Job Fair Report 2017

8th Annual Central Vermont Job Fair
April 5th, 2017 | 10am - 4pm | Barre City Auditorium

Central Vermont Job Fair
Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
CreativeWorkforceSolutions
# Table of Contents

- Preliminary Event Report ................................................. 2
- Job Seeker Survey Questions .......................................... 4
- Job Seeker Exit Interview Questions ................................. 8
On April 5th, CVEDC and Creative Workforce Solutions hosted the annual Job Fair at the Barre Auditorium. This year we had 68 employers and service providers staffing tables, with approximately 650 job seekers attending. This represents an increase in vendors and a decrease in job seekers as compared to the 2016 event. It is our opinion that this reflects the need for businesses to find new employees at the same time that the available labor pool is shrinking. We will be collecting additional data from employers to measure the employment impact of the event in the coming month.

About the Job Seeker:

Of the participants who completed a survey, 38% were currently unemployed, while 37% were employed in area businesses. The age of the job seekers covered the full range, with 27% of respondents 25 years old or under and 27% 46 years old or older. The middle years had 26-35 year old’s and 36-45 year old’s making up 18% and 16% of respondents respectively. While the majority did fall in to the 1st and 4th quartiles, there was a relatively balanced age demographic in attendance. 51% of participants were female. Job Seekers primarily came from within the County, with Barre accounting for 41% of respondents, by far the highest concentration from a single community. In total we collected data from Vermont residents from 47 communities, as well as one person from Frederick, MD. 65% of job seekers reported having a high school diploma, while 24% reported having an associate degree or higher.
This year’s event included 60 employers with jobs to be filled. In the responses in our survey of vendors, 92% believed the job fair was a cost effective method for recruiting staff (strongly agree or agree). 95% of vendors said they would participate next year if they have openings to fill. 77% were pleased with the resume’s they received at the fair. 63% of vendors said they would be offering positions to job seekers interviewed at the fair, and 82% planned on interviewing or following up with job seekers they met at the fair. Several employers commented on the overall quality of the applicant pool as being significantly better than the candidates they saw through traditional recruitment efforts.

In summary, this event has become over time a valuable resource for employers and job seekers in the region. The collaboration between CVEDC and Creative Workforce Solutions in hosting the event, as well as the support of our sponsors, is a model of collaboration that has and will provide a continued benefit into the foreseeable future.
280 job seekers participated in the eight question survey.

- **Gender Breakdown**

  44% Female  
  41% Male  
  15% No Response

- **City/Town**

  Among the 280 job seekers, 41% (116 job seekers) are from Barre, and 8% (22 job seekers) are from Montpelier.
• **Job Seeker’s Current Employment Status**

- No Response, 20% (54)
- Employed, 37% (104)
- Unemployed, 38% (107)
- Entrepreneur, 2% (6)
- Retired, 3% (9)

• **Job Seeker’s Age Group**

- No Response 12%
- 25 & under 27%
- 46+ 27%
- 36-45 16%
- 26-35 18%
• **Job Seeker’s Current Education**

![Bar chart showing education levels and their respective counts.]

- High School: 181
- Bachelors: 36
- Associates: 18
- MBA: 10
- Masters: 2
- PhD: 19
- Other: 1
- No Response: 117

• **Type of Work Job Seekers Are Looking For**

![Bar chart showing job type preferences and their respective counts.]

- Full-time (41.8%)
- Full-time & Part-time (13.9%)
- Part-time & Temporary Work (1.1%)
- Full-time & Part-time & Temporary Work (4.6%)
- Part-time & Temporary Work (1.4%)
- Temporary Work (1.4%)
- No Response (11.1%)
• How far are job seekers willing to commute to work (miles)?

- 17% are willing to commute 10 miles
- 15% are willing to commute 15 miles
- 15% are willing to commute 20 miles
- 14% are willing to commute 25 miles or more
- 15% did not respond

• Where did you hear about this event?

- 40% heard about it on the Internet
- 14% heard about it through family and friends
- 11% heard about it through the newspaper
- 10% heard about it through radio
- 8% heard about it through school
- 7% heard about it through signs
- 5% heard about it through the Department of Labor
- 5% heard about it through other sources

Percentage
206 job seekers responded to the four question survey.

Among the 206 people, 90% thought the Job Fair was helpful, 5% thought it was ok, and 2% thought it was not helpful.
Among the 40 people (19% of the total) who answered this question, 45% thought the Resource Room was not helpful, 35% did not know about the Resource Room, 7% did not go, and 13% thought it was helpful.
Among the 206 people, 55 thought the Job Fair was good, 29 people thought the Job Fair was great, and 40 people gave suggestions.
18 Respondents Noted That:

1. Have a variety of business;
2. More jobs that don’t require diploma or a license;
3. Would like to have known about the Resource Room;
4. Bigger space;
5. Have more vendors;
6. Too many people;
7. Too many people who just advertise their company.

Other Responses Include:

- Put it out there more;
- Sign at bottom of hill;
- More local employers;
- More students friendly;
- More variety, culinary;
- Extra trash cans around;
- Start earlier in the morning;
- Have a variety of business;
- Bigger cups for water; piles of free food;
- No more online application for a position;
- Have two people at table to engage with more people;
- Vendors should stand up when they talk to people;
- Wish they could apply with vendors directly, instead of need to go to website;
- Have computers available; would like to have known about Resource Room;
- Not good with computers; has limitations, hard schedule to fit;
- On the map- would be good to have letter # guide; on the list on the back (like Shaw’s F1) to help locate companies quickly;
- Railroad reps should be there;
- A chair so you could have a quick conversation and not be interrupted;
- Company name on banner at table;
- Have a variety of business, more technology jobs.
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