

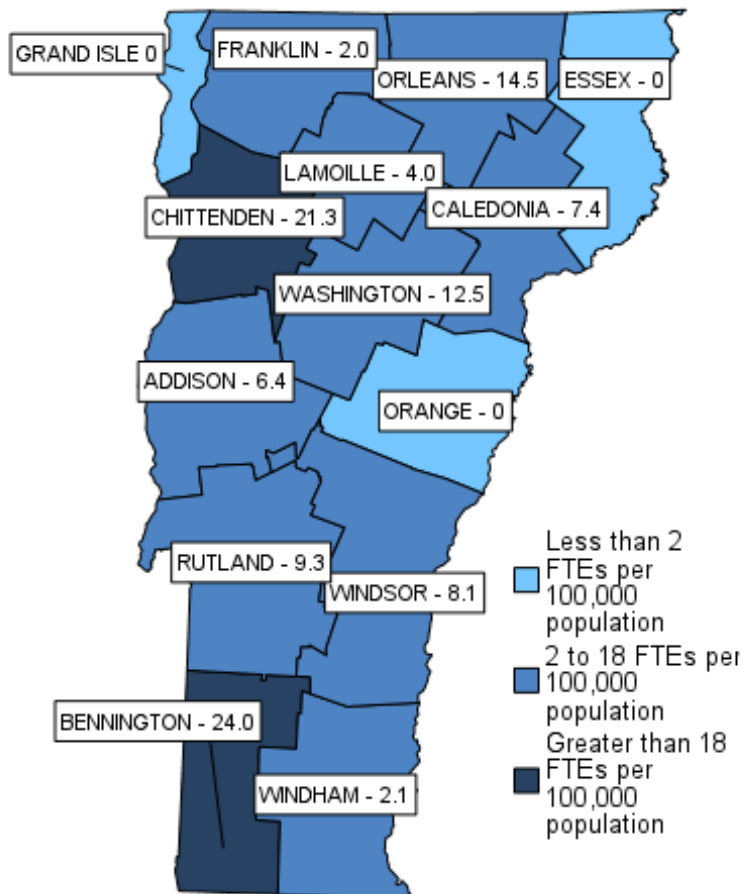
Overview

This opticians census is part of the Vermont Department of Health's health care provider data program, which is used to monitor and measure the supply of health care providers in our state over time.

Vermont opticians are relicensed every two years. Data for this report was obtained during the July 2020 relicensing period and represents a snapshot of the profession at that time.

Opticians dispense glasses and contact lenses based on the prescriptions of an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Their job also includes molding eyeglass frames to fit, and advising patients on proper care of their eyewear. Opticians also have administrative duties.

Opticians FTEs per 100,000 population by county



In Brief

Workforce

Survey period: July 2020
Response Rate: 100%
Licenses renewed: 101
Active in VT: 84
VT Full-time Equivalents: 72.0

Demographics

% Female: 62.7 %
Median Age: 50
% 60 or older: 22.6%

Education and Training

% Educated in Vermont: 78.3%
% Educated in Northeast: 98.8%

Specialties

83.3% mainly provided eyeglasses
10.7% mainly provided primary eye care

Current Employment

% Working full-time at one site: 53.6%
% Working at multiple sites: 9.5%
% Planning to reduce hours: 4.8%
% Planning to retire: 1.2%

Geographic Distribution

(FTEs per 100,000 population)
Highest: 24.0, Bennington County
Lowest: No FTEs reported, Essex, Grand Isle and Orange Counties

Trends in Statewide FTEs

2016: 86.0
2018: 97.5
2020: 72.0

Workforce

- 101 opticians renewed their licenses during the surveyed period and 101 of these completed the workforce survey for a response rate of 100%
- Out of the 101 respondents, 84 (83.2%) indicated they were actively practicing as opticians in Vermont.
- Of the 17 respondents reporting a non-active status, 10 (58.8%) indicated they were planning to start working as a opticians in Vermont within the next 12 months.
- The remainder of this report is based on the 84 opticians who reported actively working in Vermont.

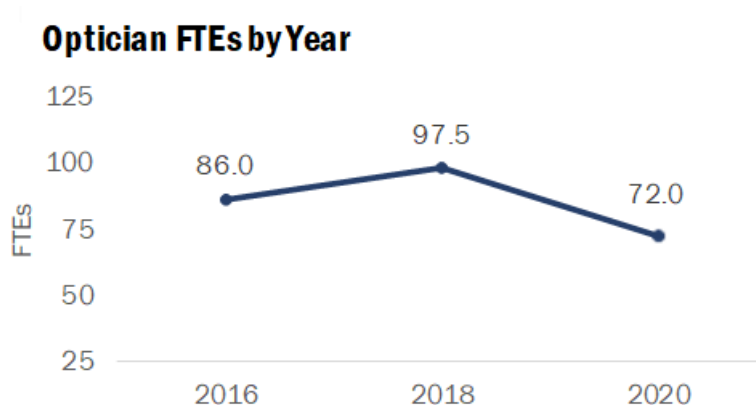
Full Time Equivalent (FTEs)

- 84 opticians provided 72.0 total FTEs.
- Over half, 53.6%, (45) of opticians worked 40 or more hours per week at their main site.
- 16.7 FTEs, or 23.2% of total FTEs, were provided by 19 opticians aged 60 or older.

Average weekly hours – at main site	Number	Percent
Less than 20 hours	9	10.7%
20-39 hours	30	35.7%
40 hours or more	45	53.6%

Trends in Statewide FTEs

- After increasing from 86.0 FTEs in 2016 to 97.5 FTEs in 2018, optician FTEs decreased by 25.5 from to 72 in 2020.



Demographics

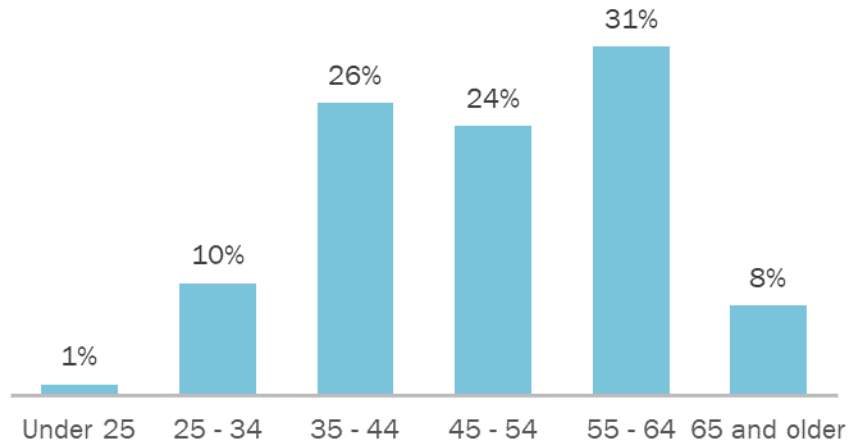
Gender

- 62.7% of the opticians in Vermont (52) were female.
- 37.3% (31) were male.

Age

- 10.7% (9) were under 35 years of age.
- 50.0% (42) were between 35 and 54 years of age.
- 39.3% (33) were 55 years of age and older.

Age Distribution of VT Opticians



Race and Ethnicity

Respondents were asked to select their race and could select multiple responses or choose not to answer, therefore numbers may not equal the total number of opticians.

- 80 opticians were white (95.2%), 2.4% were American Indian or Alaskan Native, 1.2% were Asian, and no opticians selected Black or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Two preferred not to answer (2.4%).
- No opticians reported being Hispanic, Latino/a, or of Spanish origin.

Education and Training

- 32.1% (27) of opticians had an associate or bachelor's degree.
- 60.7% (51) completed an apprenticeship.
- 91.6% (76) successfully completed the National Opticianry Competency Examination (NOCE) sponsored by the American Board of Opticianry (ABO).
- Most of the 84 opticians in Vermont in 2020 completed their degrees in the Northeast (98.8%).

Region where training/educ. occurred	Number	Percent
Vermont	65	78.3%
Northeast excluding Vermont	17	20.5%
South	1	1.2%
* Missing data from 1 individual		

Practice Characteristics

Number of sites

- 90.5% of opticians (76) worked at a single practice site.
- 9.5% (8) worked at two or more practice sites.

Practice Setting

- 41.7% (35) of opticians worked in an independent optometry clinic.
- 28.6% (24) worked in an optician shop.

Practice setting	Number	Percent
Independent Optometry Clinic	35	41.7%
Optician Shop	24	28.6%
Chain Optometry Clinic	18	21.4%
Ophthalmology Office	5	6.0%
Other	2	2.4%

Specialties

- The most common primary specialty of opticians was eyeglasses (83.3%) followed by primary eye care (10.7%).

Access to Care

- 47.6% accept Medicaid patients at their main site
- 64.3% accept Medicare patients at their main site.

Current Experience

- Median time since first licensed as an optician: 15.5 years.
- 18.3% (15) of opticians started working in Vermont over 25 years ago.

Future Plans

- 84.5% (71) planned to continue working as they had been in the next 12 months.
- 1.2% (1) planned to increase their hours in the next 12 months.
- 4.8% (4) planned to reduce their hours.
- 1.2% (1) planned to retire.

Key Takeaways

- 84 opticians were active in Vermont and provided 72.0 total FTEs.
- After increasing between 2016 and 2018, optician FTEs decreased by 25.5 FTEs between 2018 and 2020.
- Relative to population, opticians are most common in Bennington and Chittenden counties.
- There are no opticians practicing in Essex, Grand Isle, or Orange counties.

For more information, contact: AHS.VDHPHysicianCensus@vermont.gov

Appendix

Active Opticians

An optician who reported working in Vermont as an optician (regardless of how many hours) is considered active.

Census

The census was taken during the biennial optician relicensing process which ended on July 31, 2020. The data include all licensed opticians except for new licensees enrolled less than three months before the renewal date (May - July 2020), as their license was valid until the next renewal date of July 31, 2022. Census questions are available upon request.

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Full time is defined as 40 or more working hours in Vermont per week, 48 weeks or more per year. An optician reporting more than 40 hours per week is defined as one FTE regardless of the number of hours over 40 per week worked.

Main Practice, Site, Setting, and Specialty

The main practice, site, setting, or specialty refer to the practice in which the optician worked the greatest number of annual hours.

Map Quartiles

Map colors define quartiles. The lowest 25% of FTE equivalents to population ratio is displayed in the lightest color, the middle 50% in medium, and highest 25% in the darkest color.

Missing data

Unless otherwise noted, missing data are excluded from tables. Thus, totals may vary from table to table.

Population Estimates

Population estimates are for July 2020 and were provided by the Department of Health.

Weekly Hours

Average weekly hours are based on hours and weeks reported, adjusted to a full-time 48-week working year (hours * (weeks/48)). Thus, the average weekly hours for an optician working 40 hours a week for half the year (24 weeks), is 20.