

Rhode Island Commuting Patterns



Introduction

Rhode Island Commuting Patterns

Based on data collected from the Census Bureau’s 2016-2020 American Community Survey, *Rhode Island Commuting Patterns* provides journey-to-work statistics for Rhode Island counties. Data is divided into two categories: Where Rhode Island Residents Work and Where Rhode Island Workers Live. Not surprisingly, most Rhode Island residents work in Providence County (50.1%). Commuting patterns also supply information on resident outflow to neighboring states for employment. Of the five Rhode Island counties, Washington County has the highest percentage (8.2%) of residents who commute to Connecticut for work, while Providence County has the highest percentage (17.7%) of residents working in Massachusetts.

Rhode Island workers are most likely to live in Providence County (49.7%), followed by Kent County (15.8%). There are 59,453 residents from other states who commute into Rhode Island for employment. Washington County attracts the greatest percentage (5.3%) of Connecticut residents into its county for work, while Newport County draws 13.2 percent of its workforce from Massachusetts.

Rhode Island exports 82,800 residents to other states or countries for work, while Rhode Island imports only 59,453 workers from other states.

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Definitions

Commute to work - Includes data on where people work, how they get to work, how long it takes to get from their home to their usual workplace, when they leave home to go to their usual workplace, and carpooling. Data are estimates of people 16 years old and over who were both employed and at work during the reference week (including people in the armed forces). *Source: US Census Bureau, 2016-2020 5-Year American Community Survey Commuting Flows*

Income of Families - In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over in each family are summed and treated as a single amount. Family households include a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption. All persons in the household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. Not all households contain families since a household may comprise a group of unrelated individuals or one person living alone. *Source: US Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1901*

Income of Households - Includes the income of the householder and all other persons 15 years old and over in the household, whether related to the householder or not. Households include all the persons who occupy a housing unit – a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied as separate living quarters. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. *Source: US Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1901*

Unemployed - All civilians 16 years old and over were classified as unemployed if they were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week, were looking for work during the last four weeks, and were available to start a job. Also included as unemployed were civilians 16 years old and over who: did not work at all during the reference week, were on temporary layoff from a job, had been informed that they would be recalled to work within the next six months or had been given a date to return to work, and were available to return to work during the reference week, except for temporary illness. The unemployment rate is determined by dividing the number unemployed by the civilian labor force. *Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023 Annual Average Unemployment Rate*

Educational Attainment - Level of education completed by all individuals aged 25 years and older. *Source: US Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501*

Connecticut Change from Counties to Planning Regions

Almost all functions of county government were abolished in Connecticut in 1960. Due to this, Connecticut has decided to officially migrate from using legacy County designations to county-equivalents (Planning Regions) based on Connecticut’s Councils of Government for statistical purposes. Connecticut will therefore consist of nine Planning Regions instead of eight Counties.

Rhode Island

Number of working residents aged 16+: 524,196

Percentage of residents who work in state: 84.2%

Number of workers aged 16+: 500,849

Percentage of workers who live in state: 88.1%

Number of households: 432,219

Median household income: \$81,370

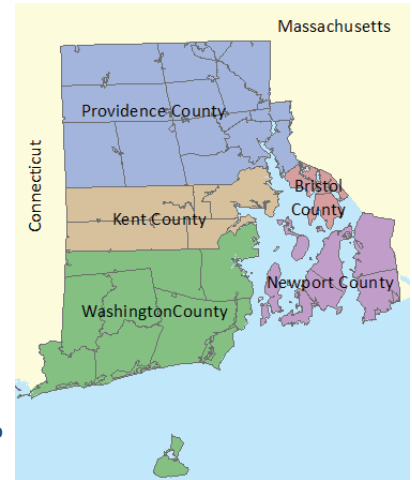
Number of families: 265,601

Median family income: \$104,033

Annual 2023 unemployment rate: 3.0%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with HS diploma/equivalency or higher: 89.4%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher: 36.3%



Where Rhode Island Residents Work			Where Rhode Island Workers Live		
Total	524,196	100.0%	Total	500,849	100.0%
Providence County, RI	262,884	50.1%	Providence County, RI	249,064	49.7%
Kent County, RI	69,709	13.3%	Kent County, RI	78,983	15.8%
Washington County, RI	54,193	10.3%	Washington County, RI	56,132	11.2%
Newport County, RI	39,974	7.6%	Newport County, RI	36,646	7.3%
Bristol County, MA	28,039	5.3%	Bristol County, MA	29,540	5.9%
Norfolk County, MA	16,337	3.1%	Bristol County, RI	20,571	4.1%
Bristol County, RI	14,636	2.8%	Worcester County, MA	6,325	1.3%
Worcester County, MA	7,359	1.4%	Norfolk County, MA	5,064	1.0%
Middlesex County, MA	6,949	1.3%	Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	4,461	0.9%
Suffolk County, MA	6,891	1.3%	Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	2,422	0.5%
Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	6,730	1.3%	Plymouth County, MA	2,299	0.5%
Plymouth County, MA	2,820	0.5%	Middlesex County, MA	1,792	0.4%
Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	1,147	0.2%	Suffolk County, MA	1,295	0.3%
Capitol Planning Region, CT	884	0.2%	Barnstable County, MA	790	0.2%
Barnstable County, MA	537	0.1%	Capitol Planning Region, CT	439	0.1%
New York County, NY	525	0.1%	Essex County, MA	374	0.1%
Other workplace outside of the U.S.	325	0.1%	Lower CT River Valley Planning Region, CT	185	0.0%
Essex County, MA	299	0.1%	Palm Beach County, FL	178	0.0%
South Central CT Planning Region, CT	273	0.1%	South Central CT Planning Region, CT	136	0.0%
Hillsborough County, NH	165	0.0%	Hampden County, MA	133	0.0%
Other Counties	3,520	0.7%	Other Counties	4,020	0.8%
Rhode Island Residents Work in the State of:			Rhode Island Workers Live in the State of:		
Rhode Island	441,396	84.2%	Rhode Island	441,396	88.1%
Massachusetts	69,454	13.2%	Massachusetts	47,739	9.5%
Connecticut	9,439	1.8%	Connecticut	7,792	1.6%
Other State/Country	3,907	0.7%	Other State	3,922	0.8%
Total	524,196	100.0%	Total	500,849	100.0%

Bristol County

Number of working residents aged 16+: 24,309

Percentage of residents who work in county: 41.0%

Number of workers aged 16+: 16,812

Percentage of workers who live in county: 59.2%

Number of households: 19,173

Median household income: \$105,875

Number of families: 12,546

Median family income: \$135,125

Annual 2023 unemployment rate: 2.5%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with HS diploma/equivalency or higher: 93.3%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher: 51.4%

Bristol County is
comprised of:

Barrington town
Bristol town
Warren town

Where Bristol County Residents Work			Where Bristol County Workers Live		
Total	24,309	100.0%	Total	16,812	100.0%
Bristol County, RI	9,956	41.0%	Bristol County, RI	9,956	59.2%
Providence County, RI	6,793	27.9%	Providence County, RI	3,152	18.7%
Bristol County, MA	2,443	10.0%	Bristol County, MA	1,815	10.8%
Newport County, RI	2,443	10.0%	Newport County, RI	838	5.0%
Kent County, RI	916	3.8%	Kent County, RI	611	3.6%
Washington County, RI	463	1.9%	Washington County, RI	79	0.5%
Norfolk County, MA	272	1.1%	Plymouth County, MA	70	0.4%
Plymouth County, MA	230	0.9%	Capitol Planning Region, CT	65	0.4%
Suffolk County, MA	219	0.9%	Norfolk County, MA	54	0.3%
Worcester County, MA	150	0.6%	Middlesex County, MA	39	0.2%
Middlesex County, MA	115	0.5%	Worcester County, MA	37	0.2%
Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	71	0.3%	Hillsborough County, NH	33	0.2%
Barnstable County, MA	40	0.2%	District of Columbia	25	0.1%
Hillsborough County, NH	36	0.1%	Monroe County, FL	19	0.1%
Western CT Planning Region, CT	34	0.1%	Columbia County, NY	12	0.1%
Carroll County, GA	21	0.1%	Lee County, FL	7	0.0%
Capitol Planning Region, CT	17	0.1%			
Naugatuck Valley Planning Region, CT	15	0.1%			
Other workplace outside of the U.S.	12	0.0%			
Dukes County, MA	11	0.0%			
Other Counties	52	0.2%			
Bristol County Residents Work in the State of:			Bristol County Workers Live in the State of:		
Rhode Island	20,571	84.6%	Rhode Island	14,636	87.1%
Massachusetts	3,488	14.3%	Massachusetts	2,015	12.0%
Connecticut	143	0.6%	Connecticut	65	0.4%
Other State/Country	107	0.4%	Other State	96	0.6%
Total	24,309	100.0%	Total	16,812	100.0%

Kent County

Number of working residents aged 16+: 85,501

Percentage of residents who work in county: 44.3%

Number of workers aged 16+: 74,890

Percentage of workers who live in county: 50.6%

Number of households: 72,199

Median household income: \$85,732

Number of families: 44,926

Median family income: \$108,061

Annual 2023 unemployment rate: 2.7%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with HS diploma/equivalency or higher: 92.7%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher: 33.6%

Kent County is
comprised of:

Coventry town
East Greenwich town
Warwick city
West Greenwich town
West Warwick town

Where Kent County Residents Work			Where Kent County Workers Live		
Total	85,501	100.0%	Total	74,890	100.0%
Kent County, RI	37,881	44.3%	Kent County, RI	37,881	50.6%
Providence County, RI	30,255	35.4%	Providence County, RI	23,049	30.8%
Washington County, RI	8,387	9.8%	Washington County, RI	6,677	8.9%
Bristol County, MA	1,923	2.2%	Bristol County, MA	2,216	3.0%
Newport County, RI	1,849	2.2%	Newport County, RI	1,186	1.6%
Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	1,010	1.2%	Bristol County, RI	916	1.2%
Norfolk County, MA	739	0.9%	Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	660	0.9%
Bristol County, RI	611	0.7%	Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	566	0.8%
Middlesex County, MA	594	0.7%	Worcester County, MA	289	0.4%
Suffolk County, MA	549	0.6%	Norfolk County, MA	259	0.3%
Worcester County, MA	537	0.6%	Middlesex County, MA	185	0.2%
Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	256	0.3%	Plymouth County, MA	171	0.2%
Plymouth County, MA	255	0.3%	Suffolk County, MA	121	0.2%
Capitol Planning Region, CT	95	0.1%	Palm Beach County, FL	106	0.1%
Kennebec County, ME	49	0.1%	Fulton County, GA	98	0.1%
Essex County, MA	48	0.1%	Montgomery County, MD	66	0.1%
Tulsa County, OK	42	0.0%	Capitol Planning Region, CT	62	0.1%
Contra Costa County, CA	34	0.0%	Williamson County, TN	48	0.1%
Western CT Planning Region, CT	33	0.0%	Cumberland County, ME	42	0.1%
Barnstable County, MA	32	0.0%	Barnstable County, MA	38	0.1%
Other Counties/Countries	322	0.4%	Other Counties	254	0.3%
Kent County Residents Work in the State of:			Kent County Workers Live in the State of:		
Rhode Island	78,983	92.4%	Rhode Island	69,709	93.1%
Massachusetts	4,677	5.5%	Massachusetts	3,308	4.4%
Connecticut	1,428	1.7%	Connecticut	1,288	1.7%
Other State/Country	413	0.5%	Other State	585	0.8%
Total	85,501	100.0%	Total	74,890	100.0%

Newport County

Number of working residents aged 16+: 43,181

Percentage of residents who work in county: 70.3%

Number of workers aged 16+: 47,608

Percentage of workers who live in county: 63.7%

Number of households: 35,786

Median household income: \$96,319

Number of families: 21,759

Median family income: \$130,074

Annual 2023 unemployment rate: 2.6%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with HS diploma/equivalency or higher: 94.8%

Percentage of residents aged 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher: 52.1%

Newport County is
comprised of:

Jamestown town
Little Compton town
Middletown town
Newport city
Portsmouth town
Tiverton town

Where Newport County Residents Work			Where Newport County Workers Live		
Total	43,181	100.0%	Total	47,608	100.0%
Newport County, RI	30,349	70.3%	Newport County, RI	30,349	63.7%
Bristol County, MA	4,151	9.6%	Bristol County, MA	5,629	11.8%
Providence County, RI	3,073	7.1%	Washington County, RI	2,875	6.0%
Washington County, RI	1,200	2.8%	Providence County, RI	2,458	5.2%
Kent County, RI	1,186	2.7%	Bristol County, RI	2,443	5.1%
Bristol County, RI	838	1.9%	Kent County, RI	1,849	3.9%
Suffolk County, MA	404	0.9%	Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	618	1.3%
Norfolk County, MA	315	0.7%	Plymouth County, MA	360	0.8%
Middlesex County, MA	304	0.7%	Middlesex County, MA	149	0.3%
Plymouth County, MA	169	0.4%	Pulaski County, AR	94	0.2%
Other workplace outside of the U.S.	131	0.3%	Worcester County, MD	61	0.1%
Bergen County, NJ	125	0.3%	Harris County, TX	51	0.1%
Pierce County, WA	119	0.3%	Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	51	0.1%
Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	118	0.3%	Capitol Planning Region, CT	46	0.1%
New York County, NY	61	0.1%	Barnstable County, MA	45	0.1%
Barnstable County, MA	58	0.1%	Lower CT River Valley Planning Region, CT	43	0.1%
Travis County, TX	38	0.1%	Worcester County, MA	43	0.1%
Capitol Planning Region, CT	37	0.1%	South Central CT Planning Region, CT	37	0.1%
District of Columbia, DC	35	0.1%	Cheshire County, NH	36	0.1%
Indian River County, FL	35	0.1%	Charles County, MD	35	0.1%
Other Counties	435	1.0%	Other Counties	336	0.7%
Newport County Residents Work in the State of:			Newport County Workers Live in the State of:		
Rhode Island	36,646	84.9%	Rhode Island	39,974	84.0%
Massachusetts	5,446	12.6%	Massachusetts	6,287	13.2%
Connecticut	246	0.6%	Connecticut	797	1.7%
Other State/Country	843	2.0%	Other State	550	1.2%
Total	43,181	100.0%	Total	47,608	100.0%

Providence County

Number of working residents aged 16+: 307,482
 Percentage of residents who work in county: 69.5%
 Number of workers aged 16+: 301,982
 Percentage of workers who live in county: 70.7%
 Number of households: 253,635
 Median household income: \$72,579
 Number of families: 152,375
 Median family income: \$93,015
 Annual 2023 unemployment rate: 3.3%
 Percentage of residents aged 25+ with HS diploma/equivalency or higher: 86.3%
 Percentage of residents aged 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher: 31.2%

Providence County is comprised of:

Burrillville town	Lincoln town
Central Falls city	North Providence town
Cranston city	North Smithfield town
Cumberland town	Pawtucket city
East Providence city	Providence city
Foster town	Scituate town
Glocester town	Smithfield town
Johnston town	Woonsocket city

Where Providence County Residents Work			Where Providence County Workers Live		
Total	307,482	100.0%	Total	301,982	100.0%
Providence County, RI	213,622	69.5%	Providence County, RI	213,622	70.7%
Kent County, RI	23,049	7.5%	Kent County, RI	30,255	10.0%
Bristol County, MA	19,197	6.2%	Bristol County, MA	18,780	6.2%
Norfolk County, MA	14,873	4.8%	Washington County, RI	9,141	3.0%
Washington County, RI	6,783	2.2%	Bristol County, RI	6,793	2.2%
Worcester County, MA	6,515	2.1%	Worcester County, MA	5,743	1.9%
Middlesex County, MA	5,672	1.8%	Norfolk County, MA	4,676	1.5%
Suffolk County, MA	5,334	1.7%	Newport County, RI	3,073	1.0%
Bristol County, RI	3,152	1.0%	Plymouth County, MA	1,628	0.5%
Newport County, RI	2,458	0.8%	Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	1,337	0.4%
Plymouth County, MA	2,125	0.7%	Middlesex County, MA	1,258	0.4%
Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	1,166	0.4%	Suffolk County, MA	1,085	0.4%
Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	739	0.2%	Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	828	0.3%
Barnstable County, MA	393	0.1%	Barnstable County, MA	707	0.2%
Capitol Planning Region, CT	328	0.1%	Essex County, MA	341	0.1%
New York County, NY	222	0.1%	Hampden County, MA	133	0.0%
Essex County, MA	212	0.1%	Kings County, NY	107	0.0%
Nassau County, NY	145	0.0%	Penobscot County, ME	91	0.0%
Hillsborough County, NH	107	0.0%	Capitol Planning Region, CT	83	0.0%
Hampden County, MA	87	0.0%	Westchester County, NY	80	0.0%
Other Counties/Countries	1,303	0.4%	Other Counties	2,221	0.7%
Providence County Residents Work in the State of:			Providence County Workers Live in the State of:		
Rhode Island	249,064	81.0%	Rhode Island	262,884	87.1%
Massachusetts	54,502	17.7%	Massachusetts	34,458	11.4%
Connecticut	2,407	0.8%	Connecticut	2,471	0.8%
Other State/Country	1,509	0.5%	Other State	2,169	0.7%
Total	307,482	100.0%	Total	301,982	100.0%

Washington County

Number of working residents aged 16+: 63,723
 Percentage of residents who work in county: 58.6%
 Number of workers aged 16+: 59,557
 Percentage of workers who live in county: 62.7%
 Number of households: 51,426
 Median household income: \$99,510
 Number of families: 33,995
 Median family income: \$122,848
 Annual 2023 unemployment rate: 2.5%
 Percentage of residents aged 25+ with HS diploma/equivalency or higher: 94.9%
 Percentage of residents aged 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher: 48.6%

Washington County is comprised of:

Charlestown town
 Exeter town
 Hopkinton town
 Narragansett town
 New Shoreham town
 North Kingstown town
 Richmond town
 South Kingstown town
 Westerly town

Where Washington County Residents Work			Where Washington County Workers Live		
Total	63,723	100.0%	Total	59,557	100.0%
Washington County, RI	37,360	58.6%	Washington County, RI	37,360	62.7%
Providence County, RI	9,141	14.3%	Kent County, RI	8,387	14.1%
Kent County, RI	6,677	10.5%	Providence County, RI	6,783	11.4%
Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	4,436	7.0%	Southeastern CT Planning Region, CT	2,449	4.1%
Newport County, RI	2,875	4.5%	Newport County, RI	1,200	2.0%
Capitol Planning Region, CT	407	0.6%	Bristol County, MA	1,100	1.8%
Suffolk County, MA	385	0.6%	Bristol County, RI	463	0.8%
Bristol County, MA	325	0.5%	Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	374	0.6%
Middlesex County, MA	264	0.4%	Worcester County, MA	213	0.4%
New York County, NY	212	0.3%	Capitol Planning Region, CT	183	0.3%
South Central CT Planning Region, CT	143	0.2%	Middlesex County, MA	161	0.3%
Norfolk County, MA	138	0.2%	Lower CT River Valley Planning Region, CT	75	0.1%
Other workplace outside of the U.S.	134	0.2%	Boone County, IL	71	0.1%
Worcester County, MA	132	0.2%	New York County, NY	70	0.1%
Lower CT River Valley Planning Region, CT	119	0.2%	Plymouth County, MA	70	0.1%
Harrison County, MS	87	0.1%	South Central CT Planning Region, CT	70	0.1%
Bristol County, RI	79	0.1%	Suffolk County, MA	61	0.1%
Northeastern CT Planning Region, CT	65	0.1%	Norfolk County, MA	51	0.1%
Essex County, NJ	54	0.1%	Waldo County, ME	41	0.1%
Santa Clara County, CA	46	0.1%	Howard County, MD	37	0.1%
Other Counties	644	1.0%	Other Counties	338	0.6%
Washington County Residents Work in the State of:			Washington County Workers Live in the State of:		
Rhode Island	56,132	88.1%	Rhode Island	54,193	91.0%
Massachusetts	1,341	2.1%	Massachusetts	1,671	2.8%
Connecticut	5,215	8.2%	Connecticut	3,171	5.3%
Other State/Country	1,035	1.6%	Other State	522	0.9%
Total	63,723	100.0%	Total	59,557	100.0%

Rhode Island Commuting Patterns by State

Workers 16 Years and Older

U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 5-Year American Community Survey Commuting Flows

Where Rhode Island Residents Work			524,196			Where Rhode Island Workers Live			500,849		
Alabama	26	0.0%	Arkansas	94	0.0%						
Arizona	26	0.0%	California	161	0.0%						
California	181	0.0%	Colorado	29	0.0%						
Canada	18	0.0%	Connecticut	7,792	1.6%						
Colorado	22	0.0%	Delaware	18	0.0%						
Connecticut	9,439	1.8%	District of Columbia	25	0.0%						
District of Columbia	44	0.0%	Florida	467	0.1%						
Florida	234	0.0%	Georgia	129	0.0%						
Georgia	34	0.0%	Illinois	153	0.0%						
Illinois	72	0.0%	Indiana	12	0.0%						
Indiana	33	0.0%	Kentucky	30	0.0%						
Iowa	15	0.0%	Louisiana	10	0.0%						
Kansas	24	0.0%	Maine	295	0.1%						
Louisiana	26	0.0%	Maryland	217	0.0%						
Maine	162	0.0%	Massachusetts	47,739	9.5%						
Maryland	116	0.0%	Michigan	66	0.0%						
Massachusetts	69,454	13.2%	Minnesota	13	0.0%						
Michigan	9	0.0%	Mississippi	9	0.0%						
Minnesota	20	0.0%	Nevada	13	0.0%						
Mississippi	87	0.0%	New Hampshire	439	0.1%						
Missouri	42	0.0%	New Jersey	301	0.1%						
New Hampshire	230	0.0%	New York	525	0.1%						
New Jersey	338	0.1%	North Carolina	66	0.0%						
New Mexico	5	0.0%	Ohio	65	0.0%						
New York	1,094	0.2%	Oregon	84	0.0%						
North Carolina	36	0.0%	Pennsylvania	154	0.0%						
Ohio	53	0.0%	Rhode Island	441,396	88.1%						
Oklahoma	42	0.0%	South Carolina	32	0.0%						
Outside of US & Canada	325	0.1%	Tennessee	86	0.0%						
Pennsylvania	55	0.0%	Texas	93	0.0%						
Rhode Island	441,396	84.2%	Vermont	143	0.0%						
South Carolina	11	0.0%	Virginia	158	0.0%						
Tennessee	58	0.0%	West Virginia	28	0.0%						
Texas	115	0.0%	Wisconsin	7	0.0%						
Vermont	67	0.0%									
Virginia	47	0.0%									
Washington	170	0.0%									
Wisconsin	70	0.0%									

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