

Vermont Youth Job Opportunities

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Vermont Youth Job Opportunities

Vermont Department of Labor

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Are You Looking for a Summer Job?

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Paid Summer Employment

You may be eligible for this earn and learn opportunity

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complete the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QMQJ2HS>

- **CONNECT** with local employers
- **LEARN** valuable workforce skills
- **WORK** in your community
- **EARN** while you learn

 **VERMONT**
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Soliciting nominations for a vacant seat Vermont Labor Relations Board

[VLRBAdManagementVacancy.pdf](#)

Suspicious Account Activity Identified in State's Unemployment Insurance Claimant System

3 Things UI Claimants Can Do To Minimize Fraud

1. If the claimant has an common number UI Claimant PIN (i.e. 1111, 2222, 1212, last four of SSN, etc.), they should immediately request a pin change by calling the UI Claimant Assistance Line at: 1-877-214-3332
2. If the claimant believes his/her account(s) have been compromised, they should file a fraud notice with the Department at
 - [Report suspicious activity on the Claimant Portal or your claimant account](#)
3. All claimants should actively monitor their UI account, as well as any other online accounts (i.e. bank accounts, credit cards, etc.) to ensure there is no unauthorized activity



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2019

**Contact: Michael Harrington, Deputy Commissioner
Office of the Commissioner
State of Vermont
Department of Labor
802-828-4301**

Suspicious Account Activity Identified in State's Unemployment Insurance Claimant System

The Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) has identified eight cases of fraudulent activity in the Unemployment Insurance Claimant Portal system. Based on our initial review, this activity appears to involve individual claimant accounts, in which personal information was used to gain unauthorized access to the Unemployment Insurance system.

At this time, the Vermont State Police are actively investigating this incident, and it is believed that this situation is limited to only individuals with active unemployment claims. In each of the eight cases the claimants have been notified by the Department, and none have suffered the loss of any unemployment benefits.

Since identifying the fraudulent activity, the Department has been, and continues to, closely monitor all accounts and is verifying any account changes or suspicious activity directly with claimants. The Agency of Digital Services has also added additional security measures and monitoring.

However, due to the nature of this fraudulent activity, it is important that anyone with an account in the unemployment insurance system be extra vigilant in monitoring their online account and credit activity, until this situation is resolved. All users of the Unemployment Insurance Claimant System are being asked to actively monitor their claimant accounts and report any suspicious activity immediately. Additionally, users should update their personal identification numbers (PIN) on a regular basis, and refrain from using common number sequences, such as the last four digits of their social security number.

"The Department of Labor and the State of Vermont take the security of personal information very seriously and we are doing everything we can to bring a quick resolution to this situation, while ensuring that benefits continue to be paid to eligible claimants," said Lindsay Kurrle, Commissioner of Labor.

The Department of Labor is in the process of notifying all claimants with active accounts, and anyone who believes their unemployment insurance account information has been compromised should contact the Department of Labor by filing a report online at: www.labor.vermont.gov/fraud.



[Vermont's Unemployment Rate Down Again](#)

Today, the Vermont Department of Labor released data on the Vermont economy for the time period covering May 2019. According to household data, the seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate for May was 2.1 percent. This reflects a decrease of one-tenth of one percentage point from the revised April rate. The current seasonally-adjusted estimate of the number of unemployed Vermonters (7,328) as well as the statewide seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate are both once again new lows since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics online historical series started in 1976.

[Vermont's Unemployment Rate Down Again](#)

[Storm Recovery Activities](#)

Storm Recovery Activities refer to specific recovery efforts related to the current flooding and partial activation at the State Emergency Operations Center. Please click on the following links for helpful safety information.

[Trench Safety Tips](#)

[Working Over Water Tips](#)

[Trench Safety Tips Card](#)

New Adjusted VOSHA Penalty Rates as of 2/1/19

State of Vermont**Department of Labor**

Workers' Compensation and Safety Division
5 Green Mountain Drive
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Montpelier, VT 05601-0488
www.labor.vermont.gov

[phone] 802-828-2286
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January 23, 2019

In the 2017 Legislative session, both the Vermont House and Senate passed § 210, the act that updated the Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (VOSHA) penalty structure. In addition to this update, a provision was also passed that allowed for annual adjustments of these penalties annually. The annual adjustment is to take place in December and the final penalties for the upcoming year are to be published by January 1st of that year. The final penalties are a calculation by the Federal Department of Labor and are based on the annual Consumer Price Index and are effective January 1st.

For the 2019 year, VOSHA was informed that the Consumer Price Index as calculated prior to January 1, 2019 was 2.522%. VOSHA is publishing the newly calculated penalties and these adjustments will be effective on February 1, 2019.

Small employers are highly encouraged to contact Vermont Project WorkSAFE and schedule a consultative visit. Project WorkSAFE can be contacted via the Vermont Department of Labor website at <http://labor.vermont.gov/project-worksafe/> or by calling toll free 1-888-723-3937.

Any questions about penalty adjustments should be forwarded to:

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VOSHA Program Manager

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[VOSHA FOM Chapter 6 for 2019](#)

[VOSHA Penalty Adjustments for 2019](#)

[Change to the Earned Sick Time Law starting 2019](#)

CHANGE TO VERMONT'S EARNED SICK TIME LAW

As of January 1, 2019, most Vermont workers will be entitled to accrue up to 40 hours of paid sick time annually, an increase from the 24 hours of paid sick time required in 2017 and 2018.

Certain seasonal and part-time workers may not qualify for paid sick time.

For more information, please review the Earned Sick Time resources on our website or call 802-951-4083.

[Hiring Your First Employee](#)

The Vermont Attorney General's Office has created helpful guidance for new employers who are hiring their first employee. Use this guide to understand legal requirements associated with becoming an employer in the State of Vermont. These requirements include: federal and state tax law, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and payroll deductions.

By clicking on the link below, you will leave the Vermont

Department of Labor's website for the Vermont Consumer Assistance Program website, a partnership between the Vermont Attorney General and the University of Vermont:
<https://www.uvm.edu/consumer/hiring-your-first-employee>.

[New Vermont JobLink User Requirements](#)

Soon Vermont JobLink will require a working email address to uniquely identify you with your account for security purposes. You will also be able to use your email address to reset your password and opt into notifications that will enhance your job search.

Please prepare for these upcoming changes by reviewing your contact information now. Click **My Profile** in your main menu, then click **Edit Contact Information**. If you have already provided an email address, please ensure you can access it and that it is not shared with any other Vermont JobLink users (such as a spouse or other family member). If you have not provided an email address, please do so. After making any changes, click **Save** on the Contact Information page.

If you need to set up an email account, here are the links to a few of the free email providers:

[Gmail](#)

[Outlook](#)

[LYCOS Mail](#)

[mail.com](#)

[YAHOO!](#)

FAQ Coding Error

FOR IMMEDIATE CONTACT:
Lindsay Kurrle, Commissioner
802-828-4301

Vermont Department of Labor Identifies Decade-Old Coding Error That Resulted in Interest Overpayments and Implements Plan to Reimburse Vermont Businesses, Correct Error

Montpelier, VT – The Vermont Department of Labor is taking swift action to address an error that impacts Vermont employers who hold past due balances for unemployment insurance and health care assessments. The Department is undertaking an effort to modernize and innovate its legacy unemployment insurance system, and this month that process revealed - and the Department promptly verified – a rounding error was coded improperly into the 30-year old system. This rounding error affected only the interest rate calculations on past due unemployment insurance and health care fund assessment contributions. As of June 1, 2017, the rate is being calculated correctly.

“The Department of Labor is committed to ensuring that anyone impacted by this error is made whole, and I have directed my team to begin proactively working to identify impacted entities and make refunds for verified overpayments as quickly as possible.” Lindsay Kurrle, Commissioner of Labor.

The rounding error was limited to calculations for businesses who have carried a past due balance for unemployment insurance and health care fund assessment contributions. No other entities, individuals or programs were impacted.

Vermont law requires the Department of Labor to charge 1.5 percent interest per month on unpaid contributions. The rounding error equated to a .05 percent overcharge for only the months that contain thirty-one days. As an illustration, an employer with a past due balance of \$1,000 for an entire year, would have overpaid by \$2.50. The Department has verified that the coding error existed as far back as 2008. Since that date Department has collected approximately \$26,000 in total interest overpayments.

The Vermont Department of Labor will begin notifying impacted employers and working to issue refunds for accounts that its verified have paid past due balances within the last three years. Records retention limits the Department’s ability to verify overpayments prior to 2014, so the Department is asking employers with paid past due balances before 2014 to call the Vermont Department of Labor’s Employer Assistance Line at 1-877-214-3331.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Regarding Coding Error

How was this calculation error found?

The Department is in a consortium agreement with the State of Idaho for the modernization of our UI system. The Department's staff meets daily with staff in Idaho and were reviewing the interest calculations for integration into the new system. The team suspected that the interest calculations were off.

How was the rounding error made?

The rounding error was a manual error, and not an error made by the computer.

Why was the error also applied to unpaid health care assessment balances?

The Department is required to apply the same interest to unpaid health care assessment balances as they are to unpaid unemployment insurance contributions (21 VSA §2001-2004).

How long is the UI Division of the Department of Labor required to keep records?

State statute does not allow the Department to initiate the collection of contributions more than three years after the date on which they become due (21 VSA §1329(e)). The Department maintains records for three years after the close of the program year.

Will the UI Trust Fund be impacted by repayment?

The UI trust fund will not be impacted by repayments.

How long has the calculation error been in place?

The Department can verify that it goes back to 2008, but the statute/interest amount was changed in 1987. We cannot verify that the rounding error goes back further than 2008.

Why doesn't the Department have record of all payments made by employers?

On a quarterly basis, the Department purges data of inactive accounts. The legacy system cannot hold enough data to keep all records.

What records does the Department currently have?

The Department keeps records of employers who hold an outstanding balance, they do not keep all records of employers who have had balances but have paid them off.

How much in interest overpayment has been collected by the Department?

The Department estimates that approximately \$26,000 in interest overpayment has been collected over the past nine years.

When will the calculation error be corrected?

As of June 1, 2017, the calculation error was corrected. This is because June only has 30 days. The Department will be correcting the calculation going forward starting July 1.

How is the Department going to make employers whole?

This is likely going to be a manual process, and will require a large amount of staff time. Employers who have paid past due balances in the last three years will automatically receive a refund.

For employers who have paid off past due balances prior to 2014, please call our Employer Services Assistance Line so we can determine if supporting documentation is required.

Is there a statute of limitations to request or receive a refund?

The Department won't be imposing a deadline; however, older requests will be harder to reconcile, and will require businesses to provide supporting documentation.

If you have a claim prior to year 2014, and are unable to provide supporting documentation, the Department may be unable to reconcile any potential over payment.

How many employers have outstanding unpaid unemployment contribution balances?

The Department currently has 3,000+ outstanding accounts this month.