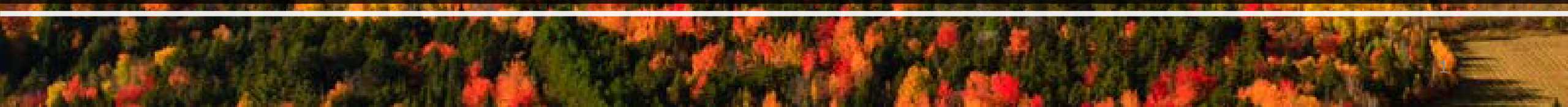




## Vermont's Economic Climate



6-3-1



# Key Indicators

## *How the Scott Administration will Measure Progress*

- **Growing the Economy**

- Size of the workforce--as a percent of the population (statewide and by county)
- Employer growth rate--total size and by employee count
- Wage growth--by region

- **Making Vermont More Affordable**

- Average percent of household income spent on healthcare, housing (includes utility and heating costs, etc.), and taxes & fees

- **Protecting the Vulnerable**

- Percent of the population living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Rate of homelessness/housing stability
- Kindergarten readiness
- Percent of the population with access to comprehensive healthcare

# 4 Key Factors in Vermont's Job Market

- The State's **economy appears to be entering a more sluggish period**: The May 2017 job statistics show that the Vermont nonfarm payroll job count **declined by 2,200 jobs** over the four month period since the last month where the number of jobs increased in January 2017.
- **Labor market conditions are expected to tighten** marginally with Statewide employment growth following a more restrained trajectory than anticipated in the January update.
- According to the household survey of employed and unemployed Vermonters, the unemployment rate in Vermont has hovered around 3.0%, resulting from recent employment trends but also a **decline in the civilian labor force**.
- The updated consensus economic forecast for Vermont also includes a slightly **slower pace of output growth** and a somewhat **slower pace to personal income growth** over the near term forecast horizon.

# Credit Ratings Considerations for Vermont

## Positives

- Strong financials (i.e. sufficient reserves, liquidity, unrestricted cash flows)
- Positive government framework (i.e. use of fiscal best practices, budget management structure, consensus economic forecasts)

# Making Progress

- This year, we've taken steps to get our fiscal house in order and provide relief for Vermonters
  - \$35 million towards affordable housing
  - 6 new Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts
  - \$150,000 to Small Business Development Centers
  - \$100,000 to support regional microbusinesses
  - \$250,000 for economic development marketing
  - \$200,000 in new downtown tax credits to support economic growth
  - \$2.5 million towards the Child Care Financial Assistance Program
  - \$3 million to the Vermont State College System to stabilize tuition
  - A budget with no new taxes or fees for the first time in memory

# Rating Agencies

- Standard & Poor's (S&P): AA+
- Moody's: Aaa
- Fitch: AAA

# Credit Ratings Considerations for Vermont

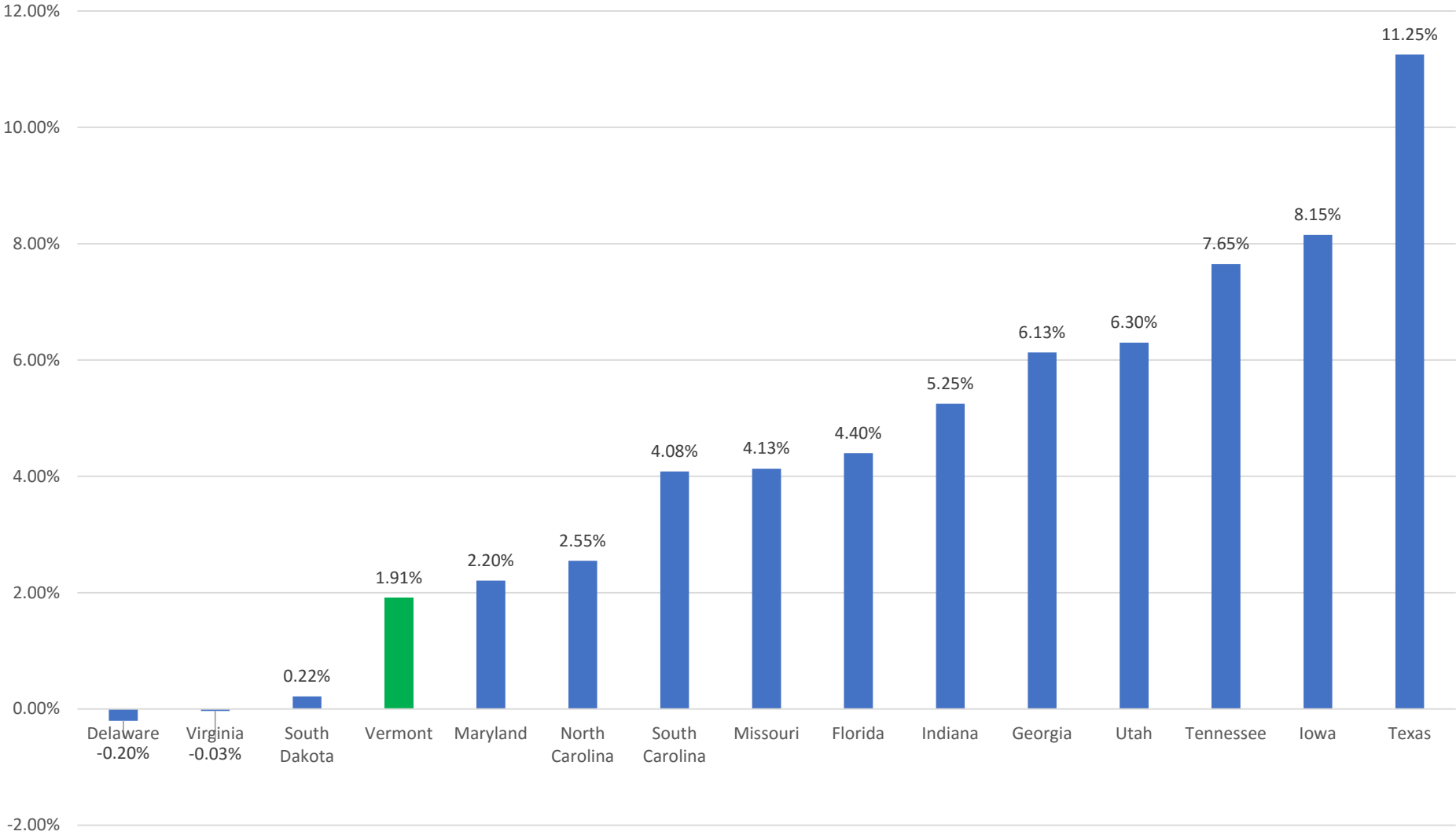
## Negatives

- Slower than average economic growth
  - Shrinking workforce
  - Population and demographic considerations
- Debt profile (i.e. debt ratios relative to peers)
- Pension liabilities



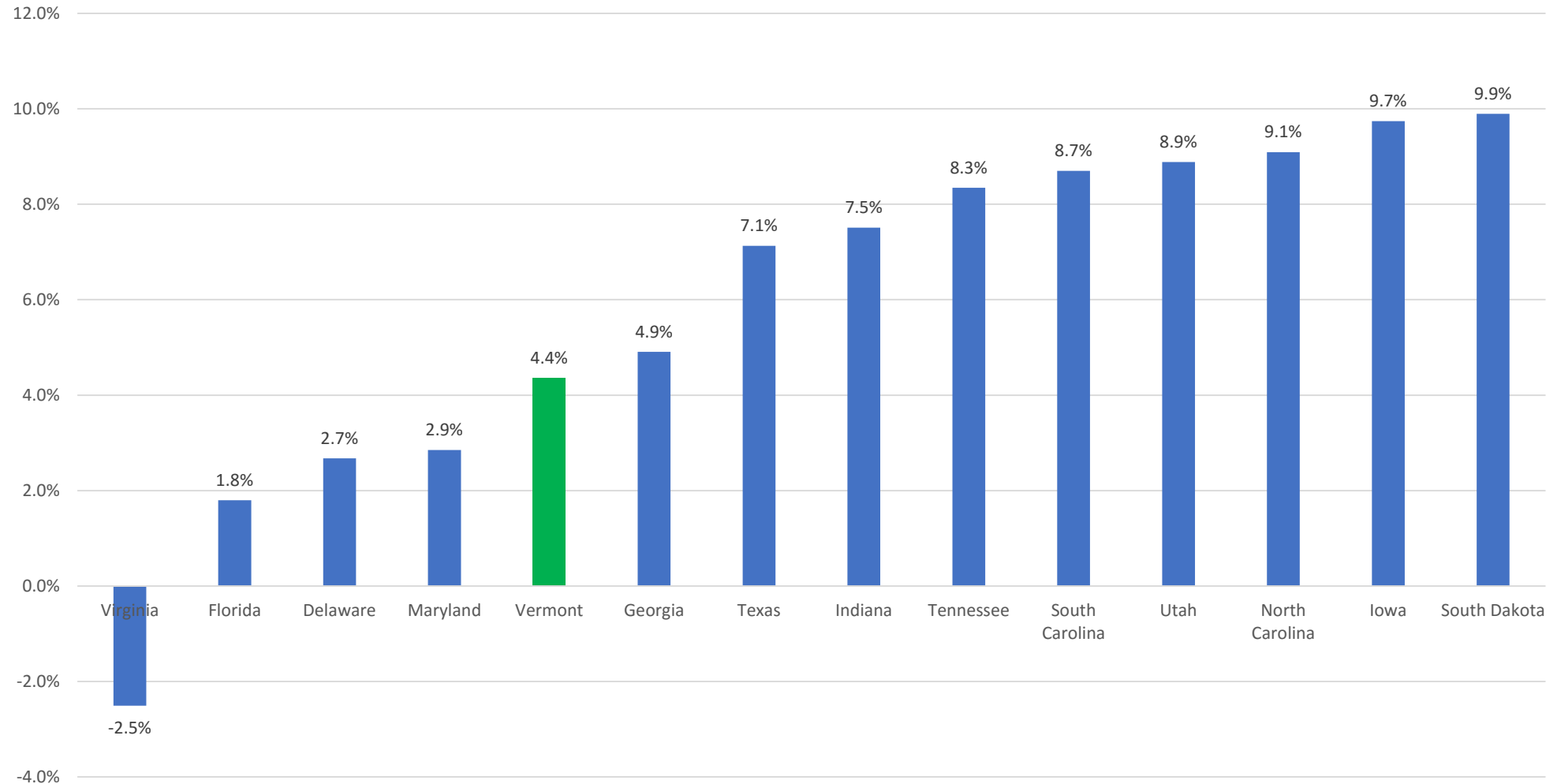
# Real GDP Growth Compared to Other Triple-A States

Percent Change in Real Per Capita GDP (2011-2016)  
(Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis)



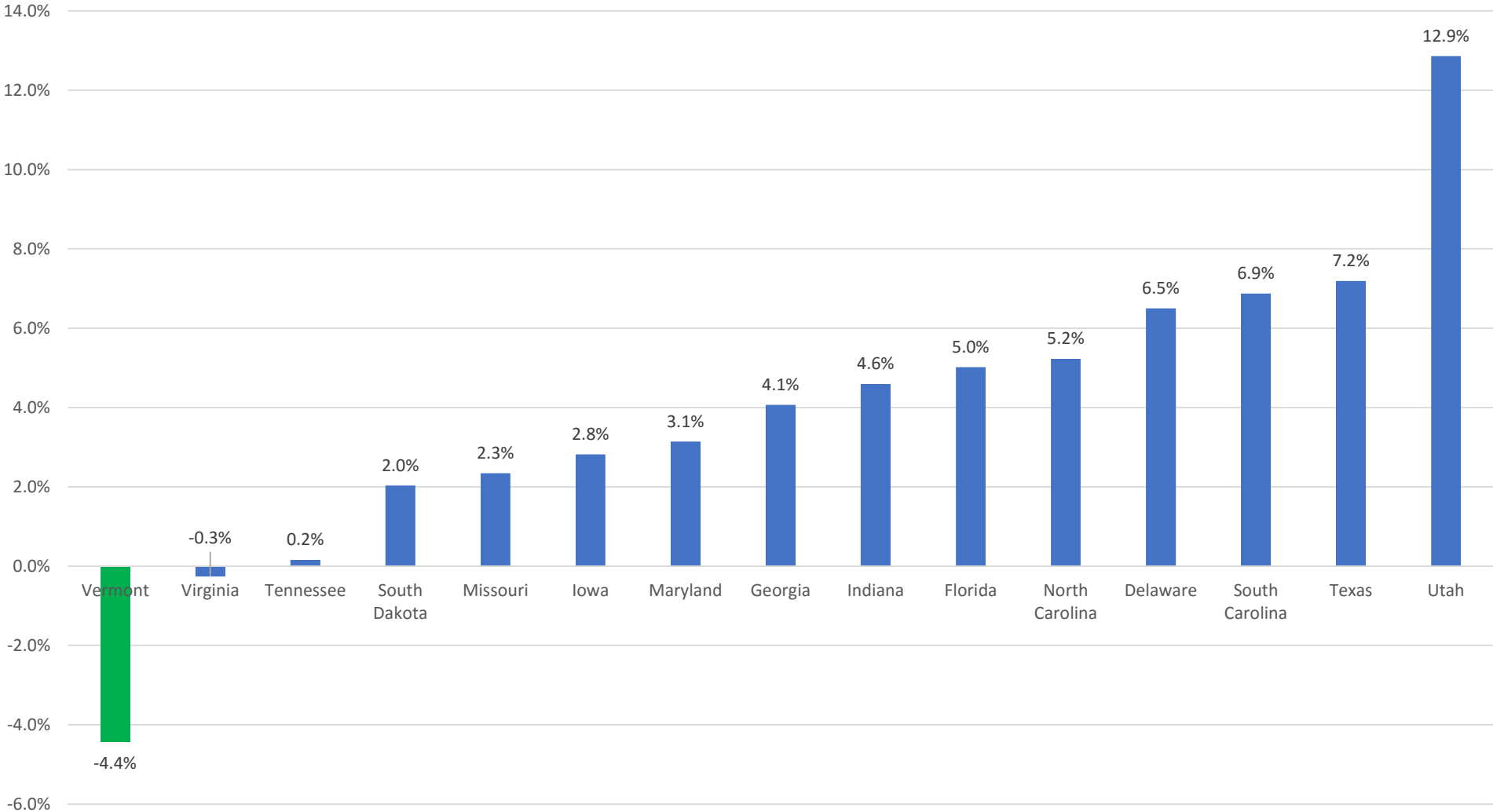
# Median Household Income Growth Compared to Other Triple-A States

Percent Change in Median Household Income, 2011-2016  
(Source: Census/CPS, three-year rolling average)



# Workforce Growth Compared to Other Triple-A States

Percent Change in Civilian Labor Force (2011-2016)  
(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)

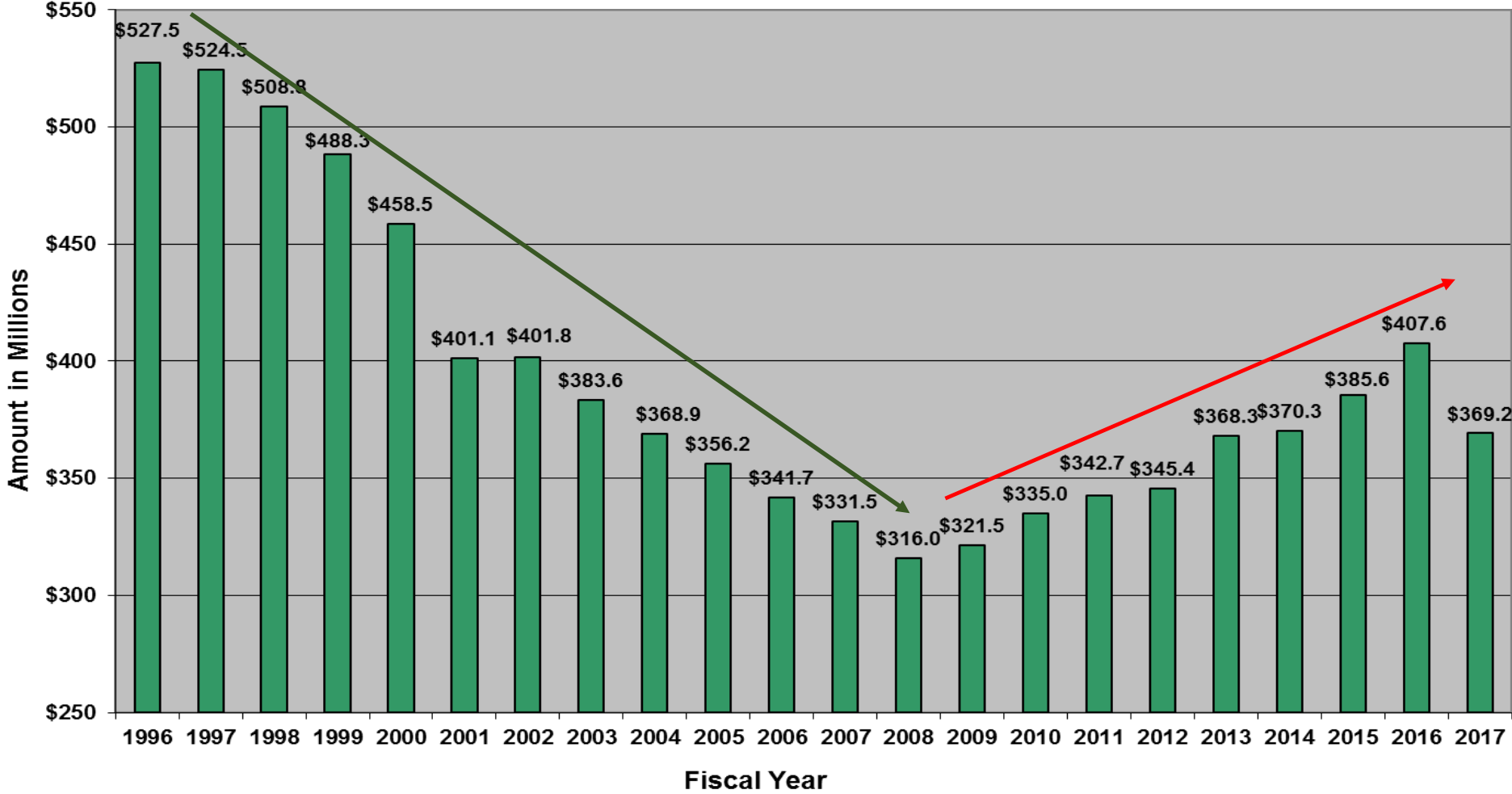


# Our Demographic Trends Must Reverse

- Vermont has 25,000 fewer Vermonters aged 20 and under than we did in the year 2000.
- Vermont has 60,000 more Vermonters over the age of 65 than we did in that same year.
- Vermont has one of the oldest populations—in fact the **second oldest population** in the country behind only Maine.
- This “higher than average percentage of older residents” or “older than average” population status is forecasted to **continue through calendar year 2025** as **Vermont’s population share over 65 is expected to grow at a significantly faster rate** than is the case for the U.S. as a whole.
- We **must grow our working-age population** to grow our workforce and our tax base.

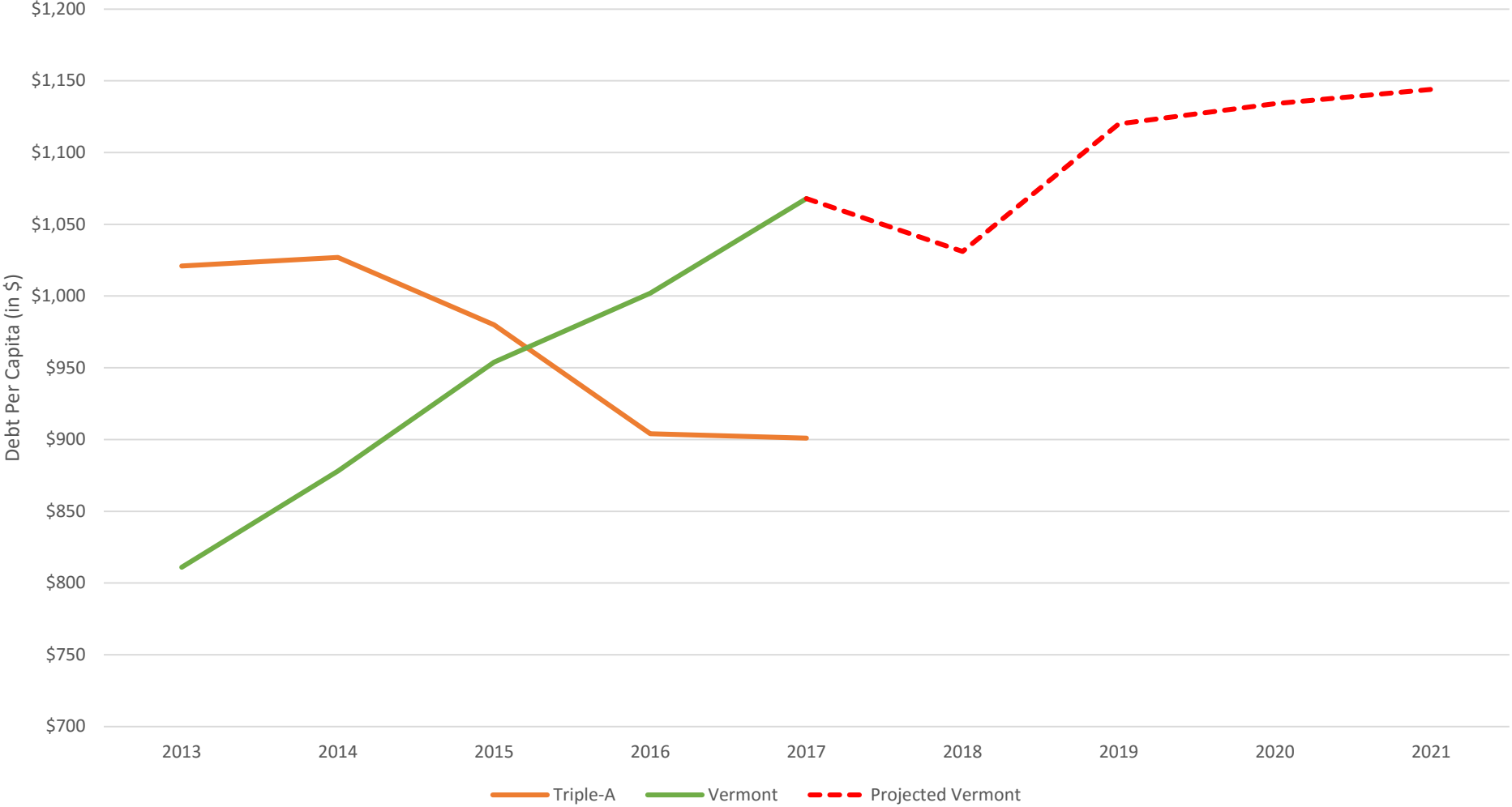
# Vermont General Obligation Debt Outstanding

FY 96-17 (Inflation-Adjusted)  
(Source: Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee)



# Historic and Projected Debt Per Capita Ratio

Vermont vs. Triple-A Average  
(Source: Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee)



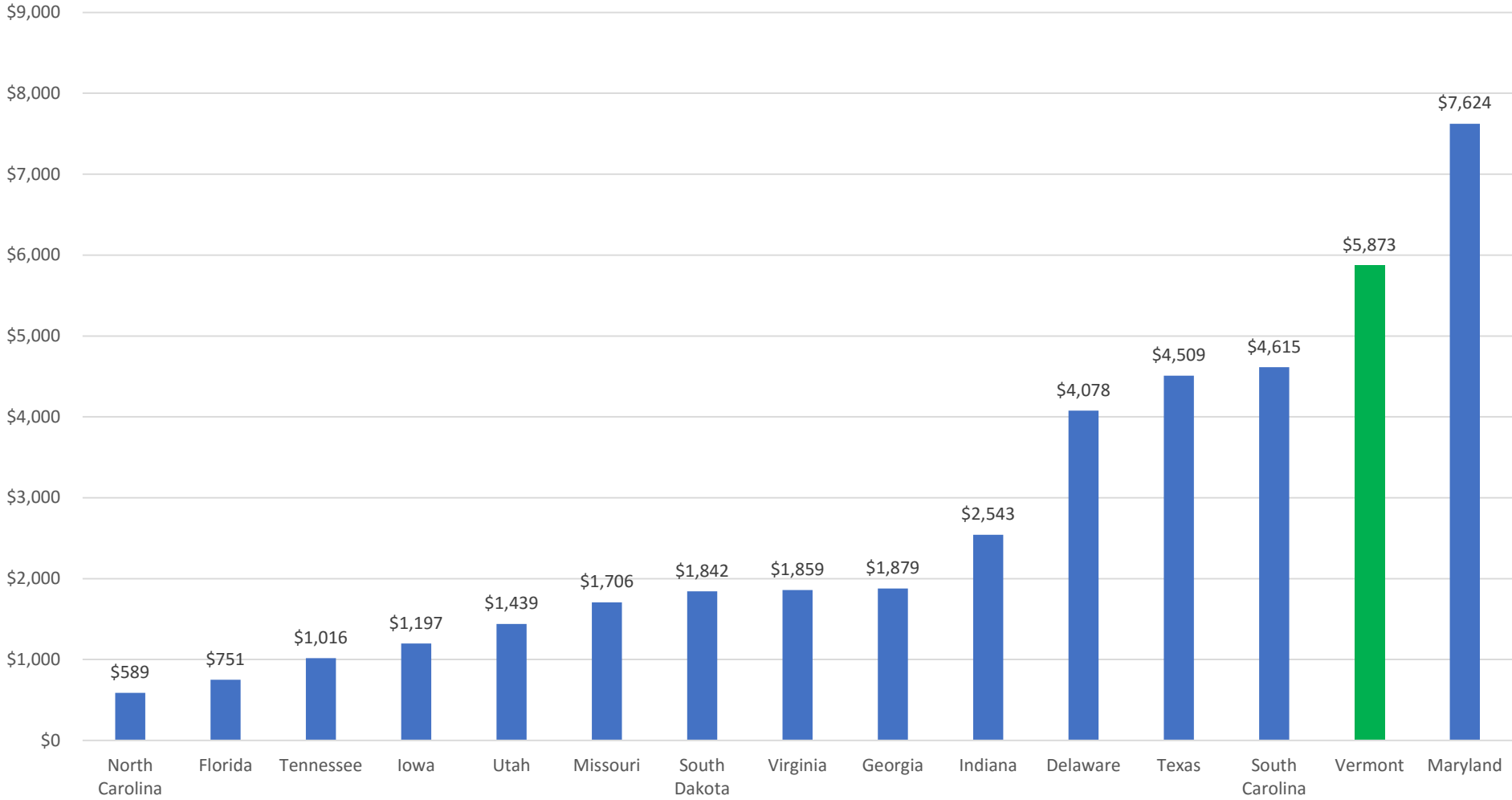
# Mean Debt Ratios:

Vermont vs. Triple-A Average  
 (Source: Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee)

<b>Debt Per Capita</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
Triple-A Average	\$1,021	\$1,027	\$980	\$904	\$901	-\$120
Vermont	\$811	\$878	\$954	\$1,002	\$1,068	\$257
<b>Debt as a % of Personal Income</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
Triple-A Average	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%	-0.6%
Vermont	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	0.3%
<b>Debt as a % of GSP</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
Triple-A Average	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	-0.4%
Vermont	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%

# Pension Liabilities Compared to Other Triple-A States

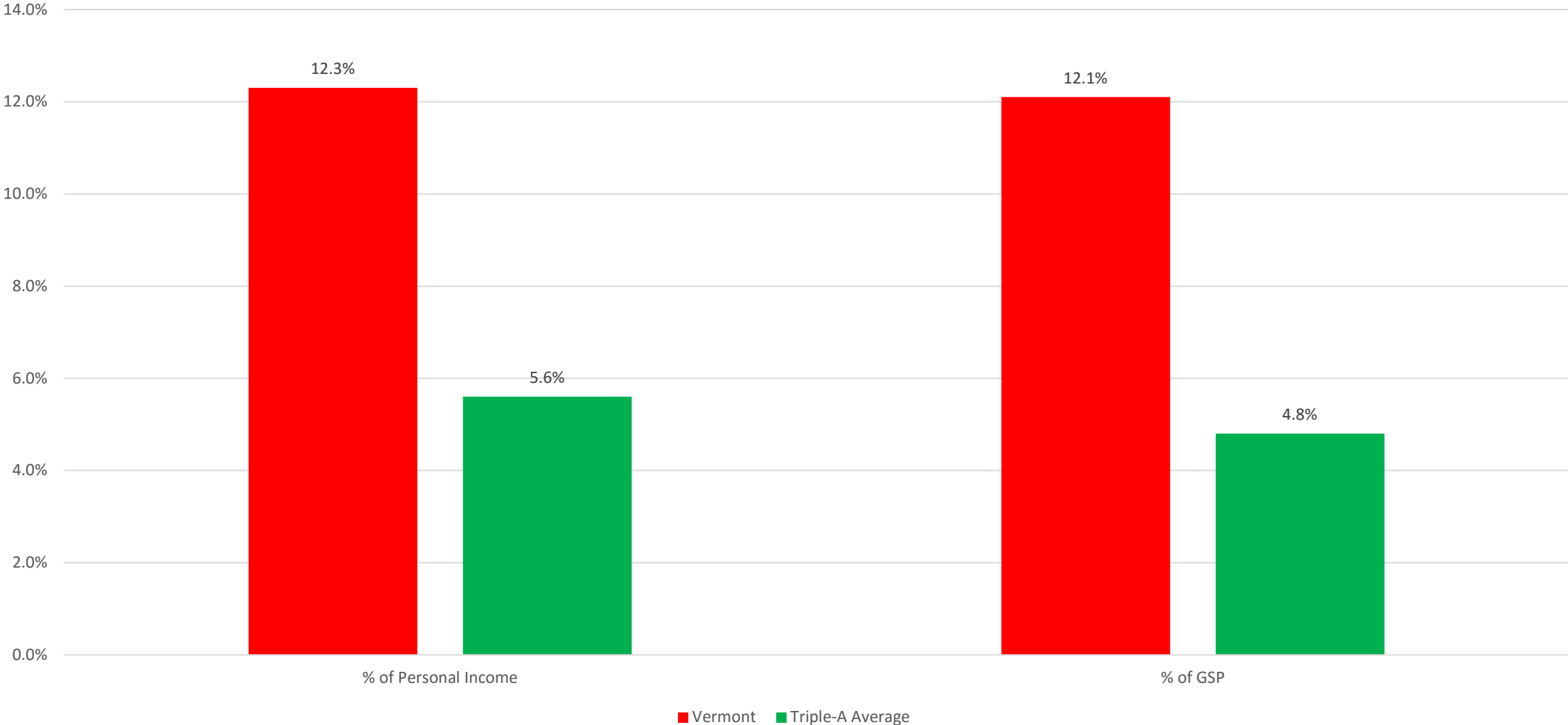
Adjusted Net Pension Liability Per Capita  
(Source: Moody's)





# Moody's Adjusted Net Pension Liability Metrics, 2017

Vermont vs. Triple-A Average  
(Source: Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee)



# Moving Forward

- By growing the economy, making Vermont more affordable, and protecting the most vulnerable, we CAN reverse these trends
- We need pull together and focus on the fiscal fundamentals
- Together, we can put Vermont back on the right track