

Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2024

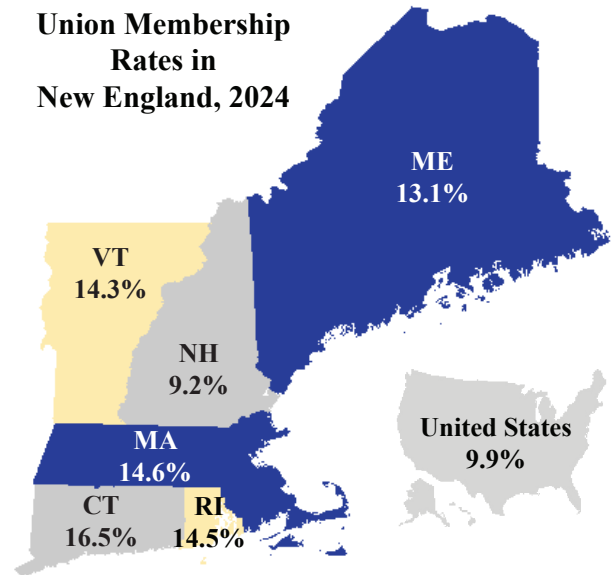
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 14.5 percent (73,000) of Rhode Island private and public sector workers were union members in 2024. This was up from 12.3 percent in 2023. The number of union members was 73,000, up 11,000 from 62,000 in 2023.

Nationally, the union membership rate was 9.9 percent in 2024, down one-tenth of a percentage point from 2023 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983. Among the fifty states, Rhode Island (14.5%) was tied with California (14.5%) for the ninth highest union membership rate. Hawaii (26.5%), New York (20.6%), Alaska (17.7%) and Connecticut (16.5%) had the highest rates in the country, while North Carolina (2.4%), South Dakota (2.7%), South Carolina (2.8%) and Arkansas (3.5%) had the lowest union membership rates in 2024.

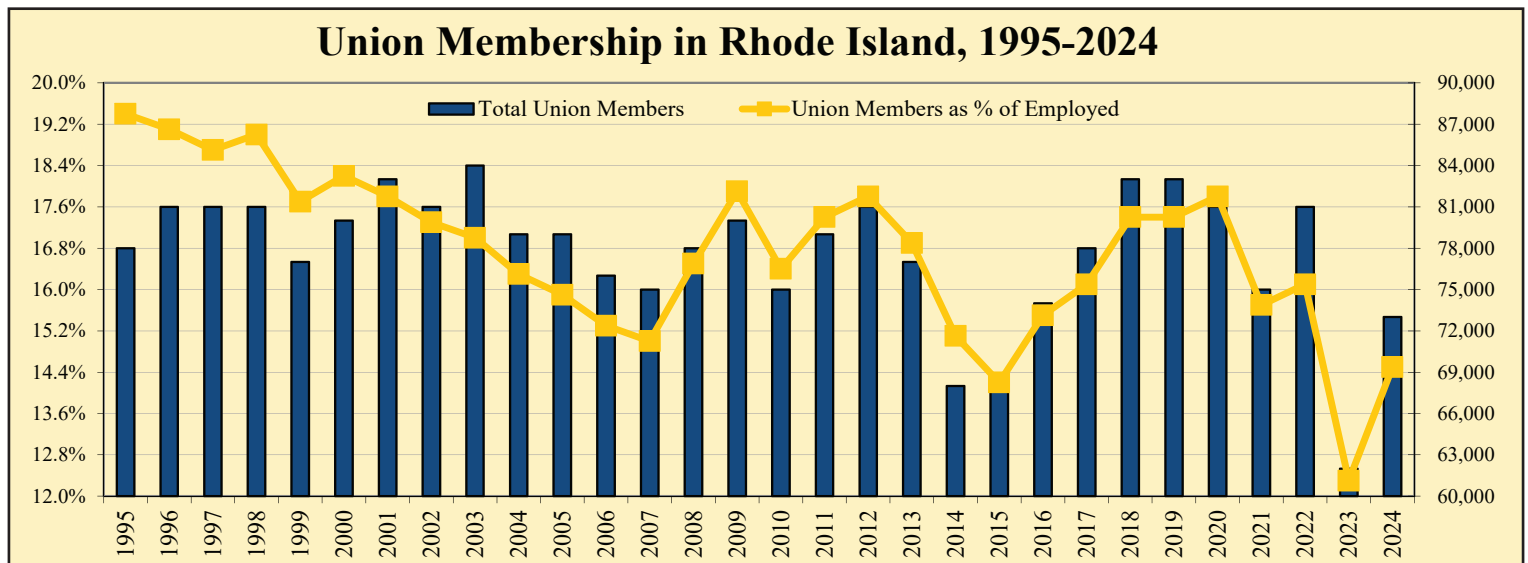
Regionally, Connecticut (16.5%) had the highest union membership rate in New England, followed by Massachusetts (14.6%), Rhode Island (14.5%), Vermont (14.3%), Maine (13.1%) and New Hampshire (9.2%). Only New Hampshire had a union membership rate less than the national average.

Union members and workers whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association contract represented 11.1 percent of the nation's wage and salary workers and 15.3 percent of Rhode Island's wage and salary workers.

Union Membership Rates in New England, 2024



Union Membership in Rhode Island, 1995-2024



* 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/.