

## Workforce skills fall short of industry needs

Despite the relative diversity of Vermont's chief employers, individual communities are shouldering the decline of industries such as farming and manufacturing. And the state's low-skilled workers are losing pace with increasingly complex tasks required of them at traditionally blue collar jobs.<sup>106</sup>

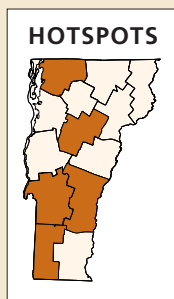
Vermont shows signs that it will encounter a shortage of skilled workers during the next 15 years, which could hinder the growth of existing Vermont businesses and lessen the state's appeal to new businesses and investors.<sup>107</sup>



**Vermont is losing its young people at a rate more than three times the national average.**

### the FACTS

- A study by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund identified five towns as vulnerable due to a dependency on one large manufacturing business: Georgia, Arlington, Bethel, Rutland and Calais.<sup>108</sup>
- Since 2002, Vermont has lost 8,000 manufacturing jobs. These losses are primarily the result of increases in productivity, not decreased output or job relocation out of state.<sup>109</sup>



- According to the Vermont Human Resource Investment Council, more than 70% of Vermont employers interviewed reported that they have passed up opportunities to expand their businesses because they could not find workers that met job requirements.<sup>110</sup>
- Of the top 10 fastest growing jobs in Vermont, seven require at least a two-year college degree for entry, and two others require specific postsecondary training.<sup>111</sup>
- Vermont is losing its young people at a rate more than three times the national average. Experts agree that this is a function of the state's high cost of living and the scarcity of jobs that a young person with limited education can obtain.<sup>112</sup>