

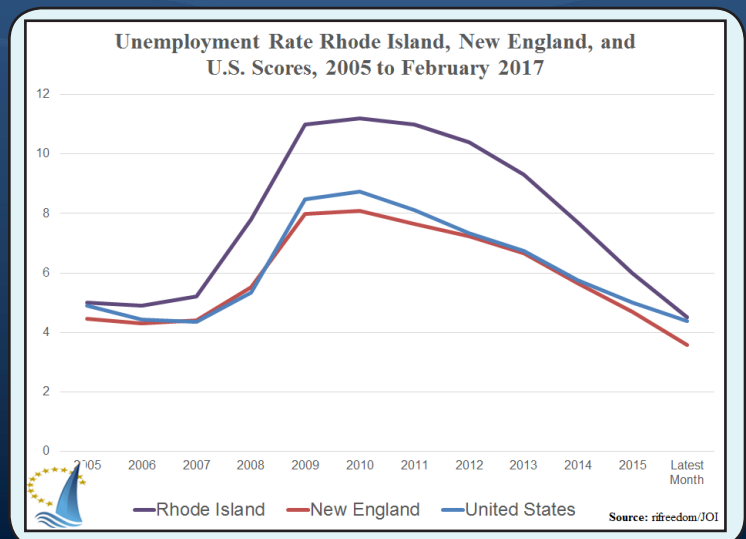
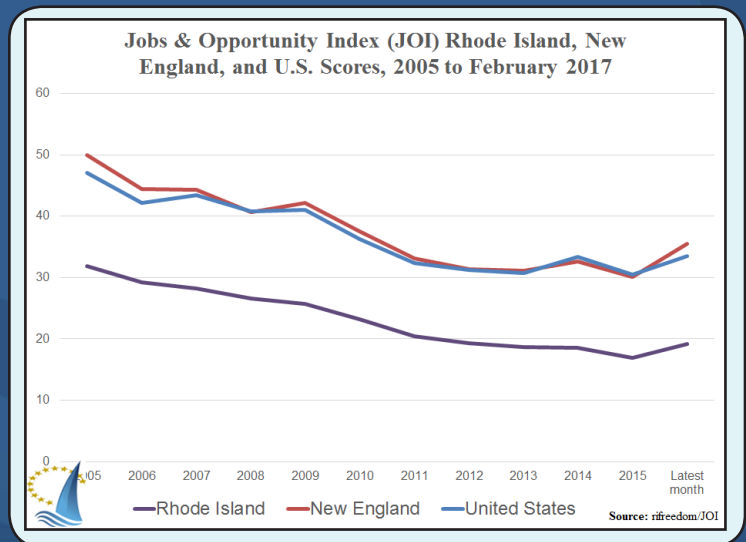
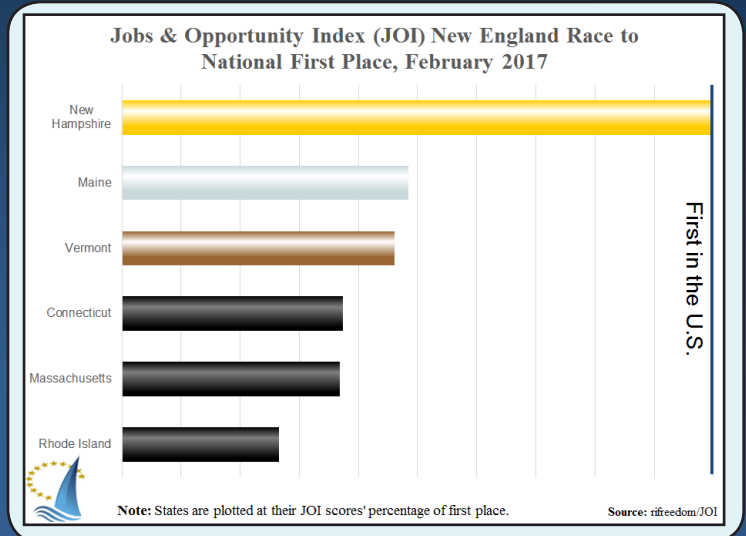
The annual revisions of the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) usually mean that the data for February follows closely on that for January, leaving little change in the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) report. This year, updated data for SNAP and state and local taxes is also available, although the changes were so minimal as to cause not change for the Ocean State.

Five of the 13 datapoints used for the index have been newly updated. Employment was up a significant 2,415 from the previously recorded number, while labor force rose 1,269, although it isn't unusual for the state to see a surge in these numbers early in the year, with the revision erasing the gains a year later. RI-based jobs increased by 2,500. (Note that these are calculated with pre-revision data for the prior month.) Meanwhile, SNAP enrollment decreased slightly, by 222. State and local taxes, per the U.S. Census, were down \$5.2 million, which are a positive in the index, but which may indicate that the extra tax revenue on which lawmakers are depending for tax reforms may not materialize.

The first chart at right shows Rhode Island still in the last position in New England, at 48th in the country. The only New England state to see movement in its rank was Connecticut, which stepped forward one slot to 33rd, now two ahead of Massachusetts at 34th. New Hampshire continued in the 1st spot, nationally, while Maine held steady at 18th. Vermont's 21st placement was also unchanged.

The second chart shows the gap between Rhode Island and New England and the United States on JOI. The Ocean State made up a little ground against both averages. Rhode Island also made up ground on the gaps for unemployment rate (third chart). Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (measuring optimism that adequate work is available): RI held at 35th.
- **Freedom Factor** (measuring the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI held at 41st.
- **Prosperity Factor** (measuring the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI held at 46th.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > February 2017 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
New Hampshire	1	👉	72.2	5	👉	6.9	4	👉	8.1	2	👉	9.4
Utah	2	👉	64.5	9	👉	6.4	3	👉	9.4	13	👎	7.7
Wyoming	3	👉	60.8	25	👍	4.9	2	👉	9.8	16	👍	7.5
North Dakota	4	👉	60.0	2	👉	8.3	1	👉	10.0	33	👉	6.4
South Dakota	5	👉	57.5	1	👉	10.0	8	👉	6.7	18	👉	7.3
Virginia	6	👉	49.5	27	👉	4.8	6	👉	7.4	15	👉	7.6
Kansas	7	👉	44.8	15	👉	5.8	7	👉	7.2	26	👎	6.7
Iowa	8	👉	43.7	4	👉	7.4	14	👉	5.3	19	👉	7.3
Idaho	9	👉	43.5	6	👉	6.7	13	👉	5.3	17	👎	7.5
Colorado	10	👉	42.7	14	👉	5.9	16	👉	4.9	7	👉	8.2
Nebraska	11	👉	41.4	3	👉	7.9	5	👉	7.8	44	👉	5.3
Alaska	12	👉	40.2	50	👉	3.7	26	👉	4.2	1	👉	10.0
Montana	13	👉	39.9	18	👉	5.6	22	👉	4.4	6	👉	8.3
South Carolina	14	👉	37.5	32	👉	4.6	30	👉	4.1	3	👉	8.7
Hawaii	15	👉	37.1	17	👉	5.7	27	👉	4.2	9	👉	7.9
Wisconsin	16	👉	37.0	13	👉	6.0	10	👉	5.6	31	👉	6.4
Maryland	17	👉	35.9	16	👉	5.7	17	👍	4.8	20	👉	7.0
Maine	18	👉	35.0	23	👉	5.0	25	👉	4.2	10	👉	7.8
Alabama	19	👉	34.9	31	👉	4.7	37	👉	3.9	4	👉	8.3
Texas	20	👉	34.0	19	👉	5.5	18	👎	4.8	25	👍	6.7
Vermont	21	👉	33.2	7	👉	6.7	23	👉	4.3	30	👉	6.4
Missouri	22	👉	31.5	11	👉	6.1	11	👉	5.5	42	👉	5.5
Indiana	23	👉	30.9	10	👉	6.1	19	👉	4.8	37	👉	5.9
Nevada	24	👉	30.8	49	👉	3.7	28	👉	4.1	12	👉	7.7
Oklahoma	25	👉	30.5	21	👉	5.3	34	👉	4.0	21	👍	6.9
Arizona	26	👍	29.7	40	👉	4.4	40	👉	3.6	14	👉	7.6
Washington	27	👎	29.4	26	👎	4.9	33	👉	4.0	24	👎	6.8
North Carolina	28	👍	28.7	28	👉	4.8	24	👉	4.3	32	👉	6.4
Mississippi	29	👍	28.6	43	👍	4.1	45	👍	3.2	8	👉	8.1
Georgia	30	👎	28.6	41	👉	4.3	21	👉	4.5	29	👉	6.5
Florida	31	👉	27.6	42	👉	4.2	36	👉	3.9	23	👉	6.8
Michigan	32	👉	27.3	36	👉	4.5	32	👉	4.1	28	👉	6.5
Connecticut	33	👍	27.0	45	👉	4.0	15	👉	4.9	36	👉	5.9
Oregon	34	👎	26.9	33	👉	4.6	42	👉	3.6	22	👎	6.8
Massachusetts	35	👉	26.6	22	👉	5.2	20	👉	4.7	43	👉	5.5
New Jersey	36	👉	25.6	37	👉	4.4	12	👉	5.4	45	👉	5.1
Pennsylvania	37	👉	25.4	38	👉	4.4	29	👉	4.1	34	👉	6.0
West Virginia	38	👉	24.6	44	👎	4.1	49	👉	2.7	11	👍	7.7
Tennessee	39	👉	23.9	24	👉	4.9	39	👉	3.7	39	👉	5.8
Minnesota	40	👉	23.2	8	👉	6.5	9	👉	6.4	49	👉	3.6
Illinois	41	👉	23.1	46	👉	3.9	31	👉	4.1	40	👉	5.7
New Mexico	42	👍	23.1	48	👉	3.8	50	👉	2.3	5	👉	8.3
California	43	👎	23.0	47	👉	3.9	44	👉	3.3	27	👉	6.5
Kentucky	44	👉	22.6	29	👉	4.8	43	👉	3.4	38	👉	5.9
New York	45	👉	20.8	34	👉	4.6	46	👎	3.2	41	👉	5.6
Ohio	46	👉	20.6	30	👉	4.7	35	👉	4.0	47	👉	4.9
Louisiana	47	👉	20.1	39	👉	4.4	48	👉	2.8	35	👉	6.0
Rhode Island	48	👉	19.1	35	👉	4.5	41	👉	3.6	46	👉	4.9
Arkansas	49	👉	17.5	12	👉	6.0	47	👉	3.1	48	👉	4.2
Delaware	50	👉	11.9	20	👉	5.4	38	👉	3.8	50	👉	2.7