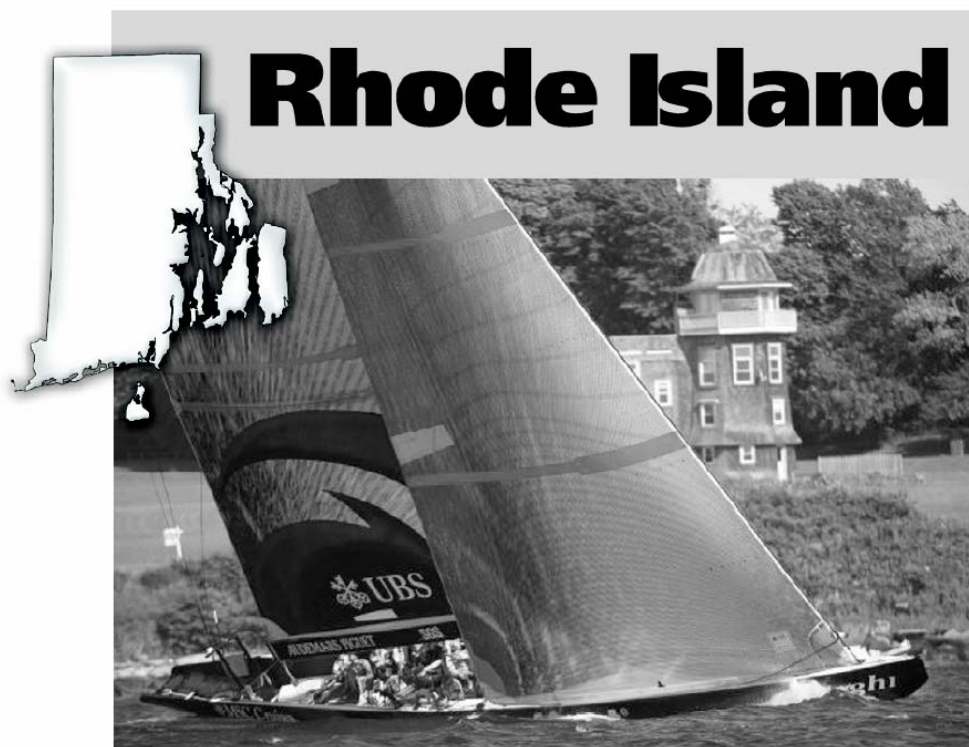


moving to



A brief orientation to the Ocean State, including vital relocation information such as government resources, real estate sales, important tax information, educational statistics and more.

January 2011

Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, RI 02908

401-278-9100 (p) ▪ 401-273-8270 (f) ▪ www.riedc.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO RHODE ISLAND	1
CITIES & TOWNS	2
HOUSING	5
GOVERNMENT	7
ECONOMY	9
TAXES	10
DRIVER'S LICENCES & MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION	13
EDUCATION	14
HEALTH CARE	17
WEATHER	18
RELOCATION RESOURCES	19



Courtesy of the RI Tourism Division

INTRODUCTION TO RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island, also known as the Ocean State, offers a range of lifestyles to those seeking the advantages of an exciting city or a relaxing country setting. Less than 50 miles wide, but graced with a 400-mile shoreline, the heart of Rhode Island is our beautiful Narragansett Bay.

A rich saltwater heritage makes Rhode Island one of the sailing capitals of the world. Fresh and saltwater fishing, swimming at more than 100 beaches, camping, music festivals, picnicking, surfing, skin diving, and old fashioned clambakes make Rhode Island's summer an outdoor paradise.

Northern Rhode Island, including the bustling capital, **Providence**, is an area of wide expanses of quiet woodland and lake country. Northern Rhode Island is the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution at the Old Slater Mill, the home of Brown University, the site of the State Capitol, the First Baptist Church in America built in 1775, and the Arcade, America's first shopping mall. Providence's Benefit Street, called a "mile of history," began as an Indian trail and was the social, intellectual, governmental, and artistic center of Providence for two centuries. The Blackstone Valley Region occupies the northwestern part of Providence County, offering an abundance of outdoor activities from hiking and canoeing to freshwater fishing.



Courtesy of the RI Tourism Division

Southern Rhode Island boasts some of the country's finest beaches, salt water fishing, boating, resorts, art colonies, shoreline campgrounds and extensive woodland recreation areas. Its rich Colonial and Indian lore is preserved in numerous historic shrines. Wickford Village, on Narragansett Bay, has one of New England's largest concentrations of varied 18th century buildings and homes and is considered the largest yachting center in New England.



Courtesy of the RI Tourism Division

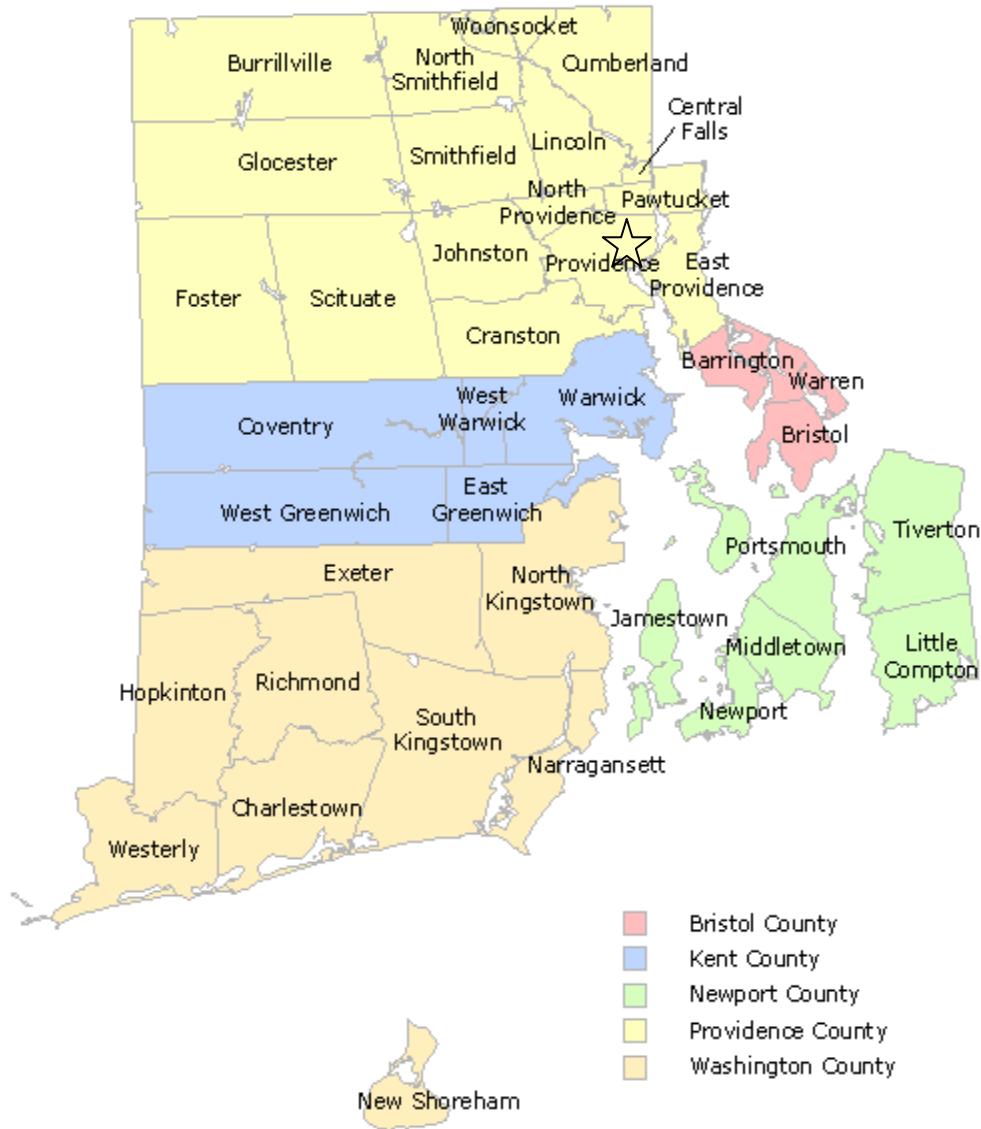
The **City of Newport**, founded in 1639, became world famous early as a commercial seaport. Numerous colonial landmarks remain standing and preserved. The city-by-the-sea is home of international sailboat races, and the site of the palatial "summer cottages" of the country's leading socialites at the turn of the century. Newport today is the home of the White Horse Tavern (1673), America's oldest continuously operated tavern; Touro Synagogue (1763), the oldest Jewish home of worship in the United States; and Fort Adams (1799), the second largest fortification on the Atlantic seaboard.

In the **East Bay**, sailing and shipbuilding have played an important role in the life along the eastern shores of Narragansett Bay since the 17th century. The famous Herreshoff Boatyard, where the seven America's Cup defenders were built, shares the coastline with old fishing villages and century-old homes.

Forests, meadowland and suburban residential development characterize the **West Bay**. Sailing, clam digging, antique hunting, shopping in the commercial areas of Cranston and Warwick, and visiting the historic homesteads of General Nathaniel Greene and James Mitchell Varnum are rewarding activities.

CITIES AND TOWNS

Rhode Island is divided into 39 local municipalities, ranging in size from 1.21 to 59.54 square miles of land area. Although there are five counties, there is no actual county government.



Despite its small size, Rhode Island offers distinct community environments, ranging from revitalized urban areas like Providence to attractive suburban towns such as Lincoln, North Kingstown and Portsmouth. The northwest, southwest, and southeast corners of the state feature more rural settings. Rhode Island is especially well known for its historic and seaside communities like Newport and Bristol. There are also a number of bay and offshore islands that offer residential and recreational opportunities, such as Block Island (New Shoreham) and Jamestown.

More information on each of Rhode Island’s cities and towns is available on the web site of the RI Economic Development Corp. or the state’s official web site. See page 19.

CITY AND TOWN CONTACT INFORMATION

Barrington	Town hall phone: 401-247-1900 http://www.ci.barrington.ri.us/
Bristol	Town hall phone: 401-253-7000 http://www.bristolri.us/
Burrillville	Town hall phone: 401-568-4300 http://www.burrillville.org/
Central Falls	City hall phone: 401-727-7400 http://www.centralfallsri.us/
Charlestown	Town hall phone: 401-364-1200 http://www.charlestownri.org/
Coventry	Town hall phone: 401-821-6400 http://www.town.coventry.ri.us/
Cranston	City hall phone: 401-461-1000 http://www.cranstonri.com/
Cumberland	Town hall phone: 401-728-2400 http://www.cumberlandri.org/
East Greenwich	Town hall phone: 401-886-8665 http://www.eastgreenwichri.com/
East Providence	City hall phone: 401-435-7500 http://www.eastprovidenceri.net/
Exeter	Town hall phone: 401-295-7500 http://www.town.exeter.ri.us/
Foster	Town hall phone: 401-392-9200 http://www.ri.gov/towns/view.php?id=12
Glocester	Town hall phone: 401-568-6206 http://www.glocesterri.org/
Hopkinton	Town hall phone: 401-377-7777 http://hopkintonritownhall.com/
Jamestown	Town hall phone: 401-423-7220 http://www.jamestownri.com/
Johnston	Town hall phone: 401-351-6618 http://www.johnston-ri.us/
Lincoln	Town hall phone: 401-333-1100 http://www.lincolnri.com/
Little Compton	Town hall phone: 401-635-4400 http://www.little-compton.com/
Middletown	Town hall phone: 401-849-5540 http://www.middletownri.com/
Narragansett	Town hall phone: 401-789-1044 http://www.narragansettri.com/townhall/index.ht
New Shoreham	Town hall phone: 401-466-3200 http://www.town.new-shoreham.ri.us/

CITY AND TOWN CONTACT INFORMATION

Newport	City hall phone: 401-846-9600 http://www.cityofnewport.com/
North Kingstown	Town hall phone: 401-294-3331 http://www.northkingstown.org/
North Providence	Town hall phone: 401-232-0900 http://www.northprovidenceri.gov/
North Smithfield	Town hall phone: 401-767-2200 http://www.northsmithfieldri.com/
Pawtucket	City hall phone: 401-728-0500 http://www.pawtucketri.com/
Portsmouth	Town hall phone: 401-683-3255 http://www.portsmouthri.com/
Providence	City hall phone: 401-421-7740 http://www.providenceri.com/
Richmond	Town hall phone: 401-539-2497 http://www.richmondri.com/
Scituate	Town hall phone: 401-647-2822 http://www.scituateri.org/
Smithfield	Town hall phone: 401-233-1000 http://www.smithfieldri.com/
South Kingstown	Town hall phone: 401-789-9331 http://www.southkingstownri.com/
Tiverton	Town hall phone: 401-625-6700 http://www.tiverton.org/
Warren	Town hall phone: 401-245-7340 http://www.townofwarren-ri.gov/
Warwick	City hall phone: 401-738-2000 http://www.warwickri.gov/
West Greenwich	Town hall phone: 401-392-3800 http://www.west-greenwich.ri.us/
West Warwick	Town hall phone: 401-822-9200 http://www.westwarwickri.org/
Westerly	Town hall phone: 401-348-2500 http://www.townofwesterly.com/
Woonsocket	City hall phone: 401-762-6400 http://www.ci.woonsocket.ri.us/

HOUSING

Rhode Island possesses a remarkably diverse range of housing choices, from traditional single family homes to condominium communities and rental apartments. Providence, which boasts one of the most historic collections of homes in the nation, has undergone a residential building boom, with many new rental apartments and condominiums. These developments range from new high-rise towers to revitalized historic mill buildings.

Several of the immediate suburban towns, such as Cranston, Warwick and North Providence, offer a wide range of single and multifamily housing, with easy access to nearby employment and retail centers.

The oceanfront and rural sections of the state contain traditional, historic and executive-style homes and condominiums. Communities such as Newport, Narragansett, Bristol and Little Compton are scenic areas with nearby recreational opportunities.

While the housing market continues to fluctuate across the nation, Rhode Island has maintained local home prices and rents well below those of many other Northeast markets such as Boston, New York or Washington, DC.

Metropolitan Area	Third Quarter 2010 Median Housing Price
New York	\$404,100
Washington, DC	\$292,600
Boston	\$338,600
Providence	\$230,900



Historic Benefit Street – Providence. RI

Source: National Association of Realtors,
<http://www.realtor.org/Research.nsf/Pages/MetroPrice>

The Rhode Island Housing & Mortgage Finance Corp., located in Providence, offers a number of grant and loan products and services to assist with homeownership and rental housing. They can be reached at (401) 457-1234.

The Rhode Island Association of Realtors, located in Warwick, is an excellent resource for real estate information, including on-line searches of the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). The following table lists the number of sales, and the median price, of existing single family homes sold in each Rhode Island community during 2009 and 2010, as reported by the statewide MLS. Further information is available by calling (401) 785-3650.

RI TAX RATES

The table below contains the 2010/2011 municipal tax rates for the 39 cities and towns for Rhode Island. Per \$1,000 of Assesed Value. Tax Roll Year 2010 (Assessed 12/31/09) Source: [Department of Municipal Affairs](#)

Municipality	Residential Property			Commercial Real Estate	Motor Vehicle	Retail & Wholesale	Business Personal Prop
	Rate	% Full Val.	Base Yr				
Barrington	\$16.10	100%	2008	\$16.10	\$42.00	\$0.00	\$16.10
Bristol	\$10.37	100%	2007	\$10.37	\$17.35	\$0.00	\$10.37
Burrillville (*#)\$	\$15.65	100%	2009	\$15.65	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$15.65
Central Falls (h)	\$20.98	100%	2009	\$31.64	\$48.65	0.00	\$63.90
Charlestown (*)	\$7.48	100%	2007	\$7.48	\$13.08	\$0.00	\$7.48
Coventry (*\$)	\$15.46	100%	2007	\$18.63	\$18.75	\$0.00	\$15.46
Cranston	\$19.56	100%	2008	\$29.34	\$42.44	\$0.00	\$29.34
Cumberland (*#)	\$13.15	100%	2007	\$13.15	\$19.87	\$1.99	\$26.30
East Greenwich (*h#)	\$17.25	100%	2008	\$17.25	\$22.88	\$0.00	\$17.25
East Providence (h)	\$19.41	100%	2009	\$21.50	\$37.10	\$0.00	\$47.91
East Side of Prov (h)	\$30.38	100%	2006	\$33.70	\$76.68	\$0.00	\$53.63
Exeter (*#)	\$13.49	100%	2008	\$13.49	\$32.59	\$0.00	\$13.49
Foster	\$17.58	100%	2008	\$17.58	\$36.95	\$0.00	\$24.16
Glocester (*#)	\$17.87	100%	2007	\$20.31	\$24.37	\$0.00	\$35.58
Hopkinton (*)	\$15.69	100%	2005	\$15.69	\$21.18	\$0.00	\$15.69
Jamestown	\$9.11	100%	2009	\$9.11	\$14.42	\$0.00	\$9.11
Johnston	\$23.81	100%	2009	\$23.81	\$41.46	\$0.00	\$57.72
Lincoln (*h#)	\$21.65	100%	2009	\$24.75	\$30.66	\$0.00	\$34.00
Little Compton	\$5.33	100%	2006	\$5.33	\$13.90	\$0.00	\$10.66
Middletown (#)	\$13.36	100%	2008	\$17.77	\$16.05	\$0.00	\$13.36
Narragansett	\$8.86	100%	2008	\$13.29	\$16.46	\$0.00	\$13.29
New Shoreham (#\$)	\$4.58	80%	2009	\$4.58	\$9.75	\$0.00	\$4.58
Newport (h)	\$9.56	100%	2008	\$13.25	\$23.45	\$0.00	\$13.25
North Kingstown (#\$)	\$16.85	100%	2009	\$16.85	\$22.04	\$0.00	\$16.85
North Providence (h)	\$19.65	100%	2007	\$25.60	\$41.95	\$0.00	\$63.75
North Smithfield (#)	\$15.32	100%	2009	\$17.65	\$37.62	\$0.00	\$43.00
Pawtucket	\$17.78	100%	2008	\$24.54	\$53.30	\$0.00	\$52.09
Portsmouth (#)	\$11.30	100%	2007	\$11.30	\$22.50	\$0.00	\$11.30
Providence (h)	\$30.38	100%	2009	\$33.70	\$76.78	\$0.00	\$53.63
Richmond (*)	\$14.99	100%	2007	\$14.99	\$22.64	\$0.00	\$14.99
Scituate	\$32.00	50%	2006	\$39.40	\$30.20	\$0.00	\$38.25
Smithfield	\$15.59	100%	2009	\$15.59	\$39.00	\$0.00	\$56.98
South Kingstown (*)	\$14.19	100%	2009	\$14.19	\$18.71	\$0.00	\$14.19
Tiverton (*)	\$15.35	100%	2008	\$15.35	\$19.14	\$0.00	\$15.35
Warren	\$16.52	100%	2009	\$16.52	\$26.00	\$0.00	\$16.52
Warwick	\$17.48	100%	2009	\$26.22	\$34.60	\$0.00	\$34.96
West Greenwich	\$18.74	100%	2007	\$18.74	\$19.02	\$0.00	\$28.13
West Warwick	\$21.40	100%	2009	\$Varies	\$28.47	\$0.00	\$33.95
Westerly (*)	\$9.70	100%	2009	\$9.70	\$29.67	\$0.00	\$9.70
Woonsocket (h#)	\$23.63	100%	2008	\$34.30	\$46.58	\$0.00	\$46.58

General Offices

The constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations was adopted in 1842, and has been amended 42 times. Five general state offices were established under the Constitution. They are Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and General Treasurer. All state elected officers serve four-year terms. General elections are held on the first Tuesday in November every four years.

His Excellency, Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor
222 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Honorable Elizabeth Roberts
Lieutenant Governor
116 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Honorable Gina Raimondo
General Treasurer
102 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Honorable Peter Kilmartin
Attorney General
72 Pine Street
Providence, RI 02903

Honorable A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State
218 State House
Providence, RI 02903

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rhode Island's lawmaking body, the General Assembly, consists of a 38-member Senate and a 75-member House of Representatives. Each senator or representative is elected from a Senate or House District. The General Assembly meets annually beginning on the first Tuesday in January. All General Assembly members serve two-year terms. More information on the General Assembly, including district maps, is available on the web at <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us>

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Rhode Island sends two senators and two representatives to the U. S. Congress.

Senators

Honorable Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 943-3100
<http://reed.senate.gov/>

Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
170 Westminster Street
Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 453-5294
<http://whitehouse.senate.gov/>

Representatives

Honorable David Cicilline, 1st District
249 Roosevelt Avenue
Suite 200
Pawtucket, R.I. 02860
(401) 729-5600
<http://cicilline.house.gov/>

Honorable James R. Langevin, 2nd District
300 Centerville Rd., Suite 200 South
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 732-9400
<http://www.house.gov/langevin/>

STATE ADMINISTRATION

The administration of state government is divided into 12 major departments under the Department of Administration.

• Department of Revenue	• Department of Environmental Management
• Department of Business Regulation	• Department of Health
• Department of Children, Youth & Families	• Department of Human Services
• Department of Corrections	• Department of Labor & Training
• Department of Elderly Affairs	• Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals
• RI Public Utilities Commission	• Department of Transportation

Four other departments operate under elected state offices: The Office of the Secretary of State, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the General Treasurer, and the Executive Office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, located in Providence, is the state's primary economic development agency and offers its business services to existing Rhode Island companies and those considering moving operations to Rhode Island. The agency's phone number is (401) 278-9100. (<http://www.riedc.com>)

In addition, the Quonset Development Corp. manages the on-going redevelopment of the former U.S. Navy installation at Quonset Point in North Kingstown into a world-class business park and recreational area. The agency can be reached at (401) 295-0044. (<http://qdcric.com/>)

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The Judicial system of the State of Rhode Island consists of the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Family Court, and seven divisions of the District Court. Several of Rhode Island's cities also have municipal courts.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local governments are varied and range from Mayor, administrator or manager and council to town council. Many rural towns continue the traditional New England Town Meeting form of government. In Rhode Island, local communities maintain control in areas such as primary and secondary education, subdivision of land, and zoning. The principal source of municipal revenue is the local property tax.

RESIDENCY

Any United States citizen may become a Rhode Island resident and a resident of a particular city or town by establishing his domicile in this state and that town for 30 days. Voter registration is available after 30 days of residency at the local Board of Canvassers office.

(<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BOC/>)

ECONOMY



In 1793, Samuel Slater ignited the Industrial Revolution from Rhode Island by bringing together innovative technologies for creating manufactured goods. For over 200 years, Rhode Island has remained a hotbed of innovation, entrepreneurship, and change.

RIEDC's Every Company Counts is a public/private partnership of more than 170 business development organizations and individuals that connect small businesses to the tools they need to succeed. Every Company Counts offers small businesses streamlined

access to accurate and current information, a network of proven service providers, expert advice and special events and seminars designed to educate, inspire and connect entrepreneurs. Visit www.everycompanycounts.com or call toll-free 888-384-9704 for more information.

In addition to our vital small business community, Rhode Island has several flourishing industries engaged in advanced research, design, manufacturing and services:

- The health and life sciences industry is one of Rhode Island's strongest segments with enormous growth potential. **Amgen**, one of the most prominent biopharmaceutical companies in the world, has invested more than \$1.5 billion here - employing more than 1,500 people in an expanding manufacturing facility.
- Rhode Island has a long history of consumer product manufacturing, dating back to the early 1900s with the textile industry and jewelry industry. Today, Rhode Island is the manufacturing headquarters of many large global consumer product companies, including **CVS, Hasbro, AT Cross** and **Tiffany**, as well as hundreds of other small innovative companies. Our history of design is due in large part to being the home of the **Rhode Island School of Design** which offers undergraduate and graduate courses in design and business. Rhode Island is also the home of the **Center for Design and Business**, a joint venture between RISD and Bryant University which holds an annual conference on business success through design and innovation. (www.centerdesignbusiness.org)
- Rhode Island supports a cluster of world-renowned marine related industries, including boatbuilding and repair, shipbuilding, fishing, aquaculture, marine electronics, and marine trades. Rhode Island is also producing some of the most sophisticated marine and environmental research and development. Defense giants **Electric Boat** and **Raytheon Systems Company** have large research and manufacturing facilities in the state. The **University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Roger Williams University**, and the **Naval Underwater Warfare Center** also contribute to the wealth of marine and defense-related R&D taking place here.
- Home-grown companies such as **Teknor Apex** and **Taco** are shining examples of the 300+ progressive manufacturers with corporate or divisional headquarters here. They are joined by a significant number of foreign companies who have discovered Rhode Island's advantages. High-tech leaders such as French-owned **American Power Conversion** and Italian-owned **GTECH Lottery Systems** are here. International manufacturing companies ranging from Japan's **Toray Plastics (America) Inc.** and Sweden's **Hexagon** to French-owned **Uvex Safety Manufacturing, Inc.** all have major manufacturing facilities in Rhode Island.

TAXES

STATE PERSONAL INCOME TAX

The Rhode Island personal income tax is based on Federal Adjusted Gross Income, but subject to modification. (Certain types of income may be taxable for Federal purposes but exempt from state taxation, or vice versa.) The Rhode Island tax rate is applied after subtracting allowable deductions and exemptions. The State of Rhode Island also allows a number of tax credits to offset the amount of personal income tax due.

Legislation changing the Rhode Island personal income tax was approved by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Carcieri in June 2010. It applies for tax year 2011 and later, so it is now in effect. It includes the following elements:

- A new top tax rate of 5.99 percent, down from 9.9 percent for 2010.
- Three tax brackets with rates of **3.75** percent, **4.75** percent and **5.99** percent.
- Higher standard deduction amounts for most taxpayers, but no option to itemize deductions.
- Lower exemption amounts for most taxpayers; limited or no exemption amounts for taxpayers with adjusted gross income above \$175,000.
- Fewer tax credits as well as elimination of the state's alternative minimum tax and optional flat tax.

Rhode Island tax withholding			
Many workers will see an increase in the amount of Rhode Island income tax withheld from their paychecks in 2011.			
Filing status, withholding exemptions	Annual salary	Weekly withholding 2010	Weekly withholding 2011
Single, 1 exemption	\$25,000	\$13.49	\$17.31
Single, 2 exemptions	\$52,000	\$35.74	\$36.06
Married, 3 exemptions	\$75,000	\$42.38	\$55.19

Source: Piccerelli Gilstein & Co. LLP

http://www.projo.com/news/content/rhode_island_tax_01-02-11_QSLM9CH_v16.196e1f.html

For current tax forms, rates and schedules, call the Division of Taxation at 401-574-8829 or visit: <http://www.tax.state.ri.us/taxforms/>

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

As of January 1, 2011, Rhode Island no longer offers favorable capital gains tax treatment. Rhode Island will tax profit the same as it taxes wages, bank-account interest or other so-called ordinary income. Thus, any profit made when selling mutual fund shares or other such assets will no longer qualify for special low tax rates. As a result, taxpayers will pay Rhode Island tax on that profit at “whatever their marginal tax rate is,” which can be anywhere from 3.75 percent to 5.9 percent.

http://www.projo.com/business/content/Downing_MoneyLine_tax_changes_01-03-10_UFGUOI_v16.1eeb4eb.html

ESTATE AND GIFT TAX

Rhode Island's Estate Tax regulation was revised as of January 1, 2011. This law allows a general \$850,000.00 exemption to an estate and an additional exemption of all assets transferred to a spouse. An estate is required to file either Rhode Island Estate Tax Form 100 for estates less than \$850,000.00 or Form 100A for estates in excess of the exemption. There is no Gift Tax in Rhode Island.

SALES AND USE TAX

A 7% tax is generally applied to retail sales of tangible personal property, property purchased out-of-state for use in Rhode Island, to leasing or renting of tangible personal property, utility bills (business and industry only), the first 30 days of rentals of quarters in hotels, rooming houses and tourist camps, and food sold by eating establishments. *Principal exemptions are grocery foods, clothing, boats, airplanes, prescription drugs and patent medicines, water, gas, electric and fuel bills for residential use, professional and occupational services and certain items subject to separate tax.*

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES

Real estate, motor vehicles and commercial tangible personal property are taxed by each of Rhode Island's 39 municipalities. In 2008-2009, tax rates on residential real estate in the state's 39 cities and towns ranged from \$3.30 to \$23.70 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Many local communities offer homestead exemptions that lower the value of real estate that is subject to taxation. There are no other property taxes, with the exception of Fire District Taxes in several rural communities. Intangible property is not taxed. *Boats are exempt* from local property tax.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAX PHASE OUT

Rhode Island law requires that local property taxes on motor vehicles be phased out over eight years beginning in 1999. As of June 2005, the proposed state budget will increase the vehicle tax exemption from \$4,000 to \$5,000 of the assessed value. The state will reimburse municipalities for the lost revenue.

TEMPORARY DISABILITY TAX

Employers are required by the Temporary Disability Insurance Act to deduct 1.5% of the first wages paid to each Rhode Island worker in calendar year 2009 and remit it to the Department of Employment Security. Temporary Disability Insurance is a worker-financed system that provides for payment of benefits to workers during periods of physician-certified illness or injury that is not related to the worker's job.

(<http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/news/quickref.htm>)

MOTOR FUEL TAX

Gasoline and motor fuel are taxed at a rate set by the Tax Administrator. Effective July 1, 2002, the tax rate is 32¢ per gallon on all taxable fuels sold or used in the state. Distributors must be licensed. The fee for a filling station license, valid indefinitely, is \$5. The fee for a peddler license, valid indefinitely, is \$5. In addition there is an *Environmental Protection Fee* of 1¢ per gallon.

(<http://www.tax.state.ri.us/info/synopsis2004/SYNOPSIS%2004.htm>)

ENERGY RELATED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

For local tax purposes, solar, wind, or cogeneration equipment shall not be assessed at more than the value of the conventional heating, cooling, or energy production capacity that would otherwise be necessary to install in the building.

CIGARETTE TAX

Currently, all cigarettes are subject to an excise tax of \$3.46 with an additional 7% sales tax per pack of 20.

DRIVER'S LICENSES & MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

The Registry of Motor Vehicles has branches across the state. Out-of-state drivers' licenses can be exchanged for a RI license at a cost of \$31.50 for an initial period of two (2) years. Licenses are then renewed for a period of five (5) years. The agency's web site is: <http://www.dmv.state.ri.us/>.

Motor vehicles are registered for two years at a cost of \$60. You will need to bring proof of ownership of your vehicle - your title or an active registration and proof of lienholder with full name and address. Vehicles less than 10 years old must also have a VIN inspection by a local police department **prior to registering**. A current Rhode Island driver's license or current out-of-state license with proof of Rhode Island residency is required. You must have auto insurance with a company that is licensed to insure Rhode Island residents. A safety inspection must be performed within five (5) business days of registering.

Rhode Island's graduated licensing system for teen drivers went into effect in 1999:

Level 1: Limited Instruction Permit	
Requirements:	You may drive a motor vehicle if:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be 16-18 years old ■ Successfully complete the Rhode Island Driver Education course or its equivalent ■ Pass the state approved written examination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The permit holder is in possession of the permit ■ A supervising driver must be seated beside the permit holder in the front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion ■ No person other than the supervising driver may be located in the front seat ■ Every person occupying the vehicle must be properly fastened by a seat belt or child restraint system
Level 2: Limited Provisional License	
Requirements:	You may drive a motor vehicle if:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must have held a limited instruction permit for at least six months without conviction of motor vehicle moving violation or seat belt infraction ■ Pass the motor vehicle road test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The license holder is in possession of the limited provisional license ■ At anytime with a supervising driver seated beside the provisional license holder in the front seat of the vehicle when it is in motion ■ Without supervision from 5:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m. ■ When driving to or from work ■ When driving to or from an activity of a volunteer fire department, rescue squad, or emergency medical service, if the driver is a member of such organization ■ With no more than one passenger under the age of 21, excluding family members. ■ Every person occupying the vehicle is properly fastened by a seat belt or child restraint system
Level 3: Full Operator's License	
Requirements	You may drive a motor vehicle if:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Must be 17 ½-18 years old ■ Have held a limited provisional license for at least 12 months, without conviction for motor vehicle moving violation or seat belt infraction for six months 	<p>You may drive a motor vehicle without Level 1 and 2 restrictions concerning time of driving, supervision, and passenger limitations.</p>

Source: Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Driver Education Program

EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Overall responsibility for public education in Rhode Island is delegated to the State Board of Regents and a Commissioner of Education. School committees govern local schools and meet uniform standards set by the Board. All schools provide kindergarten, special education, and transportation. Parochial schools are available in most communities. Proprietary, nursery schools and day care centers are state supervised.

SAT SCORES OF RI PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS BY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education,

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment/DOCS/SAT/2009_SAT_Scores_by_School.pdf

<u>District</u>	<u>School</u>	<u># Tested</u>	<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Total</u>
Barrington	Barrington HS	233	569	594	569	1732
Beacon Charter School	Beacon Charter School	10	457	442	462	1361
Blackstone Academy	Blackstone Academy	32	375	364	373	1111
Block Island	Block Island School	9	-	-	-	-
Bristol-Warren	Mt. Hope HS	113	485	495	486	1467
Burrillville	Burrillville HS	87	491	512	486	1488
Central Falls	Central Falls JR-SR HS	78	385	383	392	1160
Chariho	Chariho HS	151	520	516	506	1542
Coventry	Coventry HS	205	493	498	487	1478
Cranston	Cranston HS-E	131	478	480	478	1436
Cranston	Cranston HS-W	210	501	508	507	1517
Cumberland	Cumberland HS	175	523	517	516	1556
Davies Technical	Davies Technical	31	439	441	404	1284
East Greenwich	East Greenwich HS	144	563	580	571	1714
East Providence	East Prov. HS	176	480	476	463	1419
Exeter-W. Greenwich	E-WG HS	88	528	521	538	1588
Foster-Glocester	Ponaganset HS	124	496	480	480	1455
Johnston	Johnston Sr. HS	77	470	450	475	1395
Lincoln	Lincoln Sr. HS	172	533	525	528	1586
Metro Career & Tech Center	Metropolitan Career & Tech	3	-	-	-	-
Middletown	Middletown High School	91	513	508	509	1529
Narragansett	Narragansett HS	72	512	533	507	1552
Newport	Rogers HS	75	459	485	462	1407
North Kingstown	N. Kingstown Sr HS	246	533	538	527	1598
North Providence	N. Prov. HS	118	488	490	487	1466
North Smithfield	N. Smithfield Jr.-Sr. HS	93	539	539	524	1602
Pawtucket	William Tolman Sr. HS	101	435	448	444	1328
Pawtucket	Jacqueline Walsh School	14	513	489	521	1523
Pawtucket	Shea SHS	86	402	408	406	1216
Portsmouth	Portsmouth HS	148	521	523	515	1559
Providence	Adelaide HS	37	348	344	338	1031
Providence	Central HS	115	371	376	375	1122
Providence	Mount Pleasant HS	106	373	370	360	1103
Providence	Classical HS	235	511	507	511	1528
Providence	Textron Academy	34	382	391	374	1146
Providence	Feinstein HS	54	361	348	337	1046
Providence	Providence Place Academy	1	-	-	-	-
Providence	E-Cubed Academy	43	385	363	383	1131
Providence	Providence Acad. of Int'l Studies	81	334	333	329	996
Providence	Health Sc Tech High School	53	362	340	353	1055
Providence	Hope Information Tech School	40	349	361	337	1047
Providence	Hope Leadership School	42	367	359	357	1083
Providence	Hope Arts School	40	344	322	337	1003
Scituate	Scituate HS	62	511	506	510	1527
Smithfield	Smithfield SHS	133	512	516	505	1534
South Kingstown	S. Kingstown HS	214	534	548	534	1616
Times2 Academy	Times2 Academy	32	430	431	438	1300
Tiverton	Tiverton HS	99	497	490	482	1468
Warwick	Warwick Veterans Memorial HS	109	494	498	468	1460
Warwick	Pilgrim HS	126	491	475	475	1441
Warwick	Toll Gate HS	136	505	510	505	1519
West Warwick	West Warwick SHS	96	475	476	464	1415
Westerly	Westerly HS	181	507	504	505	1516
Woonsocket	Woonsocket HS	127	458	452	455	1366
RHODE ISLAND:		5489	486	487	482	1455

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education governs higher education policy in the state. The agency is located at 80 Washington Street, Providence RI 02903: (401) 465-6000 (<http://www.ribghe.org>)

Rhode Island's institutions of higher learning are widely recognized for their prominence in special areas. Brown University's science, medical, and engineering programs, the Rhode Island School of Design's art and design programs, and the University of Rhode Island's engineering, pharmacy and oceanographic research programs, enjoy high national rankings.



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

**RHODE ISLAND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
FALL 2008 ENROLLMENT AND 2008-2009 DEGREES AWARDED**

	Total Enrollment Fall 2008	Total Degrees	Certificates / Associate Degrees	Bachelor Degrees	Masters Degrees	Doctorate Degrees
Brown University	8,318	2,115	-	1,443	395	277
Bryant University	3,800	944	-	744	170	-
Community College of RI	17,612	1,416	1,416	-	-	-
Johnson & Wales University	10,488	3,656	1,742	1,451	398	49
New England Institute of Technology	3,162	1,117	891	224	-	-
Providence College	5,085	1,357	2	1019	224	-
Rhode Island College	9,085	1,533	53	1,228	249	3
Rhode Island School of Design	2,352	675	-	494	181	-
Roger Williams University	4,609	998	18	897	83	-
Roger Williams University School of Law	551	184	-	-	-	184
Salve Regina University	2,693	690	32	485	166	7
University of Rhode Island	15,904	2,968	-	2,276	509	183
<i>Total</i>	83,659	17,819	4,139	10,261	2,375	703
<i>Public</i>	42,601	5,917	1,469	3,504	758	186
<i>Private</i>	41,058	11,902	2,685	6,757	1,617	517

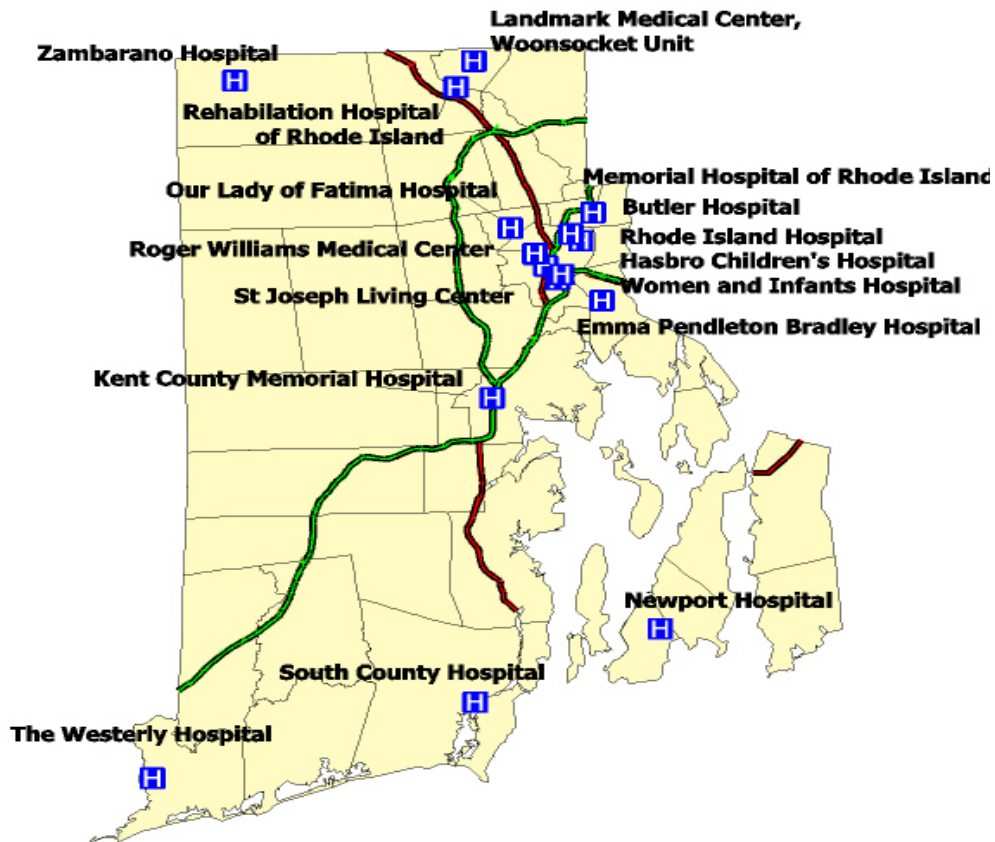
Source: RIOHE Report December 2010: <http://www.ribghe.org/degcert10.pdf>

HEALTH CARE

Availability and accessibility of health care is a key factor in Rhode Island’s quality of life. The State has a long history of leadership and excellence in the field of public health.

HOSPITALS

There are 14 acute general care hospitals, three state operated hospitals, two federal hospitals, and two voluntary psychiatric hospitals in Rhode Island, containing over 3,000 beds, with 40 to 720 each. All acute care general Hospitals are volunteer, approved by the Joint Commission for Accreditation, and are eligible providers under the Medicare programs. Rhode Island hospitals are located in Providence, Pawtucket, Newport, Westerly, Woonsocket, North Providence, North Smithfield, South Kingstown, Warwick, Lincoln, and Central Falls.



NURSING, PERSONAL AND EMERGENCY CARE

There are 174 licensed nursing homes and assisted living residences in Rhode Island, with a total of 13,419 beds. The Department of Human Services operates the Veteran’s Home with 260 skilled nursing beds. Most of Rhode Island’s cities and towns are serviced by seven regional and citywide community action health care centers. Services range from physician services, family planning, chronic disease screening, and transportation to medical facilities. Ninety municipal, private, and volunteer rescue and ambulance squads respond to all areas of the state. Area hospitals provide fully staffed emergency treatment facilities with 24-hour physician service. Private emergency facilities are located throughout the state.

WEATHER

Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean play an important role in determining Rhode Island's climate. In winter, Rhode Island's location on the New England coast moderates the colder temperatures, and most precipitation is in the form of rain rather than snow. Summer days that would otherwise be uncomfortably warm are cooled by refreshing sea breezes. Late summer and early fall occasionally bring hurricane watches to the area. Throughout the year, coastal storms produce the most severe weather.

TEMPERATURE

The average for the entire year is near 50 degrees with April through June and September through mid-November being the most moderate seasons. January and February are the coldest months with a mean temperature near 29 degrees, and July and August the warmest, with a mean close to 72 degrees. Freezing temperatures are common the latter part of November to the end of March. Seventy-degree temperatures become common near the end of May and cease with the close of September. During that period, there may be several days of 90 degrees and over, averaging eight such days per year. Generally, the hottest days of summer are in August.

PRECIPITATION

Rhode Island has no regular "rainy" or "dry" season, with precipitation fairly evenly distributed throughout the year on one out of every three days. The annual average is a little more than 42 inches in both rain and snow, but can vary 25 inches to 65 inches. Occasionally droughts are experienced during the summer months. Thunderstorms are responsible for much of the rainfall from May through August.

The first measurable snowfall of winter generally comes toward the end of November but may be as late as January. The last snow of the season is around the middle of March. The month of greatest snowfall is usually February, but January and March are close seconds. It is unusual for the ground to remain covered with snow for any long period of time.

Average Temperature (Degrees F):	Jan. 29.0°	Jul. 72.8°
Annual Rainfall	41.7"	
Annual Snowfall	35.0"	
Total Precipitation (Water)	45.3"	
Average Humidity	Jan. 63.5%	Jul. 56.3%

RHODE ISLAND RELOCATION RESOURCES

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Department of Motor Vehicles General Information, Pawtucket	(401) 462-4368
Department of Education General Information, Providence	(401) 222-4600
Division of Taxation, Personal Taxes	(401) 574-8829
Secretary of State, Public Information Center	(401) 222-3983

INTERNET RESOURCES

RI.gov

<http://www.ri.gov>

Official e-government portal for the State of Rhode Island, featuring many online services. Links to local information, elected representatives, state agencies and other resources.

RI Tourism Website

<http://visitrhodeisland.com>

Learn about the wide variety of attractions and activities in the Ocean State, and find resources for planning your trip.

RI Economic Development Corporation

<http://www.riedc.com>

Official site of the state's economic development agency, with local economic, demographic, and business information. Many publications are available online, along with links to city and town websites and other resources in Rhode Island.

Small Business Assistance

<http://www.everycompanycounts.com>

1-888-384-9704

Every Company Counts is a partnership of over forty service providers that assist small businesses in Rhode Island with the information and tools needed to grow.

Rhode Island Association of Realtors

<http://www.riliving.com>

Search for residential and commercial property for sale or lease, keep track of real estate prices and find a Realtor[®]. Also contains statistics and general information about Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Housing & Mortgage Finance Corp.

<http://www.rihousing.com>

Housing assistance for homebuyers, renters and developers. Provides a wide range of grant and loan products, counseling and referral.

Rhode Island Department of Education

<http://www.ride.net>

Statistics on the Rhode Island school system, directory of school systems and officials, links to other education resources.

The Providence Journal

<http://www.projo.com>

The statewide daily newspaper for Rhode Island. Access news, real estate and employment classifieds, and find out what's going on in Rhode Island today.