

Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2022

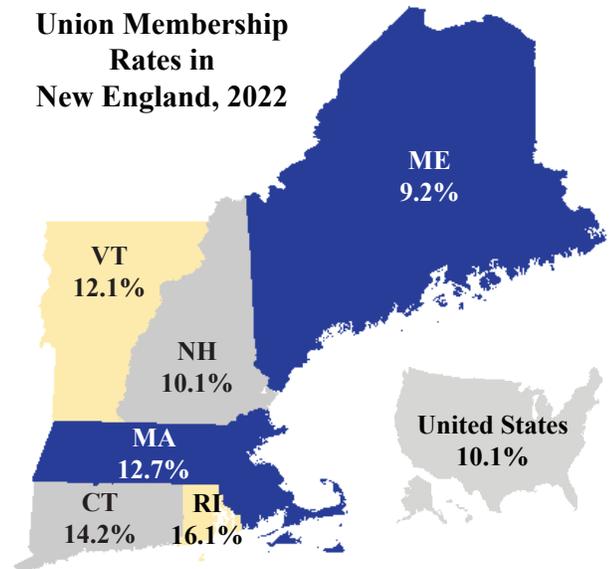
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 16.1 percent (81,000) of Rhode Island private and public sector workers were union members in 2022. This was up from 15.7 percent in 2021. The number of union members was 81,000, up 6,000 from 75,000 in 2021.

Nationally, the union membership rate was 10.1 percent in 2022, down two-tenths of a percentage point from 2021 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983. Among the fifty states, Rhode Island (16.1%) was tied with California (16.1%) for the fourth highest union membership rate. Hawaii (21.9%), New York (20.7%) and Washington (18.0%) had the highest rates in the country, while South Carolina (1.7%), North Carolina (2.8%), South Dakota (3.1%), Virginia (3.7%) and Utah (3.9%) had the lowest union membership rates in 2022.

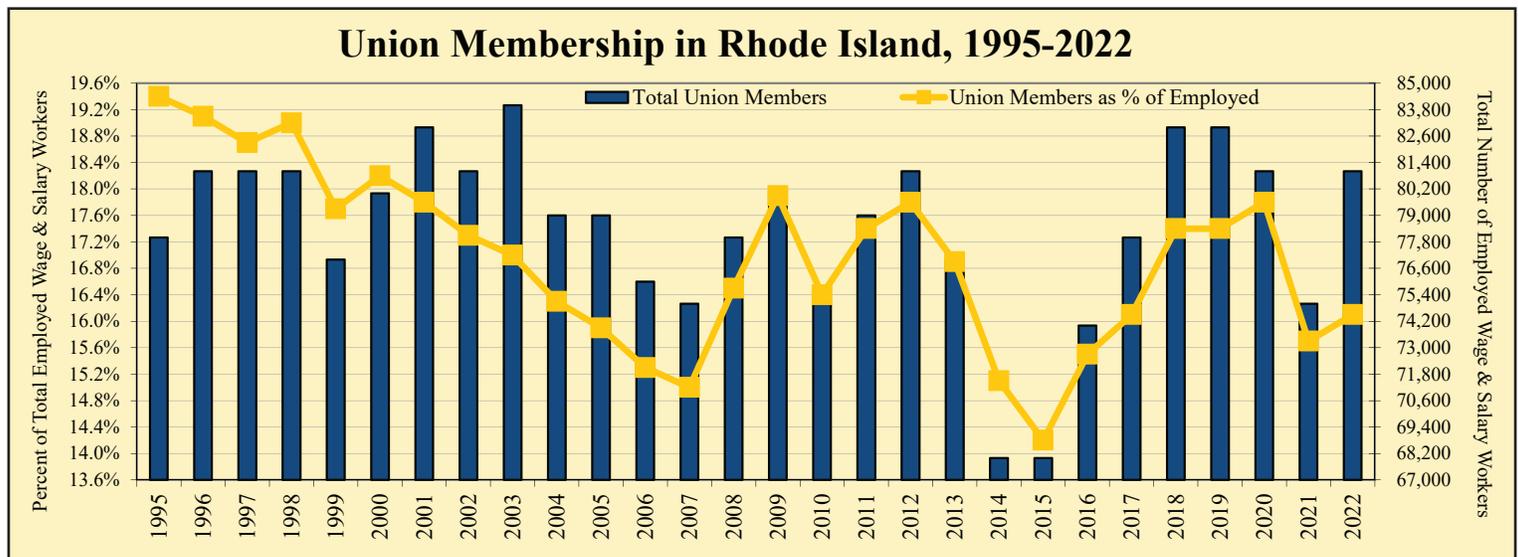
Regionally, Rhode Island (16.1%) had the highest union membership rate in New England, followed by Connecticut (14.2%), Massachusetts (12.7%), Vermont (12.1%), New Hampshire (10.1%) and Maine (9.2%). Only Maine had a union membership rate less than the national average.

Union members and workers whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association contract represented 11.3 percent of the nation's wage and salary workers and 17.7 percent of Rhode Island's wage and salary workers.

Union Membership Rates in New England, 2022



Union Membership in Rhode Island, 1995-2022



* 1983 is the first year for which comparable union data are available.

Data included within this report is derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households conducted by the Bureau of Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Union membership data refers to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union. Union representation data includes union members as well as workers who report no union affiliation, but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract. For more information on CPS data, please visit www.bls.gov/cps/.