

Rhode Island

BASIC INFORMATION

2010 Census Population:	1,052,567 (43 rd)
Land Area:	1,033.8 square miles (50 th)
Density:	1,018.1 persons per square mile (2 nd)
Capital:	Providence
Became a State:	May 29, 1790 (13 th)
Bordering States:	Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York
Abbreviation:	RI
ANSI/FIPS Code:	44

HISTORY

The area of Rhode Island was part of the original territory of the United States. An original patent was granted for the Providence Plantations in 1643, and a charter was granted for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in 1663. Rhode Island ratified the Constitution on May 29, 1790; it was the 13th of the original 13 states to join the Union, with generally the same boundary as the present state. However, there were changes to the boundary between Rhode Island and Massachusetts in 1862, and additional changes from a resurvey of that boundary in 1897. The official name of the state is "State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations."

Census data for Rhode Island are available beginning with the 1790 census.

AMERICAN INDIAN AREAS

Rhode Island has one federally recognized American Indian reservation.

METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS AND RELATED STATISTICAL AREAS

Rhode Island has core based statistical areas based on both counties (metropolitan statistical areas and combined statistical areas) and county subdivisions (metropolitan New England city and town areas (NECTAs) and combined NECTAs).

There is one metropolitan statistical area, one combined statistical area, two metropolitan NECTAs, and one combined NECTA.

COUNTIES

There are five counties in Rhode Island. Counties in Rhode Island were legally abolished as governmental units but they continue to serve as geographic subdivisions of the state for Census Bureau purposes.

COUNTY SUBDIVISIONS

There are 40 county subdivisions in Rhode Island which are known as minor civil divisions (MCDs). There are 31 towns which are functioning governmental units, each governed by a town council. The eight cities in Rhode Island are independent of MCDs and serve as county subdivisions. In addition, there is one undefined MCD which consists of water area.

PLACES

Rhode Island has 34 places; 8 incorporated places and 26 census designated places (CDPs). The incorporated places in Rhode Island are all cities and can legally exist in a single county only. All MCD and place governments in Rhode Island have the same powers and function. Incorporated places are independent of county subdivisions.

CENSUS TRACTS/BLOCK GROUPS/BLOCKS

Rhode Island has 244 census tracts, 815 block groups, and 25,181 census blocks.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

For the 111th Congress (January 2009-January 2011), Rhode Island had two congressional districts. For the 113th Congress (January 2013-January 2015), Rhode Island continues to have two congressional districts as a result of reapportionment based on the 2010 Census.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Rhode Island has 5 elementary school districts, 1 secondary school district, and 30 unified school districts.

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

There are 38 state senate districts and 75 state house districts in Rhode Island.

URBAN AREAS

Rhode Island has 4 urban areas; 3 urbanized areas and 1 urban cluster.

ZIP CODE TABULATION AREAS

There are 77 ZIP Code tabulation areas (ZCTAs) in Rhode Island.

OTHER INFORMATION OF GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC INTEREST

Rhode Island is the smallest in land area of the 50 states.

HISTORICAL CENTERS OF POPULATION

http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/centersofpop/histstate/historical_cenpop_44.html

Year	North Latitude	West Longitude
2010 ⁶	41° 45' 13"	71° 27' 03"
2000 ⁶	41° 45' 12"	71° 26' 56"
1990 ⁵	41° 45' 16"	71° 26' 47"
1980 ⁴	41° 45' 34"	71° 26' 31"
1970 ³	41° 45' 39"	71° 26' 02"
1960 ³	41° 46' 13"	71° 25' 52"
1950 ³	41° 46' 47"	71° 26' 15"

Year	North Latitude	West Longitude
1940 ²	41° 48' 36"	71° 32' 01"
1930 ²	41° 48' 50"	71° 32' 04"
1920 ¹	41° 47' 43"	71° 26' 27"
1910 ¹	41° 47' 24"	71° 27' 40"
1900 ¹	41° 47' 05"	71° 27' 42"
1890 ¹	41° 46' 46"	71° 27' 49"
1880 ¹	41° 46' 14"	71° 27' 40"

¹ Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1923

² Source: U.S. Census Bureau, recomputation for historical county level data which relied upon aggregate county level population data with an estimated county centroid resulting in a possible error of up to one mile.

³ Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Centers of Population for States and Counties, 1974

⁴ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, recomputation from archived national block group/enumeration area data resulting in a possible error of up to 1,000 feet.

⁵ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, recomputation from archived national block group data resulting in a possible error of up to 1,000 feet.

⁶ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, computation from national block-level data

MOST POPULOUS, LARGEST IN AREA, AND MOST DENSELY POPULATED AREAS

	Population		Land Area (square miles)		Population Density (Persons per square mile)	
	Name	Population	Name	Area	Name	Density
County	Providence County	626,667	Providence County	409.50	Bristol County	2,064.0
Place						
- Inc Place	Providence city	178,042	Warwick city	35.04	Central Falls city	16,171.7
- CDP	Westerly CDP	17,936	Westerly CDP	15.82	Kingston CDP	4,480.6
Town	Coventry town, Kent County	35,014	Coventry town, Kent County	59.05	North Providence town, Providence County	5,708.8

LIST OF ENTITIES

See the [Gazetteer Files](#) for a list of geographic entities. See the [Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas](#) page for a list of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas and related statistical areas.