

# 2026



RI FOOD  
POLICY  
COUNCIL



## RI FOOD SYSTEM FACTBOOK

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The Rhode Island Food Policy Council is an independent network with a mission to create a more equitable, accessible, economically vibrant, and environmentally sustainable food system in the Ocean State.

We appreciate the generous support of Rhode Island Foundation, Henry P. Kendall Foundation, Angell Foundation, Island Foundation, 11th Hour Racing Foundation, UNFI Foundation, and Point32HealthFoundation, and the partnership of state agencies serving on the RI Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council.

Starting in 2024, the Rhode Island Food System Factbook has been the primary annual publication of the Rhode Island Food Policy Council. The Factbook provides a data-driven landscape of the status of Rhode Island's food system, incorporating the best available research and data. Information is presented for the state of Rhode Island, and for each city and town.

The Factbook tracks the progress of about 50 indicators across seven areas of food system health and well-being, and provides a cross-cutting look at metrics related to equity and justice:

- **Federal Impacts**
- **Indicators of Inequality**
- **Food System Economy**
- **Food Access and Security**
- **Agriculture and Land Use**
- **Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture**
- **Climate Change**

Copies of the 2026 Factbook are available for free download at [rifoodcouncil.org/factbook](https://rifoodcouncil.org/factbook). In addition, you can visit our online dashboard at [rifoodcouncil.org/dashboard](https://rifoodcouncil.org/dashboard) to explore and download individual indicators anytime.

# HOW TO USE THE FOOD SYSTEM FACTBOOK

## You can use this data to help achieve your mission:

- Set strategic goals for your organization
- Establish measurable objectives for your projects and programs
- Add key facts to grant proposals
- Emphasize a trend during public speaking opportunities
- Support your views in testimony at the State House

## Key Features

- ✓ Trusted sources, clear citations
- ✓ Regularly updated data
- ✓ Interactive charts
- ✓ Easy to understand descriptions

## Big picture trends are noted throughout:

### POSITIVE TREND



Employment increase



Greenhouse gas emissions decrease

### NEGATIVE TREND



Poverty increase



Number of fishermen decrease

### NO TREND



Food insecurity rate

*"No trend" may mean that an indicator has not changed over time, or that only a snapshot of one year in time is shown.*

## Indicators are also dynamically depicted on the RIFPC Data Dashboard:

[rifoodcouncil.org/data-dashboard](https://rifoodcouncil.org/data-dashboard)



# FOOD SYSTEM FACTBOOK

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The Rhode Island Food Policy Council works with hundreds of members and partners across the state in public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build a more just and resilient food system. The goal of this annual Factbook, is to share detailed analysis of major trends to help Rhode Islanders make sense of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats affecting our food system.

**Our purpose in providing these resources is based on a simple value proposition: We believe that annual publication of this Factbook will elevate food system issues in Rhode Island and educate our key decision-makers, resulting in better food policy, an improved regulatory environment and more public and private investment in our farmers, fishers, and food businesses.**

## *Is Rhode Island's food system moving in the right direction?*

Using data from publicly available sources, the Food System Factbook visualizes big picture trends across six categories and poses key questions for each:

- **Federal Impacts:** How are changes in federal policy and funding impacting Rhode Island's food system?
- **Indicators of Inequality:** How big is Rhode Island's food system? What sectors are growing? What sectors are contracting?
- **Food System Economy:** How big is Rhode Island's food system? What sectors are growing? What sectors are contracting?
- **Food Access and Security:** What are the trends in food security in Rhode Island? What are the disparities in how Rhode Islanders are impacted by food access challenges?
- **Agriculture and Land Use:** What kinds of agricultural products does Rhode Island grow/raise? Is Rhode Island's agricultural sector growing or contracting?
- **Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture:** What kinds of seafood products does Rhode Island harvest? Are commercial fishing and aquaculture production growing or contracting?
- **Climate Change:** How is climate change impacting Rhode Island's food system?

Viewed comprehensively, we can see many bright spots in Rhode Island's food system, including the economic impact of wholesaling and distribution, growth in food processing and manufacturing, the importance of direct sales to local producers, and growth in aquaculture production. At the same time, as the smallest state with the highest cost of agricultural land in the nation, Rhode Island faces significant risks to long-term food production through land development and climate change. Every dataset with demographic information also reveals that Hispanic/Latino, Black, Indigenous, and Rhode Islanders of two or more races are disproportionately impacted by inequities in income, poverty, food security, farm and land ownership, and much more. We are also now experiencing attacks to the federal statistical system that may compromise our ability to track food system indicators in future editions of the Factbook.

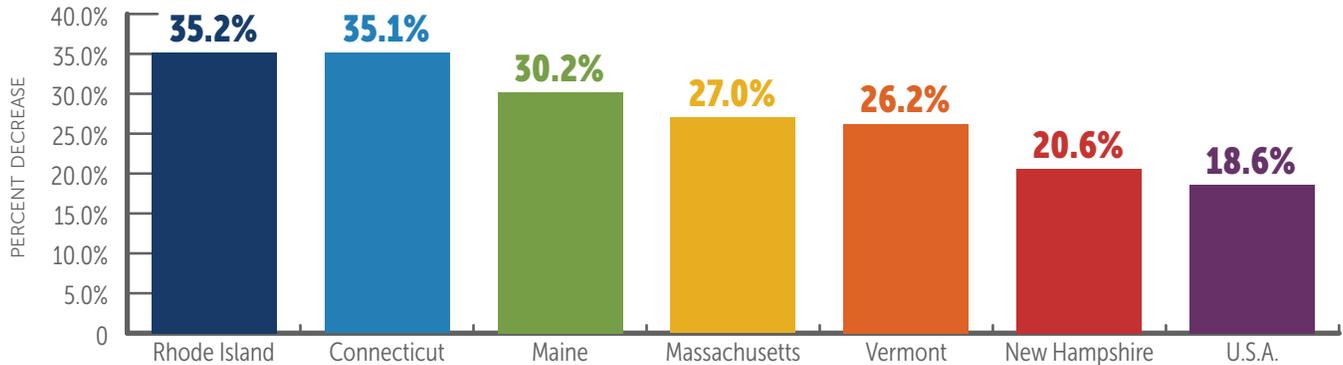
# Federal Impacts



## Federal Decisions Are Impacting Rhode Island's Food System

We are beginning to see that changes in federal policies are impacting Rhode Island's food system — as well as our ability to reliably access accurate data. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture lost 18.4% of its total staff from January to June 2025 (20,300 out of 110,300 employees), due to federal policy choices. **Rhode Island lost the highest percentage of USDA staff in the country during that period, 35.2%, via the “Deferred Resignation Program” and “separations.”** Staffing losses of this magnitude will negatively impact the ability of farmers, ranchers, and greenhouse/nursery owners to access appropriate technical assistance and financing options.

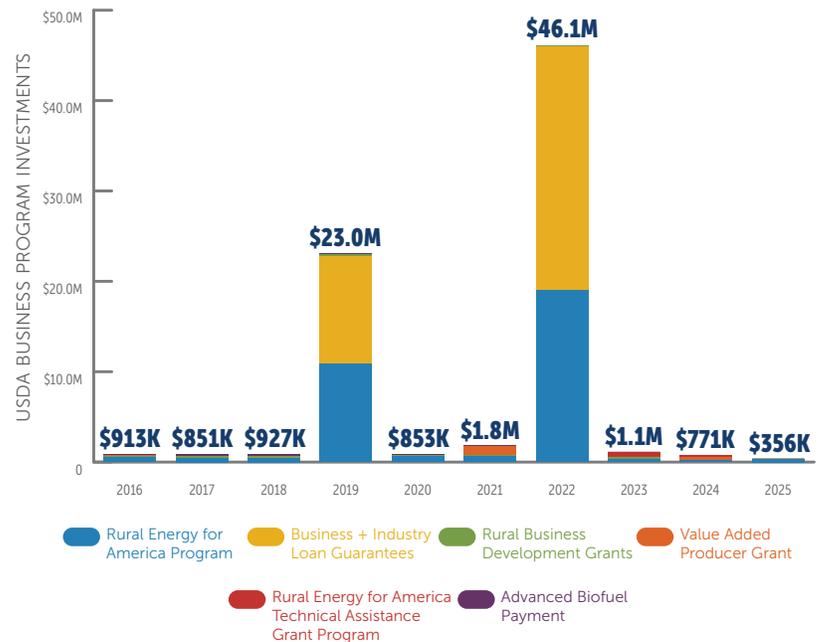
### Rhode Island Experienced the Largest Percentage Decrease in USDA Staff in the U.S.



Source: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, “[USDA Staffing Crisis: A Year of Losses and the Road Ahead.](#)”

From 2016 to 2025, 137 Rhode Island recipients received \$76,749,986 in USDA grants and loan guarantees. Excluding the two large Business and Industry Loan Guarantees, Rhode Island received an average of 15 investments with an average value of \$4.2 million from 2016 to 2024. In 2025, Rhode Island received 4 investments with a total value of just \$355,620. **This is equal to a 91.5% decrease in funding compared to the average from 2016 to 2024.**

### USDA Business Program Investments in Rhode Island Decreased in 2025



Source: USDA Rural Development, [Rural Investments by State/County](#). Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

Substantial sums of federal money awarded to Rhode Island food system organizations was terminated without recourse.

### Anticipated Federal Funding Was Withdrawn in 2025 (Snapshot)

**\$18,700,000**

**RHODE ISLAND FOOD POLICY COUNCIL:** An EPA award to the Rhode Island Food Policy Council to establish a comprehensive food waste reduction program was rescinded.

**\$1,730,304**

**LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE:** Funding for the Local Food for Schools program, which bought local food for school meals and at child care facilities, was terminated.

**\$1,124,836**

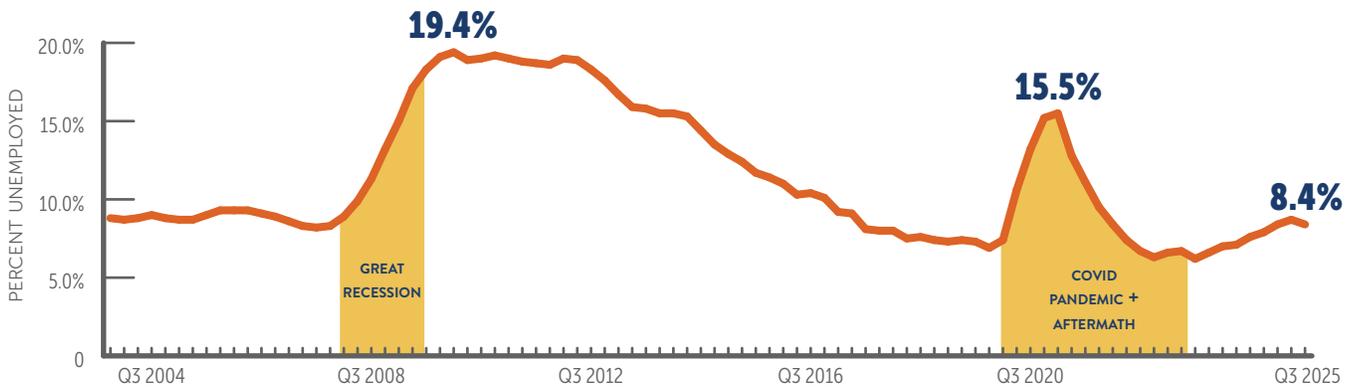
**LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE:** Funding for this program was to be used to purchase local food for food banks.

**\$21,555,140**

**Source:** The Impact Project, [Rhode Island](#). Other federal funding was also withdrawn in 2025.

The broadest measure of unemployment, **U6**, tracks both unemployment and marginally attached workers (i.e., people who are not in the labor force, want and are available for work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months). The President’s tariff policies, federal layoffs, and an ongoing decline in blue collar employment have all taken a toll.

### Unemployment in Rhode Island is Rising Again



**Source:** FRED, [Total Unemployed, Plus All Marginally Attached Workers](#).

The federal statistical system is **under attack**, and our ability to track food system indicators in future editions of the Factbook may be compromised. For example, the most comprehensive measure of household food insecurity, the *Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement* and consequent USDA report, [Household Food Insecurity in the United States](#), have been eliminated. NOAA’s Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disaster website has been eliminated, but is thankfully being reconstituted by [Climate Central](#). It is unclear when the New England field office of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service will publish new [Annual Statistical Bulletins](#) that flesh out agricultural changes between census years.

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# Indicators of Inequity

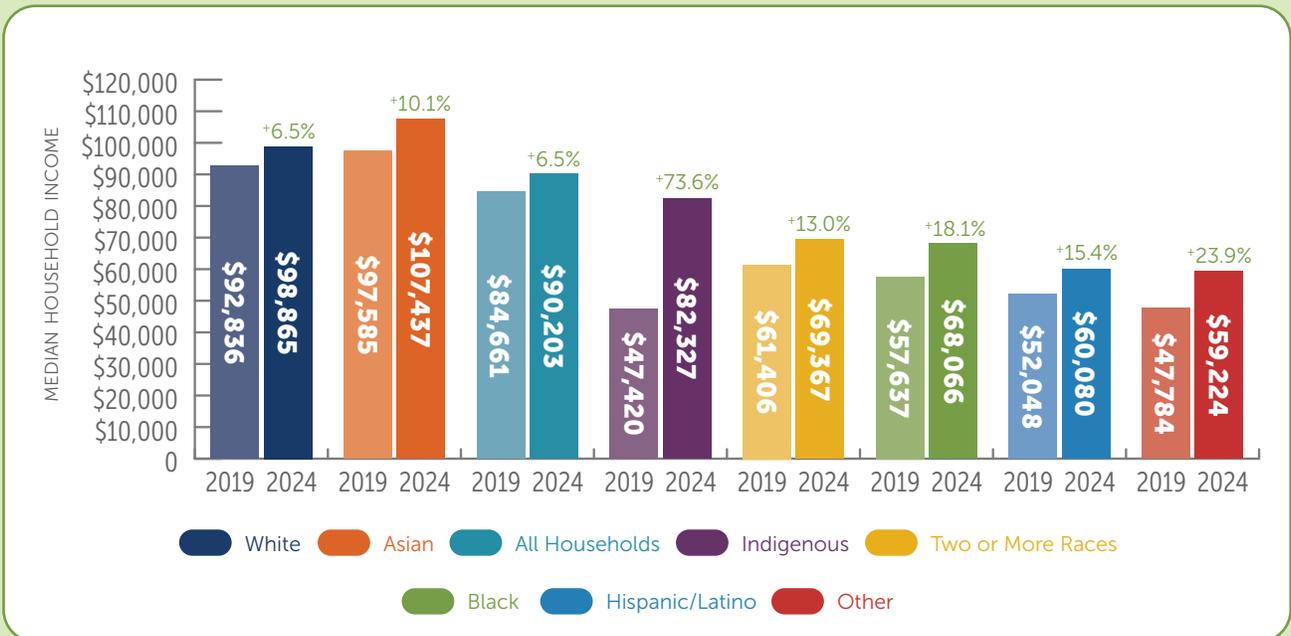
## Median Household Incomes Increased Across All Groups



6.5%

Median household incomes (MHI) across all racial/ethnic groups in Rhode Island increased 6.5% from 2019 to 2024 (i.e., comparing the 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates to the 2020-2024 ACS 5-Year estimates). However, it is also the case that Hispanic/Latino, Black, Indigenous, and people of 2 or more, or other races, earn much lower MHI than Asian and White Rhode Islanders. For example, the MHI of Black Rhode Islanders was equal to only 68.8% of White Rhode Islanders in the 2024 5-Year estimate, while Hispanic/Latino households had MHI equal to only 60.8%.

Indigenous, and people of 2 or more, or other races, earn much lower MHI than Asian and White Rhode Islanders. For example, the MHI of Black Rhode Islanders was equal to only 68.8% of White Rhode Islanders in the 2024 5-Year estimate, while Hispanic/Latino households had MHI equal to only 60.8%.

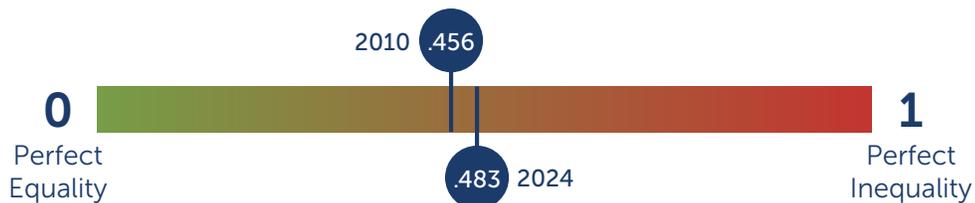


Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, [Table B19013: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months](#), 2024 5-Year and 2019 5-Year estimates. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars. Note: the margin of error for Indigenous median household income was over \$16,000 in 2024.



6.0%

**Income Inequality Has Increased in Rhode Island:** Although some progress has been made reducing the income gap between White and all other households, income inequality has *increased* in Rhode Island. The [Gini Index](#), a measure of inequality in the distribution of income, became 6.0% more inequitable from 2010 to 2024.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, [Table B19083: Gini Index of Income Inequality](#), 2024 5-Year and 2010 5-Year estimates.

# Indicators of Inequity

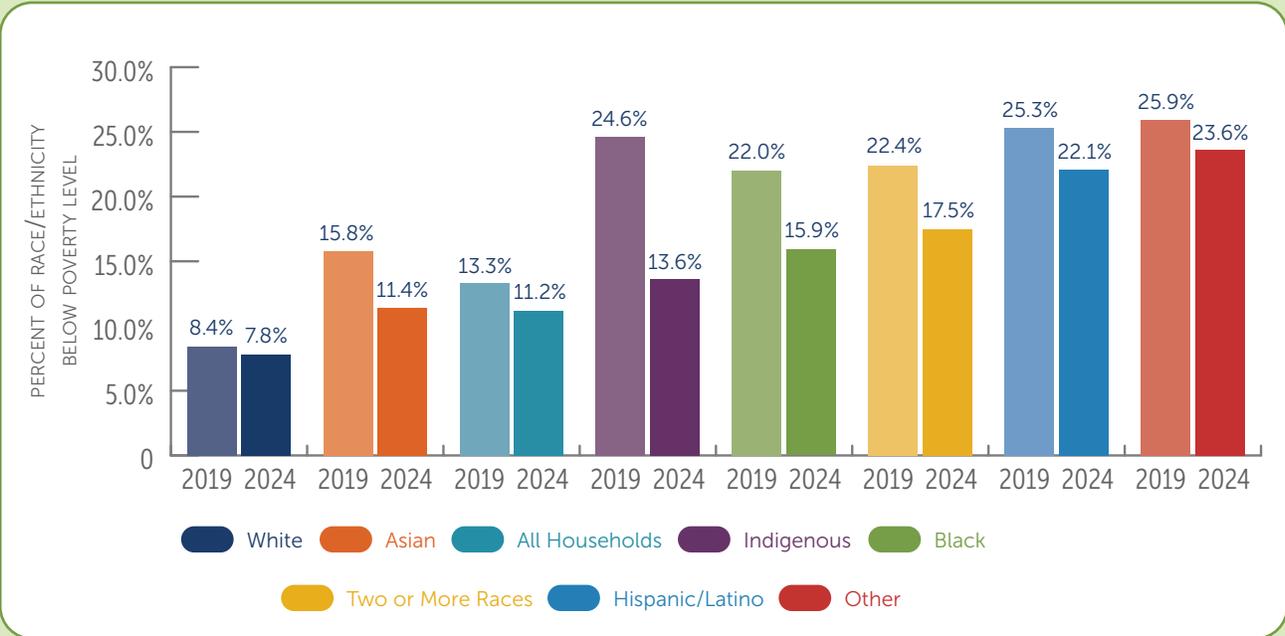


## Poverty Across All Groups Decreased



**16.3%**

A substantially higher percentage of non-White Rhode Islanders live in poverty than White Rhode Islanders, but **the percentage of Rhode Islanders living below poverty thresholds decreased 16.3%** from 2019 to 2024. The increase in MHI and decrease in poverty likely reflect temporary pandemic-era federal relief, including stimulus payments, and improved labor markets.

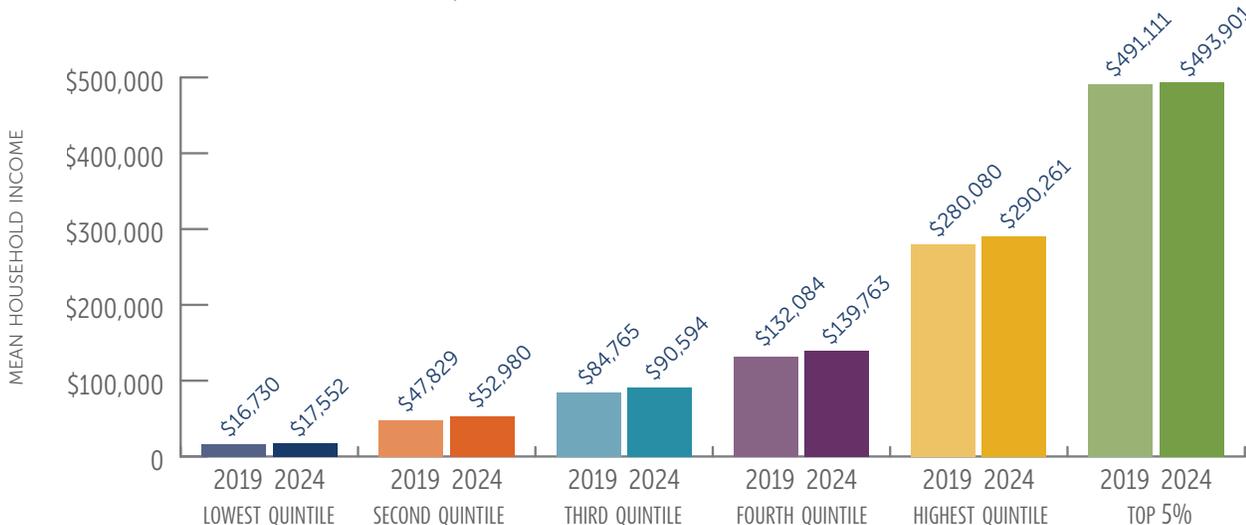


Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, [Table B17001: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months](#), 2024 5-Year and 2019 5-Year estimates.



**3.6%**

**Gap Between Highest and Lowest Incomes Has Increased:** Although average incomes for all **quintiles** increased, the spread between the lowest and highest income quintiles also increased 3.6% from 2019 (\$263,349) to 2024 (\$272,709).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, [Table B19081: Mean Household Income of Quintiles](#), 2024 5-Year and 2019 5-Year estimates.

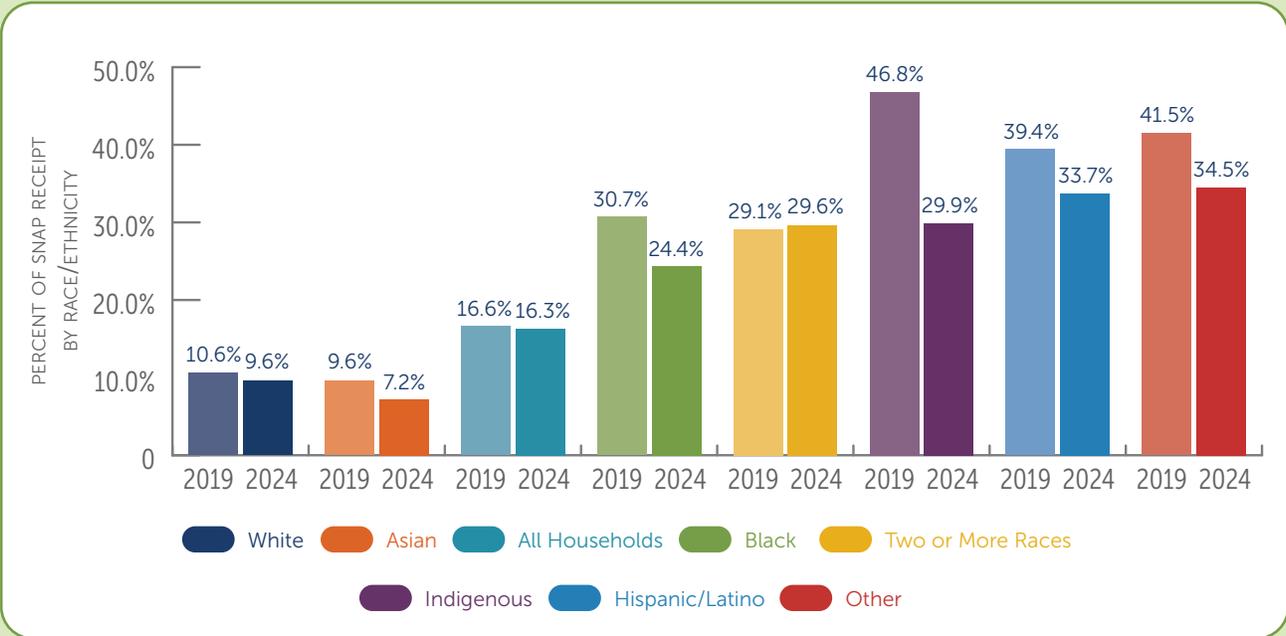
# Indicators of Inequity



## Receipt of SNAP Benefits Decreased Slightly

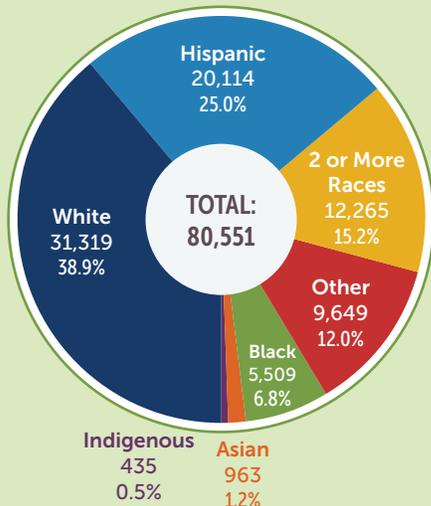


The percentage of Rhode Island households receiving **SNAP** benefits decreased from an average of 16.6% from 2015-2019 to 16.3% from 2020-2024, but it is likely this has more to do with a temporary increase in SNAP benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a decrease in those benefits as the pandemic wound down, rather than progress reducing food insecurity. See page 21 for another look at SNAP trends.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, [Table B22005: Receipt of Food Stamps/SNAP in the Past 12 Months by Race of Householder](#), 2024 5-Year and 2019 5-Year estimates.

### Total Number of Households Receiving SNAP Benefits by Race/Ethnicity and County, 2024



From 2019 to 2024, an average of 16.6% (80,551) of Rhode Island households received Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to augment their grocery budgets. White Rhode Islanders make up the majority of the [state's population](#) (66.1%) and, consequently, the largest number of SNAP recipients in Rhode Island were White. But only 9.6% of White households received SNAP benefits. In contrast:

	% OF POPULATION	% RECEIVED SNAP BENEFITS
Hispanic/Latino	18.8% (208,976)	33.7% (≈70,425)
2 or More Races	5.5% (60,659)	29.6% (≈17,955)
Black	4.8% (53,011)	24.4% (≈12,935)
Other	1.0% (11,076)	34.5% (≈3,821)
Indigenous	0.2% (1,759)	29.9% (≈526)

Note: Assumes household size of 2.54 people

# Indicators of Inequity



## Occupational Segregation is Widespread Across Economy



**Occupational segregation**—which refers to one demographic group being overrepresented or underrepresented in a **job category**—is widespread across the economy. The table below shows *national* data for 2024 and is sorted from most to least by major occupational categories with the *highest* percentages of Black and Hispanic/Latino workers.

Nationally, Black and Hispanic/Latino workers make up 32.2% of total employment, but 48.8% of farm, fishing, and forestry occupations, and 44.7% of food preparation and serving occupations.

Major Occupations	% Women	% White	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic
<b>TOTAL OCCUPATIONS</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>76.3%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
Building + Grounds Cleaning	40.7%	78.6%	2.8%	14.1%	41.6%
Construction + Extraction	4.3%	86.1%	1.5%	7.5%	41.6%
Healthcare Support	84.6%	61.1%	7.1%	26.9%	21.9%
<b>Farm, Fishing, + Forestry</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>88.7%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>44.2%</b>
Transportation + Mat. Moving	21.7%	71.3%	4.7%	19.9%	26.3%
<b>Food Prep and Serving</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>73.4%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>
Production	28.8%	76.1%	5.7%	14.2%	25.5%
Protective Services	25.2%	70.5%	3.2%	21.5%	17.6%
Personal Care + Service	76.1%	70.5%	10.6%	14.3%	19.4%
Office + Admin Support	71.6%	75.8%	5.2%	15.0%	18.7%
Installation, Main. + Repair	4.5%	83.3%	2.9%	9.8%	23.6%
Community + Social Service	69.6%	71.8%	4.2%	19.1%	13.8%
Sales + Office	60.4%	77.3%	5.7%	13.0%	18.3%
Healthcare Practitioners	75.8%	73.5%	10.2%	13.3%	10.7%
Education, Training, Library	73.4%	78.7%	6.5%	11.1%	12.6%
Professional	57.4%	74.3%	10.9%	11.3%	11.1%
Arts, Design, Sports, Media	50.8%	79.7%	6.5%	9.3%	12.5%
Business + Financial	53.8%	77.3%	8.4%	10.8%	10.9%
Management	41.8%	81.0%	6.9%	9.1%	12.3%
Legal	54.2%	82.1%	5.7%	9.9%	10.6%
Life, Physical, + Soil Science	50.7%	72.6%	15.0%	8.4%	9.7%
Architecture + Engineering	17.2%	76.8%	13.1%	7.3%	10.5%

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#). Note: Percentages will not sum to 100 because Hispanic/Latino is an ethnicity that may include people of any race, and other races are not identified in this data set.

# Indicators of Inequity

## Occupational Segregation is Widespread in Food System Jobs



Hispanic/Latino and Black workers are overrepresented in many food system occupations, and we can also see instances of jobs with disproportional employment of women (e.g., hostesses) or men (e.g., butchers). The table below shows national data for 2024 and is sorted from most to least by detailed occupational categories with the highest percentages of Black and Hispanic/Latino workers. Most of these **Food Preparation and Serving jobs** are low wage and **part-time**.

Most of these **Food Preparation and Serving jobs** are low wage and **part-time**.

Detailed Occupations	% Women	% White	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic
<b>TOTAL OCCUPATIONS</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>76.3%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
Dishwashers	26.9%	69.5%	4.8%	18.3%	42.5%
Butchers	20.0%	65.5%	6.3%	21.4%	30.1%
Dining Room + Cafeteria Att.	43.8%	75.4%	3.7%	15.0%	35.2%
Food Preparation Workers	58.5%	73.7%	5.9%	15.0%	33.2%
Nonrestaurant Food Servers	67.4%	70.9%	7.5%	18.2%	27.7%
Food Batchmakers	56.4%	77.4%	2.4%	14.8%	29.9%
Chefs + Head Cooks	21.6%	57.2%	18.3%	17.7%	25.1%
Bakers	67.1%	84.0%	4.6%	8.6%	33.9%
Waiters + Waitresses	67.8%	76.6%	7.4%	9.5%	27.5%
Fast Food + Counter Workers	66.6%	74.7%	5.2%	13.9%	22.8%
Hosts + Hostesses	82.3%	76.3%	5.8%	12.5%	22.8%
Food Service Managers	48.8%	75.1%	10.8%	10.1%	21.3%
Bartenders	54.3%	83.9%	2.0%	8.2%	21.5%
Farmers, Ranchers, + Other Agricultural Managers	27.0%	96.0%	0.5%	1.4%	6.5%

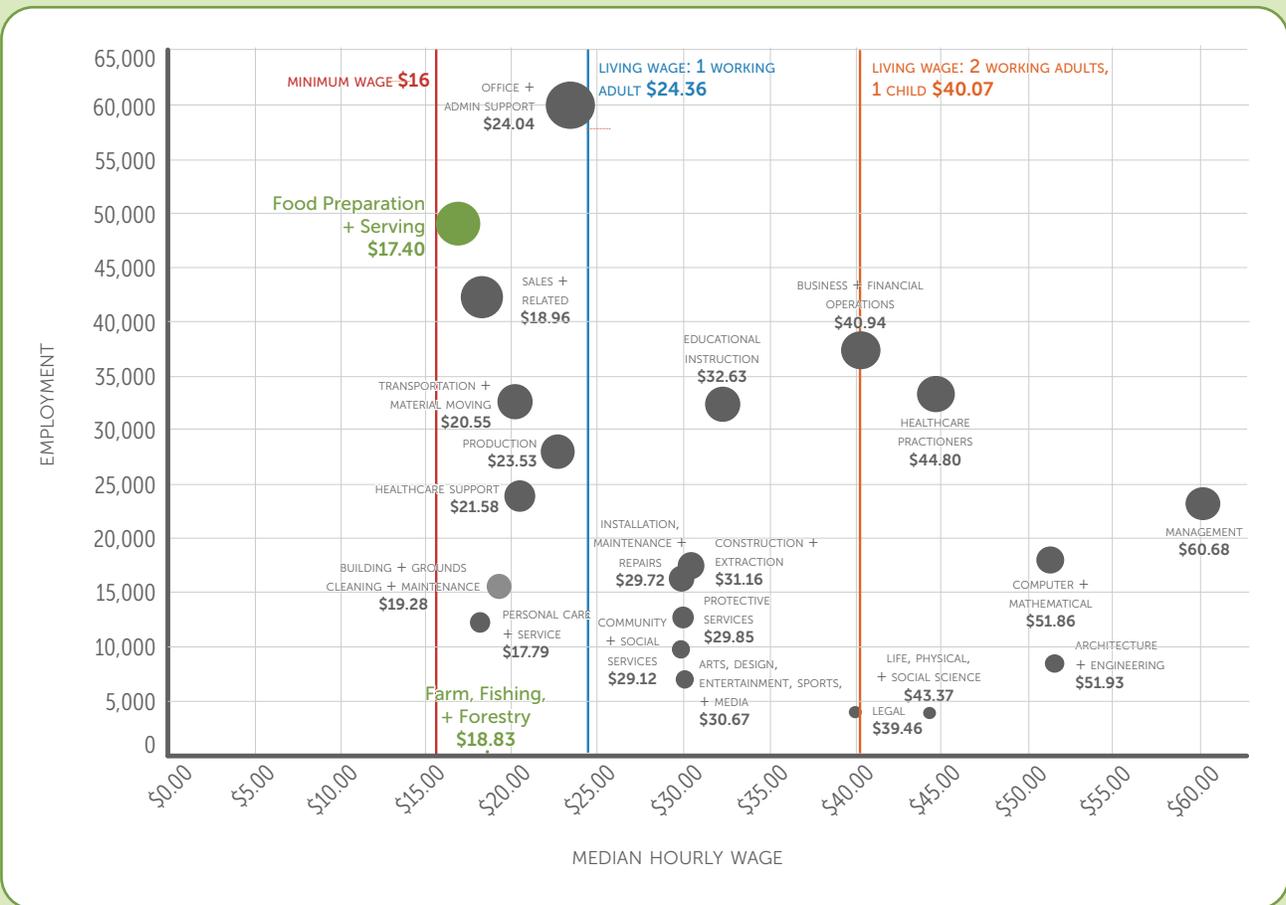
**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#). Note: Percentages will not sum to 100 because Hispanic/Latino is an ethnicity that may include people of any race, and other races are not identified in this data set.

# Indicators of Inequity } Food Preparation and Serving Occupations Have Lowest Wages

 **30.5%**

Median hourly wages for **Food Preparation and Serving Occupations**—jobs that make and provide food and drink to customers—increased 30.5% from 1999 to 2024. As of 2026, Rhode Island’s minimum wage is **\$16**, and the median hourly wage for all major occupational categories is higher than that.

However, median wages for many occupations are lower than **living wage** estimates, and median wages for **Food Preparation and Serving Occupations** are the lowest of any major category. Food Preparation and Serving Occupations disproportionately employ women, Black, and Hispanic/Latino workers.



**Sources:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2024, [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#). Living Wage Calculator, [Living Wage Calculation for Rhode Island](#). A living wage is the amount that 2 adults with 2 children would have to earn per hour to meet 8 basic needs in Rhode Island: housing, transportation, food, childcare, health care, civic engagement (e.g., entertainment), broadband, other necessities (e.g., clothing), and taxes. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

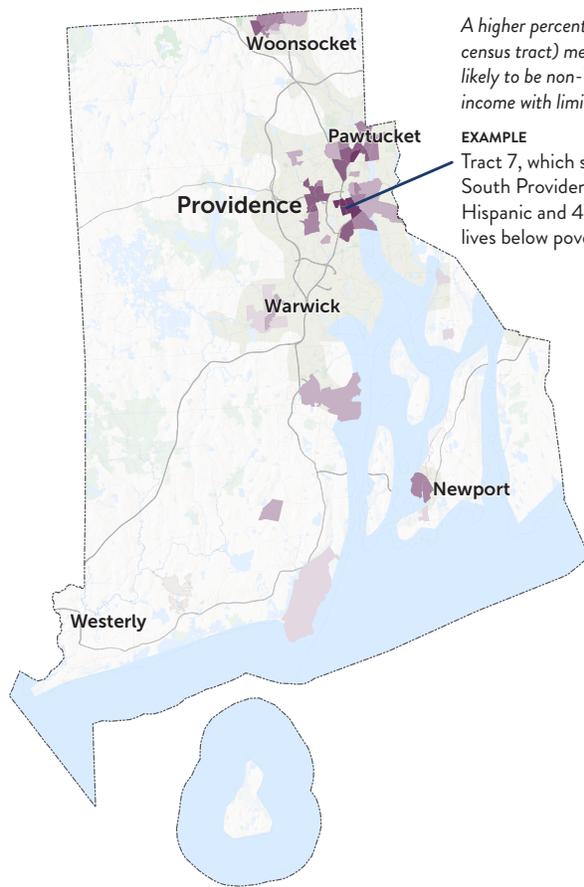
# Indicators of Inequity

## BIPOC Rhode Islanders Disproportionately Live in LILAs



**Social** and **commercial determinants** also set the stage for lifelong disparities in food access by race/ethnicity and income. For example, BIPOC Rhode Islanders make up 32.0% of the state's population, but 53.6% of its population living in low-income low-access (LILA) census tracts, where a large proportion of the residents have low-incomes and are more than 1/2 mile from a food source for urban populations, and over 10 miles for rural populations.

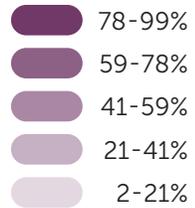
### Low-Income Low-Access Census Tracts by Race/Ethnicity, 2024



A higher percentage (i.e., a more purple census tract) means that residents are more likely to be non-White, Hispanic, and low income with limited access to grocery stores.

**EXAMPLE**  
Tract 7, which spans Upper and Lower South Providence, is 89% non-White or Hispanic and 41.3% of the population lives below poverty level.

#### % NON-WHITE OR HISPANIC BY LILA CENSUS TRACT



	% OF POPULATION	% LIVING IN LILA TRACTS
White	66.1% (735,570)	18.1% (133,274)
Hispanic/Latino	18.8% (208,976)	46.4% (96,923)
2 or More	5.5% (60,659)	27.6% (16,756)
Black	4.8% (53,011)	45.3% (23,997)
Asian	3.7% (40,723)	29.0% (11,811)
Other	1.0% (11,076)	29.9% (3,311)
Indigenous	0.2% (1,759)	49.9% (878)
Hawaiian/PI	0.05% (534)	51.1% (273)

**Sources:** USDA [Food Research Atlas](#); American Community Survey, [Table B03002: Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race](#), 2024 5-Year Estimate. Note: The Food Research Atlas component layers have not been updated since 2019. This graphic compares 2019 LILA data with 2024 5-Year census tract population estimates.

# Indicators of Inequity



## Obesity Trends Continue to Rise



Poor diet—leading to health issues like high blood pressure, fasting plasma glucose, and cholesterol which are often associated with obesity—is the leading cause of illness and death in the United States, including in **Rhode Island**. More than 30% of Rhode Island adults are obese, including a high percentage of Black (36.8%) and Hispanic/Latino (36.1%) adults.



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, [Adult Obesity Prevalence Maps](#).

# Food System Economy

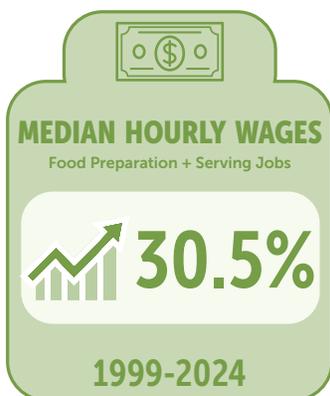


## How big is Rhode Island’s food system? What sectors are growing? What sectors are contracting?

Rhode Island’s food system employs over **75,000** people at more than **8,900 businesses**, and generates over **\$19 billion** in sales. We estimate that Rhode Island’s food system jobs account for about **12.7%** of all jobs and **6.4%** of businesses in the state, but this is likely an undercount due to data limitations. Retail Food Stores, Food Wholesaling and Distribution, and Food Services and Drinking Places accounted for the majority of food system sales (90.7%).

Although total food system employment increased by over **36%** from 2002 to 2024, it is important to note that agriculture and fisheries employment *decreased* in this timeframe. Food services (e.g., restaurants) account for the majority of food system jobs and are typically some of the **lowest paid jobs** in the state.

### KEY INDICATORS

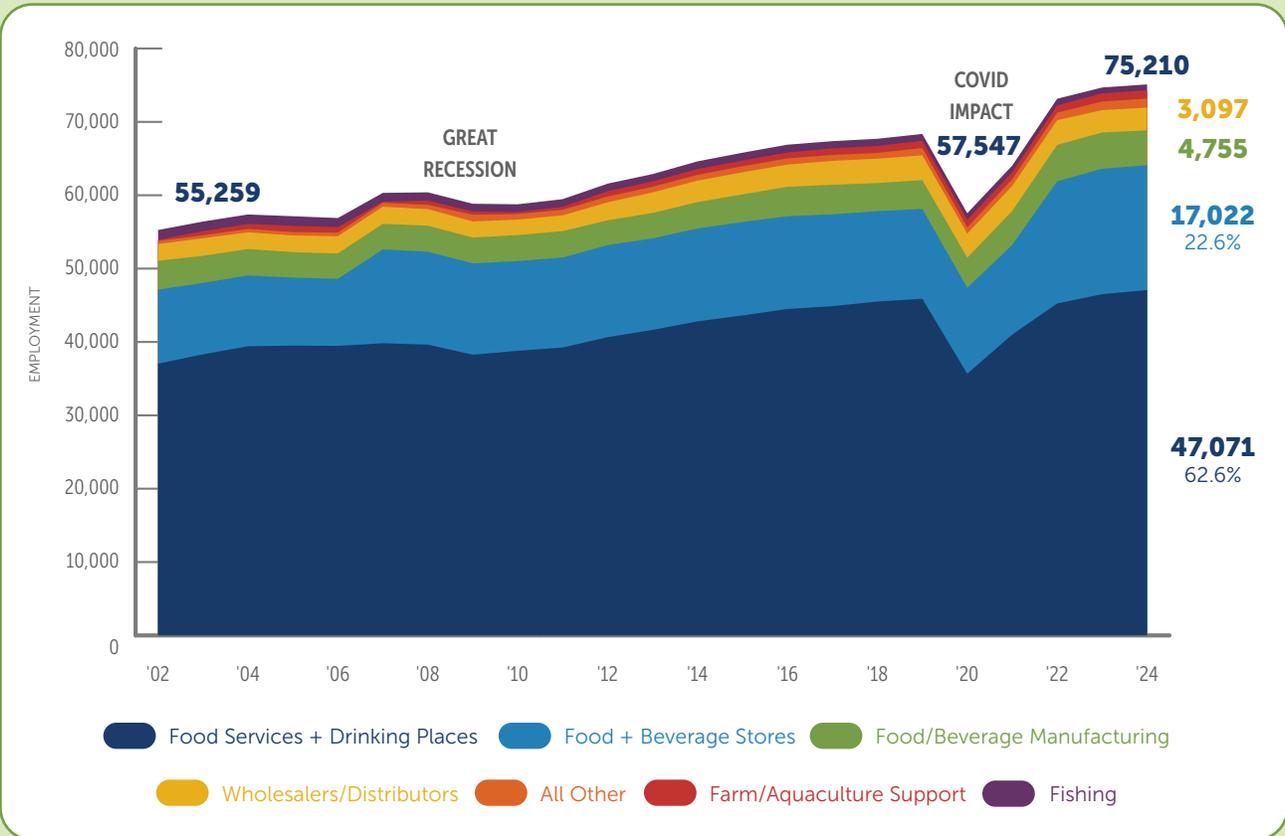


# Food System Employment

## Food System Employment Increased 36% from '02 to '24

 **36.1%**

Total food system jobs in Rhode Island increased 36.1%, from from  $\approx 55,000$  in 2002 to over **75,000** in 2024. “Food services and drinking places” (e.g., restaurants, fast food, institutional food services, bars) account for the majority of food system jobs - over 47,000 jobs.



**Sources:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#), and U.S. Census Bureau [Nonemployer Statistics](#). Estimates of the number of farmers and hired farmworkers are produced only every 5 years by the USDA Census of Agriculture and are consequently not shown in this figure. “All other stores” includes convenience stores, specialty food stores, liquor stores, health food stores, and vending machine operators. Employment at warehouse clubs and supercenters was suppressed. “All other” includes community food services (e.g., food pantries), solid waste collection, and agricultural market and commodity regulation.

# Food System Sales



## RI's Food System is Major Economic Engine



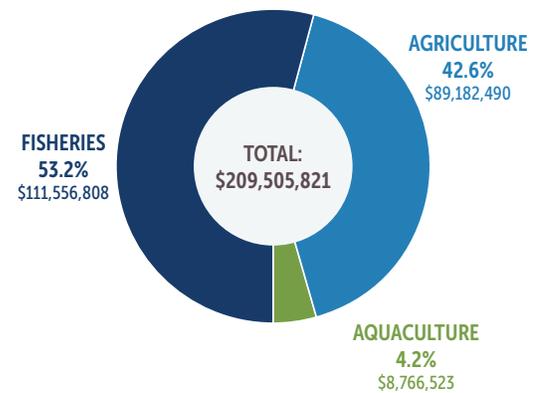
1.2%

Using data from the 2022 Economic Census and other sources, we can estimate the value of food system sales at a little more than \$19.0 billion, up from \$18.8 billion in 2017. In comparison, Rhode Island's **state GDP** was a little more than \$72 billion in 2022. Food and beverage stores accounted for 35.1% (\$6.7 billion) of sales, followed by wholesaling and distribution at 34.4% (\$6.6 billion). Food Services and Drinking Places accounted for 21.2% (\$4.0 billion) of sales. Sales from food producers—fishermen, farmers, aquaculturists—make up a much smaller percentage of total food system sales.

### Food System Sales, 2022

Category	Sales Value	% of Total
Food + Beverage Retailers	\$6,689,757,291	35.1%
Wholesaling + Distribution	\$6,562,192,960	34.4%
Food Services + Drinking Places	\$4,035,221,036	21.2%
Food Manufacturing	\$1,249,328,681	6.6%
Solid Waste Collection	\$168,985,666	0.9%
Beverage Manufacturing	\$138,880,915	0.7%
Fisheries	\$111,556,808	0.6%
Agriculture	\$89,182,490	0.5%
Support Activities for Agriculture	\$10,121,962	0.05%
Aquaculture	\$8,766,523	0.05%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,063,994,332</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Fisheries, Agriculture, and Aquaculture Sales, 2022



Rhode Island's fishermen, farmers, and aquaculturists generated over \$200 million in sales in 2022, the last available data covering all types of production. Fisheries accounted for about raw 54% of food production sales, followed by agriculture (42%), and aquaculture (4%).

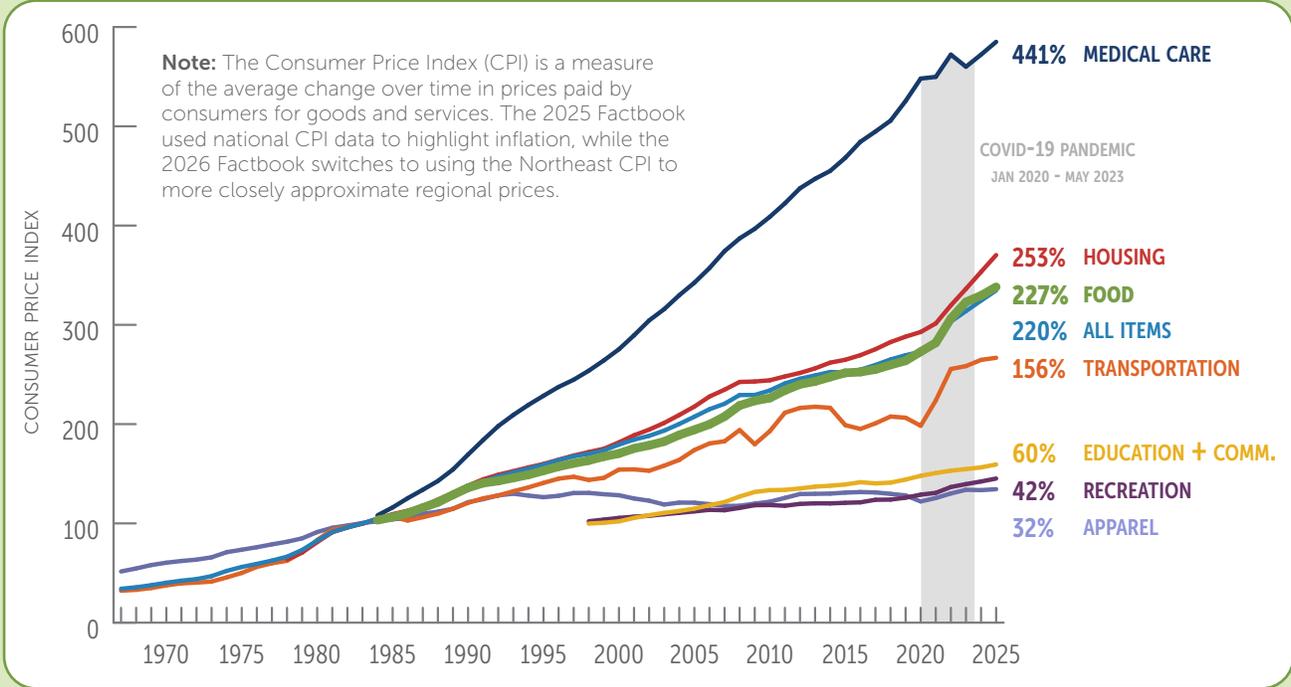
**Sources:** Data from [U.S. Census Bureau Economic Census](#), [USDA Census of Agriculture](#), [U.S. Census Bureau Nonemployer Statistics](#), [Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program](#), and [Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council](#) for 2017 and 2022. Adjusted for inflation with [producer price indices](#) and [consumer price index](#) to 2025 dollars. The value for Agriculture sales does not include the Census of Agriculture estimate of aquaculture sales; the value of aquaculture is provided by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council. **Note:** 2022 was the last time that data was available from all of these sources; 2027 is the next time that data from these sources will be available.

# Food Prices

## Food and Beverage Inflation Highest Since 1970s Stagflation

 **227%**

From 1984 to 2025, average food and beverage prices (including alcohol) increased **227%** in the Northeast, which is the third largest increase after medical care prices (which have grown 441%) and housing (253%).



**Source:** Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED), [Consumer Price Index, Items in the Northeast](#), not seasonally adjusted. Note: the Bureau of Labor Statistics *Northeast Region* includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Northeast CPIs have different beginning dates (e.g., 1967, 1984, and 1998) but the percentages in this figure refer to changes from 1984 to 2025, except for education and communication and recreation, which refer to changes from 1998 to 2025.

 **28%**

**Food Price Inflation in the Northeast Steadily Increased Post-COVID:** Looking at just the pre- and post-COVID-19 pandemic window, food and beverage prices in the Northeast increased by **28%** from 2019 to 2025, which was the third highest increase after transportation and housing.

Price change from 2019 to 2025 >	TRANSPORTATION	HOUSING	FOOD	ALL ITEMS	RECREATION	MEDICAL CARE	EDU. + COMM.
	<b>29.2%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

# Food Prices



## Food Prices Have Increased for Most Items

Looking at average price data in the Northeast for a selection of basic items, we see substantial price increases, including steep price increases after the pandemic.



**81%**



**MILK**  
1 gallon, whole

The cost of 1 gallon of whole milk increased 80.7% from 1995 to 2024.



**124%**



**WHITE BREAD**  
per pound

The cost of a loaf of white bread increased 124.0% from 1995 to 2025.



**61%**



**GROUND BEEF**  
per pound

The cost of 1 pound of ground beef increased 61.3% from 2013 to 2025.



**219%**



**EGGS**  
per dozen Grade A, large

The cost of a loaf of 1 dozen eggs increased 218.5% from 1995 to 2024.



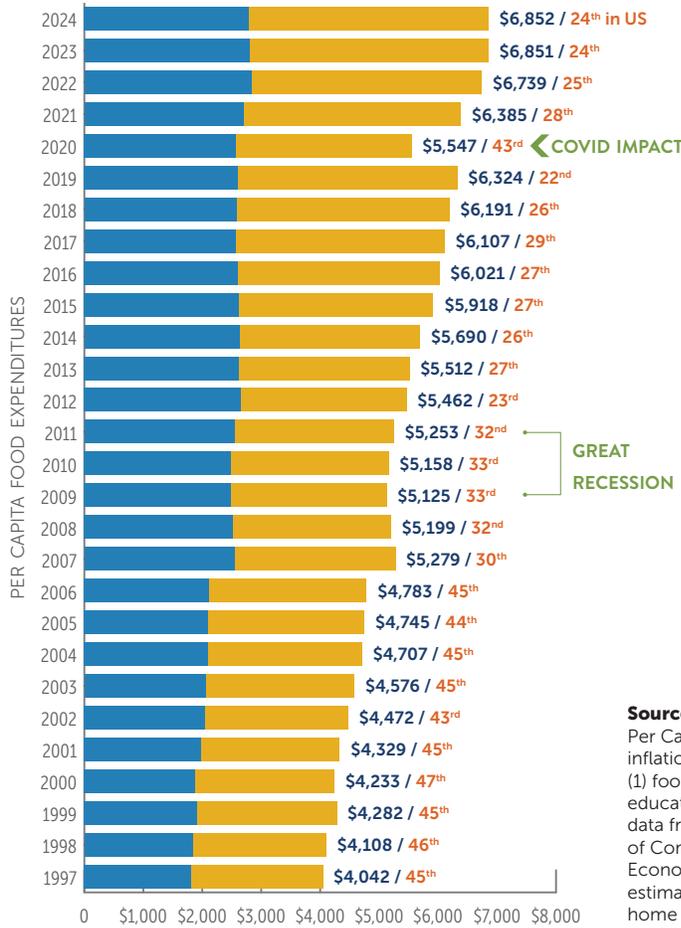
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, [Average Price Data](#). Date range reflects latest common month/year available. 2025 data was not available for some categories due to the lapse in federal appropriations.

# Food Expenditures

## Food Expenditures Increased 70% from 1997 to 2024

 **70%**

Per capita annual food expenditures in Rhode Island increased **69.5%** (+\$2,810) from 1997 to 2024. From 1997 to 2006, RI ranked in the mid-40s among the states for per capita food expenditures. From 2007 on, RI ranked in the low-30s and mid-20s among states for per capita food expenditures.



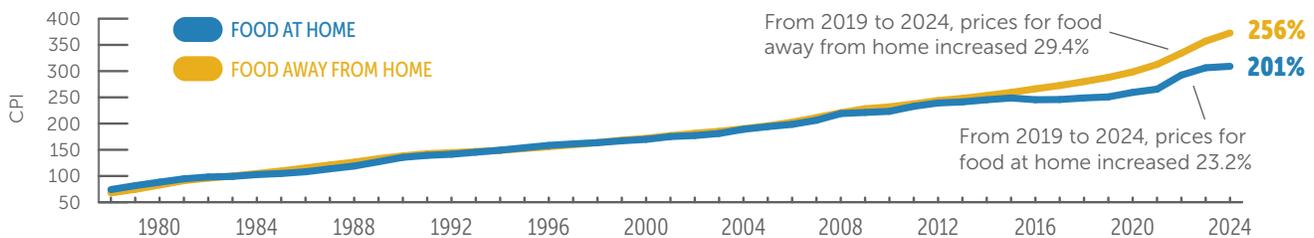
### TYPE OF FOOD EXPENDITURE

-  FOOD AT HOME
-  FOOD AWAY FROM HOME

**Source:** USDA [State-Level Food Expenditures](#), State Food Sales Per Capita, Without Taxes and Tips, For All Purchasers, Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars. Note: 2025 data revision reflects two changes: (1) food away from home estimates now include food served at educational institutions, and (2) sales estimates reflect updated source data from the 2022 Annual Retail Trade Survey of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and changes from the 2022 Economic Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce. These estimates are for sales only, and exclude food furnished, donated, and home produced. State sales are benchmarked to national sales.



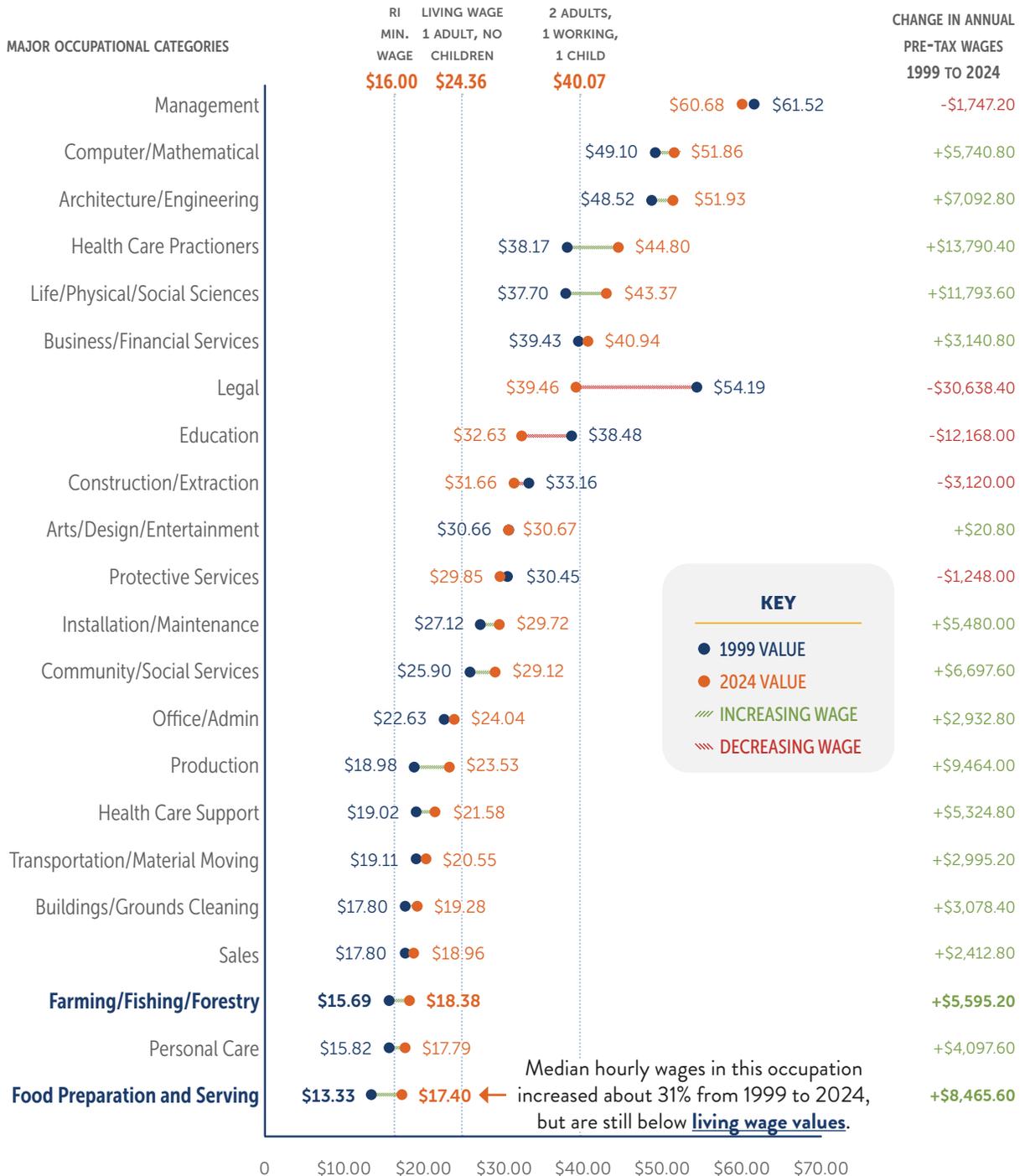
**Dining Out is Increasingly More Expensive than Eating at Home:** Starting in 2015, the price of food away from home (i.e., restaurants, fast food) diverged from food at home (i.e., purchased at grocery stores). From 1984 to 2024, the price of food away from home increased **256%**, while the price of food at home increased **201%**. That trend accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Wages } Food Preparation and Serving Occupations Have Lowest Wages

 **30.5%**

Median hourly wages for **Food Preparation and Serving Occupations**—jobs that make and provide food and drink to customers—increased 30.5% from 1999 to 2024. These jobs account for the majority of food system jobs in Rhode Island but they still have the *lowest* median hourly wages of any major occupational category.



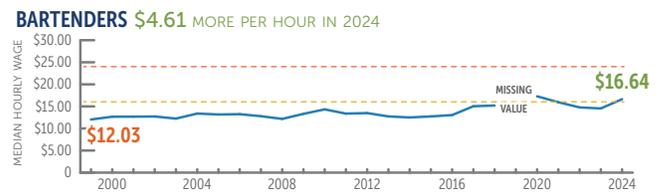
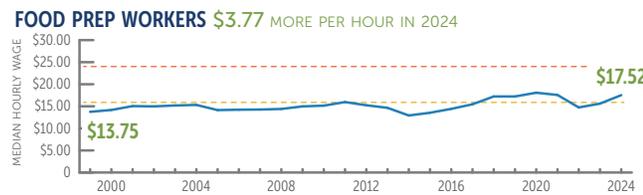
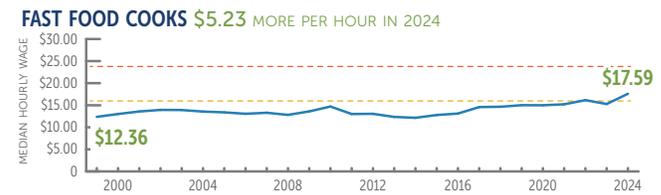
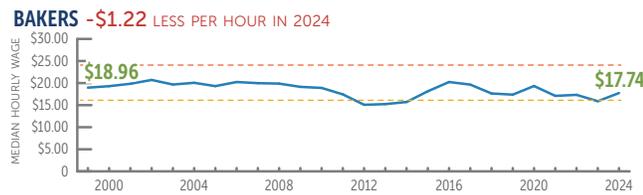
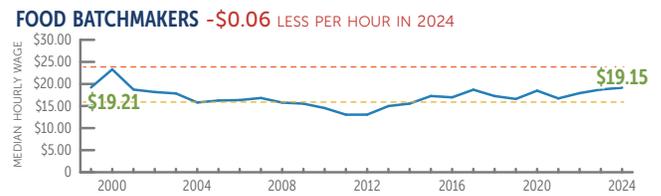
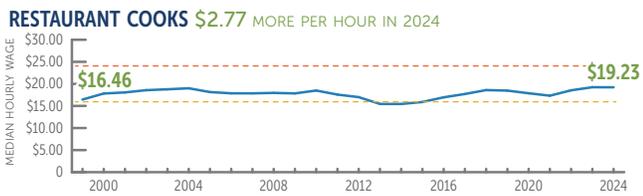
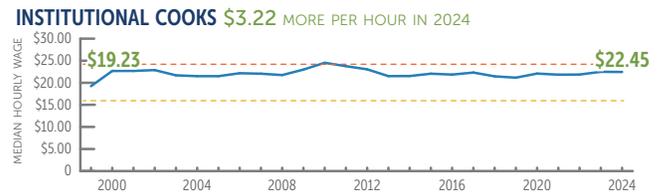
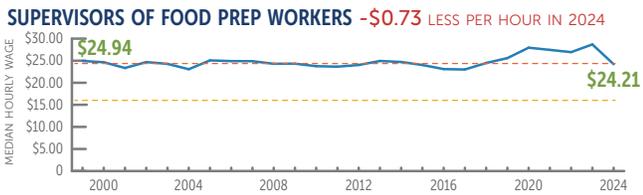
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics; MIT, Living Wage Calculator. Wage data includes tips. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

# Wages } Median Hourly Wages Have Grown for Many Food System Occupations



Median hourly wages for many food system occupations increased from 1999 to 2024, but many remain below a variety of living wage values.

**KEY:** - - - \$16.00 - Minimum Wage - - - \$24.36 - 1 Adult, no children - - - \$40.07 - 2 Adults (1 working), 1 child



**Sources:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#); MIT, [Living Wage Calculator](#). Wage data includes tips. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars. Note, however, that most food preparation and serving jobs are not full-time.

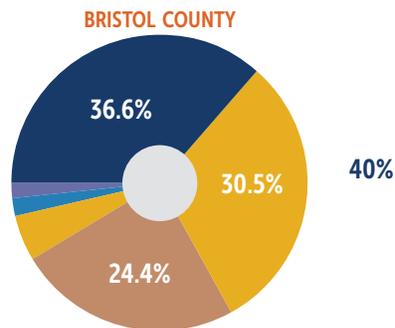
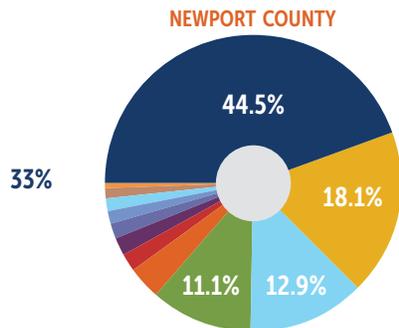
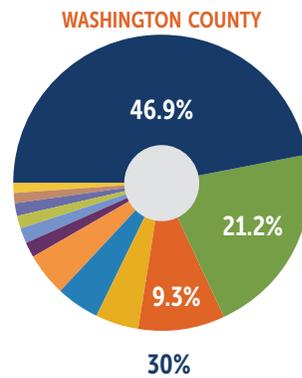
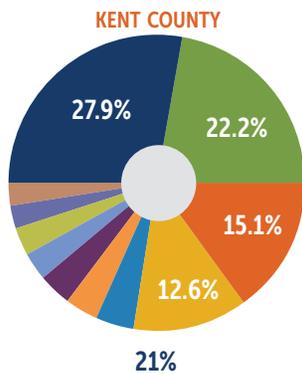
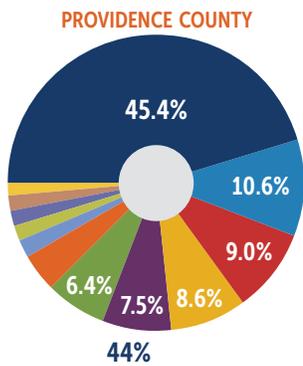
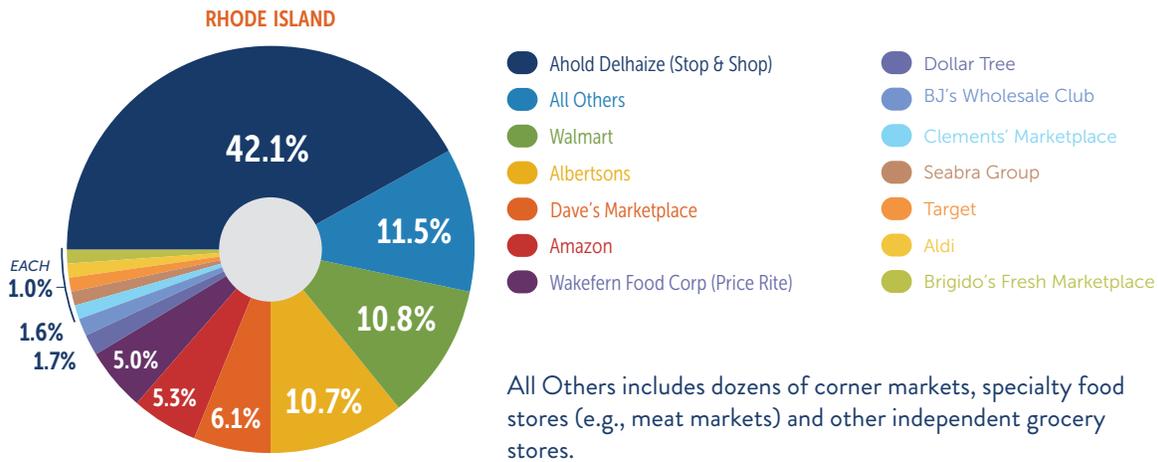
# Market Concentration

## A Small Number of Grocery Chains Account for Majority of RI Retail Food Sales



**81%**

The **Grocery Gap Atlas** estimates that **81%** of other state markets are less concentrated than Rhode Island, while 19% of all states are more concentrated. It has been historically difficult to stock local or regional products at national grocery store chains.



Source: Grocery Gap Analysis, State Report: Rhode Island.

# Food Access and Security

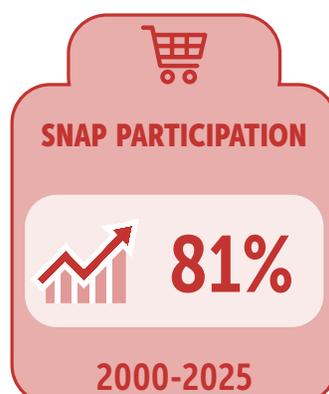
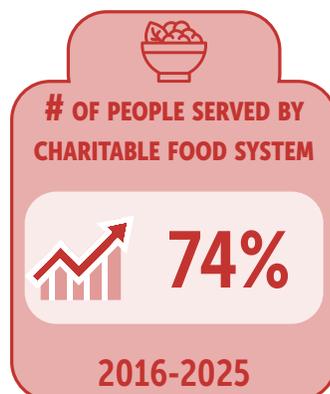


## What are the trends in food security in Rhode Island? What are the disparities in how Rhode Islanders are impacted by food access challenges?

Rhode Island, like the rest of the country, has essentially made no progress reducing food insecurity rates over the past 25 years. The Great Recession increased the percentage of Rhode Islanders in poverty—and the percentage of food insecure Rhode Islanders—for several years. These percentages then decreased for several years before the COVID-19 pandemic elevated them once again.

There are different methodologies for measuring food insecurity, with three depicted here: the RI Life Index and Feeding America estimated higher rates of food insecurity for all Rhode Island households—particularly Hispanic and Black households—than the official USDA food insecurity estimates. The Rhode Island Community Food Bank also tracked a steep increase in people served by the charitable food system as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### KEY INDICATORS



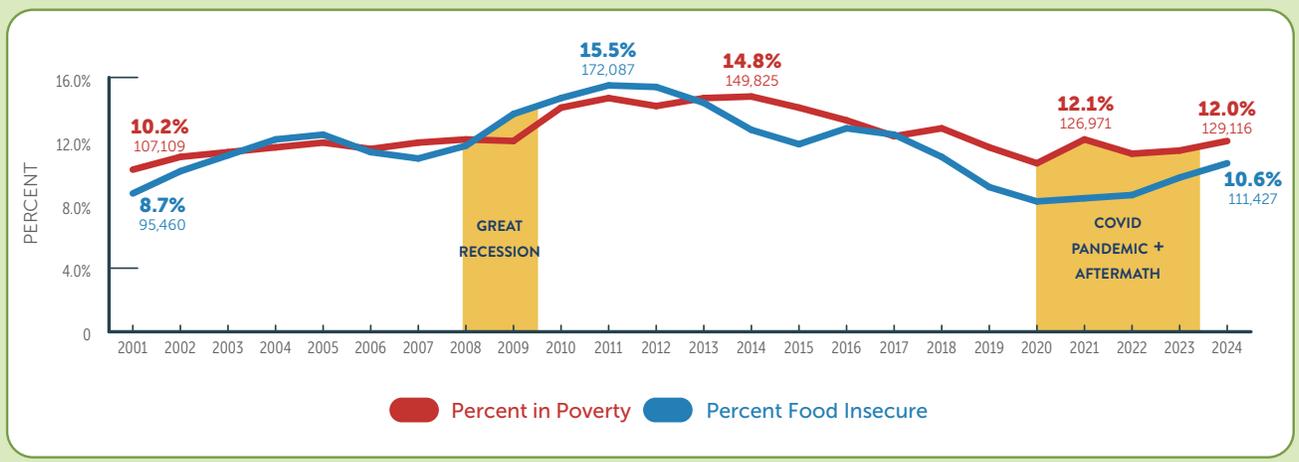
# Poverty + Food Insecurity



## No Progress Made in 20 Years



The percent of Rhode Islanders in poverty gradually increased from 2001 to 2009. Poverty then jumped several percentage points due to the Great Recession and lingered at over 14% for six years. Poverty then decreased from 2014 to 2019, although it did not go back below the percentage in 2001. The COVID-19 pandemic then spiked the percent of Rhode Islanders in poverty to **12.1% (126,971 people)**, before decreasing to **11.2% (122,752)** in 2022 and then increasing to **12.0% (129,116 people)** in 2024 (likely as federal COVID benefits were sunsetted). Food insecurity also spiked during the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic and Rhode Island consequently saw no progress reducing poverty and food insecurity from 2001 to 2024.

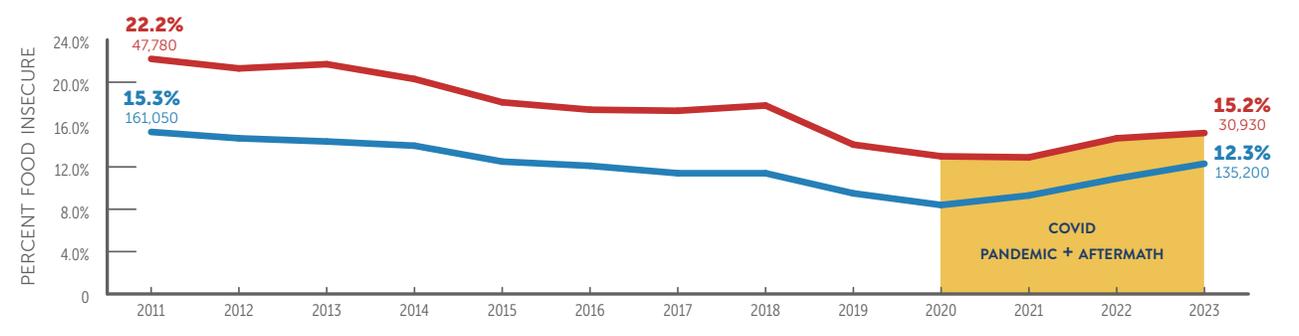


Unfortunately, in 2025 the USDA cancelled the *Household Food Security Report*, which means states will be navigating food insecurity challenges without the most comprehensive analysis at their disposal in the years ahead. Food insecurity in Rhode Island mirrors poverty trends, so as long as poverty data is available we could likely predict whether food insecurity is increasing or decreasing.

**Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#) (via FRED) and [USDA Economic Research Service. Household Food Security in the United States](#), multiple years. USDA estimates of food insecurity are based on 18 questions contained in the Food Security Supplement administered by the Current Population Survey to about 50,000 households across the country. State-level estimates are obtained by averaging 3 years of data (e.g., 2022-2024) to generate large enough sample sizes for each State to produce reliable estimates. Response rate for 2024 = 69.1%. Note: number of households were converted into number of people.



**Feeding America Shows Post-COVID Increase in Food Insecurity:** Feeding America’s [Map the Meal Gap](#) analysis likely provides the best alternative source for food security data. Their data, which started in 2011, shows a post-Great Recession decrease in food insecurity that then increases with the pandemic.



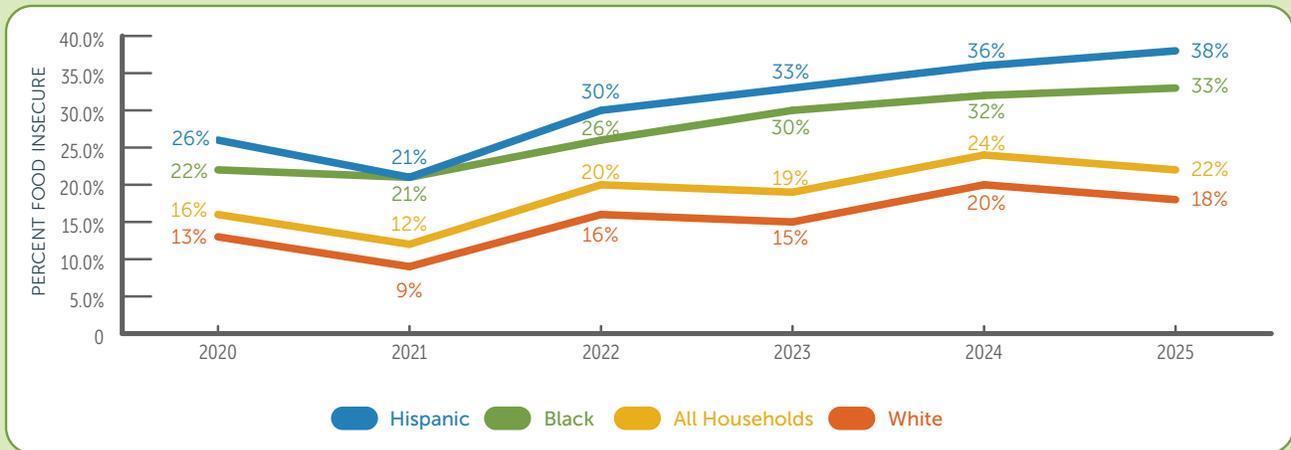
# Food Insecurity



## RI Life index Shows Increasing Food Insecurity

 **38%**

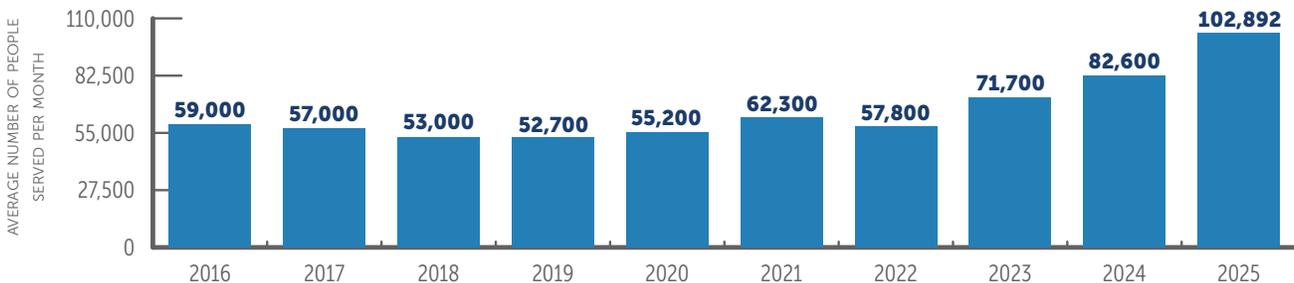
The percent of food insecure households increased 37.5% from 2020 to 2025, according to the [RI Life Index](#). This survey asks Rhode Islanders two types of food security questions: actual experiences about food security and perceptions of community access to nutritious food. Questions about actual experiences with food security were not asked in 2019, so we do not have a pre-COVID estimate. Hispanic and Black Rhode Islanders had higher percentages of food insecurity than White Rhode Islanders at the start of the COVID pandemic. Percentages of food insecure Rhode Islanders then decreased in 2021, probably due to an uptick in federal benefits. Percentages of food insecurity for all respondents then increased in 2022, 2023, and 2024, possibly as some federal benefits ended.



**Source:** [RI Life Index](#). The RI Life Index was created by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and the Brown University School of Public Health in 2019. It has been administered to over 2,000 Rhode Islanders every year since 2019. The response rate for 2024 was only 4.3%. Respondents were asked to respond “almost always true,” “true most of the time,” “sometimes true,” or “never true” to two statements: 1) We worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more in the last 12 months; and 2) The food we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more. **Percentages reflect respondents who answered “almost always true,” “true most of the time,” and “sometimes true.”**

 **74%**

Average Number of People Served by Charitable Food System Increased 74.4% from 2016 to 2024: The [Rhode Island Community Food Bank](#) estimated that a record number of Rhode Islanders—**102,892**—sought assistance through the Food Bank and its network of 147 member agencies in 2025. High food prices, economic instability, and cuts/delays in federal nutrition assistance are thought to be the primary drivers of the increased need for food assistance.



**Source:** Rhode Island Community Food Bank, [Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island](#), multiple years.

# SNAP Participation

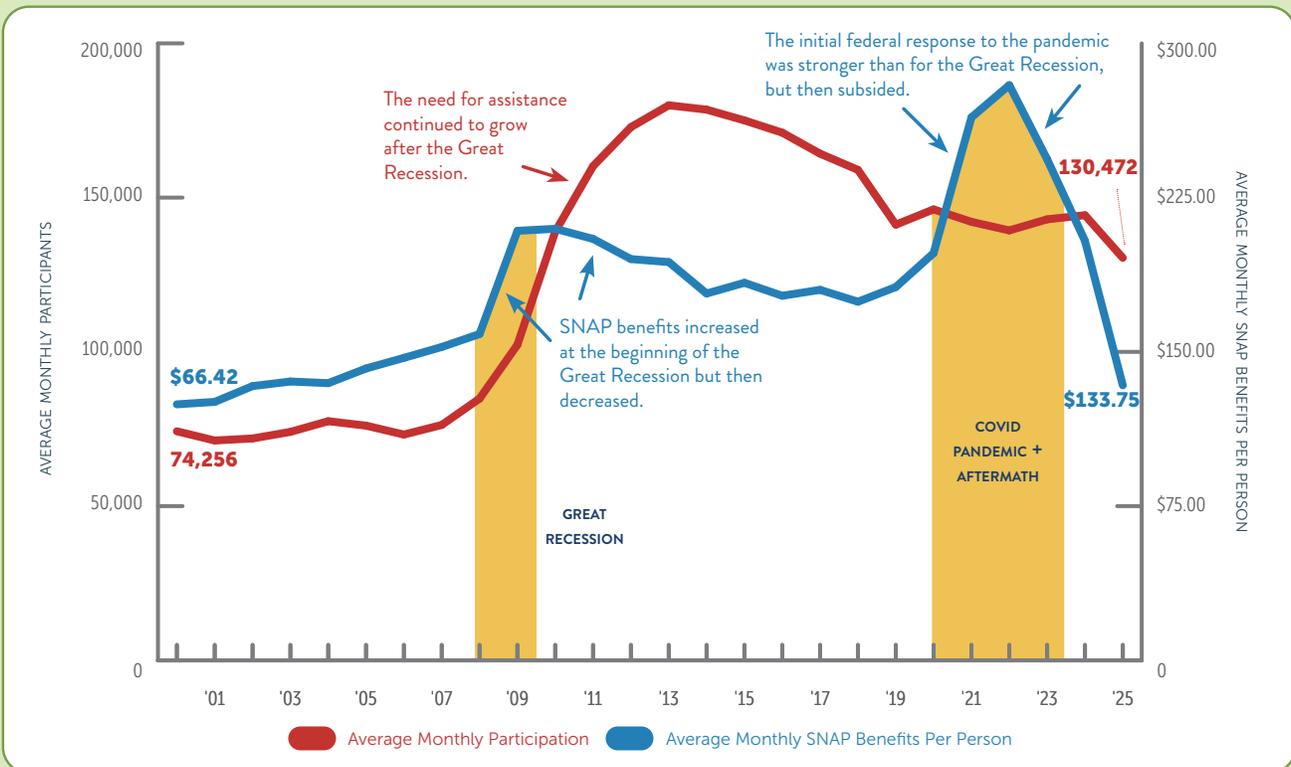


## SNAP Participation Increased 94% from 2000 to 2024

 **94%**

Periods of economic turbulence that increase unemployment and poverty also trigger the need for supplemental income assistance. The need for assistance remained high for many years after the official end of the Great Recession. Benefits introduced during the COVID pandemic—such as universal school meals and funding for emergency food delivery systems—may have reduced families’ need for SNAP benefits. However, these benefits have mostly ended and monthly SNAP benefits are dropping to pre-pandemic levels.

It is more likely that the need for supplemental income assistance is **growing**, not declining. The dramatic decrease in SNAP participation recorded in December 2025 probably reflects significant reductions in SNAP funding, changes to its structure (e.g., new work requirements), and confusion generated by the 2025 federal shutdown.



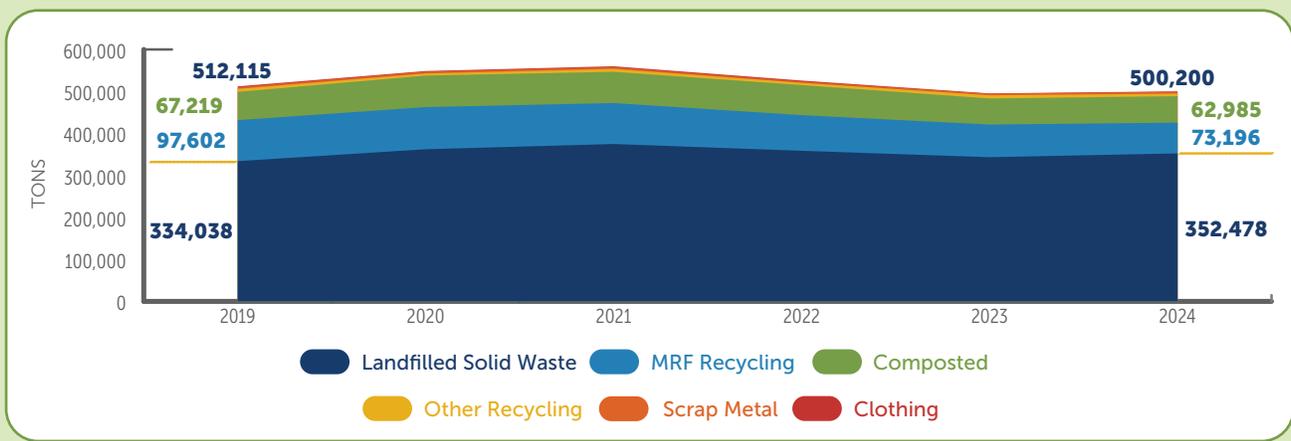
Sources: KFF [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#). 2025 data is provided by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services.

# Wasted Food

## Rhode Island Has Made No Progress Reducing Solid Waste in Recent Years



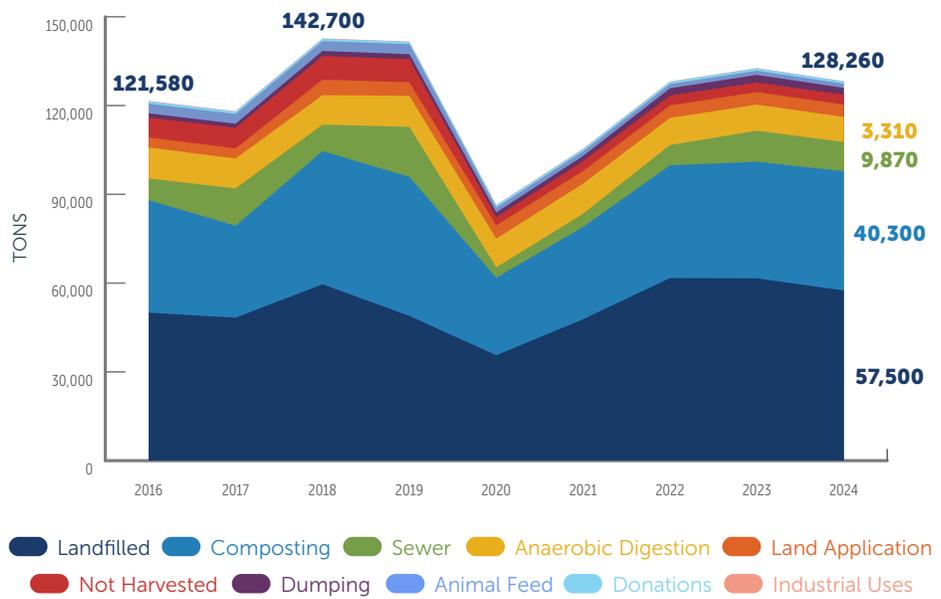
Although the total amount of waste generated in Rhode Island decreased 2.3% (11,915 tons) from 2019 to 2024, the total amount of landfilled solid waste actually **increased** 5.5% (18,440 tons). A now ten-year old 2015 “Waste Characterization” study found that food waste is the top single material in Rhode Island’s municipal waste stream at 100,000 tons (2 million pounds).



Source: Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, [2024 Municipal Summary \(Detailed\)](#). Note: MRF means Materials Recycling Facility.



**ReFED Estimates No Progress Diverting “Surplus Food”:** In the absence of any other data, the [ReFED Insights Engine](#) estimates how much food goes uneaten by sector, food types, and destination. ReFED defines “surplus food” as a combination of uneaten food that is wasted, and food that is donated, fed to animals, repurposed to create other products, composted, or anaerobically digested. They estimated that Rhode Islanders generated 128,260 tons of surplus food in 2024, which equals 207 million unsold or uneaten meals (at about 1.2 pounds per meal). They estimate wasted food (e.g., landfilled, dumped, put in sewer) increased, while recycled/rescued food decreased.



Source: ReFED [Insights Engine](#).

# Agriculture + Land Use

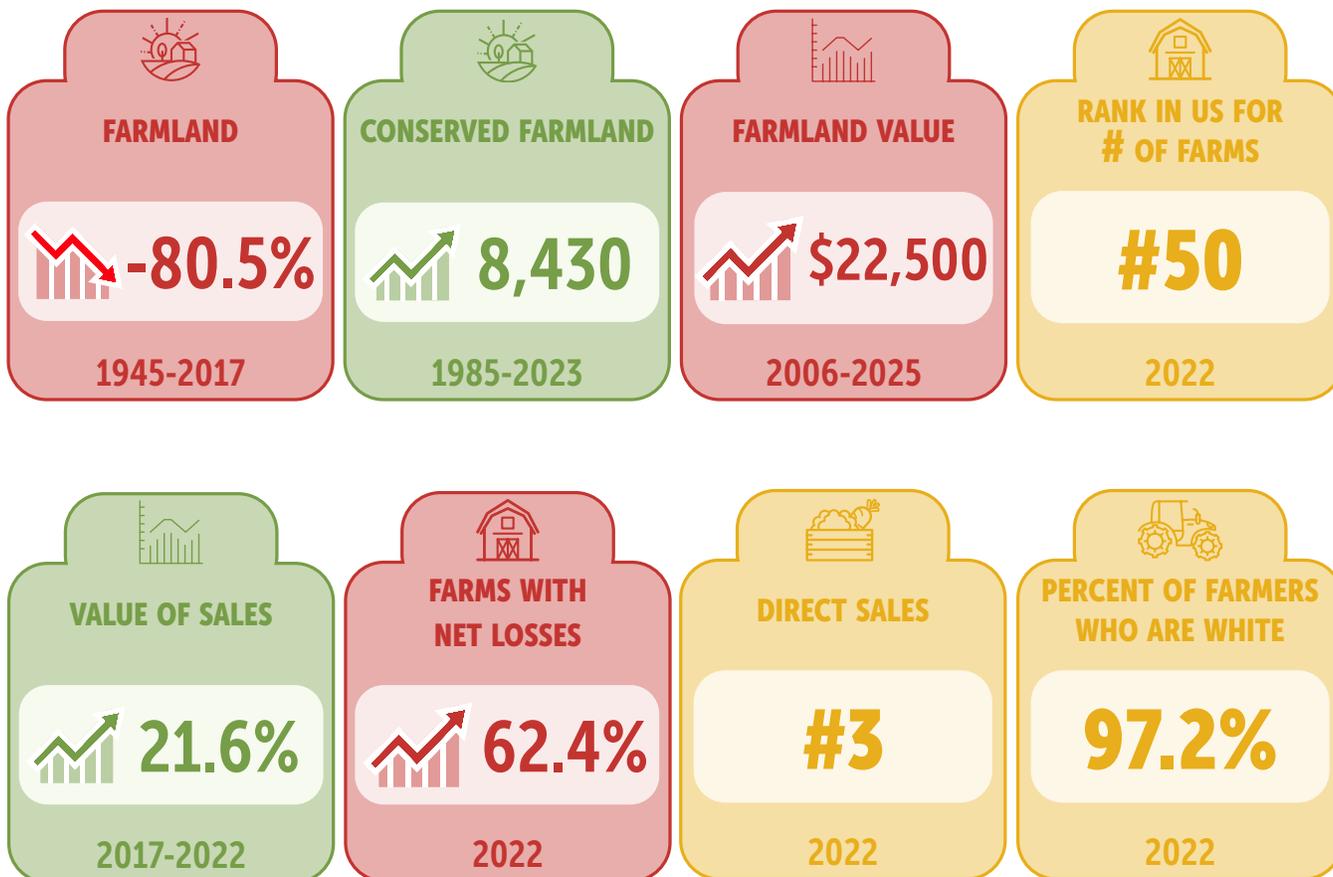


## What kinds of agricultural products are grown/raised in Rhode Island? Is Rhode Island’s agricultural sector growing or contracting?

Due to its small land area, Rhode Island had the lowest amount of land in agriculture—**59,076 acres**—and the second lowest agricultural sales—**\$89.2 million**—of any state in 2022. A consequence of Rhode Island’s relatively small land base, coupled with intense development pressure, is that it has the most expensive farmland in the country: **\$22,000 per acre**. From 1945 to 2022, farmland as a percentage of Rhode Island’s total land area decreased from 40% (264,734 acres) to 8.9% (59,076 acres).

Rhode Island is heavily invested in inedible products. **Greenhouses/nurseries/floriculture accounted for 21.9% (231) of farms and 56.1% (\$50.0 million) of sales in 2022.** Acreage for vegetables, fruits, and berries equaled **18.8% (2,519 acres)** of harvested cropland and 5.5% of total land in agriculture. In 2022, 2.1% of farms accounted for 48.4% of sales.

### KEY INDICATORS



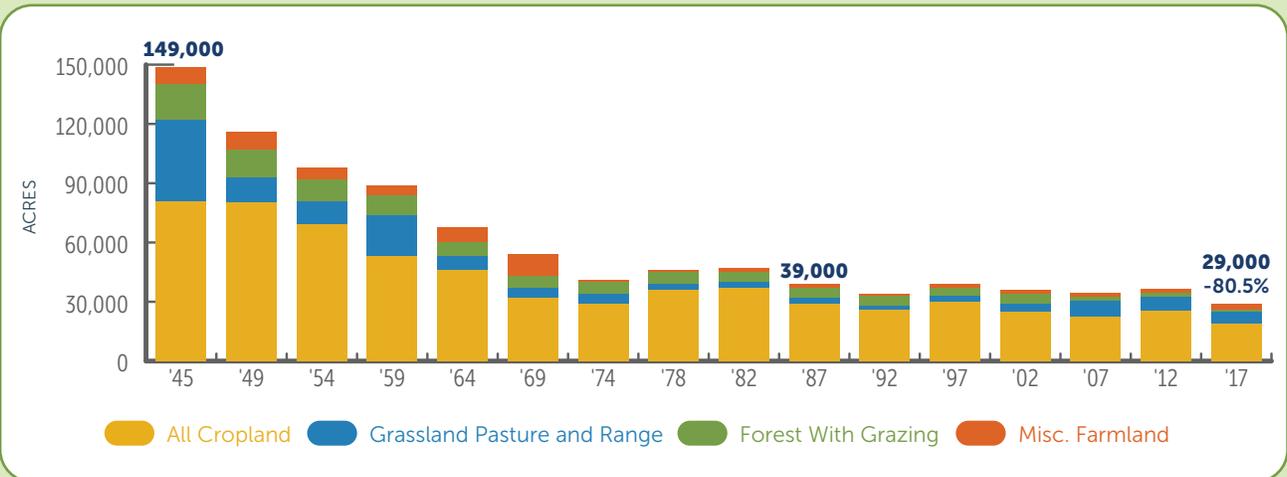
# Farm Land



## Major Agricultural Land Uses in Rhode Island Have Decreased 81%

**-80.5%**

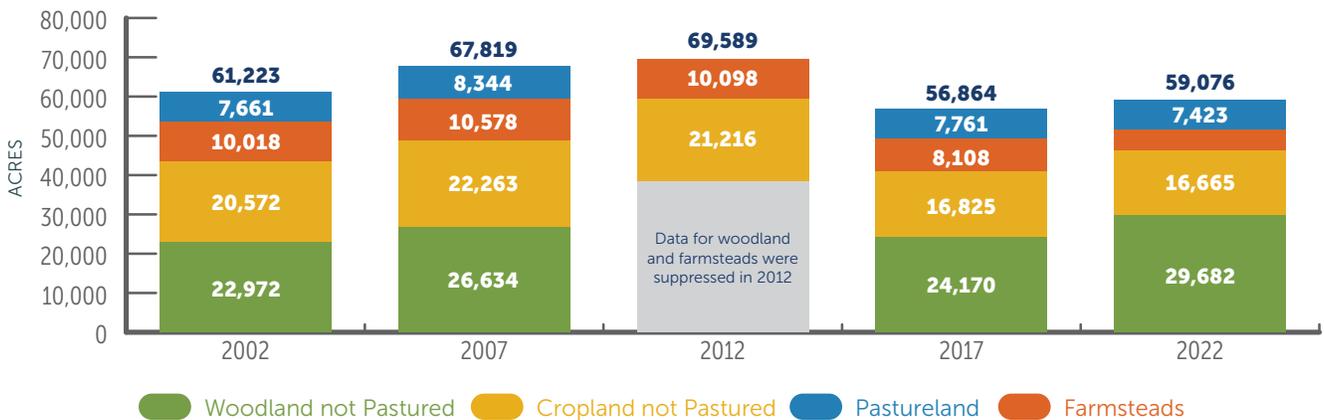
The [USDA's Major Land Uses series](#) is the "longest running, most comprehensive accounting of all major land uses of public and private land in the United States." This series shows a steep decrease in land in agriculture in RI after World War II that flattens out around 1987. Since then, acreage has remained ~36,000 acres, comprised mostly of cropland. Acreage then dropped steeply to 29,000 acres in 2017.



**Source:** USDA [Major Land Uses](#). Data for 2022 has not been published and it is not clear when it will be. Note: the Major Land Uses series designates "forest with grazing" and *not* the total amount of forest land (i.e., "woodland") owned by farmer.

**-3.5%**

**Land in Agriculture Decreased 3.5% from 2002 to 2022:** The [2022 Census of Agriculture](#) estimates a larger amount of land in agriculture than the *Major Land Uses* series because it includes *all* woodland owned by a farm. Land in agriculture is estimated to have increased from 2002 to 2012, decreased from 2012 to 2017, and then increased from 2017 to 2022. An important point to emphasize, however, is that cropland, pastureland, and farmstead acreage generally *decreased*, while woodland estimates went up and down. Washington (35%) and Providence (28.7%) counties contain the majority of agricultural land.



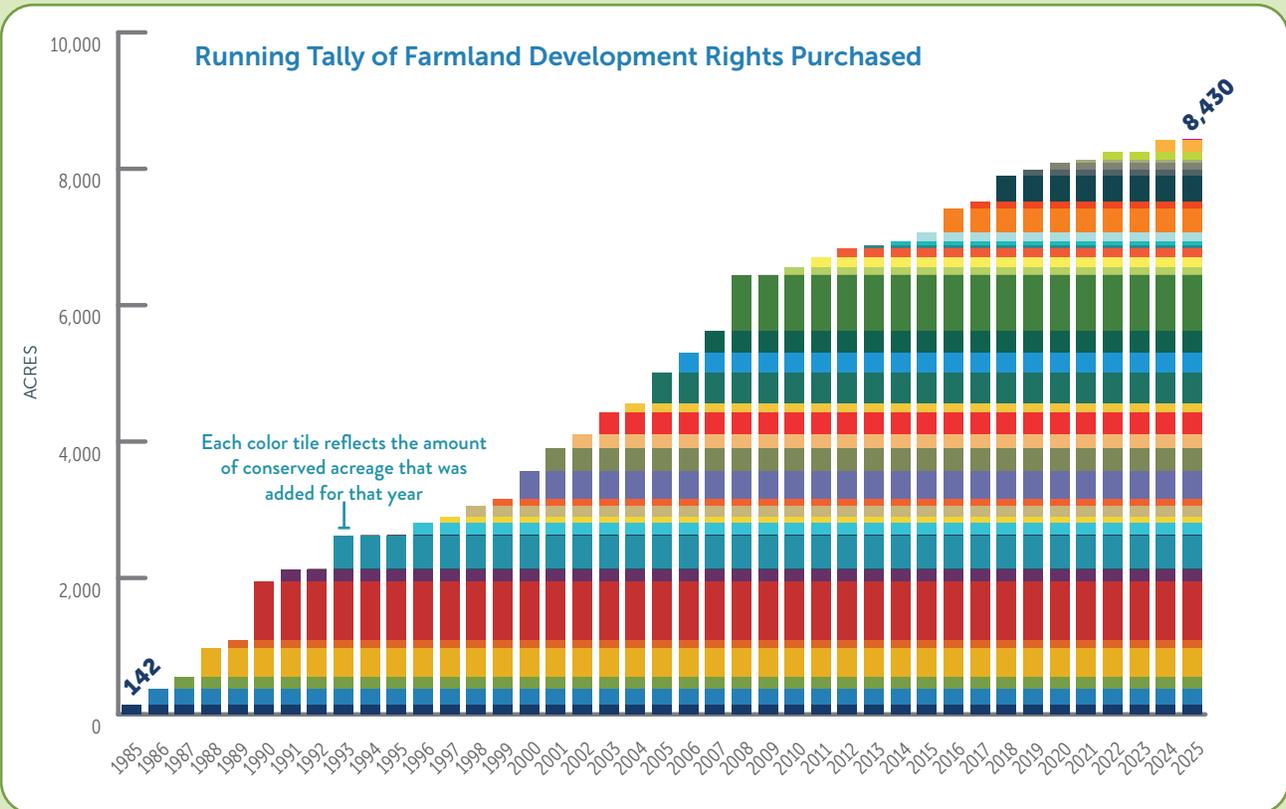
**Source:** USDA [Census of Agriculture](#), multiple years.

# Farmland Conservation

## Rhode Island Has Conserved 14% of Farmland

 **8,430**

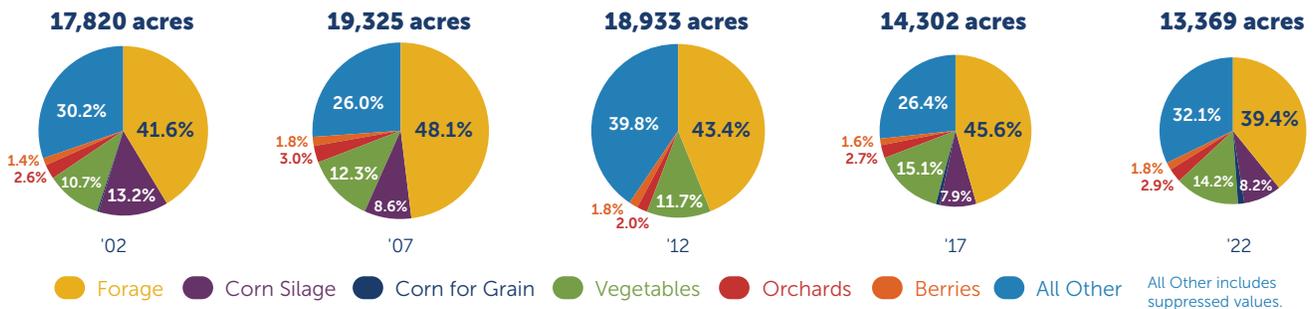
Since 1985, DEM's Division of Agriculture & Resource Marketing has purchased the development rights of over 8,400 acres of farmland. This is equal to 14.3% of all farmland in Rhode Island (59,076 acres). Acquiring development rights means that all future uses of the land are restricted to farming.



**Source:** Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture & Resource Marketing. [Purchase of Development Rights](#). Note: this graphic does not include easements/development rights purchased by land trusts.

 **-25%**

**Harvested Cropland Acreage Decreased by 25% (over 4,400 acres) from 2002 to 2022:** Forage and other animal feed accounted for 49% of harvested cropland in 2022, while vegetables, fruits, and berries made up 19%.



**Source:** USDA Census of Agriculture, multiple years.

# Farmland Values

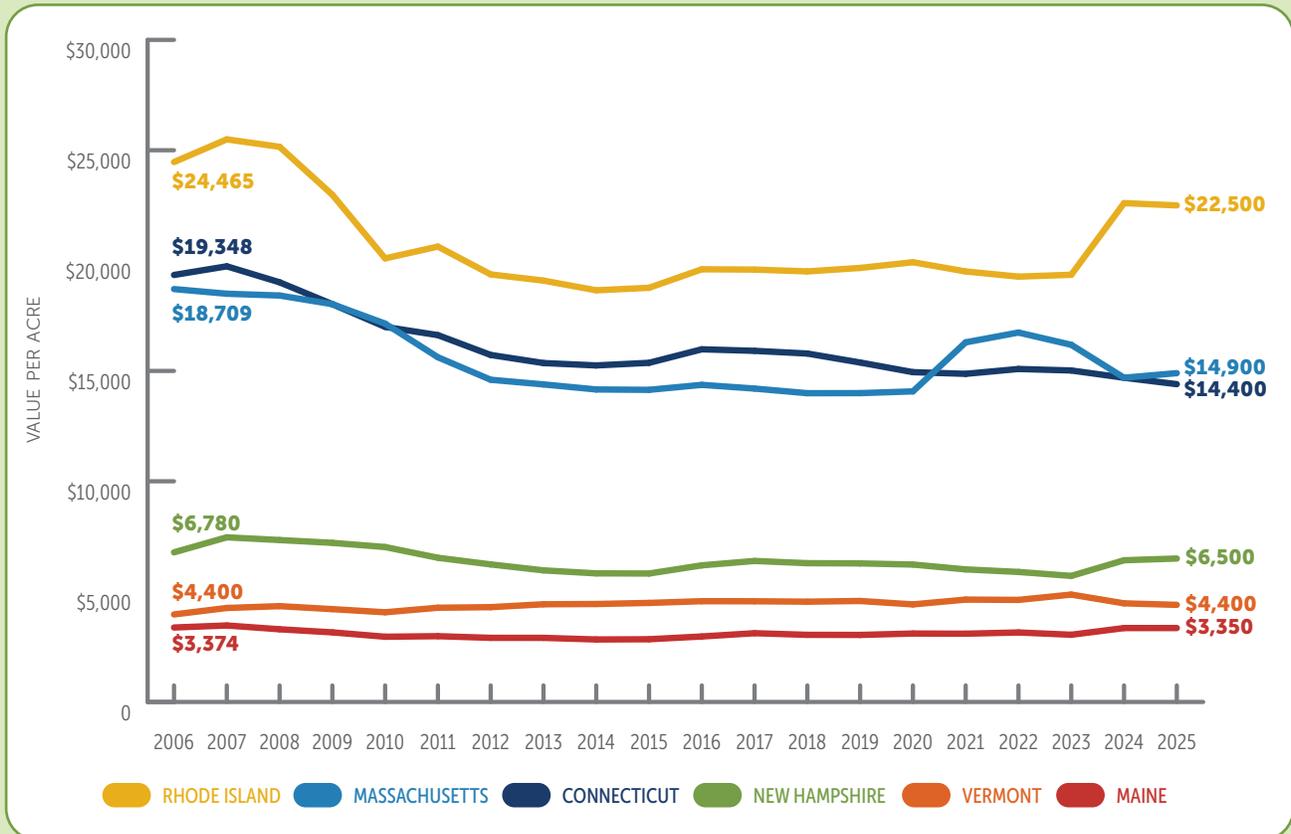


## Rhode Island Has the Highest Farm Land Values in the U.S.



#1

The average price per acre of farmland in Rhode Island has been over **\$20,000** for the past 19 years. This is the **highest average price per acre in the country**. Rhode Island has the least amount of farmland of any state in the country, and limited available farmland drives up costs. The [American Farmland Trust](#) identified Rhode Island as among the top 10 states in which farmland is most threatened, with most lost acreage converted for development.



Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, August 2025, [Land Values 2025 Summary](#). Reported in 2025 dollars.

# Farms



## Rhode Island Has the Fewest Farms of Any State in U.S.

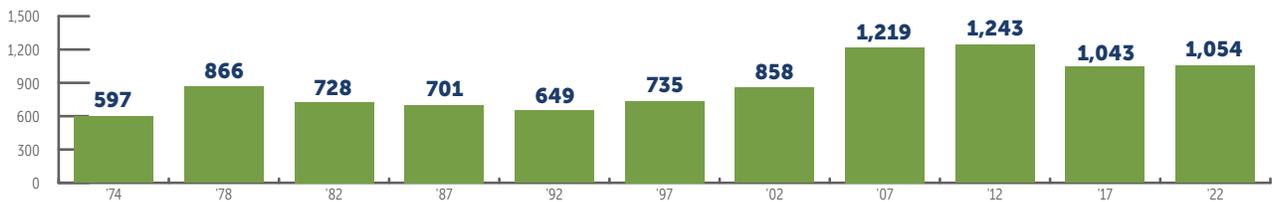
 **50<sup>th</sup>**

Due to land constraints, Rhode Island has the fewest farms of any state in the country, equal to 0.055% of all farms. The Census of Agriculture actually provides confusing results on the number of farms in Rhode Island over the past 48 years. It is unclear why the year-to-year changes are so abrupt, but methodological challenges are assumed (i.e., nonresponse rate, sample size, what gets classified as a farm). Over 1,000 farms have been counted in Rhode Island since 2007.

Rank	State	Farms	Rank	State	Farms	Rank	State	Farms
1	TX	230,662	18	NC	42,817	35	NM	20,976
2	MO	87,887	19	GA	39,264	36	UT	17,386
3	IA	86,911	20	VA	38,995	37	AR	16,710
4	OH	76,009	21	AR	37,756	38	MD	12,550
5	IL	71,123	22	AL	37,362	39	WY	10,544
6	OK	70,378	23	CO	36,056	40	NJ	9,998
7	KY	69,425	24	OR	35,547	41	MA	7,083
8	MN	65,531	25	WA	32,076	42	ME	7,036
9	CA	63,134	26	MS	31,290	43	HI	6,569
10	TN	63,105	27	NY	30,650	44	VT	6,537
11	WI	58,521	28	SD	28,299	45	CT	5,058
12	KS	55,734	29	ND	25,068	46	NH	3,949
13	IN	53,599	30	LA	25,006	47	NV	3,122
14	PA	49,053	31	MT	24,266	48	DE	2,158
15	MI	45,581	32	ID	22,877	49	AK	1,173
16	FL	44,703	33	WV	22,787	<b>50</b>	<b>RI</b>	<b>1,054</b>
17	NE	44,479	34	SC	22,633			

Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Table 8. Farms, Land in Farms, Value of Land and Buildings, and Land Use](#).

### Number of Farms in Rhode Island, 1974-2022



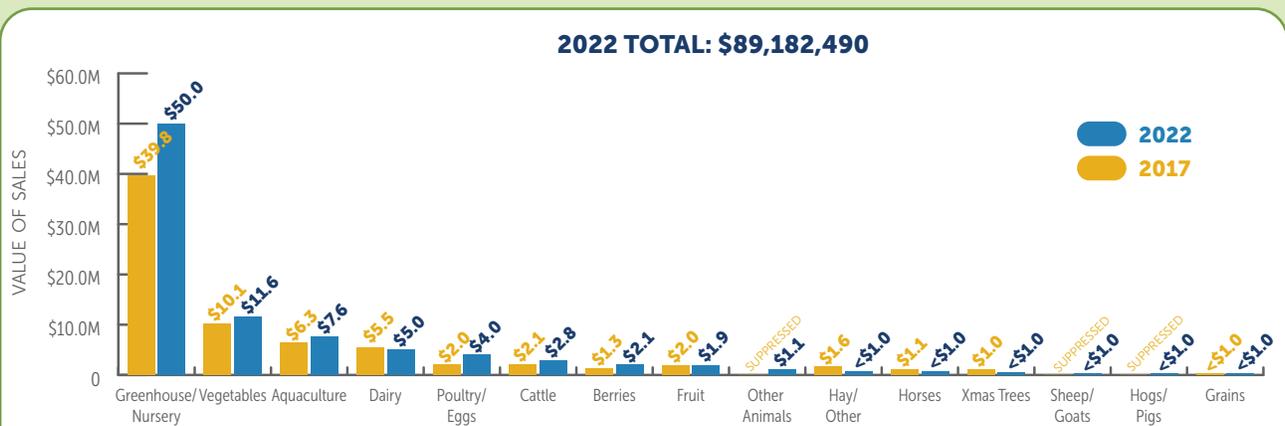
Source: [USDA Census of Agriculture](#), multiple years. Since 1974, the USDA has defined a farm as any place that produces or sells at least \$1,000 worth of agricultural products a year.

# Agricultural Sales

## Agricultural Sales Increased from 2017 to 2022

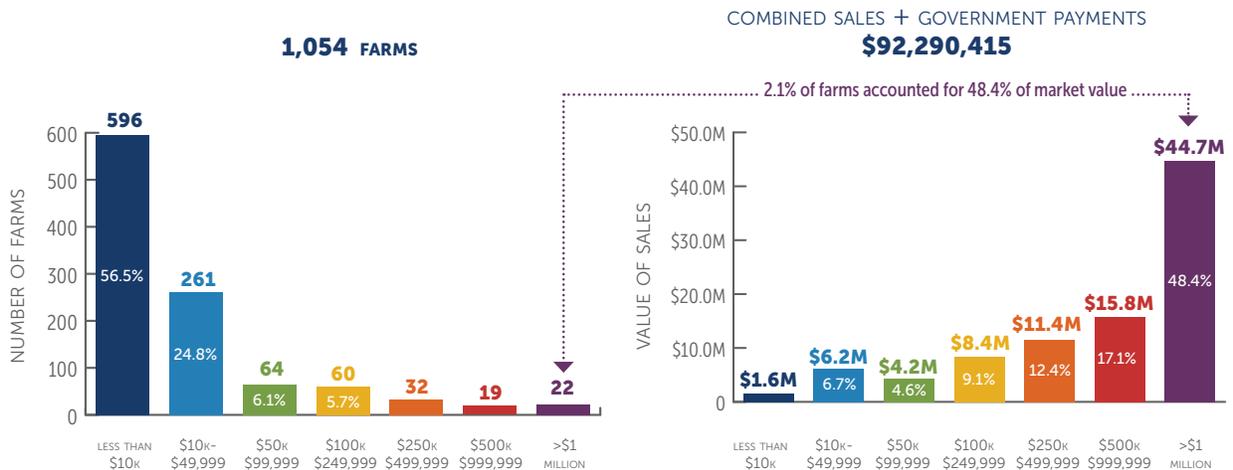
**22%**

Agricultural sales in Rhode Island increased 21.6%, from \$73.3 million in 2017 to \$89.2 million in 2022. **Rhode Island agriculture is heavily invested in inedible products.** Greenhouses/nurseries/floriculture accounted for 21.9% of farms and 57.1% of sales in 2022, and most of the sales increase from 2017 to 2022 was due to greenhouse/nursery/floriculture sales. Small farms make up the majority of farms but they have comparatively limited sales. A small number of large farms—selling mostly nursery/greenhouse/floriculture products—generate the majority of sales.



**Source:** USDA 2017 and 2022 [Census of Agriculture](#). Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars with producer price indices. Note: the value of aquaculture sales estimated by the Census of Agriculture—\$7.6 million—is included here. Sales values for several livestock types were suppressed in 2017.

### A Small Number of Large Farms Account for Majority of Market Value, 2022



**Source:** USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Table 2: Market Value](#). Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars. Note: this figure includes USDA estimates of aquaculture sales and government payments since it was not possible to disaggregate this value from the data.

# Agricultural Sales

## Net Cash Farm Income Increased from 2017 to 2022

**116%**

The combination of agricultural sales, government payments, and income from farm-related sources equals the total market value of Rhode Island’s agricultural products. After production expenses are subtracted out, we can see that farmers received over \$14 million in net cash farm income in 2022, a *substantial* increase over 2017.

### Net Cash Farm Income, 2022

Sales	+	Govt. Payments	+	Income from Farm-Related Sources	=	Market Value	-	Production Expenses	=	Net Cash Farm Income
\$89,182,490		\$3,107,924		\$8,933,096		\$101,223,511		\$86,522,340		\$14,701,171

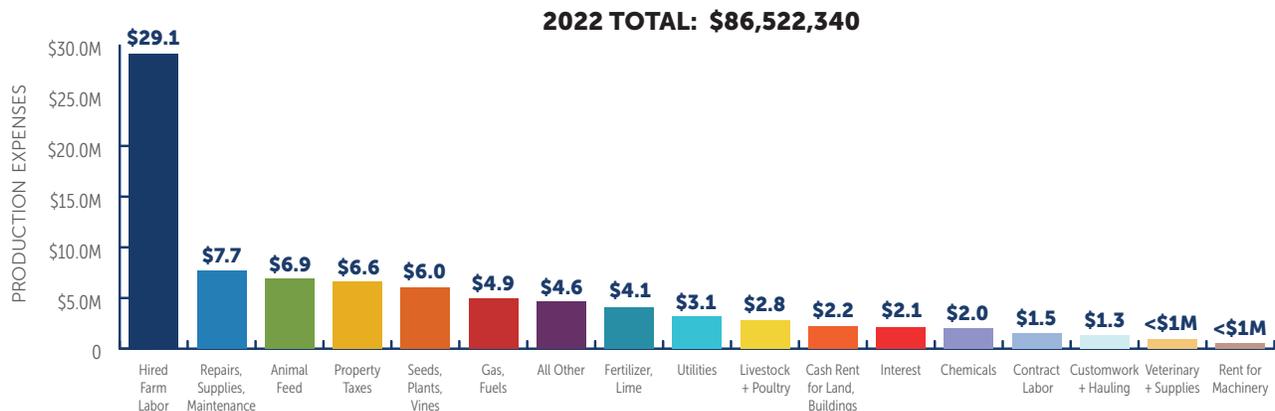
### Net Cash Farm Income, 2017

Sales	+	Govt. Payments	+	Income from Farm-Related Sources	=	Market Value	-	Production Expenses	=	Net Cash Farm Income
\$73,370,774		\$1,327,242		\$8,095,639		\$82,793,654		\$75,982,520		\$6,811,134

**Source:** USDA 2022 and 2017 Census of Agriculture, [Table 2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold](#); [Table 4. Farm Production Expenses](#); and [Table 7. Income from Farm-Related Sources](#). Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

**13.9%**

**Production Expenses Increased from 2017 to 2022:** Total production expenses increased 13.9% from 2017 to 2022. Hired farm labor accounted for 33.7% of production expenses.



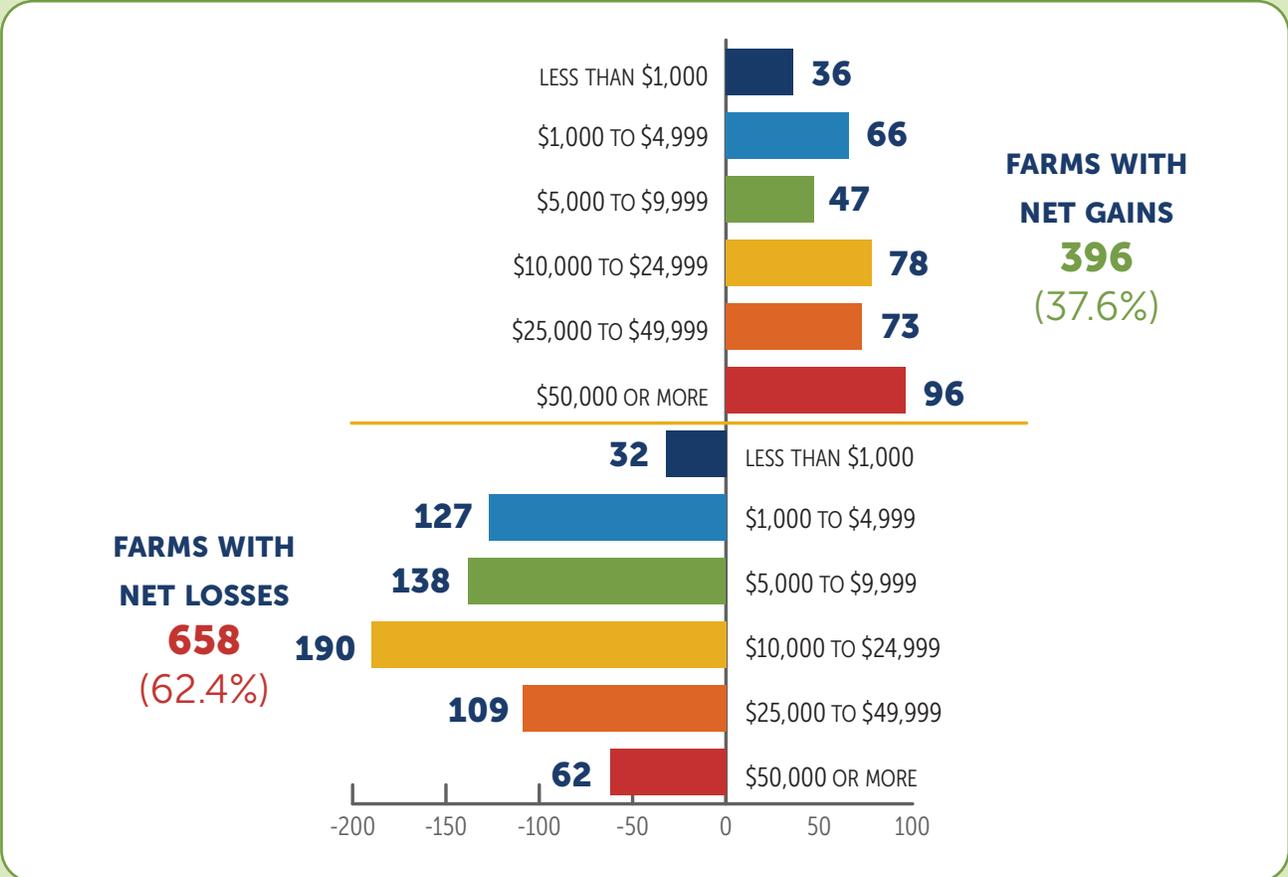
**Source:** USDA 2022 and 2017 Census of Agriculture, [Table 4. Farm Production Expenses](#). Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

# Agricultural Sales

## Farms With Gains Increased Slightly from 2017 to 2022

 **8.2%**

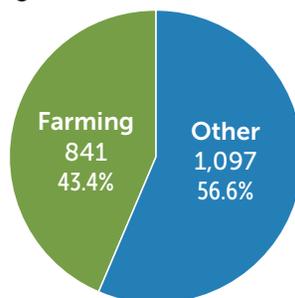
The number of farms with net gains (i.e., market value minus production expenses was positive) increased 8.2%, from 366 in 2017, to 396 in 2022. Nevertheless, the majority of farms in Rhode Island—62.4% in 2022—had net losses.



Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Table 5. Net Cash Farm Income](#).



**Majority of Farmers in Rhode Island Have a Primary Occupation Other Than Farming:** Nearly 57% of food producers in Rhode Island indicated that their primary occupation was something other than farming in 2022.



Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Table 52. Selected Producer Characteristics](#).

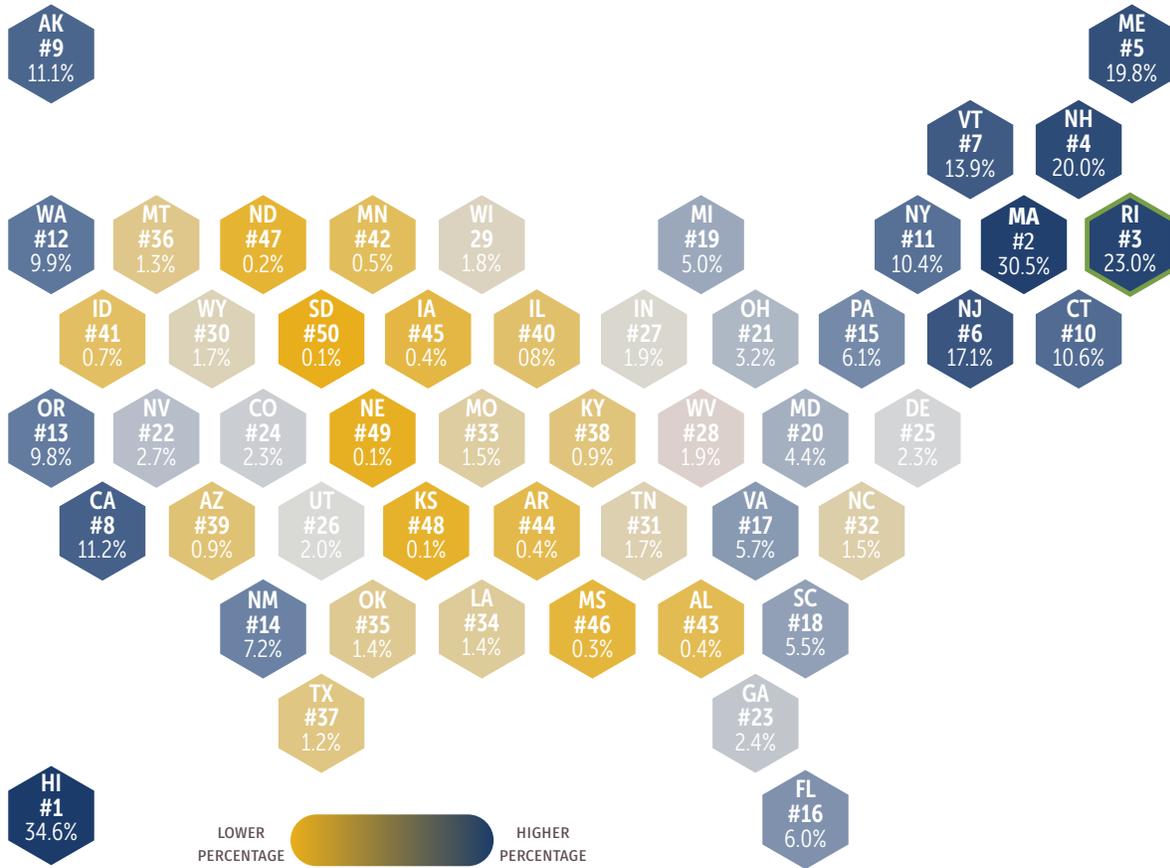
# Agricultural Sales



## Rhode Island Is a National Leader in Direct Sales



In 2022, Rhode Island farmers reported \$11.4 million in direct sales to consumers and about \$9.1 million in direct sales to retailers. **This is equal to \$20.5 million, or 23%, of total agricultural sales, the *third* highest percentage in the country.**



Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Table 2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold](#).

# Farmer Demographics

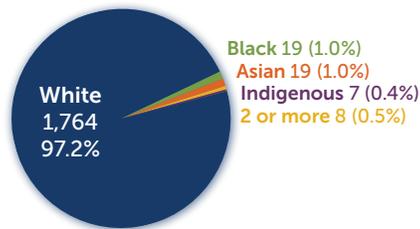
## RI Farmer Demographics are Mostly Unchanged



The Census of Agriculture recorded 1 non-White farmer in Rhode Island in **1992**. Thirty years later, the Census of Agriculture recorded 54 Black, Asian, Indigenous and biracial farmers, or 2.8% of all farmers, and 32 Hispanic/Latino farmers (1.7% of farmers).

### Rhode Island Farmers by Race, 2022

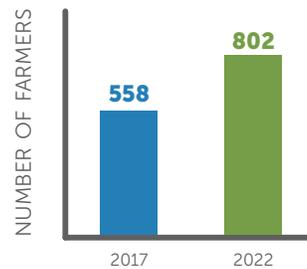
TOTAL: 1,938 PRODUCERS



Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Selected Producer Characteristics by Race](#).

### New and Beginning Producers, 2017-2022

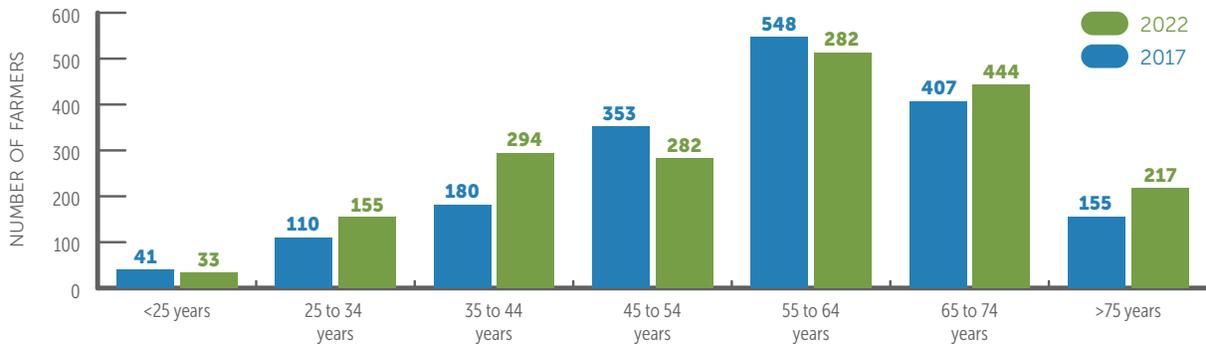
The number of new and beginning producers—with 10 or fewer years of experience—increased from 558 in 2017 to 802 in 2022



Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Table 70: New and Beginning Producers](#).

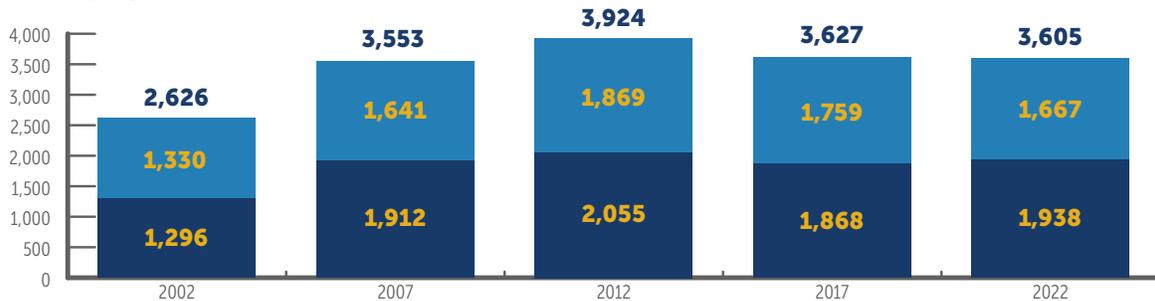
### Farmer Age Groups, 2002-2022

About 61% of Rhode Island farmers are over the age of 55. The average age of farmers was 56.9 in 2017 and 56.6 in 2022.



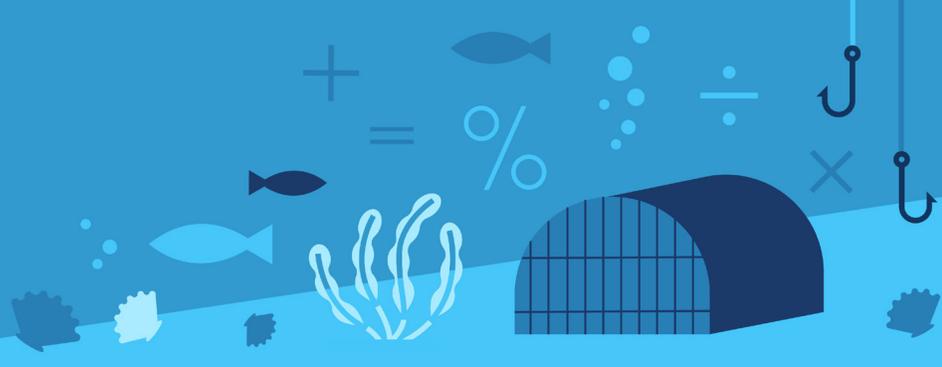
Source: USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture, [Table 52: Selected Producer Characteristics](#).

### Farm Employment, 2002-2022



Source: USDA [Census of Agriculture](#), multiple years.

# Commercial Fisheries & Aquaculture



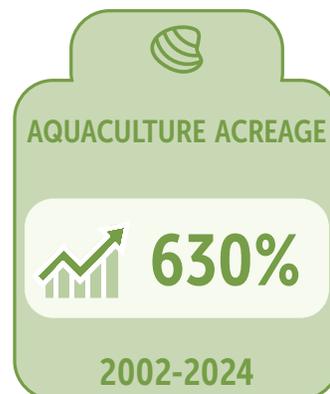
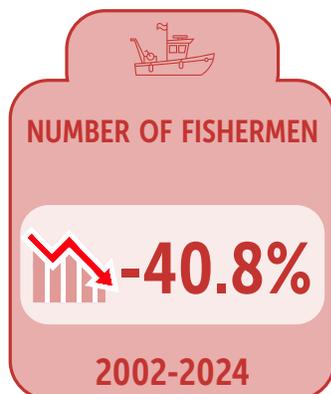
## What kinds of seafood products does Rhode Island catch and harvest? Are commercial fishing and aquaculture growing or contracting?

More than 100 species are caught or harvested by Rhode Island fishermen, but **19 species account for the majority of seafood pounds and sales.** Rhode Island has the second largest and most diversified fishing port in the region—Point Judith—supported by a state-owned port infrastructure that prioritizes the needs of the commercial fishing industry. However, local markets are lacking for many of these species, and currently most of Rhode Island’s catch is shipped overseas for processing, a situation that makes it difficult for local and New England consumers to access Rhode Island’s fresh local fish.

The long-term trends for commercial seafood landings and sales are down over 50% from 2000 to 2024. The number of fishermen contributing to the harvest of each species has also decreased from 2019 to 2024.

Acres devoted to aquaculture and aquaculture sales continue to incrementally grow from 2023 to 2024.

### KEY INDICATORS

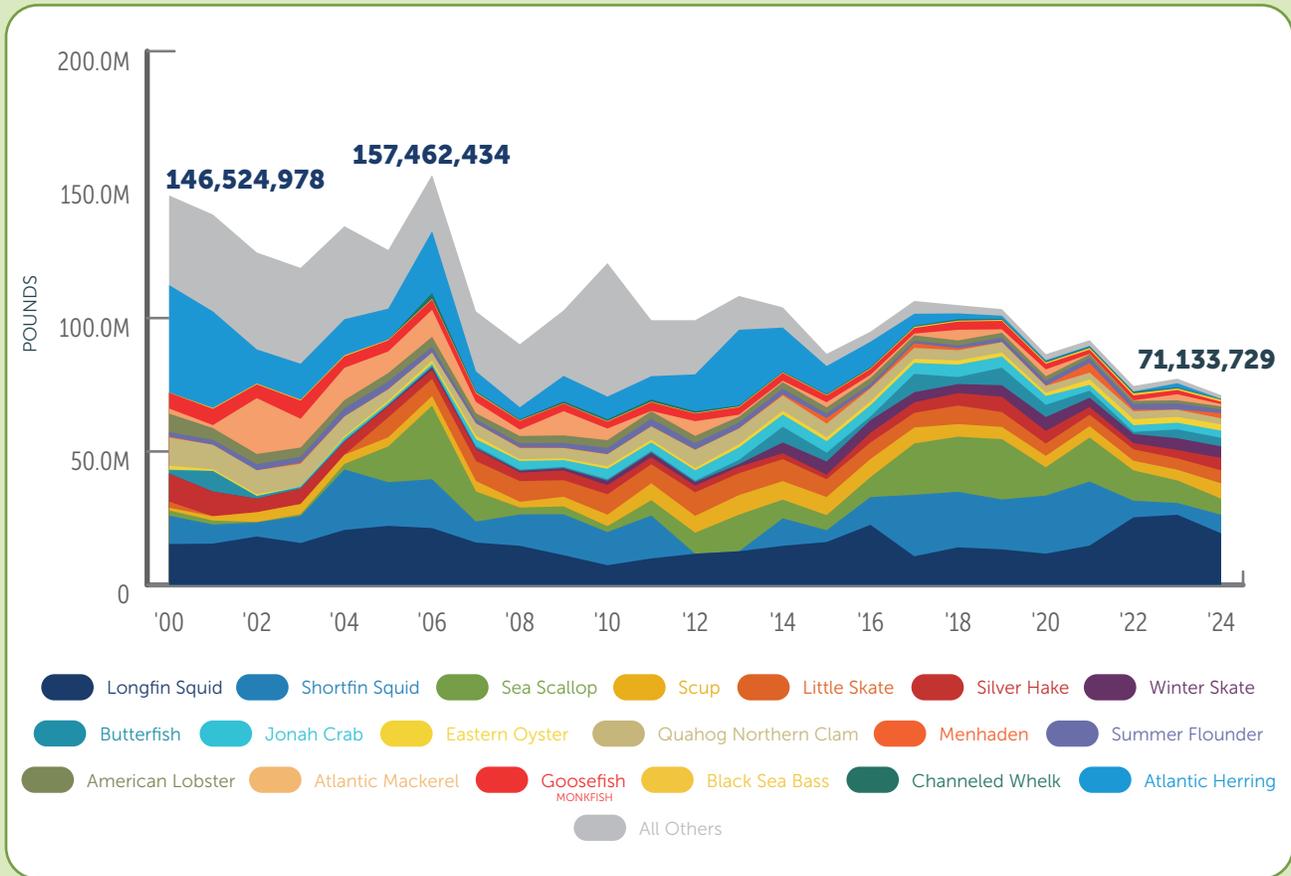


# Commercial Seafood

## Commercial Seafood Landings are Down Over 51% in Past 25 Years

 **-51.5%**

Total pounds of seafood landed by commercial Rhode Island fishermen decreased by **51.5%** from 2000 (≈147 million pounds) to 2024 (≈71 million pounds), although seafood landings have been relatively consistent over the past 14 years. Together, longfin and shortfin squid and sea scallop accounted for 45.4% of pounds landed in 2024.



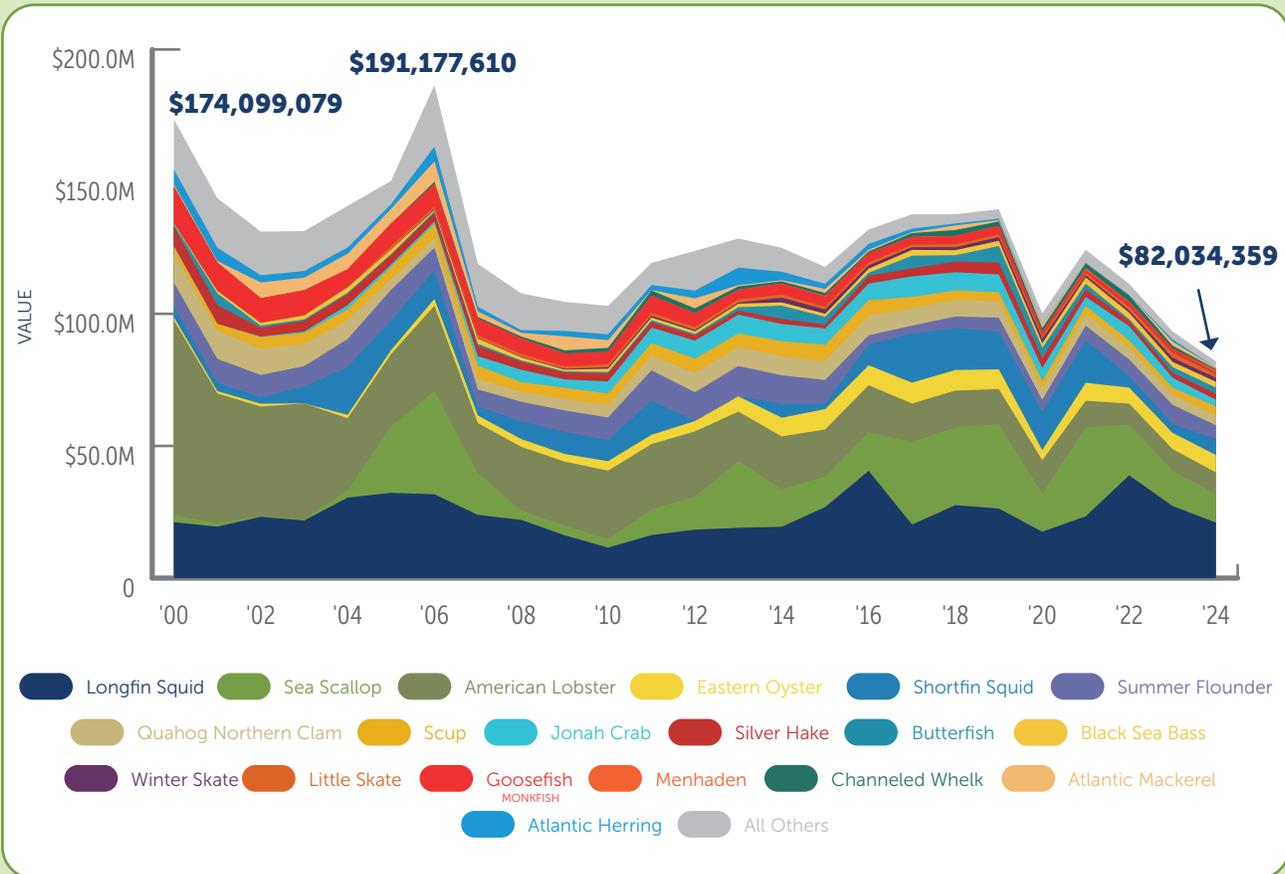
**Source:** Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. Note: Live pounds are used here to emphasize that shell waste needs to be addressed.

# Commercial Seafood

## The Value of Commercial Seafood Landings are Down 52.9% Since '00

 **-52.9%**

The total value of commercial seafood landings decreased **52.9%** from 2000 to 2024. Except for a spike in 2006 and a valley in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the total value of seafood landed by Rhode Island fishers has been relatively consistent from 2007 to 2021 at over \$100 million. Post-COVID sales have dipped below \$100 million. Longfin squid (25.1%), sea scallop (13.0%), and American lobster (11.0%) accounted for 49.1% of landings value in 2024.



Source: Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

# Number of Fishermen



## Number of Fishermen Contributing to Harvest Continues to Slide



The number of fishermen contributing to the harvest of Rhode Island's top 15 species (by weight) has decreased from 2019 to 2024. Quahogs (442), Black sea bass (484), summer flounder (384), and scup (384) have the most fishermen that harvest them. Sea scallop (-42.9%), goosefish (-29.7%) and winter skate (-27.4%) experienced the biggest percent decreases.

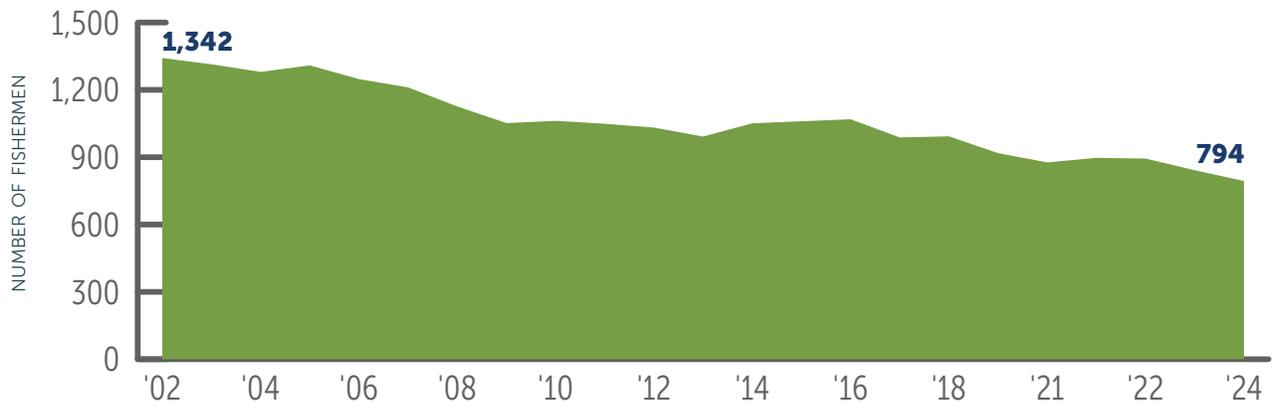
Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change
Quahog Northern Clam	548	501	517	514	582	442	-19.3%
Black Sea Bass	527	481	473	509	509	484	-8.2%
Summer Flounder	483	409	426	418	405	384	-20.5%
Scup	434	365	398	381	394	384	-11.5%
Longfin Squid	149	131	139	131	138	133	-10.7%
Butterfish	131	122	115	107	112	107	-14.5%
Goosefish	158	137	121	111	106	111	-29.7%
Silver Hake	120	116	98	86	101	109	-9.2%
American Lobster	133	130	121	102	97	104	-21.8%
Winter Skate	124	104	101	90	91	90	-27.4%
Jonah Crab	71	60	70	65	55	54	-23.9%
Sea Scallop	49	39	39	32	29	29	-42.9%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries, 2025, [Rhode Island Annual Fisheries Report: 2024](#).



### Estimates of commercial fishing employment show significant decrease:

The number of fishermen counted in official employment statistics has slid 40.8%, from 1,342 in 2022, to 794 in 2024.



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#); U.S. Census Bureau, [Nonemployer Statistics](#).

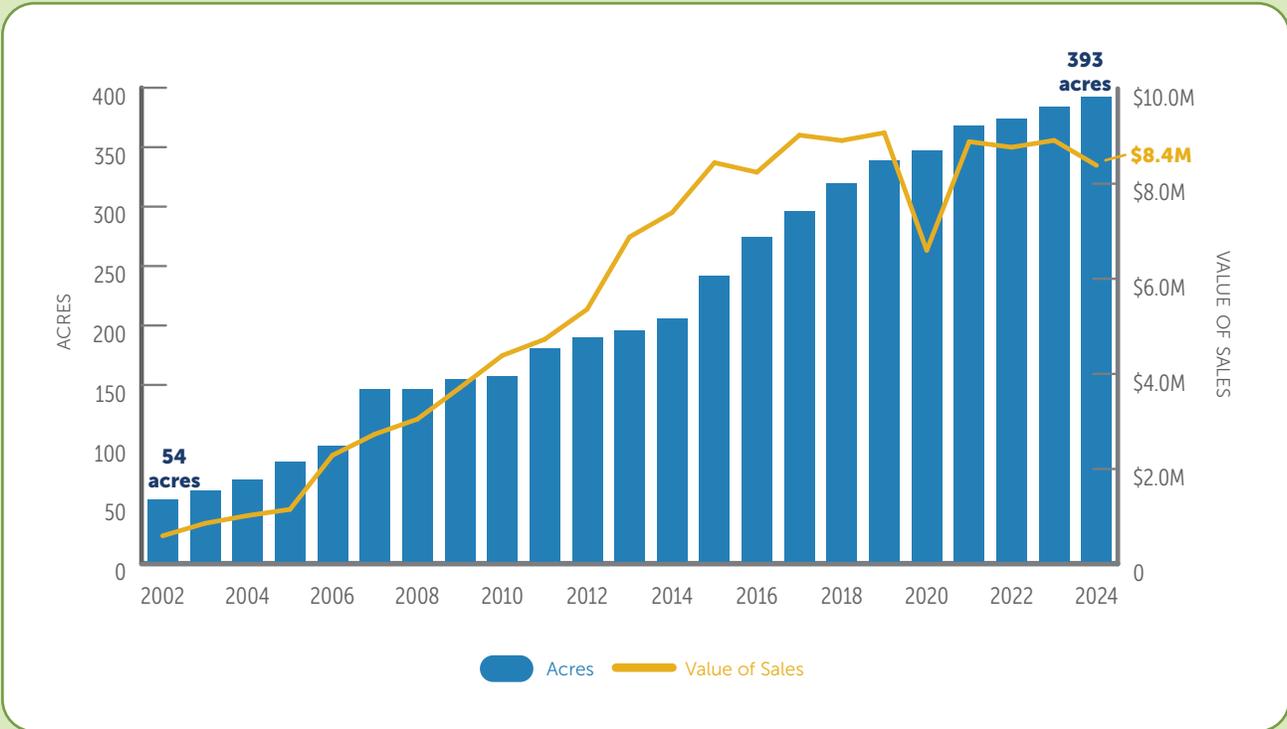
# Aquaculture

## Aquaculture Production Has Consistently Increased



**630%**

Eastern oysters, the most valuable seafood species coming out of Rhode Island waters, account for about 98% of all Rhode Island aquaculture production. Rhode Island has experienced a 630% growth in its aquaculture acreage over the past 20 years, from 54 acres in 2002, to 393 acres in 2024. Aquaculture sales were about \$594,000 in 2002 and about \$8.4 million in 2024. Sales dipped dramatically in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic since most Eastern oysters are served in restaurants. Sales subsequently rebounded to a little more than \$8 million from 2021 to 2024.



**Source:** Coastal Resources Management Council, [Aquaculture in Rhode Island 2024](#). Adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars.

# Climate Change

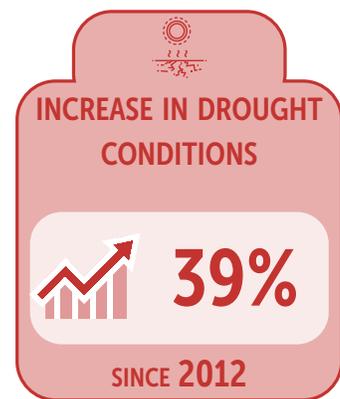
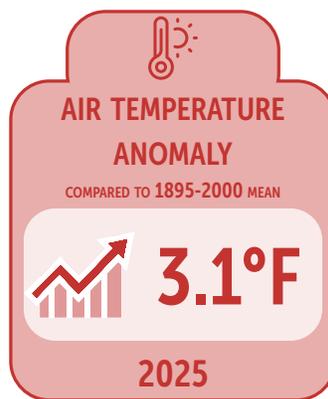
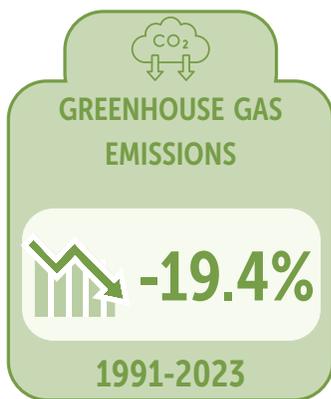


## How is climate change impacting Rhode Island's food system?

Global greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated, although U.S. emissions seemingly peaked in 2000. 2025 was the third warmest year on record and the past ten years—2015-2025—were the ten warmest on record. The use of fossil fuels is the major driver of greenhouse gas emissions, but food system activities like cultivating crops, raising livestock, and land use changes, are also major drivers of climate change. *And* food systems are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Less distinct seasons, milder winters, earlier spring conditions, and more unpredictable weather are expected to impact agricultural production in Rhode Island.

**Long term estimates suggest that the overall climate in Rhode Island will become wetter and warmer in coming decades.** The Atlantic Ocean supports tourism, recreation, and economic activities, including fisheries. Some evidence shows that **cold-water iconic fishery species like cod, winter flounder, hake, and lobster are migrating out of Rhode Island waters, while warm-water species like scup, butterfish, black sea bass, and winter squid are moving in.**

### KEY INDICATORS



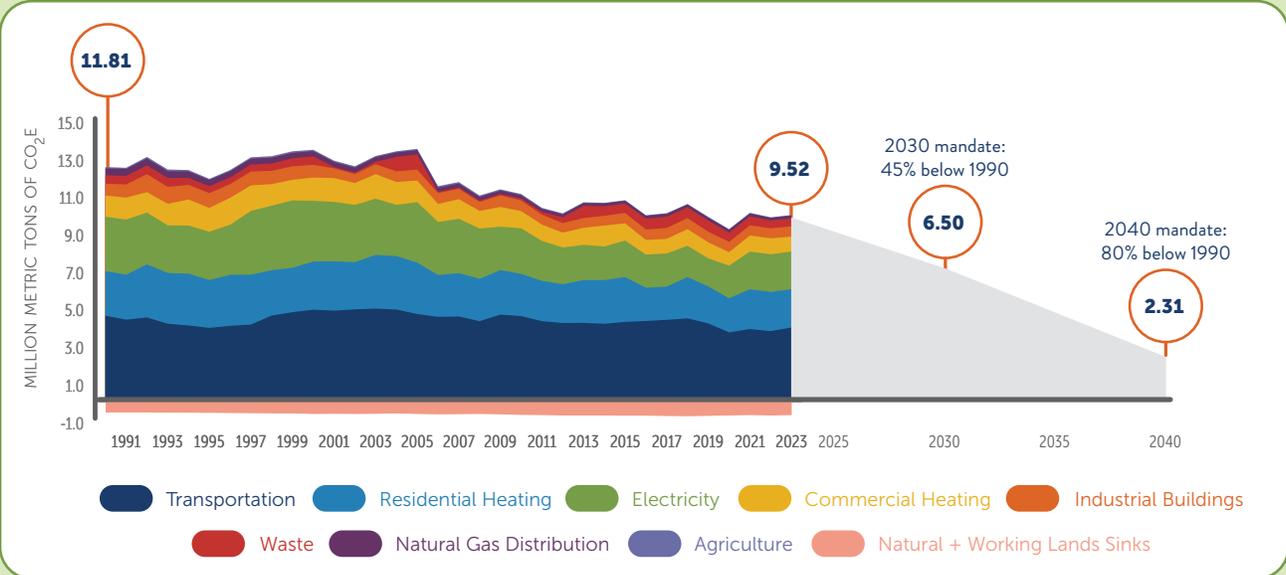
# GHG Emissions



## Rhode Island's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Continue to Decrease

**-19.4%**

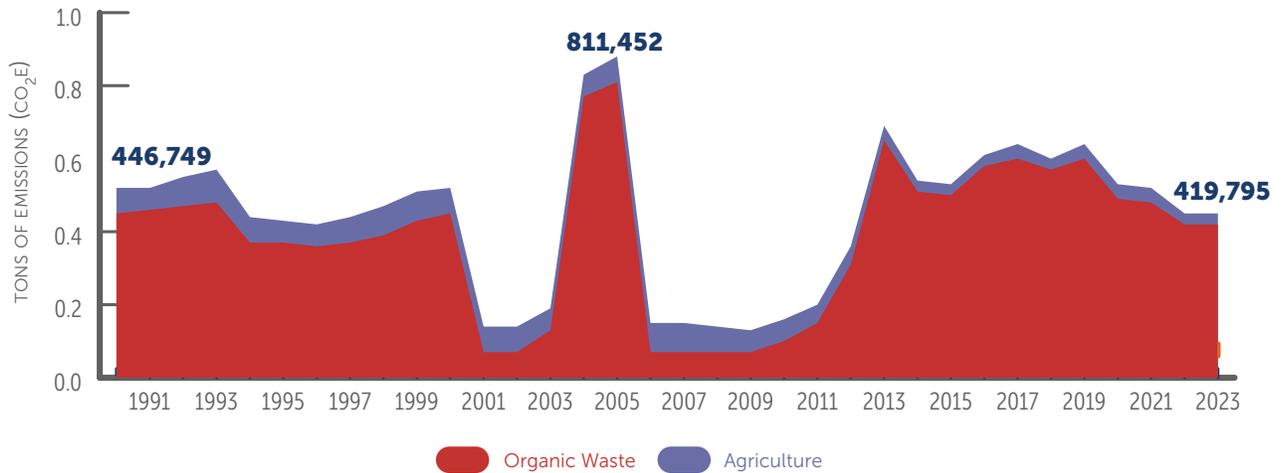
Net greenhouse gas emissions decreased **19.4%** from **11.81 MMCO<sub>2</sub>e** in 1990, to **9.52 MMCO<sub>2</sub>e** in 2023. Transportation continues to be the largest source of emissions in Rhode Island. Additional substantial decreases are required to meet 2030 and 2040 **mandates**.



**Source:** State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, [1990-2023 Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Emissions Inventory](#). Note: GHG emissions and sinks are recalculated by DEM each year based on the best available data.

**-6.0%**

**DEM Continues to Refine Food System GHG Emissions:** The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) revised previous estimates of waste sector emissions to include the Central Landfill and 53 closed landfills. Most landfill gas produced at the Central Landfill is captured to generate electricity. Agricultural emissions are based on the CO<sub>2</sub> flux of woody crops, soil cultivation, and livestock emissions.



**Source:** State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, [1990-2023 Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Emissions Inventory](#).

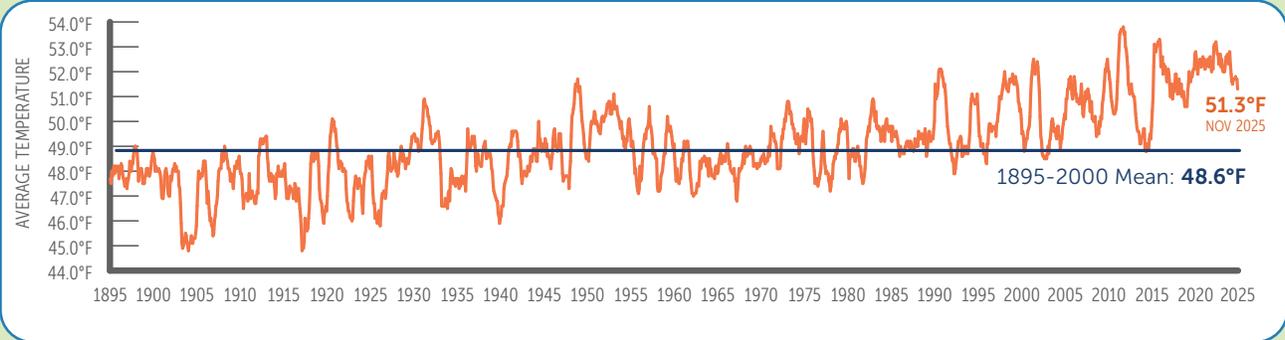
# Air Temperature



## Air Temperatures Continue to Rise



The average temperature in Rhode Island from January to November 2025, **51.7°F**, was **3.1°F higher** than the average temperature during the previous century. For the past twenty years, temperatures in every Rhode Island county have regularly been 3-4°F above the twentieth century average.



Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, [Climate at a Glance Statewide Time Series](#).

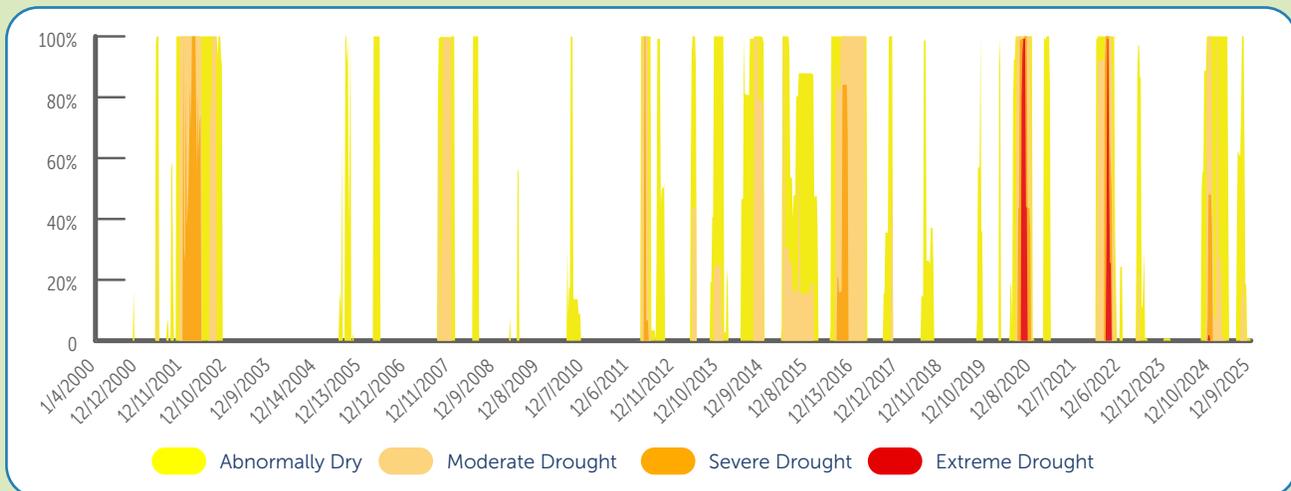
# Drought Conditions



## Abnormally Dry Days Appear to be Increasing in Rhode Island



Rhode Island has experienced 38.8% more **abnormally dry day measurements** after 2012 (280 out of 722 measurements) than it did from 2000 to 2011 (106 out of 626 measurements). This includes an extreme drought in 2020 and 2022. Drought in 2022 harmed the yield and quality of crop production, leading to a **USDA natural disaster declaration** for the entire state.



Source: U.S. Drought Monitor, [State Time Series](#).

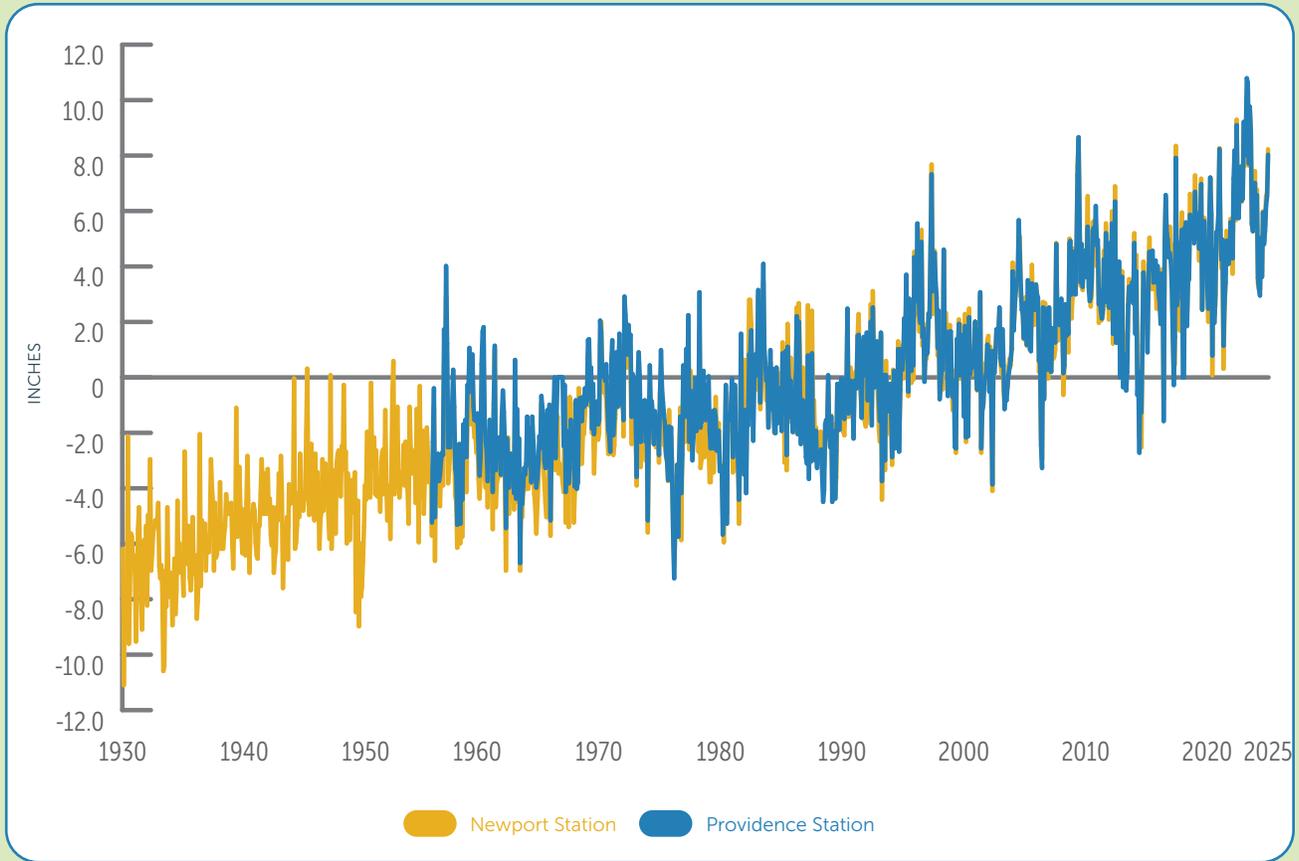
# Sea Level Rise



## Mean Sea Level is Up Over 1 Foot in Past 100 Years



The mean sea level (MSL) at **Newport** rose by over 1 foot over the past 100 years, while MSL in Providence increased by over 11 inches from 1957 to 2025. Subsiding land and ice melt in Greenland mean that sea levels are **rising faster on the East Coast** than many other places. Rhode Island’s many flood plains and coastal areas are likely to face saltwater intrusion into freshwater bodies and damage to infrastructure.



**Source:** NOAA [Tides & Currents](#). Note: negative values mean the land was rising more quickly than the ocean was rising.

# Climate Disasters

## Intensity and Frequency of Significant Climate Disasters Has Increased

 **33**

The intensity and frequency of significant climate disasters has increased globally, nationally, and in Rhode Island. While winter storms have been the most common type of billion-dollar disaster in Rhode Island, hurricanes are the costliest type of disaster. In the 29 years from 1980 to 2009, Rhode Island experienced 3 hurricanes. In the 13 years between 2010 and 2024 the state has experienced 5 hurricanes.

**1980-1989**



**1990-1999**



**2000-2009**



**2010-2019**



**Last 5 Years  
2020-2024**



**Last 3 Years  
2022-2024**



**Last Year  
2024**



**1980-2024**

EVENTS  
**33**

COST  
**\$2.0-\$5.0 billion**

COSTLIEST DISASTER TYPE  
HURRICANES  
 **45.6%**  
OF TOTAL COSTS

**Source:** NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, [U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters](#). Note: this resource was shuttered by the Trump Administration. [Climate Central](#) has subsequently recreated this dataset and website, but state-level 2025 data was not available at Factbook publication date.

# Municipal Data



## Where can community leaders find food system information about their community?

RIFPC has prepared local food system fact sheets for every city and town in the state, providing municipal leaders with recent and relevant indicators. The data can be a useful guide for community conversations on areas in need of additional support and investment.

## Municipal Fact Sheets



### Food System Economy

**Build the Food System Economy:** The food economy encompasses a broad range of industries and sectors involved in the multi-step process of producing, processing, distributing, and selling food. The data presented here can help municipalities understand the current impacts, future opportunities, and potential challenges to growing the community's food economy.



### Land Use & Sustainability

**Plan a Sustainable Municipality:** More than any other level of government, municipalities maintain wide control of their land use and its related sustainability impacts. The data presented under Land Use & Sustainability may be used to understand how land is currently being used and to create alternative plans that account for the need to have a sustainable and resilient local food system.



### Food Access & Security

**Improve Food Access & Security:** Providers of free and low cost food options interface with the community in different ways to meet people where they are. The data in Food Access & Security can help municipalities identify how the extent to which current community members are able to access these critical resources and evaluate how to maximize the impacts of these different food assistance programs.

## RESOURCES

[Municipal Fact Sheets](#)

[Planning Accessible, Equitable, and Resilient Municipal Food Systems](#)

[Data Dashboard](#)

### EXAMPLE: PROVIDENCE

	City	State
Restaurants	1,212	5,461
Farmers Markets	8	26
Food Markets	297	1,302
Food Processors	96	703
Food Distributors	19	152
Annual Municipal Fee to Landfill Residential Food Waste	\$1,124,736	\$3,835,384

	City	State
Aquaculture Farms	0	83
Commercial Fishermen	23	2,416
Farms	49	1,274
Urban Farms	12	33
Annual Tons of Residential Food Waste	19,995	68,185
Food Waste Recycling Facilities	1	6
Public School District Expenditures on Locally Grown Produce	\$418,808	\$1,201,611

	City	State
Congregate Meal Sites	38	214
Food Pantries	68	118
Meals on Wheels Home Delivery Recipients	754	3,042
SNAP Participants	55,435	143,023
Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Meals	29,665	117,779
WIC Participants	8,910	19,297

## FOOD ECONOMY INDICATORS

City/Town	Restaurants	Farmers Markets	Food Markets	Food Processors	Food Distributors	Annual Muni. Fee to Landfill Residential Food Waste
Barrington	42	0	6	8	0	\$66,176
Bristol	100	1	23	14	3	\$72,310
Burrillville	55	1	7	10	0	\$56,897
Central Falls	87	1	25	8	1	\$69,389
Charlestown	45	0	13	4	5	\$8,251
Coventry	82	1	28	12	0	\$126,363
Cranston	398	1	86	37	15	\$294,707
Cumberland	95	0	27	12	1	\$129,837
East Greenwich	113	1	17	14	1	\$48,399
East Providence	197	2	50	14	3	\$164,498
Exeter	27	0	2	6	0	\$15,227
Foster	14	0	10	3	1	\$21,246
Glocester	28	0	6	12	0	\$32,290
Hopkinton	30	0	10	4	0	\$16,837*
Jamestown	29	0	9	6	2	\$24,331
Johnston	143	0	39	21	2	\$199,340
Lincoln	92	0	14	15	3	\$84,565
Little Compton	17	0	6	7	3	\$18,106
Middletown	144	1	19	19	4	\$30,924
Narragansett	110	0	17	21	14	\$61,484
New Shoreham	73	0	10	7	4	\$1,986
Newport	229	2	23	12	0	\$65,365
North Kingstown	119	0	24	20	13	\$65,291
North Providence	125	2	33	12	1	\$123,427
North Smithfield	46	0	13	6	6	\$42,689
Pawtucket	293	1	89	40	5	\$301,962
Providence	1,212	8	297	96	19	\$1,124,736
Portsmouth	54	0	15	5	4	\$15,458
Richmond	43	0	12	3	0	\$16,837**
Scituate	21	1	6	3	0	\$44,784
Smithfield	123	0	23	9	2	\$108,998
South Kingstown	180	0	44	11	2	\$63,993
Tiverton	59	0	22	17	3	
Warren	110	0	56	81	3	\$42,716
Warwick	399	1	86	33	17	\$418,720
West Greenwich	30	0	7	1	1	\$13,478
West Warwick	110	1	27	13	2	\$114,563
Westerly	186	0	41	15	4	\$109,404
Woonsocket	169	1	57	22	4	\$109,188
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,461</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>\$3,835,384</b>

\* Represents data for the entire Chariho school district.

\*\* Represents combined number for Richmond-Hopkinton.

## LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

City/Town	Aquaculture Farms	Commercial Fishermen	Farms	Urban Farms	Annual Tons of Residential Food Waste	Food Waste Recycling Facilities	Total Spent on Locally Grown Produce
Barrington	0	36	4	0	1,176	0	\$19,170
Bristol	0	156	25	0	1,286	0	\$18,903
Burrillville	0	0	18	0	1,011	0	\$20,705
Central Falls	0	0	0	0	1,234	0	\$53,346
Charlestown	24	151	35	0	147	1	\$16,534
Coventry	0	67	30	0	2,246	0	\$37,252
Cranston	0	45	54	15	5,239	0	\$77,421
Cumberland	0	13	41	0	2,380	0	\$40,966
East Greenwich	0	14	18	0	860	0	\$17,949
East Providence	0	9	2	0	2,924	0	\$19,083
Exeter	0	47	48	0	271	0	\$14,020
Foster	0	20	62	0	378	0	\$23,545*
Glocester	0	2	7	0	574	0	\$23,545*
Hopkinton	0	3	5	0	299**	0	\$16,534***
Jamestown	7	40	19	0	433	0	\$4,350
Johnston	0	21	33	0	3,544	1	\$24,388
Lincoln	0	9	11	0	1,503	0	\$45,183
Little Compton	1	58	60	0	322	0	\$1,636
Middletown	2	39	30	0	550	0	\$26,257
Narragansett	15	148	6	0	1,093	0	\$8,982
New Shoreham	9	0	0	0	35	2	\$1,589
Newport	0	43	16	0	1,162	0	\$8,929
North Kingstown	12	17	36	0	1,161	0	\$22,221
North Providence	0	4	2	0	2,194	0	\$12,655
North Smithfield	0	2	16	0	384	0	\$13,055
Pawtucket	0	9	6	1	5,368	0	\$14,698
Providence	0	23	49	12	19,995	1	\$418,808
Portsmouth	11	72	44	0	275	0	\$20,357
Richmond	0	23	19	0	299**	1	\$16,534***
Scituate	0	7	17	0	796	0	\$8,120
Smithfield	0	8	18	0	1,938	0	\$39,911
South Kingstown	3	9	19	0	1,138	0	\$4,714
Tiverton	1	103	95	0	690	0	\$6,839
Warren	0	66	21	0	759	0	\$18,903
Warwick	1	300	25	4	7,444	0	\$90,559
West Greenwich	0	6	11	0	240	0	\$14,020
West Warwick	0	8	1	0	2,037	0	\$54,626
Westerly	3	57	21	0	1,945	0	\$18,536
Woonsocket	0	8	3	0	1,941	0	\$95,723
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2,416</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>68,185</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$1,201,611</b>

\* Represents data for the entire Foster-Glocester school district.

\*\*\* Represents data for entire Chariho school district.

\*\* Represents combined number for Richmond-Hopkinton.

## FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY INDICATORS

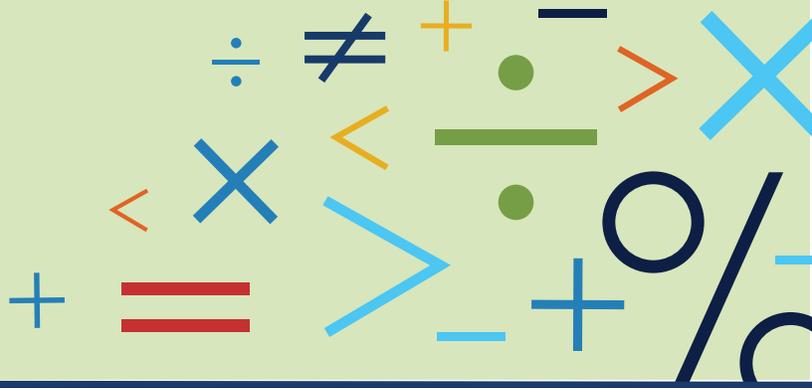
City/Town	Congregate Meal Sites	Food Pantries	Meals on Wheels Home Delivery Recipients	SNAP Participants	Students Enrolled in Free or Reduced Meals	WIC Participants
Barrington	1	2	30	407	3,305	33
Bristol	2	3	53	1,157	2,763	105
Burrillville	5	7	1	1,273	2,028	90
Central Falls	5	7	65	5,577	2,714	1,118
Charlestown	0	2	17	433	3,028*	51
Coventry	2	4	100	2,859	4,156	208
Cranston	8	12	212	9,101	10,178	1,369
Cumberland	4	6	91	2,270	4,897	266
East Greenwich	4	5	32	704	2,511	38
East Providence	15	18	76	5,390	5,240	641
Exeter	1	1	9	378	1,562**	29
Foster	0	2	11	288	1,570***	28
Glocester	1	1	4	481	1,901***	37
Hopkinton	0	1	1	604	3,028*	141
Jamestown	3	3	12	151	406	7
Johnston	0	2	108	3,576	3,169	418
Lincoln	6	4	45	1,825	3,346	185
Little Compton	2	3	2	103	210	9
Middletown	2	2	33	1,127	1,942	167
Narragansett	0	1	36	593	1,061	38
New Shoreham	0	0	12	19	127	0
Newport	20	13	68	3,007	1,854	400
North Kingstown	2	4	61	1,942	3,776	123
North Providence	4	7	108	4,151	3,529	380
North Smithfield	0	0	32	737	1,652	103
Pawtucket	33	44	227	15,903	7,996	2,085
Providence	38	68	754	55,435	29,665	8,910
Portsmouth	2	2	40	749	2,161	81
Richmond	0	1	3	539	3,028*	12
Scituate	0	0	14	457	1,179	26
Smithfield	0	1	60	1,694	4,054	178
South Kingstown	3	5	9	1,351	2,334	119
Tiverton	2	4	59	1,090	1,540	95
Warren	4	5	31	1,026	2,763	101
Warwick	11	13	382	12,464	11,480	1,142
West Greenwich	1	1	9	274	1,562**	20
West Warwick	7	8	120	4,822	3,623	462
Westerly	4	5	53	1,934	2,205	168
Woonsocket	17	17	168	12,232	5,584	1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>143,023</b>	<b>117,779</b>	<b>19,297</b>

\* Represents data for the entire Chariho district.

\*\*\* Represents data for Glocester and Foster-Glocester.

\*\* Represents data for the entire Exeter-West Greenwich school district.

# Data Sources



Federal, state, and county data sources have been used throughout the Food System Factbook and Data Dashboard because they have historically been conveniently available, released at known times, and allow for comparability between locations. Unfortunately these sources do not tell the whole story. There is other information we would like to know about our food system that is simply not currently collected. Readers should also note that there is a time lag between data availability, so that the 2025 Factbook may be referencing data from 2022 or earlier. Dollar values were adjusted for inflation to 2025 dollars, which does not allow for comparison back to previous Factbooks.

Data Sources	Latest Available Year	Purpose
<b>Food System Economy</b>		
U.S. Census Bureau: <a href="#">American Community Survey</a>	<b>2024</b> Conducted every year	The American Community Survey (ACS) collects detailed social, economic, housing, and demographic information. <i>Key data: population, median household income, population below poverty level, population receiving SNAP benefits.</i>
U.S. Census Bureau: <a href="#">Economic Census</a>	<b>2022</b> Conducted every 5 years	The Economic Census is the official five-year measure of American businesses, providing comprehensive statistics at the national, state, and county levels. <i>Key data: food system employment, establishments, sales.</i>
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <a href="#">Quarterly Covered Employment and Wages</a>	<b>2025</b> Published monthly/annually	This is a federal/state cooperative program that publishes monthly employment and quarterly wage data. <i>Key data: food system employment, establishments, sales.</i>
U.S. Census Bureau: <a href="#">Nonemployer Statistics</a>	<b>2023</b> Published annually	This is an annual series that provides national, state, and county data for businesses that have no paid employees. <i>Key data: food system employment, establishments, sales.</i>
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <a href="#">Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics</a>	<b>2024</b> Published annually	This program generates employment and wage estimates for about 830 occupations for the country, states, and metropolitan areas. <i>Key data: median hourly wages.</i>
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <a href="#">Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey</a>	<b>2024</b> Published annually	This national data summarizes the number of people employed by occupation, sex, race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. <i>Key data: occupational segregation.</i>
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED): <a href="#">Total Unemployed, Plus All Marginally Attached Workers</a>	<b>2024</b> Published quarterly/annually	This measure of unemployment includes underemployed workers stuck in part-time work and discouraged workers who have temporarily stopped looking for work. <i>Key data: unemployment.</i>

Data Sources	Latest Available Year	Purpose
<b>Food System Economy</b>		
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED): <a href="#">Consumer Price Index, Items in the Northeast</a>	<b>2025</b> Published annually	This source provides CPI estimates for consumers in the Northeast (including Rhode Island) for a variety of products and services. <i>Key data: CPI Index for food, medical care, transportation, housing.</i>
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index: <a href="#">Average Price Data</a>	<b>2025</b> Published monthly/annually	This source provides average price estimates for a variety of food products in the Northeast. <i>Key data: price of milk, eggs, ground beef, bread. Note that a federal shutdown in 2025 means that some data will be missing in the next Factbook update.</i>
USDA: <a href="#">State-Level Food Expenditures</a> , State Food Sales Per Capita, Without Taxes and Tips	<b>2024</b> Published annually	This data source provides estimates of spending for food at home and food away from home for every state. <i>Key data: state-level food expenditures.</i>
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <a href="#">Consumer Expenditure Survey</a>	<b>2024</b> Published annually	The Consumer Expenditure Survey provides data on expenditures and income by certain demographic characteristics. <i>Key data: food expenditures.</i>
Grocery Gap Analysis: <a href="#">State Report: Rhode Island</a>	<b>2023</b> Publication schedule unclear	This resource estimates the market share of grocery stores in a location. <i>Key data: estimated percent of grocery sales.</i>
Rhode Island Secretary of State: <a href="#">Corporate Database</a>	Current year	This is a searchable database of businesses incorporated in Rhode Island. <i>Key data: name and number of active businesses.</i>
<b>Food Access &amp; Security</b>		
U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service: <a href="#">Household Food Insecurity in the United States</a>	Discontinued by Trump Administration in 2025	USDA ERS provided the nation's official <a href="#">estimates of food insecurity</a> but this series has now been discontinued. <i>Key data: percent food insecure.</i>
<a href="#">Feeding America</a>	<b>2023</b> Publication schedule unclear	Feeding America generates estimates based on the American Community Survey. Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap estimates may be our only source of national food insecurity estimates for the foreseeable future. <i>Key data: food insecurity by county, money necessary to meet food needs.</i>
<a href="#">Rhode Island Community Food Bank</a>	<b>2025</b> Published annually	The RICFB highlights important food access trends. <i>Key data: number of people served by the charitable food system.</i>
<a href="#">RI Life Index</a>	<b>2025</b> Published annually	The RI Life Index is an annual survey of over 2,000 Rhode Islanders that asks two food security questions. <i>Key data: access to nutritious food and food security.</i>
U.S. Census Bureau: <a href="#">Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates</a> (via FRED)	<b>2024</b> Published annually	This program produces single-year estimates of income and poverty for all states and counties. <i>Key data: people in poverty.</i>
KFF: <a href="#">Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</a>	<b>2024</b> Published annually	This resource summarizes national and state level SNAP data from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. <i>Key data: SNAP participation and benefits.</i>

Data Sources	Latest Available Year	Purpose
<b>Food Access &amp; Security</b>		
USDA: <a href="#">Food Access Research Atlas</a>	<b>2019</b> Publication schedule unclear	The Food Access Research Atlas visualizes communities that have low incomes and low access to grocery stores at the census tract level. <i>Key data: low income-low access census tracts.</i>
Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation: <a href="#">2024 Municipal Summary (Detailed)</a>	<b>2024</b> Published annually	This resource estimates the amount of municipal solid waste landfilled, recycled or composted in Rhode Island. <i>Key data: tons of landfilled, recycled, or composted waste.</i>
ReFED <a href="#">Insights Engine</a>	<b>2024</b> Published annually	This resource estimates the amount of food that goes uneaten for each state. <i>Key data: surplus food tons by destination, food type, causes, and sectors.</i>
<b>Agriculture and Land Use</b>		
U.S. Department of Agriculture: <a href="#">Census of Agriculture</a>	<b>2022</b> Conducted every 5 years	This is a “complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them.” <i>Key data: number of farms, land in agriculture, crop and livestock data, farmer demographics, economic data.</i>
U.S. Department of Agriculture: <a href="#">National Agricultural Statistics Service New England Field Office</a>	<b>2023</b> Publication schedule unclear	Historically, the USDA New England Field Office produced <a href="#">Annual Statistical Bulletins</a> that helped fill in the gap between Census years. The last edition was published in 2023 and it is not clear how staff cuts will impact future bulletins.
U.S. Department of Agriculture: <a href="#">Major Land Uses</a>	<b>2017</b> Publication schedule unclear	This is the longest running, most comprehensive accounting of all major uses of land in the U.S. <i>Key data: acres in cropland, grassland pasture and range, forest-used land grazed, and miscellaneous farmland.</i>
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service: <a href="#">Land Values 2025 Summary</a> .	<b>2025</b> Published annually	The USDA estimates the farm real estate value for every state on an annual basis. <i>Key data: farm real estate value by acre.</i>
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture & Resource Marketing, <a href="#">Purchase of Development Rights</a> .	<b>2024</b> Updated annually	This program itemizes farm properties in Rhode Island where development rights have been purchased. <i>Key data: farms with development rights purchased, funding required to purchase development rights.</i>
USDA Rural Development, <a href="#">Rural Investments by State/County</a> .	<b>2025</b> Updated annually	This program itemizes USDA Rural Development investments in every state and county in the country. <i>Key data: USDA Business Program investments.</i>

Data Sources	Latest Available Year	Purpose
<b>Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>		
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <a href="#">Commercial Fisheries Landings (Fisheries One Stop Shop)</a>	2024 Published annually	This is a federal/state cooperative program that collects species, pounds, and sales values of fish and shellfish that are landed in the U.S. <i>Key data: pounds and sales values for fish and shellfish landed in Rhode Island.</i>
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program: <a href="#">Data Warehouse</a>	2024 Published annually	This is a database of Atlantic coastal fishery data that collects species, pounds, and sales values of fish and shellfish. <i>Key data: pounds and sales values for fish and shellfish landed in Rhode Island.</i>
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries: <a href="#">Rhode Island Annual Fisheries Report: 2024</a>	2024 Published annually	This reports summarizes many Rhode Island fisheries trends. <i>Key data: number of fishermen contributing to harvest by species.</i>
RI Coastal Resources Management Council: <a href="#">Aquaculture Annual Reports</a>	2024 Published annually	This annual report quantifies growth in Rhode Island's aquaculture industry. <i>Key data: number of sites, acres under cultivation, sales values.</i>
<b>Climate Change</b>		
State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management: <a href="#">1990-2023 Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory</a>	2023 Published annually	This is the official inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in Rhode Island and is revised annually. <i>Key data: GHG emissions by sector.</i>
NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information: <a href="#">Statewide Time Series</a>	2025 Updated monthly	This source provides estimates of air temperature and precipitation from 1895 to the present. <i>Key data: temperature anomalies.</i>
U.S. Drought Monitor: <a href="#">State Time Series</a> .	2025 Updated weekly	The U.S. Drought Monitor shows where drought is occurring and how bad it is for every state and territory. <i>Key data: drought conditions.</i>
NOAA: <a href="#">Tides &amp; Currents</a> .	2025 Updated monthly	This resources shows the relative sea level trend in Newport and Providence. <i>Key data: sea level rise.</i>
U.S. Global Change Research Program: Fifth- <a href="#">National Climate Assessment</a>	Discontinued by Trump Administration in 2025	<a href="#">Chapter 18</a> of the National Climate Assessment summarizes major trends in the Northeast. <i>Key data: number of farms, land in agriculture, crop and livestock data, soil moisture and temperature data.</i>
NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information: <a href="#">State Climate Summaries 2022</a>	Discontinued by Trump Administration in 2025	This is a summary of major climate change impacts by state. <i>Key data: trends in temperature, precipitation, sea level rise, etc.</i>
NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information: <a href="#">Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters</a>	Discontinued by Trump Administration in 2025	This source tracks weather events that cause more than \$1 billion in damages. <i>Key data: number of billion-dollar disasters, types of disasters, costs of disasters.</i>
Climate Central: <a href="#">U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters</a>	2025 Updated annually	Climate Central is in the process of recreating the NOAA website. <i>Key data: number of billion-dollar disasters, types of disasters, costs of disasters.</i>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <a href="#">Northeast Vulnerability Assessment</a>	2016 Unclear if this will be updated	This source estimates fish and shellfish vulnerability to climate change. <i>Key data: name and value of species by vulnerability rank.</i>

