

Census Data Bulletin

Planning Information Center

American FactFinder - Comparison Profiles

Comparison Profiles can aid users performing trend analyses

American FactFinder hosts scores of datasets and tables from the decennial Census and American Community Survey (ACS). American FactFinder's Comparison Profiles compare data variables from different time periods, and also highlight statistically significant instances of change. Comparison Profiles are available for social, economic, housing and demographic topics.

Planners and practitioners performing trend analysis or calculating demographic projections within a given geography may use FactFinder's Comparison Profiles as a resource in their analyses. Figure one is a partial report captured from Comparison Profile CP02,

Subject	Rhode Island								
	2014 Estimate	2013 Estimate	2014 - 2013 Statistical Significance	2012 Estimate	2014 - 2012 Statistical Significance	2011 Estimate	2014 - 2011 Statistical Significance	2010 Estimate	2014 - 2010 Statistical Significance
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE									
Total households	409,654	406,366		413,083		412,259		402,295	*
Family households (families)	62.8%	63.9%		62.3%		62.1%		61.2%	
With own children under 18 years	26.5%	26.6%		25.9%		27.0%		27.3%	
Married-couple family	43.7%	44.5%		43.7%		44.0%		43.2%	
With own children under 18 years	16.2%	16.4%		16.0%		17.1%		17.7%	*
Male householder, no wife present, family	4.9%	5.2%		4.6%		4.7%		4.4%	
With own children under 18 years	2.3%	2.2%		2.0%		2.1%		1.7%	*
Female householder, no husband present, family	14.1%	14.2%		14.0%		13.4%		13.6%	
With own children under 18 years	8.0%	7.9%		7.9%		7.9%		7.9%	
Nonfamily households	37.2%	36.1%		37.7%		37.9%		38.8%	
Householder living alone	29.7%	29.8%		30.0%		30.6%		31.2%	
65 years and over	11.8%	11.2%		11.3%		11.4%		12.0%	
Households with one or more people under 18 years	29.0%	29.5%		28.7%		29.7%		29.6%	
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	28.9%	28.4%		27.3%	*	26.5%	*	26.4%	*
Average household size	2.47	2.49		2.44	*	2.45		2.51	*
Average family size	3.10	3.09		3.06		3.06		3.19	*

FIGURE 1

"Comparative Social Characteristics in the United States." The table compares annual estimates from 2010-2014.

Within each comparison profile, FactFinder identified variables with statistical significance. Asterisks next to variables represent data that is "significantly different (at a 90% confidence level) than the estimate from the most current year." [FactFinder Profile Description](#).

Patterns in Rhode Island's Social Comparison Profile

Households with one or more people 65 years and over, the state's total number of households, and the average household size are three social characteristics marked as statistically significant between 2010-2014.

In 2010, the estimate for households with one or more people 65 years and over was 26.4% - in 2014, the estimate was 28.9%. The increase represents estimated growth in Rhode Island's aging population, which can have land use and transportation planning implications. According to a [Census Bureau press release](#), "mobility is the most common disability among older Americans" in the United States.¹ Challenges associated with mobility may shape development, walkway and sidewalk design, transportation access, and more.

Another statistically significant social characteristic is the state's total number of households. While the estimated total number of households between 2010-2014 has increased, the average household size and the average family size estimates have decreased in the same time period.

In 2010, the estimated household size in Rhode Island was 2.51. In 2014, the estimated household size was 2.47, and both figures were identified as statistically significant between 2010-2014. One explanation for the decrease in household size may be linked to the decrease in the average family size. Much like the average household size, the average family size was at an estimated high in 2010, and decreased by .09 in the 2014 estimate.

For more statistics on the comparative housing characteristics, visit American FactFinder and search for survey CP04.



Patterns in Rhode Island's Economic Characteristics

Employment Status: Unemployed

As reported in the FactFinder Economic Comparison Profile for Rhode Island, the estimated unemployment status was 5% in 2014 - a figure that decreased from the 2010 estimate of 7%. Recent 2015 data from the [The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training](#) (RIDLT) supports

FactFinder's trend of decreased rates of unemployment. The RIDLT reported the addition of an estimated 3,400 RI-based jobs in the state from April 2015, to May 2015. The RIDLT reported a decrease in overall unemployment rates with a simultaneous increase in Rhode Island jobs.²

Health Insurance Coverage: No coverage

Another downward trend in the state is the estimated percentage of the population (civilian noninstitutionalized) without health insurance coverage. The figures have decreased gradually since the 2010 estimate of 5.6% to 3.3% in 2014. According to a [HealthSource RI press release](#), the

passage of the Affordable Care Act, and the expansion of Medicaid and the state-based HealthSource RI insurance exchange promoted the decrease in uninsured individuals.³

The Comparative Economic Characteristic Survey also features transportation data, including, "commuting to work" estimates. "Commuting to work" estimates are one of the subjects identified as statistically significant between 2010-2014. In 2010, the estimated number of workers 16 or older commuting to work was 479,988. In 2014, the estimated number of workers commuting to work increased to 505,224, an increase of 5.3%. Driving a car, truck or van alone is the most common method of traveling to work. FactFinder estimates that just over 80% of all Rhode Island workers over 16 drove alone to work from 2012-2014 (figure 2). The increase of workers, coupled with the high "drive alone" rate might suggest an increase in volume on the roads.

Another change that is statistically significant between 2012-2014 is the percent of workers carpooling, which has declined

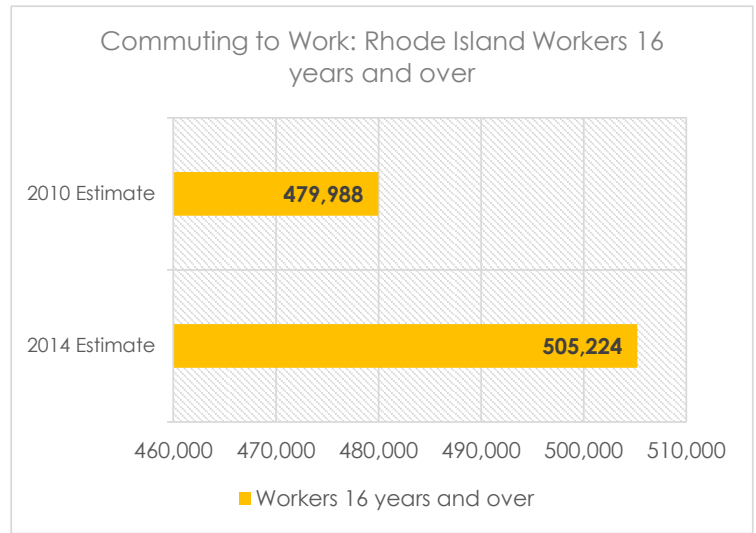


FIGURE 2

from an estimated 8.9 percent in 2012 to 7.4% in 2014 (figure 3). The drop in gasoline prices over the past two years may be an indicative factor in the declining carpooling rate. Commuting to work data can shape plans regarding multi-model transportation options for commuters in Rhode Island.

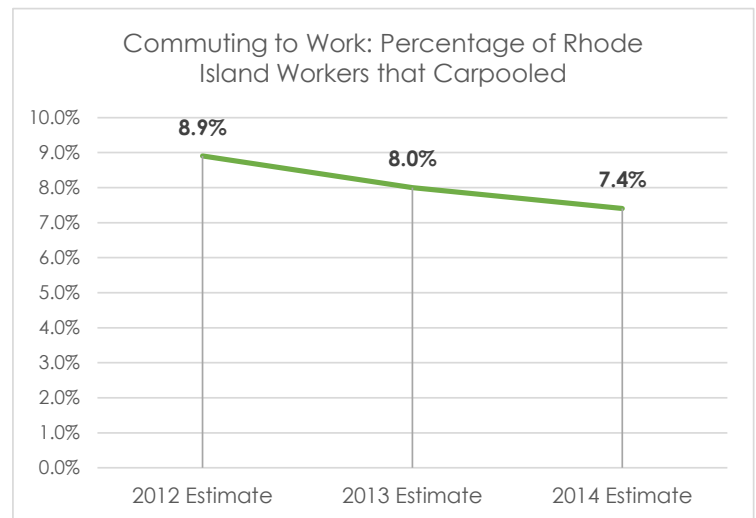
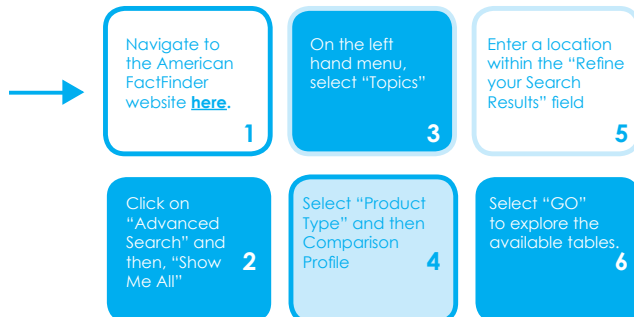


FIGURE 3

How to generate a Comparison Profile



Want more information?

Both of the social and economic comparison profiles featured in this bulletin can be accessed online and refined within the geography and subject category of interest.

For more information about RI State Data Center resources, contact Vincent Flood at vincent.flood@doa.ri.gov or Kirsten Bryan at kirsten.bryan@doa.ri.gov.

U.S. Census Bureau FactFinder Home Page: <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

Image in Figure 1 is credited to the American FactFinder Comparison Profile, accessed online.

¹ Census Bureau Press Release: <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-218.html>

² RIDLT Press Release: http://www.dlt.ri.gov/News_Releases/NR061815.htm

³ HealthSource RI Press Release: <http://healthsourceri.com/press-releases/healthsource-ri-reports-uninsured-rate-drops-to-5/>