who’s not working

unemployment rate in 2019

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

2.0% 2.2% 2.7% 3.3% 3.7% 5.4%

master’s degree bachelor’s degree associate’s degree some college (no degree) high school diploma no diploma

who’s earning what

median weekly earnings in 2019

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

$1,497 $1,248 $887 $833 $746 $592

more education = more options

hourly wage needed to afford rent for a two bedroom apartment

How hard is it to keep a roof over your head on minimum wage? This graphic from the Low Income Housing Coalition shows how many hours it takes, working a minimum wage job, to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the average market rate.

In 2020, there’s no state in which a minimum-wage worker can afford a modest two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent working a standard 40-hour week, without paying more than 30% of his or her income.

A Vermont household must earn more than $20 an hour to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of income on rent.

Minimum wage in Vermont = $10.96 per hour
Minimum wage in New York = $15.00 per hour

Hourly wage needed to afford a modest 2-bedroom apartment:

- Less than $15 an hour
- Between $15–20 an hour
- More than $20 an hour