

As 2018 got its footing in February, Rhode Island's ranking on the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) moved not at all, remaining 47th. Although six of the seven datapoints that changed for this iteration were positive, they were apparently driven by national trends that affected other states, as well. Rhode Island's relative position therefore stayed the same.

Employment was up from the first-reported number for January, by 528, while labor force was up 738. RI-based jobs increased by 1,200. SNAP (food stamps) also improved, with a reduction of 4,288 enrollees, although complications with the state's Unified Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP) may be affecting this datapoint for technical reasons unrelated to the economy.

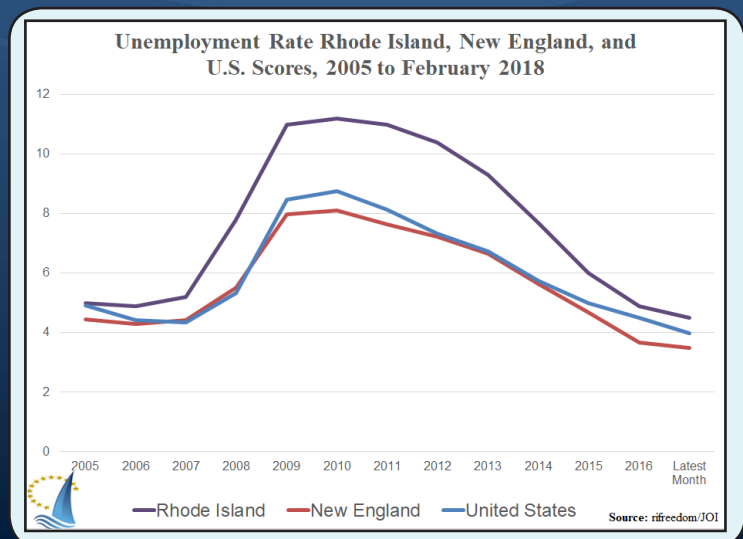
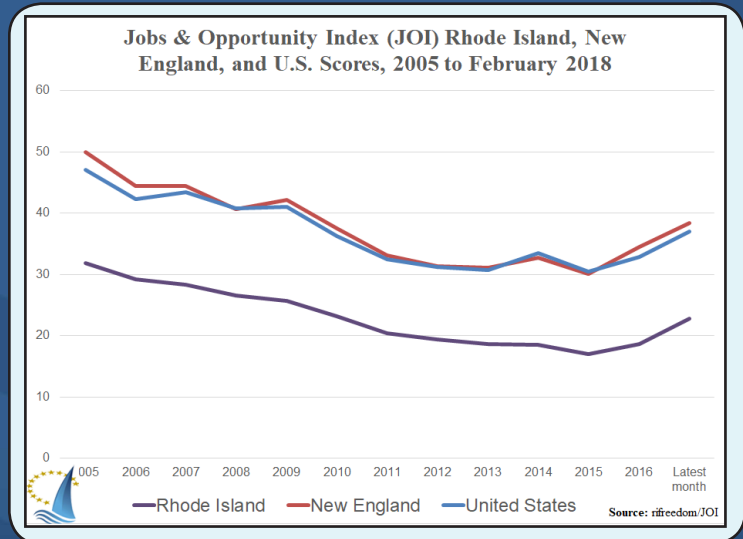
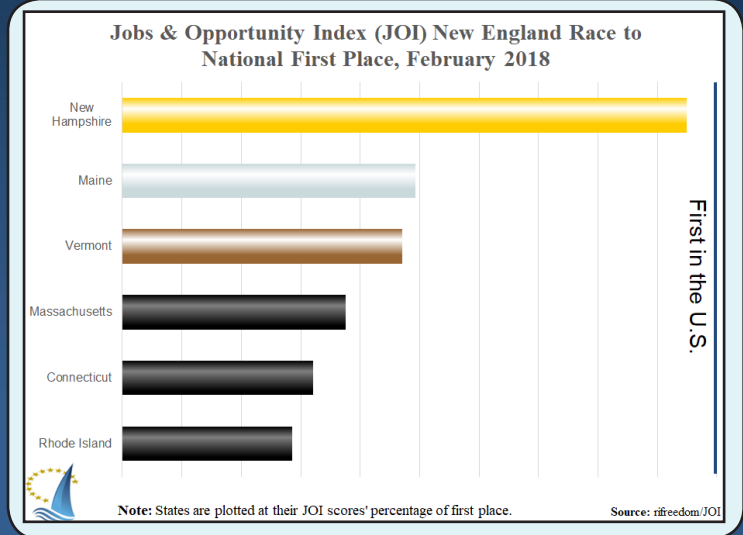
Total personal income in Rhode Island (including various forms of investment) increased 1.95%, or \$852 million. However, total state and local taxation increased 2.11%, or \$69 million.

The first chart at right shows Rhode Island still in the last position in New England, 47th in the country. Regional leader New Hampshire is still in 2nd place, nationally, behind Wyoming, and Maine held its 18th position. Vermont regained the spot it lost last month, returning to 20th. Massachusetts held on to its position of 33rd, while Connecticut's descent paused at 43rd.

The second chart shows the gap between RI and New England and the United States on JOI. In both cases, the Ocean State closed the gap a little. On the official unemployment rate, RI again lost ground against both regions.

Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI held on to 18th.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI remained 41st.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > February 2018 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👉	79.6	21	👎	6.6	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	9.0
New Hampshire	2	👉	75.6	7	👎	8.1	4	👉	7.9	2	👉	9.5
Utah	3	👉	70.8	17	👉	7.5	2	👉	9.7	11	👉	7.9
North Dakota	4	👉	60.6	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	9.0	31	👎	6.5
South Dakota	5	👉	54.1	3	👉	8.6	8	👉	6.7	19	👉	7.4
Virginia	6	👉	52.7	25	👎	6.4	7	👉	7.3	18	👉	7.5
Kansas	7	👉	51.8	11	👉	7.8	6	👉	7.4	25	👉	6.9
Idaho	8	👉	49.0	14	👉	7.8	11	👉	5.5	13	👎	7.8
Colorado	9	👉	46.6	6	👉	8.1	15	👉	4.9	16	👉	7.7
Iowa	10	👉	44.8	4	👉	8.5	14	👉	5.0	21	👎	7.2
South Carolina	11	👉	44.6	20	👉	6.6	25	👉	4.1	4	👉	8.9
Hawaii	12	👉	42.8	8	👉	8.1	26	👉	4.1	14	👎	7.8
Nebraska	13	👎	42.5	5	👉	8.4	5	👉	7.6	44	👉	5.4
Wisconsin	14	👉	41.9	10	👉	7.8	10	👉	5.6	30	👉	6.5
Montana	15	👎	40.6	26	👉	6.4	33	👎	4.0	6	👉	8.4
Oklahoma	16	👉	39.6	16	👉	7.5	30	👉	4.0	17	👉	7.5
Alabama	17	👉	39.2	30	👉	6.1	35	👉	3.9	7	👉	8.4
Maine	18	👉	39.2	23	👉	6.5	23	👉	4.3	15	👉	7.7
Texas	19	👉	38.3	24	👉	6.4	17	👉	4.8	22	👉	7.2
Vermont	20	👉	37.5	9	👉	8.0	22	👉	4.3	27	👉	6.7
Alaska	21	👎	36.9	50	👉	4.0	42	👉	3.5	1	👉	10.0
Indiana	22	👉	36.0	12	👉	7.8	16	👉	4.9	35	👉	6.1
Maryland	23	👉	35.8	31	👉	6.0	18	👉	4.7	24	👉	6.9
Arizona	24	👉	35.5	38	👉	5.4	38	👎	3.7	8	👉	8.2
Nevada	25	👉	33.9	48	👉	4.6	27	👉	4.1	10	👉	7.9
Missouri	26	👉	33.5	13	👉	7.8	12	👉	5.4	45	👉	5.4
Oregon	27	👉	32.9	28	👉	6.2	40	👎	3.7	20	👉	7.2
Washington	28	👉	32.7	35	👉	5.6	28	👎	4.1	23	👉	7.1
Georgia	29	👉	32.6	36	👉	5.5	19	👉	4.6	29	👉	6.6
North Carolina	30	👎	32.3	27	👉	6.4	24	👎	4.2	33	👉	6.5
Mississippi	31	👉	30.7	41	👎	5.2	44	👉	3.2	12	👉	7.9
Michigan	32	👉	30.1	32	👉	5.9	32	👉	4.0	32	👉	6.5
Massachusetts	33	👉	29.9	19	👉	6.6	21	👉	4.5	41	👉	5.7
Florida	34	👉	29.7	42	👉	5.1	36	👉	3.9	26	👉	6.8
New Jersey	35	👎	29.0	43	👎	5.1	13	👉	5.4	43	👉	5.5
Tennessee	36	👎	28.5	22	👉	6.6	37	👎	3.8	36	👉	6.0
West Virginia	37	👉	28.1	46	👉	4.9	49	👉	2.7	9	👉	8.1
Pennsylvania	38	👉	27.2	39	👉	5.2	34	👉	4.0	34	👉	6.2
Minnesota	39	👎	27.2	2	👉	8.7	9	👉	6.2	49	👉	3.8
New Mexico	40	👉	27.0	49	👉	4.5	50	👉	2.3	5	👉	8.8
California	41	👉	26.1	44	👉	5.1	43	👉	3.3	28	👉	6.7
Illinois	42	👉	26.0	37	👉	5.4	31	👎	4.0	38	👉	5.8
Connecticut	43	👉	25.5	47	👉	4.7	20	👉	4.6	42	👉	5.5
Kentucky	44	👉	24.3	29	👎	6.2	45	👉	3.2	40	👎	5.7
New York	45	👉	23.4	33	👉	5.8	47	👉	3.2	39	👉	5.7
Ohio	46	👉	23.3	34	👉	5.8	29	👎	4.1	46	👉	5.0
Rhode Island	47	👉	22.7	18	👉	6.7	41	👉	3.5	47	👉	4.9
Louisiana	48	👉	21.3	40	👉	5.2	48	👉	2.8	37	👎	5.9
Arkansas	49	👉	21.1	15	👉	7.5	46	👉	3.2	48	👉	4.5
Delaware	50	👉	13.1	45	👉	5.0	39	👎	3.7	50	👉	3.2