



Risks & Rewards

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The Vermont Futures Project is preparing to release “A Vision for Vermont’s Economy” which contains six strategic growth targets for the state. Taken together, progress in these will reinforce a positive cycle of balanced growth. At this time, these indicators largely reflect a negative cycle with key components, such as limited workforce and housing, negatively impacting Vermont’s economic health.

The Vermont Futures Project is preparing to a release A Vision for Vermont’s Economy. It contains six strategic growth targets for the state. It is clear from the [data](#) as well as [conversations](#) on the ground that the economy requires attention. In failing to address urgent needs, we face serious risks.

For instance, we have identified a large workforce supply gap. This means jobs are going unfilled. Organizations deprived of talent they need to compete and innovate simply will not thrive in the long run.

We need our businesses and institutions to prosper. Without a healthy economy, we can’t provide opportunity to Vermonters. Worsening economic conditions threaten quality of life and undermine our ability to invest in ourselves. Needs are continually outpacing resources. We have been accommodating ourselves to an economy that never fully regains strength. Instead, Vermont needs to grow.

In a negative cycle, certain trends and conditions reinforce one another. We can instead create a positive, virtuous cycle of healthy economic growth. In fact we must, if we are to secure for coming generations the quality of life so many of us have enjoyed.

We can bridge Vermont’s talent supply gap and commit to ensuring every employer has people with the skills and education a 21st century economy requires. Successful organizations powered by great people are the foundation of a dynamic, growing economy. By developing a business climate Vermont can foster innovation and investment that will attract new talent, new businesses, and new investment.

We must take seriously today’s urgency, which threatens to become a crisis. Healthy economic growth statewide is essential to produce dynamic local and regional economies. Vibrant communities are the places that make us love where we live - whether we are starting out or looking to settle down, retiring or visiting, new to Vermont or coming home. Please stay tuned for the release of A Vision for Vermont’s Economy in the coming weeks.