



**VERMONT
CHAMBER**
of Commerce

Advancing Vermont's Economy

Advocacy | Community | Resources



OUR MISSION

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to **advancing the Vermont economy**. Trusted by the businesses that make living, working, and thriving in Vermont possible, we prioritize collaboration and uphold the core values that define our state. As the preeminent not-for-profit business organization, we **advocate**, build **community**, and provide **resources** for businesses statewide.



Vermont Futures Project

An independent, non-partisan voice for Vermont's long-term success through sustained leadership and a commitment to research and education that supports economic stewardship.

Statewide Economic Action Plan

Working with partners around the state, the Vermont Futures Project is developing a statewide economic action plan that is: durable, non-partisan, informed by data, and designed for engagement.



People-Based Community Economic Development

Vermont needs more people, more people need Vermont.



Place-Based Community Economic Development

If housing is a human right, then it should be right to build housing.

TOURISM & HOSPITALITY



30,000 jobs (10% of Vermont's workforce)

\$3 billion of visitor spending

\$456 million in tax revenue

Over 13 million visitors

MANUFACTURING

27,500 employees (8% of Vermont's workforce)



\$2.92 billion impact

8.2% of the state's GDP

ADVOCACY

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce team brings a wealth of experience in legislative affairs, economic development, and business advocacy. We are committed to providing valuable guidance and fostering an environment where all businesses can thrive.



Proactive Government Affairs

- The Vermont Chamber deploys a top-tier government affairs team that is experienced, trusted, and connected, and that understands the policies and politics impacting Vermont businesses.
- We develop a proactive, collaborative legislative agenda informed by stakeholder feedback and economic analysis
- We organize regular engagement opportunities to gather input from members and refine policy positions and address changing legislative landscape.



Data-Informed Policy Influence

- The Vermont Chamber's legislative agenda is data-informed and cost conscious.
- Informing key stakeholders and helps to influence policy decisions.

ADVOCACY TEAM



AMY SPEAR
President

*Fiscal Policy, Taxation, Tourism and
Hospitality, Workforce Development*



MEGAN SULLIVAN
VP of Government Affairs

*Economic Development, Fiscal Policy,
Healthcare, Housing, Land Use &
Permitting, Technology*



JEREMY LITTLE
Policy & Outreach Assoc.

*Environment and Energy, Healthcare,
Manufacturing, Transportation*



KAREN DUGUAY
Sr. Director of Programming

Industry Stakeholder Engagement

BUILDING A STRONGER VERMONT

The Vermont Chamber is committed to working with legislators, businesses, and communities to build a stronger Vermont. Our 2025 Legislative Agenda outlines a roadmap to achieve economic growth, affordability, and a high quality of life for all Vermonters.



AFFORDABILITY

Advocating for critical reforms addressing the root causes of cost drivers to achieve meaningful cost reductions without increasing taxes.



INCREMENTAL PROGRESS

The need for measured progress on key long-term goals through solutions that sustainably address challenges.



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Innovative solutions are necessary to address Vermont's pressing housing and workforce needs and ensure continued economic growth.

AFFORDABILITY THROUGH CRITICAL REFORMS

Rising costs without improved outcomes significantly concern Vermont businesses and residents. In 2025, the Vermont Chamber will advocate for practical reforms that address the root causes of these costs to achieve meaningful reductions without increasing taxes on businesses and residents.

2023 State Tax Collections Per Capita

Vermont ranks third in the nation for tax collections per capita, with property and individual income taxes being the largest sources of revenue. Most New England states rank in the top half, except New Hampshire, which ranks the lowest in the country. North Dakota ranks first due to taxes on natural resource extraction.

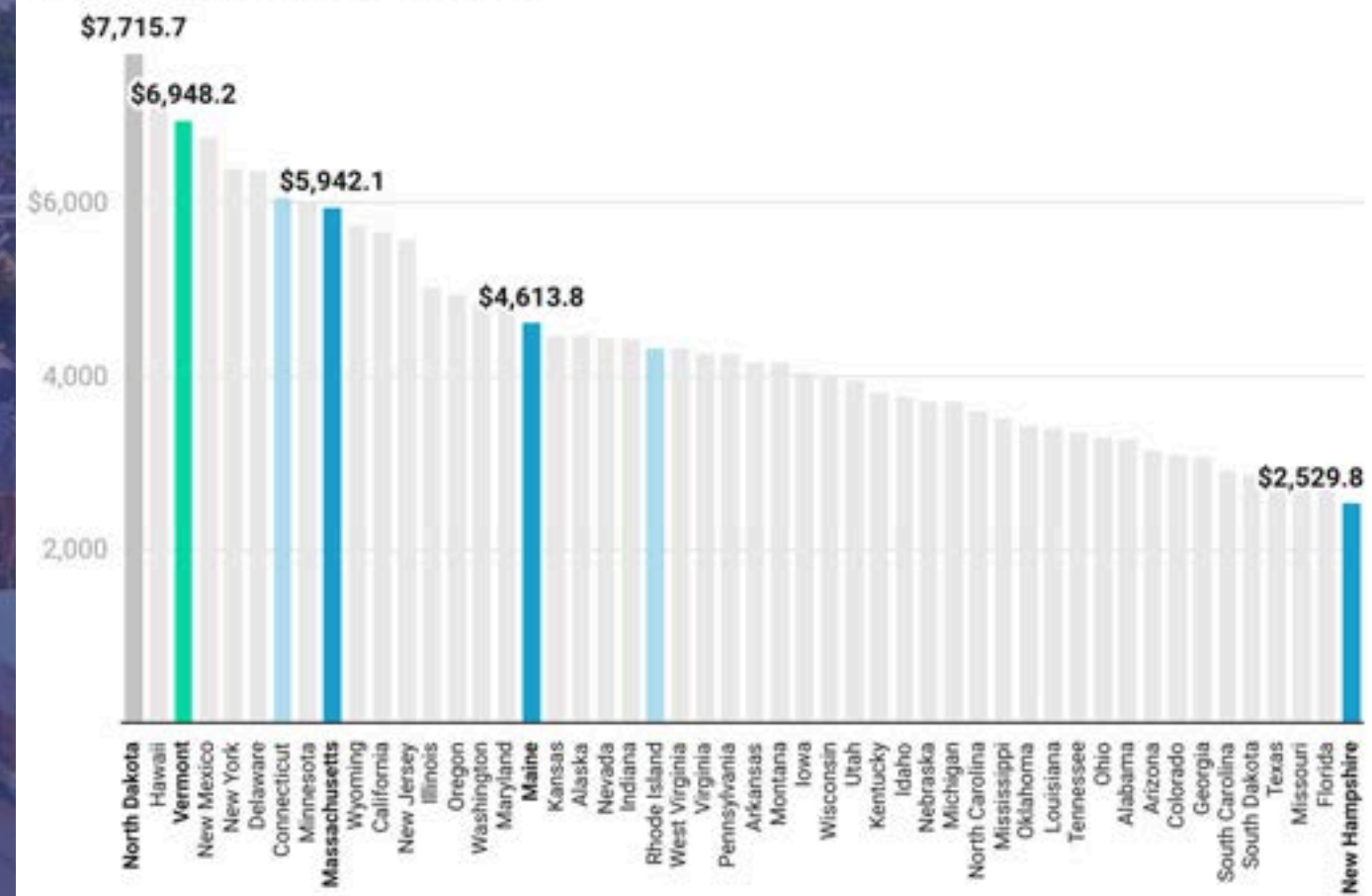


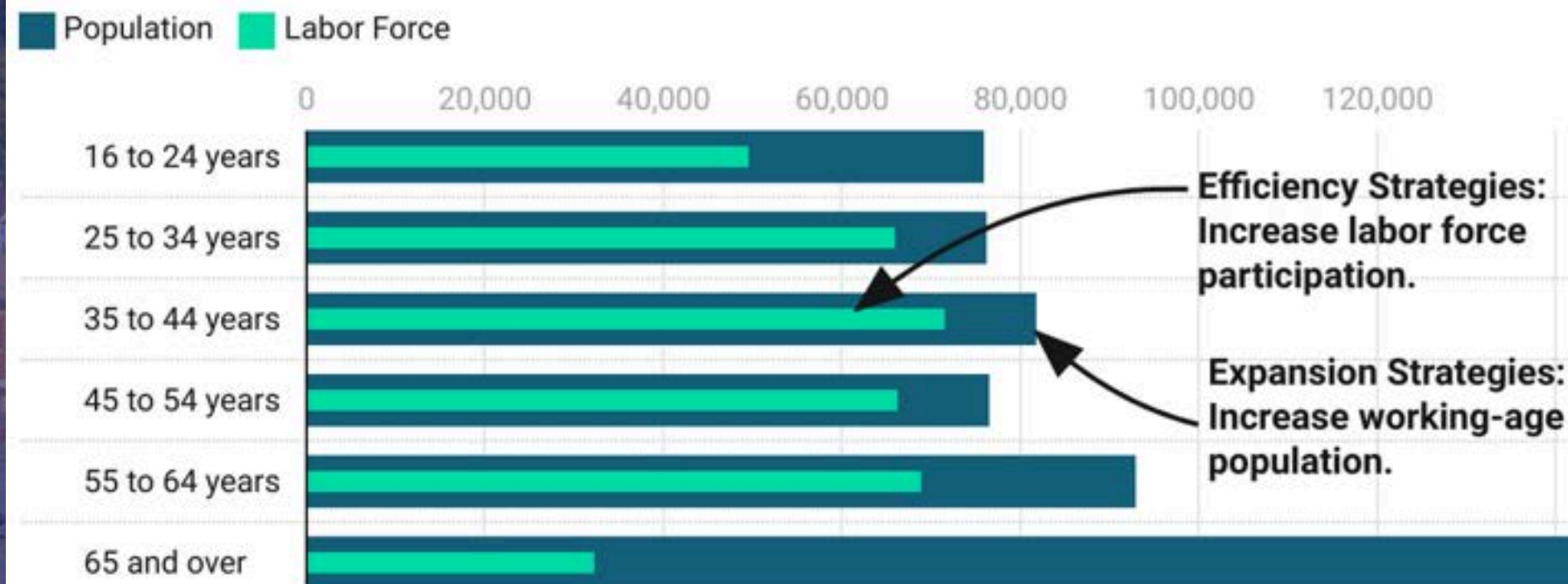
Chart: Vermont Futures Project • Source: US Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper

INCREMENTAL PROGRESS TOWARD ASPIRATIONAL GOALS

The Vermont Chamber recognizes the need for measured progress on key long-term goals. By working collaboratively with legislators and stakeholders, the Vermont Chamber seeks to implement practical solutions that sustainably address challenges.

2023 Vermont Labor Force and Population by Age

Most prime working-age Vermonters are in the labor force. Reducing barriers or increasing incentives to work can get some people back into the labor force, but intentional long-term efforts to grow the working-age population are also needed to close the workforce gap.



Prime working-age adults are defined as people between the ages of 25 and 54.

Chart: Vermont Futures Project • Source: US Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE & PLACES

Vermont urgently needs more housing and a larger workforce. The Vermont Chamber supports innovative solutions, including investments in housing, infrastructure, and a branding toolkit to attract skilled workers and families, ensuring economic growth.

Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits

Annual number of units permitted must triple to address shortages and proactively meet future housing needs.



Gray shaded areas represent periods of recession that often correlate with a decline in home construction.

Chart: Vermont Futures Project • Source: US Census Bureau • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



We employ eight interns for the legislative session



STATE TO MAIN

December 17, 2024

Good Afternoon,

Last week, the Vermont Chamber team attended the Legislature's all-member briefing at the State House, where veteran and newly elected legislators came together to set a baseline on the critical issues impacting Vermonters. Affordability took center stage, with insights shared on the FY '26 budget context and an economic and revenue review. A 45-minute presentation on how education is financed in Vermont highlighted the complexity of the current system. Housing also emerged as a key focus, with discussions covering development programs, regulatory impacts, and innovative solutions to address Vermont's housing crisis. These topics are central to the challenges facing the business community.

We invite you to join us on Tuesday, December 17, from 1 to 2 p.m., as President Amy Spear and Vice President of Government Affairs Megan Sullivan present the Chamber's 2025 Legislative Agenda. [Register for the webinar today.](#)

The top things you need to know this month:

- [Building a Stronger Vermont Together: The Vermont Chamber's 2025 Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Facing the Hard Truths: Vermont Businesses Call for Systemic Reforms](#)

As always, our advocacy team can be reached at govaffairs@vtchamber.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Sullivan".



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