently have vacant positions you are	e trying to fill?
Yes	46.9%
Νο	53.1%
n	618

#### Table 7. How many vacancies do you currently have?

31.2%
27.6%
19.0%
14.0%
8.2%
279

#### IN-DEMAND CERTIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

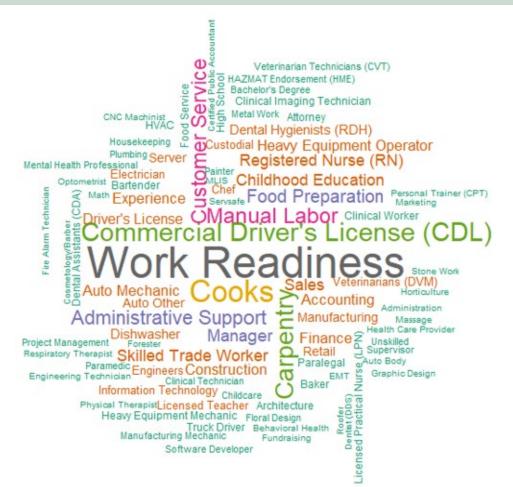


Figure 5. Word cloud of responses from employers

Employers were asked "What skills, credentials, and/or certifications are the most difficult to recruit for?" (Figure 5). Unsurprisingly the skills were often industry specific, for example skilled carpenters are in highdemand in the Construction industry, Registered Nurses were in-demand in for employers in the Health Care industry, Cooks in the Leisure and Hospitality industry, etc. A commercial driver's license (CDL), followed by Licensed Teacher, and Registered Nurse were cited as the most in-demand licenses or certifications. The most in-demand skills were cooking (or chef), carpentry, and customer service.

Employers frequently used the words "skilled" and "experienced" to describe the workers they are looking for. However, an even greater number of employers reported having difficulty recruiting for what can be called "work readiness". Work readiness includes basic qualities such as showing up to work on-time, being dependable, and working well with others. The employer responses demonstrate a demand for both entry level workers as well as experienced professionals.

### CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE

Very few respondents offered childcare. Employers who selected "Other" and provided additional information often did not directly offer childcare, but instead some type of accommodations or support for employees with children. No respondents offered "Off-site daycare", while 1.4% offered "On-site" and 0.3% of employers offered reimbursements for daycare expenses (Table 8).

#### Table 8. Does your firm offer childcare?

On-site daycare	1.4%
Off-site daycare	0.0%
Reimbursements	0.3%
Other	4.5%
No	93.8%
n	626

Many employers reported losing employees in the past year due to employee child or eldercare needs at home, 6.1% and 4.2% respectively (Table 9). Of the firms that reported losing employees due to childcare needs, 50.0% reported losing exactly "one" employee, 47.4% reported losing "2-5" employees, and the other 2.6% reported losing "6-10" employees (Table 10). Of those firms that lost employees to eldercare needs, 69.2% reported losing exactly "one" employee, and the other 30.8% reported losing "2-5" employees (Table 11).

#### Table 9. Firms with Employees that Left Job to Care for Children or Aging Family Members

	Childcare	Eldercare
Yes	6.1%	4.2%
No	93.9%	95.8%
n	625	624

Table 10. Are you aware of any former employees who left a job with your firm in the past twelve months due to a lack of childcare (not related to parental leave)?

	"Yes"
Yes, one	50.0%
Yes, 2-5	47.4%
Yes, 6-10	2.6%
Yes, more than 10	0.0%
n	38

Table 11. Are you aware of any former employees who left a job with your firm in the past twelve months due to care for an aging family member?

	"Yes"
Yes, one	69.2%
Yes, 2-5	30.8%
Yes, 6-10	0.0%
Yes, more than 10	0.0%
n	26

# RETIREMENT, REMOTE WORK, EDUCATION BENEFITS, ETC.

#### RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Over half of respondents contribute to employee retirement plans (57.9%). Some of the 2.2% of firms that indicated "Other" did offer an employer contribution. However, the "Other" field was most often used to indicate that the firm either offered a retirement plan (but didn't contribute to it) or contributed to employee retirement plans after a certain tenure or only for employees that met a minimum earning threshold (Table 12).

	Table 12. Does	your firm offer a	retirement p	olan with empl	oyer contributions?
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Yes	57.9%
Yes, full-time and part-time	29.4%
Yes, full-time workers only	28.5%
Other (please specify)	2.2%
Not offered	39.8%
n	625

#### REMOTE WORK AND FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

About a third of firms surveyed offer telework (30.2%). "100% remote" was the least common response (2.2%), while about one-fifth of respondents (20.6%) offered hybrid schedules for certain occupations. Most "Other" responses (5.0%) were also "Yes" responses indicating certain positions could telework at their firm or telework was available on an ad hoc basis as needed. (Table 13). Flexible work schedules were over twice common as telework in survey respondents, offered by 64.9% of surveyed employers. Customizable

working hours were the most common type of flexible schedule (51.4%) followed by a full-time schedule of less than 40 hours (24.4%) (Table 14).

Table 13.	Does y	your firm	offer telewo	ork?
-----------	--------	-----------	--------------	------

Yes	30.2%
Yes, for certain occupations we allow hybrid	20.6%
Yes, for certain occupations we allow full time remote	7.4%
Yes, 100% remote	2.2%
Other	5.0%
Νο	64.8%
n	625

Table 14. Does your firm offer a flexible work schedule?	
Yes*	64.9%
Customized working hours/Flextime	51.4%
Reduced hours (full-time workers less than typical 35-40 hours)	24.4%
Compressed/Condensed workweeks	19.7%
Other	11.1%
No	35.1%
<u>n</u>	624

\*Respondents could make multiple selections

#### EDUCATION BENEFITS

Tuition reimbursement was the most common benefit (15.7%), followed closely by attending classes during work time and "Other" (12.6% and 11.5% respectively). "Other" responses were often additional details of education or training benefits offered by the employer, such as on the job trainings, for example.

#### Table 15. Does your firm offer any of the following education-related benefits? \*

Tuition reimbursement	15.7%
Tuition advance	3.0%
Attending class is considered work time/Work time allowed for attending classes	12.6%
Other	11.5%
None offered	59.7%
<u>n</u>	667

\*Respondents could make multiple selections

# APPENDIX

# SURVEY INSTRUMENT

1. How many employees did your firm have on its payroll for the period that includes the week of November 12th? (If none, please enter zero)

Full time (35 or more hours per week):

Part time (Less than 35 hours per week):

#### 2. Please indicate which health benefits are offered

Yes, full-time and part-time workers	Yes, just full-time workers	Not offered
Medical Insurance		
0	$\bigcirc$	0
Prescription Drug Insurance		
0	0	0
Dental Insurance		
0	0	0
Vision Insurance		
0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Health Savings Account (HSA)		
0	$\bigcirc$	0
Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HR	A)	
0	0	0
Short-term Disability		
0	0	0
Long-term Disability		
0	0	$\bigcirc$
Life Insurance		
0	0	0

# 3. Which of the following types of paid leave does your firm offer?

Yes, full-time and part-time workers	Yes, just full-time workers	Not offered	
Consolidated leave (paid time off, time ban	ks)		
0	0	0	
Paid vacation leave			
$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	
Paid sick leave			
0	$\bigcirc$	0	
Paid holidays			
0	$\bigcirc$	0	
Paid family leave (separate from accrued vacation or sick time)			
0	0	0	

# 4. How many days of leave does your firm offer for **full-time workers**? (If none, please enter zero)

Consolidated days (alter 1 year)
Consolidated days (after 5 years)
Vacation leave (after 1 year)
Vacation leave (after 5 years)
Sick leave (after 1 year)
Sick leave (after 5 years)
Paid Holidays

Consolidated days (after 1 year)

5. If family leave is offered, what is the structure of benefits?

O Not offered

○ Yes, please specify (For example, number of weeks at percent rate of pay)

6. Does your firm offer childcare?

O No

○ On-site daycare

○ Off-site daycare

O Reimbursements

Other (please specify)

7. Are you aware of any former employees who left a job with your firm in the past twelve months due to a lack of child care (not related to parental leave)? Use your best guess.

🔿 No, none

○ Yes, one

🔿 Yes, 2-5

○ Yes, 6-10

○ Yes, more than 10

8. Are you aware of any former employees who left a job with your firm in the past twelve months due to care for an aging family member? Use your best guess.

○ No, none

- 🔿 Yes, one
- 🔿 Yes, 2 to 5
- Yes, 6 to 10
- 🔿 Yes, more than 10
- 9. Does your firm offer a flexible work schedule?
  - ◯ Yes
  - O No

10. What types of flexible work schedules do you offer?

Customized working hours/Flextime (altered start or end times rather than traditional workdays)

Reduced hours (full-time workers less than typical 35-40 hours)

Compressed/Condensed workweeks (working longer hours over fewer days)

Other (please specify)

11. Does your firm offer telework?

- O No
- O Yes, for certain occupations we allow hybrid
- Yes, for certain occupations we allow full time remote
- O Yes, 100% remote
- Other (please specify)

12. Does your firm offer a retirement plan with employer contributions?

- Yes, full-time and part-time
- Yes, full-time workers only
- Not offered
- Other (please specify)

13. Does your firm offer any of the following education-related benefits?

None offered	
Tuition reimbursement	
Tuition advance	
Attending class is considered work time/Work time allowed for attending class	ses
Other (please specify)	

14. Do you currently have vacant positions you are trying to fill?

◯ Yes

O No

15. How many vacancies do you currently have?

16. What skills, credentials, and/or certifications are the most difficult to recruit for?

17. Does your organization have an affiliation with a national or multi-state company that determines the benefits package for your Vermont employees?

◯ Yes

() No

18. If yes, what is the overall size of the national or multi-state partner?

O Under 50 employees

○ 50-99 employees

○ 100 or more employees

19. Are you interested in learning about resources and programs that help employees return to work?

VT RETAIN is a free program managed by the State of Vermont that provides support to workers with injuries or illnesses to help them stay at or get back to work as quickly and successfully as possible. <u>https://labor.vermont.gov/vt-retain</u>

◯ Yes

O No

20. Would you like someone from VT RETAIN to reach out to you to provide more information?

Name:	
Email:	

21. How do you think the Vermont economy is now, compared to 6 months ago?

Much worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much better
0	0	0	0	0

22. In six months, how do you think the Vermont economy will be compared to now?

Much worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much better
0	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0

23. How do you think the Vermont economy is performing compared to:

	Much worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much better
Rest of New England	0	0	0	0	0
Rest of United States	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0

1. How many employees did your firm have on its payroll for the period that includes the week of November 12th? (If none, please enter zero)

Full time (35 or more hours per week):

Part time (Less than 35 hours per week):

2. Please indicate which health benefits are offered

Yes, full-time and part-time workers	Yes, just full-time workers	Not offered
Medical Insurance		
0	0	0
Prescription Drug Insurance		
0	0	0
Dental Insurance		
0	$\bigcirc$	0
Vision Insurance		
0	$\bigcirc$	0
Health Savings Account (HSA)		
0	$\bigcirc$	0
Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)		
0	0	0
Short-term Disability		
0	$\bigcirc$	0
Long-term Disability		
0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
Life Insurance		
0	0	0

# 3. Which of the following types of paid leave does your firm offer?

Yes, full-time and part-time workers	Yes, just full-time workers	Not offered		
Consolidated leave (paid time off, time banks)				
0	0	0		
Paid vacation leave				
$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0		
Paid sick leave				
0	$\bigcirc$	0		
Paid holidays				
0	$\bigcirc$	0		
Paid family leave (separate from accrued vacation or sick time)				
0	0	0		

# 4. How many days of leave does your firm offer for **full-time workers**? (If none, please enter zero)

Consolidated days (after 1 year)
Consolidated days (after 5 years)
Vacation leave (after 1 year)
Vacation leave (after 5 years)
Sick leave (after 1 year)
Sick leave (after 5 years)
Paid Holidays

Consolidated days (after 1 year)

5. If family leave is offered, what is the structure of benefits?

O Not offered

○ Yes, please specify (For example, number of weeks at percent rate of pay)

6. Does your firm offer childcare?

O No

○ On-site daycare

○ Off-site daycare

○ Reimbursements

Other (please specify)

7. Are you aware of any former employees who left a job with your firm in the past twelve months due to a lack of child care (not related to parental leave)? Use your best guess.

🔿 No, none

○ Yes, one

🔾 Yes, 2-5

○ Yes, 6-10

○ Yes, more than 10

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8. Are you aware of any former employees who left a job with your firm in the past twelve months due to care for an aging family member? Use your best guess.

○ No, none

- 🔿 Yes, one
- 🔿 Yes, 2 to 5
- Yes, 6 to 10
- 🔿 Yes, more than 10
- 9. Does your firm offer a flexible work schedule?
  - O Yes
  - O No

10. What types of flexible work schedules do you offer?

Customized working hours/Flextime (altered start or end times rather than traditional workdays)

Reduced hours (full-time workers less than typical 35-40 hours)

Compressed/Condensed workweeks (working longer hours over fewer days)

Other (please specify)

11. Does your firm offer telework?

- O No
- O Yes, for certain occupations we allow hybrid
- Yes, for certain occupations we allow full time remote
- O Yes, 100% remote
- Other (please specify)

12. Does your firm offer a retirement plan with employer contributions?

- Yes, full-time and part-time
- Yes, full-time workers only
- O Not offered
- Other (please specify)

13. Does your firm offer any of the following education-related benefits?

None offered	
Tuition reimbursement	
Tuition advance	
Attending class is considered work time/Work time allowed for atte	nding classes
Other (please specify)	

14. Do you currently have vacant positions you are trying to fill?

◯ Yes

O No

15. How many vacancies do you currently have?

16. What skills, credentials, and/or certifications are the most difficult to recruit for?

17. Does your organization have an affiliation with a national or multi-state company that determines the benefits package for your Vermont employees?

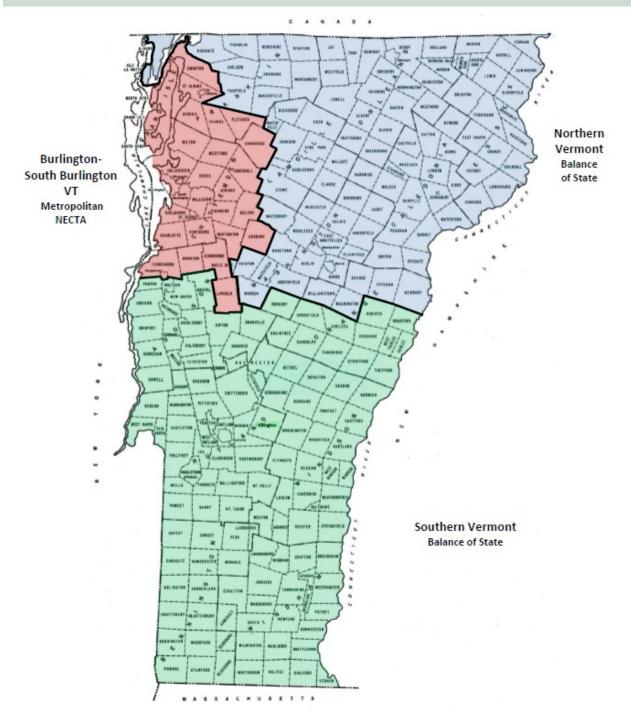
◯ Yes

() No

18. If yes, what is the overall size of the national or multi-state partner?

- O Under 50 employees
- 50-99 employees
- 100 or more employees

# OEWS MAP



#### **Occupational Employment and Wage Survey Areas**

effective April 2016 with release of 2015 data, based on 2010 Census

#### Towns in

#### Burlington - South Burlington, VT Metropolitan NECTA

Bolton Town Burlington City Cambridge Town Charlotte Town Colchester Town Duxbury Town Essex Town Fairfax Town Ferrisburgh Town Fletcher Town Georgia Town Grand Isle Town Hinesburg Town Huntington Town Jericho Town Lincoln Town Milton Town Monkton Town North Hero Town Richmond Town Shelburne Town South Burlington City South Hero Town St. Albans City St. Albans Town St. George Town Starksboro Town Swanton Town Underhill Town Vergennes City Westford Town Williston Town Winooski City

#### Towns in

#### Northern Vermont Balance of State

Albany Town Alburgh Town Averill Town Avery's Gore Bakersfield Town Barnet Town Barre City Barre Town Barton Town Belvidere Town Berkshire Town Berlin Town **Bloomfield Town Brighton Town Brownington Town** Brunswick Town Buel's Gore Burke Town Cabot Town Calais Town Canaan Town Charleston Town Concord Town Coventry Town Craftsbury Town Danville Town Derby Town East Haven Town East Montpelier Town Eden Town Elmore Town **Enosburgh Town** Fairfield Town

Fayston Town Ferdinand Town Franklin Town Glover Town Granby Town Greensboro Town Groton Town Guildhall Town Hardwick Town Highgate Town Holland Town Hyde Park Town Irasburg Town Isle La Motte Town Jav Town Johnson Town Kirby Town Lemington Town Lewis Town Lowell Town Lunenburg Town Lyndon Town Maidstone Town Marshfield Town Middlesex Town Montgomery Town Montpelier City Moretown Town Morgan Town Morristown Town Newark Town Newbury Town Newport City

Newport Town Northfield Town Norton Town Orange Town Peacham Town **Plainfield Town Richford Town** Ryegate Town Sheffield Town Sheldon Town St. Johnsbury Town Stannard Town Stowe Town Sutton Town Topsham Town Troy Town Victory Town Waitsfield Town Walden Town Warner'S Grant Warren Gore Warren Town Washington Town Waterbury Town Waterford Town Waterville Town Westfield Town Westmore Town Wheelock Town Williamstown Town Wolcott Town Woodbury Town Worcester Town

#### Towns in Southern Vermont Balance of State

Addison Town Andover Town Arlington Town Athens Town Baltimore Town Barnard Town **Bennington Town** Benson Town Bethel Town Bradford Town Braintree Town Brandon Town Brattleboro Town Bridgewater Town Bridport Town Bristol Town Brookfield Town **Brookline Town Castleton Town** Cavendish Town Chelsea Town Chester Town Chittenden Town **Clarendon Town** Corinth Town Cornwall Town Danby Town Dorset Town Dover Town Dummerston Town Fair Haven Town Fairlee Town Glastenbury Town Goshen Town Grafton Town Granville Town Guilford Town Halifax Town Hancock Town Hartford Town Hartland Town

Hubbardton Town Ira Town Jamaica Town **Killington Town** Landgrove Town Leicester Town Londonderry Town Ludlow Town Manchester Town Marlboro Town Mendon Town Middlebury Town Middletown Springs Town Mount Holly Town Mount Tabor Town New Haven Town Newfane Town Norwich Town Orwell Town Panton Town Pawlet Town Peru Town Pittsfield Town Pittsford Town Plymouth Town Pomfret Town Poultney Town Pownal Town Proctor Town Putney Town Randolph Town **Reading Town** Readsboro Town **Ripton Town** Rochester Town Rockingham Town Roxbury Town **Royalton Town** Rupert Town Rutland City **Rutland Town** 

Salisbury Town Sandgate Town Searsburg Town Shaftsbury Town Sharon Town Shoreham Town Shrewsbury Town Somerset Town Springfield Town Stamford Town Stockbridge Town Strafford Town Stratton Town Sudbury Town Sunderland Town Thetford Town Tinmouth Town Townshend Town Tunbridge Town Vernon Town Vershire Town Wallingford Town Waltham Town Wardsboro Town Weathersfield Town Wells Town West Fairlee Town West Haven Town West Rutland Town West Windsor Town Westminster Town Weston Town Weybridge Town Whiting Town Whitingham Town Wilmington Town Windham Town Windsor Town Winhall Town Woodford Town Woodstock Town

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