

Response to GAC: Request to review indicator data within your committee's jurisdiction

Here is a draft of the contents of a memo to be addressed to Representative Townsend and Senator Collamore:

At your request the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development has reviewed the proposed indicators of Population-Level Outcomes relative to the outcome "Vermont has a prosperous economy". It is the Committee's opinion that some further refinement to the indicators is warranted and submit to you our recommendations below:

The indicators need to have context and meaning, with trend lines that compare Vermont data to regional and national data. Further, the economic divide in Vermont between Chittenden County and the rest of the state suggest that Vermont's data be broken down into three sets: Vermont as a whole, Chittenden County, non-Chittenden County.

Here are the indicators we recommend:

1. **median household income.**
2. **rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents.**
3. **% of population living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.**
4. **gross state product (GSP) per capita.**
5. **net change in nonpublic sector employment.**
6. **genuine progress indicator (GPI).** The GPI is a useful indicator of overall economic health. It is our understanding that the calculation of the GPI is complicated and may incur additional costs, particularly on an annual basis. We recommend that the Government Accountability Committee consider adding the GPI but on a 3 or 5 year basis.

Charlie Kimbell  
State Representative, Windsor-5  
Vermont State Legislature  
p. 802-296-1276