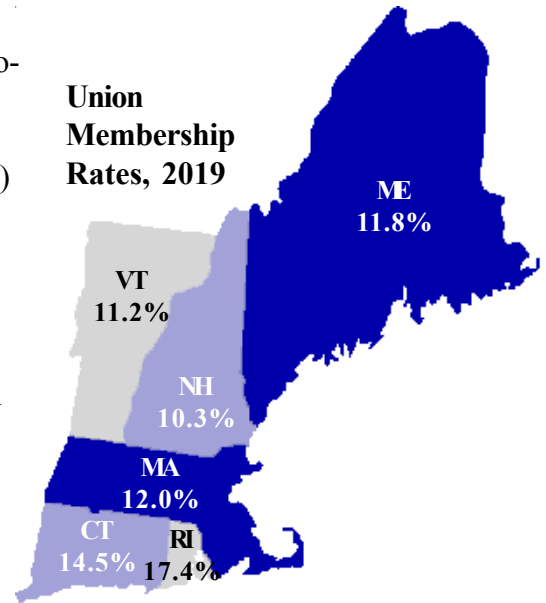


# Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2019

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 17.4 percent (83,000) of Rhode Island private and public sector workers were union members in 2019. This was unchanged from 2018. The number of union members also remained the same as in 2018, its highest level since 2003.

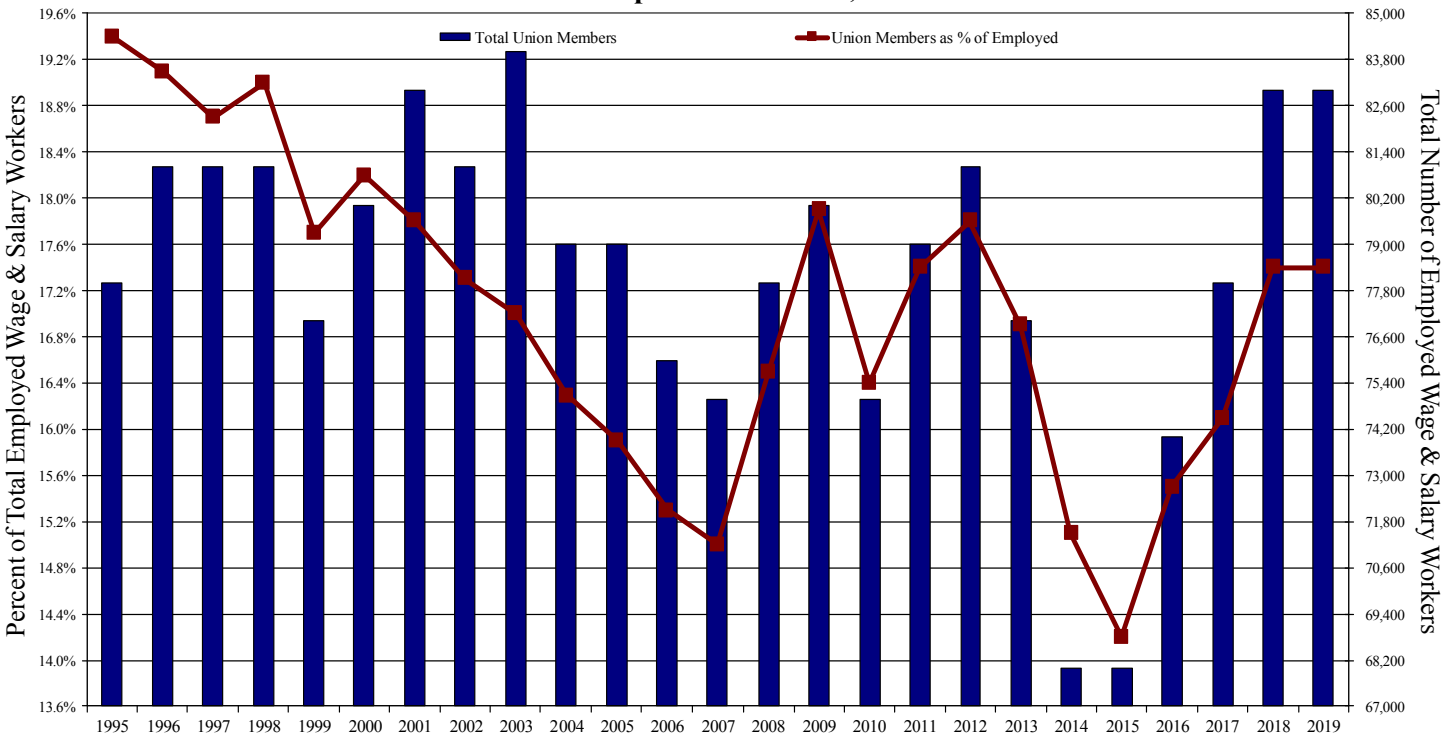
Nationally, the union membership rate was 10.3 percent in 2019, down two-tenths of a percentage point from 2018 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983. Among the fifty states, Rhode Island reported the fourth highest union membership rate, trailing Hawaii (23.5%), New York (21.0%) and Washington (18.8%). South Carolina (2.2%), North Carolina (2.3%), Texas (4.0%), Virginia (4.0%) and Georgia (4.1%) had the lowest union membership rates in 2019.



Regionally, Rhode Island (17.4%) had the highest union membership rate in New England, followed by Connecticut (14.5%), Massachusetts (12.0%), Maine (11.8%), Vermont (11.2%) and New Hampshire (10.3%). All New England states had a union membership rate equal to or greater than the national average.

Union members and workers whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association contract represented 11.6 percent of the nation's wage and salary workers and 19.0 percent of Rhode Island's wage and salary workers.

**Union Membership in Rhode Island, 1995-2019**



\* 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/](http://www.bls.gov/cps/).