

Planning Information Center

Census Data Bulletin

RHODE ISLAND
STATEWIDE
PLANNING
PROGRAM



Rhode Island Division of Planning
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Rhode Island at Work

In difficult economic times, people pay special attention to jobs data, looking for signs of hope or reasons for despair. Data on residents' occupations provide planners with a picture of job trends and assets in the state. The Census finds that a growing segment of employed Rhode Island residents — over one-third — are in management, business, science and arts occupations, which comprise much of the “knowledge-based economy.” Also growing is the number of residents in service occupations, whose jobs are essential to everyday life in the state, but whose median pay is far less than other large occupational groups.

A Microcosm of the Nation

Rhode Island residents' occupations are fairly representative of the United States as a whole. According to 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates, 36.5% of Rhode Island's 490,964 employed civilians hold management, business, science and arts occupations, while the U.S. figure is 35.9%. (Other New England states have larger shares; Massachusetts tops the region at 43.5%.) For sales and office occupations in Rhode Island, the figure is 24.8%, similar to that of the rest of New England and the United States.

In other occupations, Rhode Island differs from nearby states and the country as a whole. Residents holding natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations comprise just 6.9% of employed civilians in state (lower than all other

BY THE NUMBERS

490,964 employed, non-military Rhode Island residents in 2010

\$31,728 their median earnings

50.8 percent who are women

36.5 percent in management, business, science and arts occupations

22.1 percent *increase* in residents with service occupations, 2000-2010

Source: Census 2000, 2010 American Community Survey

New England states except Massachusetts), compared with 9.1% in the country. The Ocean State leads New England in its share of residents with service occupations (19.5%), and those with production, transportation, and material moving occupations (12.5%).

The Heart of the Knowledge-Based Economy

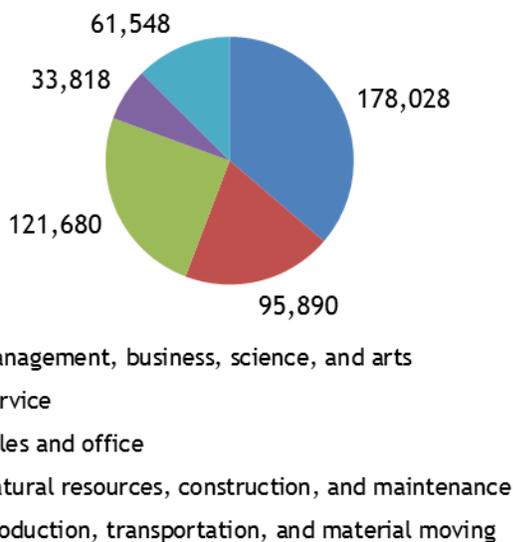
Occupations included in the “management, business, science, and arts” group span business managers, educators, lawyers, health care practitioners, scientists, designers and others. These are often high-skill occupations requiring advanced education, and Rhode Island's number of residents holding them has increased from 169,994 in 2000 to 178,028 in 2010, or 4.7%.

Rhode Island, like other states, seeks these jobs and the residents who hold them because their pay tends to be higher. Median earnings among

ABOUT THE DATA

Data in this Bulletin are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2010 one-year estimates and from Census 2000's “long form” data, or Summary File 3, which is no longer in use by the Census Bureau. Both collect surveys from a sample of residents and generate *estimates* of population characteristics. Occupational data describe the jobs held by individuals residing in a particular area, like Rhode Island. However, residents of Rhode Island may work in another state, so data on residents' occupations are different from data on jobs located in Rhode Island.

**R.I. Employed Civilian Population
by Occupation, 16 years and
older, 2010**



Source: U.S. Census

this occupation group in the state are \$54,665, by far the highest of any of the large occupational groupings. Just over half of these jobs are held by women (55.6%), but median earnings for women are \$14,000 less than men (\$50,080 for women, \$64,557 for men).

Manufacturing and Transportation

Rhode Island's economy was built on manufacturing, and the erosion of production, transportation and material moving jobs has driven major economic challenges in the state. Nearly 15,000 fewer residents hold these occupations than in 2000. Today, 12.5% of employed civilians work in production, transportation, and material moving jobs, down from 15.2% in 2000. Rhode Island's percentage is still higher than the 2010 national share, 11.9%. Many of these jobs pay a living wage but do not require higher education, which is why they have played a critical role in Rhode Island.

Providing Services

The functions of service occupations, from healthcare support to food service to law enforcement, are essential to everyday life. These

Median Earnings of R.I. Employed Civilians

Entire civilian employed population 16 years and over	\$33,945
Men	\$39,825
Women	\$30,219
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	\$54,665
Service occupations	\$19,219
Sales and office occupations	\$29,888
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	\$36,750
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	\$27,587

Source: U.S. Census

jobs often are specific to a particular location, and so Rhode Island is less likely to lose them to another state. However, they also tend to be vulnerable to budget cuts or fluctuating market conditions.

Rhode Island has increased its count of residents holding service occupations over the past decade, from 78,539 in 2000 to 95,890 in 2010. These occupations are among the most polarized by gender; for example, 89.3% of residents with healthcare support occupations are women, while 78.6% of those with protective service occupations (like firefighting and police) are men.

As a group, these jobs have the lowest median earnings of any of the major occupational groupings, \$19,219. However, "earnings" do not include income from tips, which is a major part of payment received in select service occupations.

TO LEARN MORE...

For additional information about Rhode Island's occupations, visit the R.I. Department of Labor & Training's *Labor Market Information* resource, at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes.htm> and the U.S. Census website, *American FactFinder*, at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

A projection of the state's occupational makeup is available in the Department of Labor & Training report, *2018 Opportunities*, at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/pdf/opportunities.pdf>

For further information about Planning Information Center resources, contact Vincent Flood at Rhode Island Statewide Planning: vincent.flood@doa.ri.gov or (401) 222-1243.