

Rhode Island Female Demographics

- According to the 2008 American Community Survey from the US Census Bureau, females accounted for 51.8% of Rhode Island's population, down slightly (-0.2%) from Census 2000. Nationally, females represented 50.7% of the population in 2008.
- In 2008, there were 276,284 females in Rhode Island's civilian labor force, representing 61.9% of females 16 years and older. This rate was slightly higher than the national rate of 60.0%.
- Military service is still not a large draw for Rhode Island females. In 2000, 462 females were enrolled in the Armed Forces, while 1,100 were enrolled in 2008. Even though these figures are low, they are consistent with the national average of 0.2% of all working-age females in military service.
- Rhode Island females aged 25 years and older had a high school graduation rate of 84.5% in 2008, higher than the Rhode Island male rate of 82.8% but lower than the national female rate of 85.6%.
- While still trailing Rhode Island men, the percentage of Rhode Island women (25 years and older) that had obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher was 28.9%, better than the US average of 27.0%.
- In 2000, 7.8% of all Rhode Island households with own children under 18 were headed by women (with no husband present), higher than the US average of 7.2%.
- In 2008, Rhode Island women working full-time earned 78.7% of their male counterparts. This was the 27th highest earnings ratio in the country. Nationally, women earned 79.9% of their male counterparts.
- Between 1998 and 2008, Rhode Island women experienced the third largest gap closure in the US between male and female earnings. In 1998, women earned only 71.2% of a male's earnings. This gap closed by 7.5 percentage points by 2008, with women earning 78.7% of their male counterparts.
- Between 1998 and 2008, Rhode Island women experienced a much faster growth in median weekly earnings than men did. In 1998, females earned \$455 weekly, compared to \$638 earned by males. By 2008, women's median weekly earnings had increased by 49.2% (+\$224), to \$679. In contrast, males experienced a 35.3% (+\$225) increase in median weekly earnings.
- Census 2000 data show that in Rhode Island, Secretaries & Administrative Assistants (97.7%) and Preschool & Kindergarten Teachers (97.6%) were most likely to be females. Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters (98.9%) and Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics (98.6%) were most likely to be males.
- Healthcare Support Occupations in Rhode Island were most likely to be held by females (86.1%), while Construction & Extraction Occupations were most likely to be held by males (97.1%).
- In 2002, women owned 14.4% of all firms with paid employees in Rhode Island.

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Women in Rhode Island's Economy

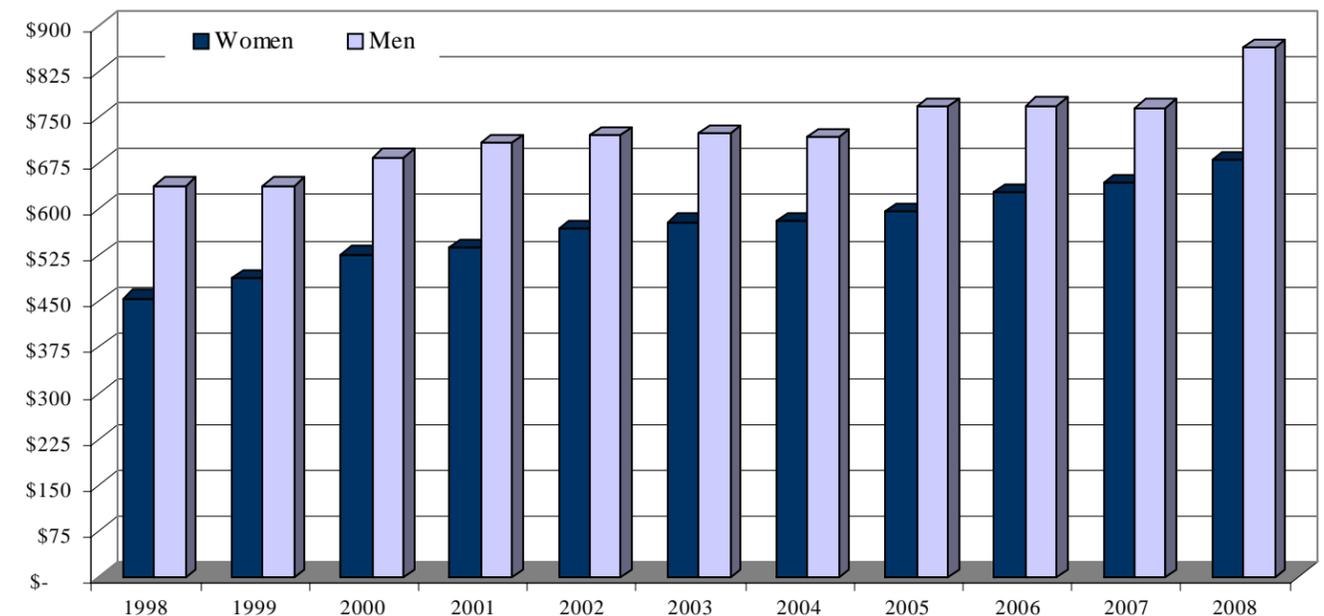
US Census data show there is often a clear difference between the career choices of men and women. While women dominate the occupations in Healthcare Support, men represent a higher percentage of workers in the Construction and Extraction occupations. Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters are more likely to be male, while Secretaries and Administrative Assistants are more likely to be female. While some 'traditional' female occupations, such as waitresses and maids, are relatively low paying jobs, women also dominate in more high-paying occupations, such as registered nurses and teachers.



According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Rhode Island women working full-time earned a median weekly wage of \$679 in 2008. This was 78.7 percent of what full-time working males earned (\$863) that year - the 3rd highest earnings ratio in New England and the 27th highest in the country. Since 1998, the earnings gap between Ocean State women and men working full-time has improved when compared to regional neighbors and the nation as a whole. Whereas Rhode Island women had earned 71.2 percent of what men did in 1998, the ratio had improved to 78.7 percent by 2008. This 7.5 percentage point change was the highest reported in New England and the 3rd highest recorded nationally during this period (tied with Iowa and Indiana). Only Arkansas (+10.7) and Ohio (+7.9) posted larger percentage gains. In 1998, females earned a median weekly wage of \$455 compared to \$638 earned by males. By 2008, women's median weekly earnings had increased by 49.2 percent (+\$224) to \$679. In contrast, the median weekly earnings of Ocean State males rose to \$863, a 35.3 percent (+\$225) increase.



Median Weekly Earnings of Rhode Island Women and Men, 1998-2008



Data is taken from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Highlights of Women's Earnings* series, 1998-2008. Earnings data refers to the median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, 16 years and over, as measured by the Current Population Survey. Data have not been adjusted for inflation.

Female Dominated Occupations* in Rhode Island 2000 Census



Occupation	Total	Female	Percent	Median
			Female	Wages**
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	15,375	15,014	97.7%	\$14.57-\$19.28
Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers	1,575	1,537	97.6%	\$12.61-\$28.76
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,835	1,738	94.7%	\$21.82
Child Care Workers	4,670	4,375	93.7%	\$9.34
Billing and Posting Clerks and Machine Operators	1,460	1,367	93.6%	\$14.52
Registered Nurses	10,480	9,744	93.0%	\$28.99
Receptionists and Information Clerks	3,955	3,655	92.4%	\$11.74
Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioner Support Technicians	1,410	1,294	91.8%	\$12.12-\$19.29
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	6,315	5,799	91.8%	\$16.15
Tellers	1,440	1,314	91.3%	\$11.52
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	2,795	2,513	89.9%	\$10.71
Teacher Assistants	4,230	3,779	89.3%	\$24,850
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	1,170	1,042	89.1%	\$20.60
File Clerks	1,045	920	88.0%	\$11.99
Medical Assistants and Other Healthcare Support Occupations	2,760	2,424	87.8%	\$10.07-\$16.25
Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides	9,505	8,060	84.8%	\$11.70-\$12.14
Data Entry Keyers	2,665	2,225	83.5%	\$13.08
Library Assistants, Clerical	1,035	850	82.1%	\$10.89
Office Clerks, General	6,640	5,440	81.9%	\$11.55
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	3,650	2,959	81.1%	\$9.89
Waiters and Waitresses	8,165	6,615	81.0%	\$8.09
Librarians	1,000	785	78.5%	\$27.18
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	1,210	949	78.4%	\$21.79-\$27.57
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	12,305	9,618	78.2%	\$56,330-\$59,440
Personal and Home Care Aides	1,075	834	77.6%	\$10.47
Social Workers	4,015	3,090	77.0%	\$19.47-\$25.09
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	2,235	1,688	75.5%	\$8.33



* Only occupations with a minimum labor force of 1,000 in Census 2000 are included in the table.

Source: US Census Bureau

**Wages are from 2nd Quarter 2006 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, RI Department of Labor & Training, Labor Market Information Annual salaries reported for occupations with non-standard work weeks.

Summary of Occupations by Gender by Major Standard Occupational Classification Group

Major Occupational Group	Total	Female	Male	Percent of Total Occupational Group	
				Female	Male
Total Civilian Labor Force	530,598	256,681	273,502	48.4%	51.6%
Healthcare Support Occupations	13,550	11,672	1,890	86.1%	13.9%
Personal Care & Service Occupations	14,615	10,985	3,591	75.2%	24.6%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	26,575	19,907	6,678	74.9%	25.1%
Office & Administrative Support Occupations	85,105	62,743	22,313	73.7%	26.2%
Education, Training, & Library Occupations	32,485	23,165	9,291	71.3%	28.6%
Community & Social Services Occupations	9,375	6,208	3,175	66.2%	33.9%
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	29,725	16,227	13,468	54.6%	45.3%
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	19,900	10,322	9,558	51.9%	48.0%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	10,505	5,403	5,086	51.4%	48.4%
Sales & Related Occupations	58,515	29,122	29,390	49.8%	50.2%
Life, Physical Science, & Social Science Occupations	4,675	2,139	2,492	45.8%	53.3%
Legal Occupations	5,405	2,299	3,089	42.5%	57.2%
Management Occupations	44,065	17,174	26,849	39.0%	60.9%
Production Occupations	54,699	20,567	34,135	37.6%	62.4%
Computer & Mathematical Occupations	11,070	3,308	7,759	29.9%	70.1%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	15,820	4,631	11,185	29.3%	70.7%
Protective Service Occupations	10,975	1,826	9,126	16.6%	83.2%
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	27,249	4,405	22,852	16.2%	83.9%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations	1,870	264	1,590	14.1%	85.0%
Architecture & Engineering Occupations	10,310	1,313	8,977	12.7%	87.1%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	16,680	673	15,942	4.0%	95.6%
Construction & Extraction Occupations	24,565	683	23,851	2.8%	97.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Special Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulation*

Note: Due to confidentiality concerns, data items are individually rounded. Therefore, total employment may not equal the sum of the individually rounded male and female totals for each occupational group. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and accuracy of the data, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3chap8.pdf