In 2010, 11 percent of New England residents had incomes below the poverty line, compared with 15 percent in the nation as whole. Rhode Island experienced the highest poverty rate in the region, 14 percent. Rates in New England counties increased 21 percent on average from 2000 to the 2008-2010 period. All the counties in the region saw their poverty rates climb over the past 10 years, some of them showing increases of more than 30 percent.

*We use the three-year average county-level data from the American Community Survey because the margin of error in the 2010 one-year estimates is too large for some counties.