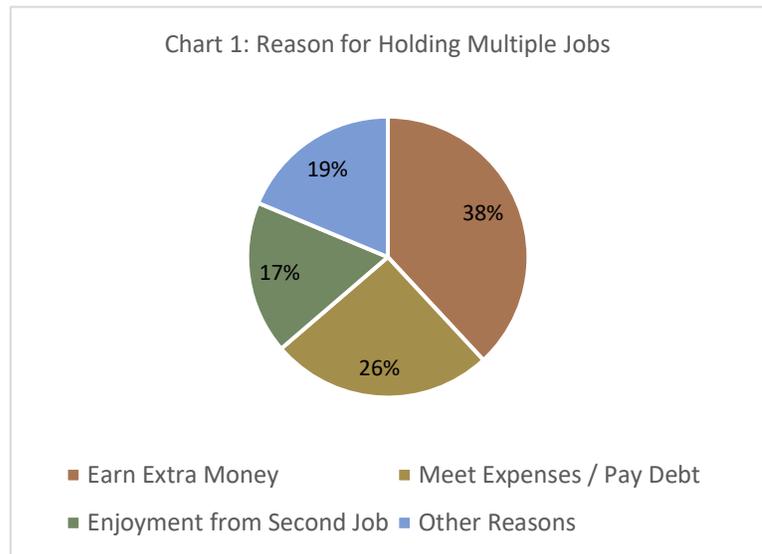


Kevin's Corner: Multiple Jobholders in the US and Vermont

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) defines a multiple jobholder as an individual who held more than one job during the reference week of the monthly Current Population Survey and who usually receives a wage or salary from their primary job (i.e. the job at which the individual worked the greatest number of hours during the reference week).

The Current Population Survey identifies a variety of reasons for a person to be a multiple jobholder. In May of 2004 38.1% of multiple jobholders nationwide were doing so in order to earn extra money to pay expenses and 25.6% to pay off debt. 17.6% of respondents reported that their primary motivation was enjoyment they received from the second job (see Chart 1). Beyond providing income and enjoyment to the jobholder, at its peak in 1995 multiple jobholding added about 100 million hours worked to the United States economy each week.



Since 1995 the prevalence of multiple jobholding has declined significantly in the United States. In the summer of 1995 6.8% of all workers nationwide were multiple jobholders, a figure that fell to 5.0% by 2013 and remained within a tenth of a point of that level through 2019. Since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic the multiple jobholding rate has fallen substantially, landing at 4.4% in September of 2020. With the exception of the current recession multiple jobholding does not generally follow business cycle patterns.

The most recent CPS data on multiple jobholders (Sept 2020) shows that a majority of people in the United States holding multiple jobs (57%) hold one full time and one part time job. Twenty-four percent maintain two or more part time jobs while the remainder either work two full time jobs or work varying hours at both. While the number of multiple jobholders has declined during the pandemic these percentages remain stable.

Demographic Analysis

During the mid-1990's the rate of multiple jobholding was about 6% for both women and men nationwide. Both rates declined during the latter part of the 1990's. Starting in 2001, however, the rate among men continued to decline while the rate among women remained flat. By 2019, 5.6% of female workers and 4.7% of male workers reported holding multiple jobs. The prime working age population (20 - 64 years of age) had higher rates than both younger and older workers. One consistent area of difference over time is educational attainment: People with higher levels of education consistently report higher rates of multiple jobholding.

Kevin's Corner is a continuing series of brief reviews of Vermont Economic and Demographic data. It is written by Kevin Stapleton, The Assistant Director of Economic and Labor Market Information for the Vermont Department of Labor. Kevin can be reached at kevin.stapleton@vermont.gov

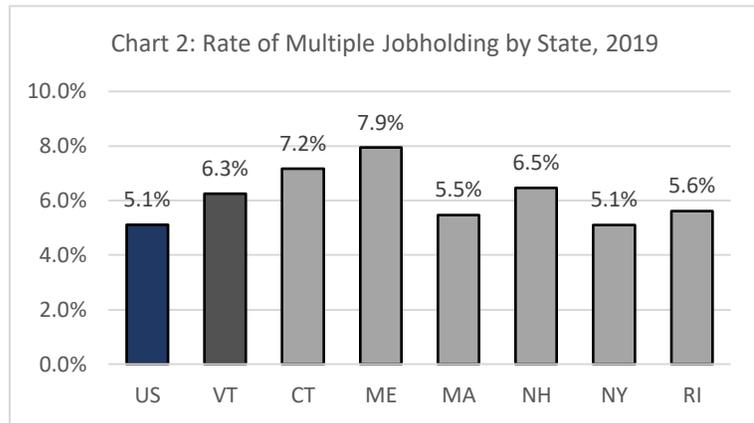
In 2019 Whites and Blacks in the United States had similar levels of multiple jobholding (5.1% and 5.5% respectively) while Asians (3.3%) and Hispanics (3.7%) reported lower rates. People who were widowed, divorced or separated (5.7%) also reported higher rates than those who were married (4.8%) and those who were never married (5.3%).

Vermont multiple jobholders

Vermont's rate of multiple jobholding in 2019 stood at 6.3%, down from 7.2% in 2015 and 8.7% in 2010. While Vermont's rate has declined it is still more than a percentage point higher than the 2019 national average of 5.1%.

Vermont's rate is currently sixteenth highest among the states. Montana has the highest rate (8.7%) followed by South Dakota (8.2%) and Wyoming (7.9%). The lowest rates are found in Arkansas (3.3%) and New Mexico (3.6%).

Within New England Connecticut (7.2%), Maine (7.9%) and New Hampshire (6.5%) all reported higher rates in 2019 (See chart 2).



Sources

Etienne Lalé, "Multiple jobholding over the past two decades," *Monthly Labor Review*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2015, <https://doi.org/10.21916/mlr.2015.7>.

Jennifer Martel, "Reasons for working multiple jobs," *Monthly Labor Review*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2000, <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2000/10/atissue.pdf>