The Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGC-VT) hosted a job fair with over 150 employers on Tuesday

Speakers regarding Vermont workforce, workforce development
  - Governor Scott
  - Matthew Barewicz, Department of Labor
  - Commissioner of Labor, Michael Harrington
  - Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, Lindsay Kurrle

Questions and Answers

**How many jobs are open right now?**
Harrington: Latest statistics - about 26,000 jobs available across the state right now;
Scott: We are down to about 3000 on unemployment right now – so doesn’t come close to what we need – demographic issues, housing – need to recruit into the state, we are down to 2.7% unemployment

**Some of these proposals like housing and broadband will take 5-10 years, how do we address it now?**
Scott: we are making some progress on our population, also need some of the immediate proposals like housing package – that is really the bottleneck to people moving or staying here

**What do we know about people who have left workforce altogether?**
US Census is not resolved to our satisfaction so don’t have all that data – but what we are looking at - 26,000 workers lost or 7% contraction over 2 years – additional outreach to households to understand over the pandemic – about ¼ opting for retirement – extra incentive is strong asset values; about 8000 also defined as unemployed then 3000 receiving benefits who are willing and able to accept work at the moment – some are not looking because of concerns for health, taking care of family, etc

**Are there fewer young people/teens working?**
Matthew: there is some growing data about 16-19 year olds learning about more job opportunities; hear that students are too busy with school, sports, activities, but this is a delayed entry into the labor force, less exposure to learn about their options