

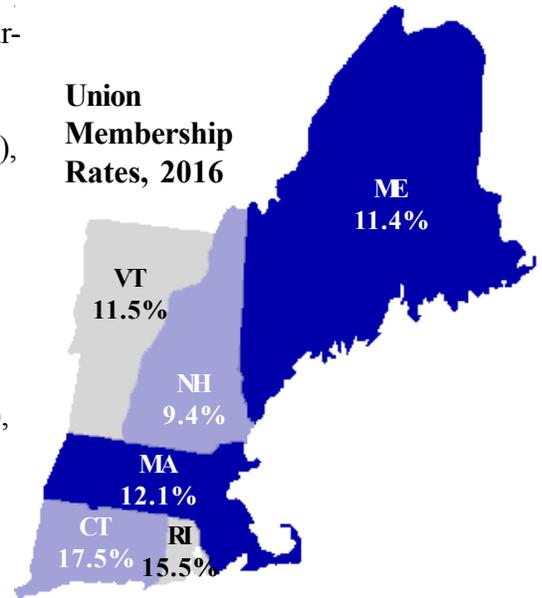
Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2016

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 15.5 percent (74,000) of Rhode Island private and public sector workers were union members in 2016. This represented an over-the-year increase of one and three-tenths percentage points. The number of union members, up 6,000 from 68,000 in 2015, was at its highest level since 2013.

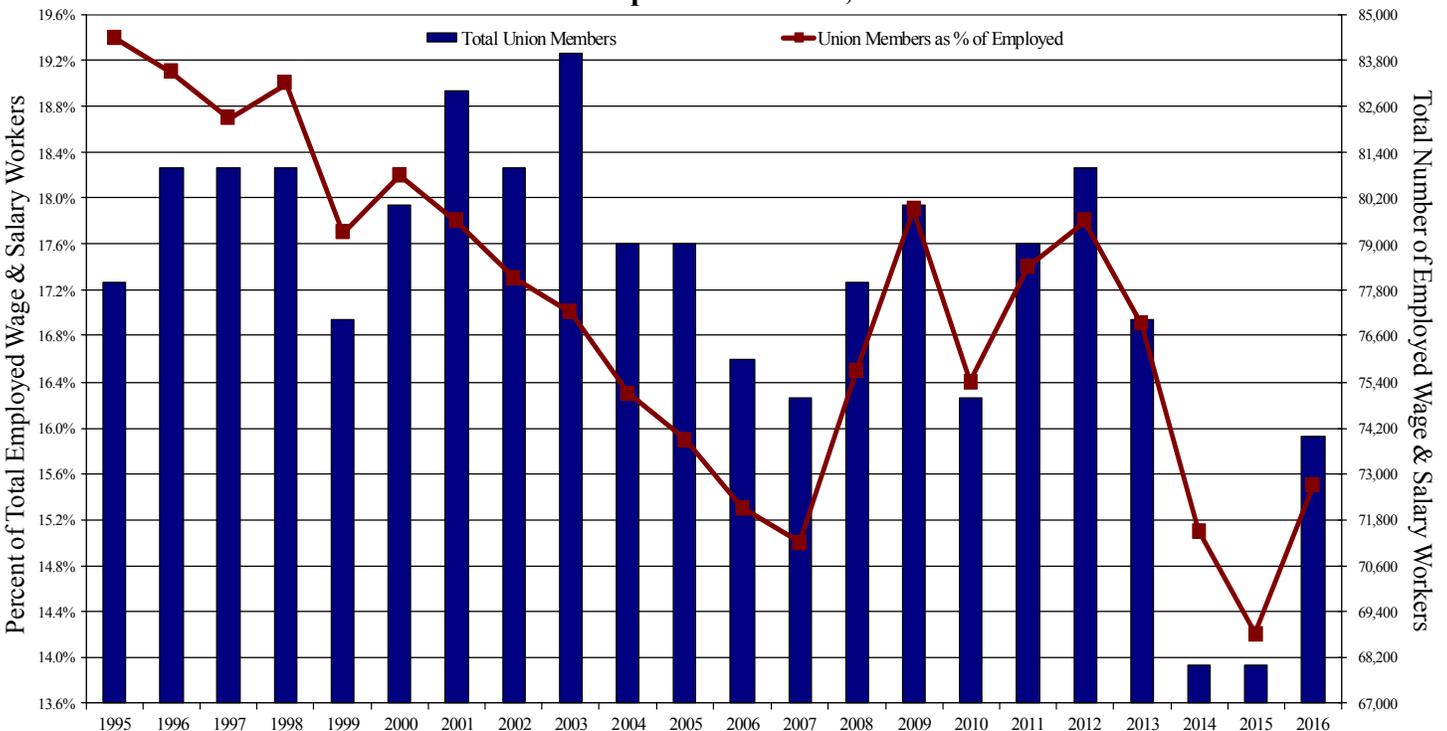
Nationally, the union membership rate was 10.7 percent in 2016, down four-tenths of a percentage point from 2015 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983. Among the fifty states, Rhode Island reported the eighth highest union membership rate, trailing New York (23.6%), Hawaii (19.9%), Alaska (18.5%), Connecticut (17.5%), Washington (17.4%), New Jersey (16.1%) and California (15.9%). South Carolina (1.6%), North Carolina (3.0%), Arkansas (3.9%) and Georgia (3.9%) had the lowest union membership rates in 2016.

Regionally, Connecticut (17.5%) had the highest union membership rate in New England, followed by Rhode Island (15.5%), Massachusetts (12.1%), Vermont (11.5%) and Maine (11.4%). Only New Hampshire (9.4%) had union membership rates below the national average.

Union members and workers whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association contract represented 12.0 percent of the nation's wage and salary workers and 16.9 percent of Rhode Island's wage and salary workers.



Union Membership in Rhode Island, 1995-2016



* 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/.