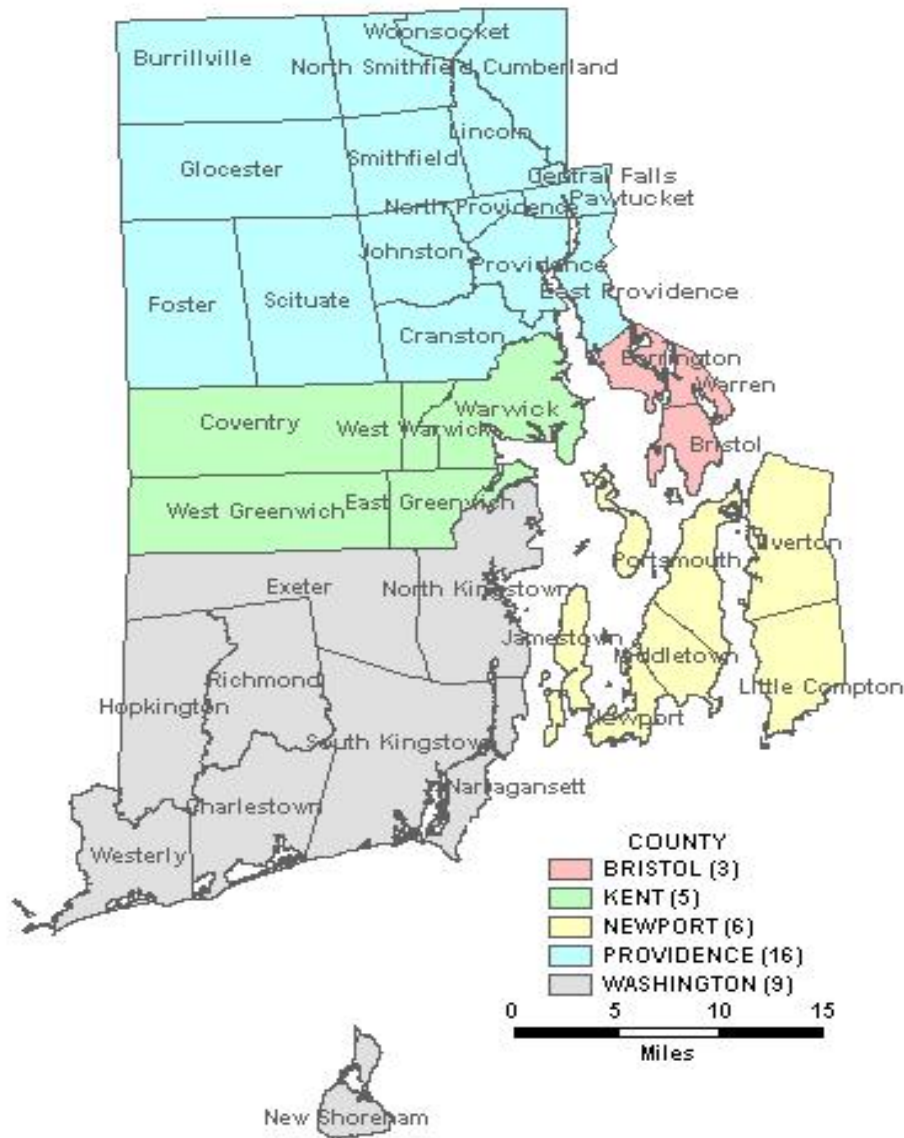


# Town of Little Compton



## *Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation*

Research Division  
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[www.riedc.com](http://www.riedc.com)

## **Town of Little Compton**

Little Compton was incorporated as a part of Plymouth Colony in 1682, seven years after being settled by Captain Benjamin Church and others. In 1746, under Royal Decree, it was transferred to Rhode Island together with the Towns of Cumberland, Barrington, Bristol and Tiverton.

Following the end of King Philip's War, the small settlement in Little Compton enjoyed comparative peace and prosperity until a new threat arose: the British occupation of Newport during the Revolution. Foraging parties from the British garrison invaded Little Compton several times. The British raiders met with stiff resistance from the settlers, and were "bushwhacked" several times as in the skirmish at the Taggart House.

Today, Little Compton is a rural farming community. The famous Rhode Island Red, the official State Bird, was developed in Little Compton. Fishing is still a major industry in the town, as one can observe with the daily departure of the fishing fleet from the Sakonnet Wharf. The town has also developed into an ideal vacation spot with the traditional atmosphere of colonial New England.

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## **Town of Little Compton**

**Address:** Town Hall  
The Commons, Box 226  
Little Compton, RI 02837

**Established in 1682**  
**Incorporated in 1746**

**Fiscal Year Begins:** July 1st  
**Fax:** 635-2470

**Hours:** 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Location:** Newport County

**Form of Government:** Five member Town Council headed by a Council President

**Council Meetings:** First and Third Thursdays after 1st Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

**Financial Town Meeting:** 3rd Week in May

**Assessing Board Chairman:** William N. Makepeace 635-4509

**Building Official/Minimum Housing:** William L. Moore 635-8384

**Clerk, Town:** Carol A. Wordell 635-4400

**Emergency Management, Local Director:** Donald T. Gomez 635-4529

**Librarian:** Beth Golembeske 635-8562

**Planning Board Chairman:** Mark W. Cady 635-2891

**Police Chief:** Ronald F. Coffey 635-2311

**Probate Judge:** Sidney Clifford, Jr. 635-4400

**School Superintendent:** Colleen B. Jermain 635-9593

**Social Services Director:** Susan Sisson 635-2722

**Solicitor, Town:** Richard S. Humphrey 624-6152

**Treasurer/Tax Collector:** Frances E. Matta 635-4219

**Zoning Official:** William L. Moore 635-8384

### **Fire Departments and Fire Districts**

Little Compton Fire Department,

Public Safety Complex, 60 Simmons Road, Little Compton, RI 02837 635-2324

Fire Chief, Acting: Donald P. Medeiros

### **School Committee**

Ellen P. L. Kinnane, Chairperson 19 Bernard Lane 02837

N. Darrell Harvey, III 124 South of Commons, 02837

P.O. Box 511

Elizabeth McCurdy 14 Colebrook Road 02837

Bernard A. Shapiro 46 Commons, P.O. Box 909 02837

Susanne Theriault 116 South of Commons Road 02837

### **Town Council**

Donald T. Gomez, President P.O. Box 503 02837

Paul J. Golembeske 14A Old Main Road 02837

William H. Hutson P.O. Box 221 02837

Joseph D. Maiato P.O. Box 194 02801

Adamsville, RI

Gary S. Mataronas P.O. Box 998 02837

## **Population Characteristics**

**Population:** The population count for The Town of Little Compton as of April 1, 2000, was 3,593. This represented a 7.61% increase (254 persons) from the 1990 population of 3,339.

**Rank:** In 2000 Little Compton ranks 38th in population among Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns.

**Median Age:** In 2000 the median age of the population in Little Compton was 43.5.

**Age Distribution:** In 2000, 78.3% or 2,813 persons residing in Little Compton were 18 years of age or older. 2,719 were 21 and over, 750 were 62 and over, and 637 were 65 and over.

**Population Density:** The 2000 population density of Little Compton is 172 persons per square mile of land area. Little Compton contains 20.87 square miles of land area (54,063,988 Sq. meters) (13,359.61 acres) and 8.03 square miles of water area (20,795,696 square meters) (5,135.18 acres).

**Housing Units:** The total number of housing units in the The Town of Little Compton as of April 1, 2000, was 2,103. This represented an increase of 253 units from the 1,850 housing units in 1990.

Of the 2,103 housing units 628 were vacant. 587 of the vacant units were for seasonal or recreational use.

**Households:** In 2000, there are 1,475 households in Little Compton with an average size of 2.44 persons. Of these, 1,041 were family households with an average family size of 2.92 persons.

**Race:**

Total Population of One Race: 3,570

White: 3,548

Black or African American: 2

American Indian and Alaska Native: 7

Asian: 8

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 3

Some Other Race: 2

Total Population of two or More Races: 23

Hispanic or Latino: In 2000, 31 persons of Hispanic origin resided in Little Compton. This represented 0.9% of the population.

**Town of Little Compton**

**Census 2000 Demographic Profiles:**

<b>General Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total population	3,593	100.0
Male	1,772	49.3
Female	1,821	50.7
Median Age (years)	43.5	(X)
Under 5 years	176	4.9
18 years and over	2,813	78.3
65 years and over	637	17.7
One race - Total	3,570	99.4
White	3,548	98.7
Black or African American	2	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	7	0.2
Asian	8	0.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3	0.1
Some other race	2	0.1
Two or more races	23	0.6
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	31	0.9
Average household size	2.44	(X)
Average family size	2.92	(X)
Total housing units	2,103	100.0
Occupied housing units	1,475	70.1
Owner-occupied housing units	1,189	80.6
Renter-occupied housing units	286	19.4
Vacant housing units	628	29.9
<b>Social Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>

## Town of Little Compton

Population 25 years and over	2,604	100.0
High school graduate or higher	2,369	91.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	673	45.0
Civilian veterans (civilian population 25 years and older)	382	13.6
Disability Status (population 21 to 64 years)	289	14.2
Foreign Born	132	3.7
Now Married (population 15 years and over)	1,802	61.3
Speak a language other than English at home (5 years and older)	190	5.6

<b>Economic Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
In Labor Force (16 years and older)	1,877	65.4
Mean travel time to work in minutes (16 years and older)	28.3	(X)
Median household income (dollars)	55,368	(X)
Median family income (dollars)	62,750	(X)
Per capita income (dollars)	32,513	(X)
Families below poverty level	39	3.7
Individuals below poverty level	122	3.4

<b>Housing Characteristics</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Single-family owner-occupied homes	1,013	100.0
Median value (dollars)	228,200	(X)
Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)
With a mortgage	1,233	(X)
Not mortgaged	416	(X)

**Town of Little Compton**

**Little Compton Employment 2002**

<u>NAICS Sectors</u>	<u>Little Compton</u>		
	Number of Units	Average Employment	Total Wages
<b>Total, Private &amp; Government:</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>\$ 14,987,398</b>
<b>Total, Private Only:</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>11,012,216</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	8	35	616,091
Mining	0	0	0
Utilities	0	0	0
Construction	33	116	3,608,444
Manufacturing	5	45	973,043
Wholesale Trade	4	5	140,604
Retail Trade	5	25	325,918
Transportation & Warehousing	*	*	*
Information	*	*	*
Finance & Insurance	*	*	*
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4	9	308,351
Professional & Technical Services	10	20	886,932
Management of Companies & Enterprises	*	*	*
Administrative & Waste Services	16	31	826,875
Educational Services	*	*	*
Health Care & Social Assistance	*	*	*
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	6	50	1,064,342
Accommodation & Food Services	7	75	910,881
Other Services, except Public Administration	15	37	583,625
Unclassified Establishments	0	0	0
Public Administration	7	140	\$ 3,975,182

Source: Department of Labor and Training, 2002



**Town of Little Compton**

**2004/2005 Municipal Tax Rates**  
**(Per \$1,000 of Assessment)**

& These communities have homestead exemptions available. (Providence rate with homestead exemption \$23.96)

\* These communities also have local Fire district taxes.

# These communities may exempt wholesale inventories.

\$ These communities may exempt retail inventories.

Modified: October 5, 2004

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Residential Property Tax Rates Per \$1,000 Percent of Full Value Base Year Assessment Effective</b>			<b>Commercial Real Estate Rate Per \$1,000</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle Rate Per \$1,000</b>	<b>Retail &amp; Wholesale Inventory Rate Per \$1,000</b>	<b>Business Personal Property Rate Per \$1,000</b>
Barrington	18.99	100%	2003	18.99	42.00	8.88	18.99
Bristol	16.85	100%	2001	16.85	17.35	6.97	16.85
Burrillville * # \$	12.55	100%	2003	12.55	40.00	Not Taxed	12.55
Central Falls &	13.04	100%	2003	34.85	48.65	19.47	51.33
Charlestown *	12.59	100%	2001	12.59	13.08	5.38	12.59
Coventry * \$	25.63	100%	2001	25.63	18.75	7.75	25.63
Cranston &	23.23	95%	2003	30.80	42.44	12.70	34.84
Cumberland * #	16.73	100%	2002	16.73	19.87	10.03	16.73
East Greenwich * # &	17.91	100%	2002	17.91	22.88	9.48	17.91
East Providence &	15.20	100%	2003	19.35	37.10	15.44	44.59
Exeter #	14.70	100%	2002	14.70	32.59	14.00	14.70
Foster	14.11	100%	/2002	14.11	36.95	7.39	14.11
Glocester * #	20.91	100%	2001	20.91	24.37	10.06	28.46
Hopkinton *	17.71	100%	2003	17.71	21.18	8.30	17.71
Jamestown	11.58	100%	2004	11.58	14.42	6.05	11.58
Johnston &	16.40	100%	2003	16.40	41.46	13.86	44.11
Lincoln * # &	18.64	100%	2003	22.74	30.66	9.82	26.84
Little Compton	4.53	100%	2003	4.53	13.90	Not Taxed	4.53
Middletown #	15.85	100%	2002	17.90	16.05	6.64	15.85
Narragansett	10.57	100%	2002	15.86	16.46	6.74	15.86
Newport &	13.72	100%	2001	16.30	23.45	9.48	16.30
New Shoreham # \$	3.77	80%	2000	3.77	9.75	Not taxed	3.77
North Kingstown # \$	14.38	100%	2003	14.38	22.04	Not taxed	14.38
North Providence &	28.71	100%	2004	31.02	41.95	17.54	57.50
North Smithfield #	14.26	100%	2003	14.26	37.62	12.43	37.24
Pawtucket	17.25	100%	2003	25.88	53.30	20.83	52.09
Portsmouth #	16.20	100%	2003	16.20	22.50	9.19	16.20
Providence &	29.65	50%	2004	37.00	76.78	30.70	49.50
Richmond *	18.83	100%	2003	18.83	22.64	9.10	18.83
Scituate	22.08	50%	2003	27.75	30.20	Not taxed	33.05
Smithfield	13.95	100%	2003	13.95	39.00	15.60	41.00
South Kingstown *	12.58	100%	2003	12.58	18.71	7.75	12.58
Tiverton *	14.36	100%	2002	14.36	19.14	7.71	14.36
Warren	14.82	100%	2003	14.82	26.00	14.82	7.87
Warwick	14.81	100%	2003	22.22	34.60	17.73	29.62
Westerly *	9.64	100%	2004	9.64	29.67	5.05	9.64
West Greenwich	18.50	100%	2001	18.50	19.02	7.79	18.50
West Warwick	17.31	100%	2003	24.80	28.47	11.77	28.17
Woonsocket # &	23.85	55%	2002	38.25	46.58	18.63	46.58

## **Town of Little Compton**

### **Points of Interest**

**GRAY'S STORE.** (1788) 4 Main Street, Adamsville. Built in 1788, by Samuel Church, Gray's is one of, if not the oldest continuously operating stores in the country. In the Village of Adamsville. Contains old post office (first in Little Compton, 1804). Original soda fountain, candy and tobacco cases, and ice chest. Aged cheddar cheese, Gray's Meal, penny candy, antique display items, vintage clothing and collectibles. OPEN: Memorial Day-Labor Day, Mon-Fri, 9:30-5:30 p.m.; Sat, 9:30-5 p.m.; Sun & holidays, 12-4 p.m. Winter: Mon-Fri, 9:30-5:30 p.m.; Sat, 9:30-5 p.m.; closed Sun & holidays. 635-4566.

**MONUMENT TO ELIZABETH PABODIE.** Commons Burial Ground. Gravesite of first white girl born in New England, a daughter of Pilgrims John and Priscilla Alden. OPEN: Dusk to dawn.

**RHODE ISLAND RED MONUMENT.** Main Street, Adamsville. Commemorates the breed established in 1854 and honors the famous edible commodity which gave the poultry industry to the world. OPEN: Dawn to dusk.

**SAKONNET VINEYARDS.** (1975) 162 West Main Road, Route 77. Tastings, tours and audio-visual presentation throughout the year, self-guided vineyard walks. Retail shop open daily. OPEN: May 1-Oct, 10-6 p.m.; Nov-Apr, 11-5 p.m. 635-8486.

**WILBOR HOUSE, BARN, & QUAKER MEETING HOUSE.** West Road. Historic early 18th century structure, maintained by Little Compton Historical Society. The Wilbor House was built during 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries and restored in 1956 by Little Compton Historical Society with period furnishings. Barn contains historical New England farm items, tools, utensils, and vehicles. OPEN: Wilbor House & Barn, mid-Jun-mid-Sep, Tue-Sun, 2-5 p.m. or by appt. Last tour at 4:30. 635-4035.