

Letter

Jobs trend isn't quite as good as it sounds

Jeff Mclynych, Concord

[For the Monitor](#)

December 21, 2011

In recent days, legislative leaders have sought to link changes in law enacted under their watch, such as millions of dollars in budget cuts, to the growth in employment here in New Hampshire. Yet a quick glance at employment trends from around the country indicates that conditions in New Hampshire are not as favorable as they may seem.

Non-farm employment in New Hampshire rose by approximately 8,100 jobs, or 1.3 percent, between December 2010 and November 2011. However, this rate of growth puts us only 20th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. What's more, New Hampshire's employment growth lagged behind that of our neighbors in Massachusetts and Vermont.

More important, we still have a ways to go before we return to the employment levels in place when the national recession began. Back in December 2007, non-farm employment in New Hampshire was 649,300 jobs; in November 2011, it was 635,100, a gap of 14,200 jobs. If employment continues to grow at the 1.3 percent rate the state has experienced over the past year, that gap will not be closed until June 2013, nearly 5½ since the downturn began.

JEFF MCLYNCH

Concord

(The writer is executive director of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute.)