

Although its rank did not change, March was not a good month for Rhode Island on the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI). With four of the 12 datapoints' changing, RI is still 47th in the country, but slippage in employment and income brings a warning sign of things that might be yet to come.

Employment was down another 521 people from the first-reported number for February, and the labor force dropped 1,234. Jobs based within the state showed an increase of 300, but the prior number has since been revised up, so the official news is no change.

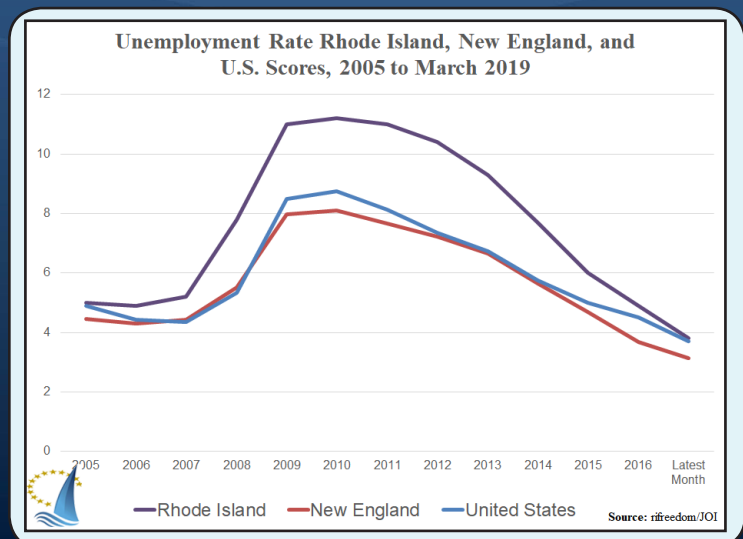
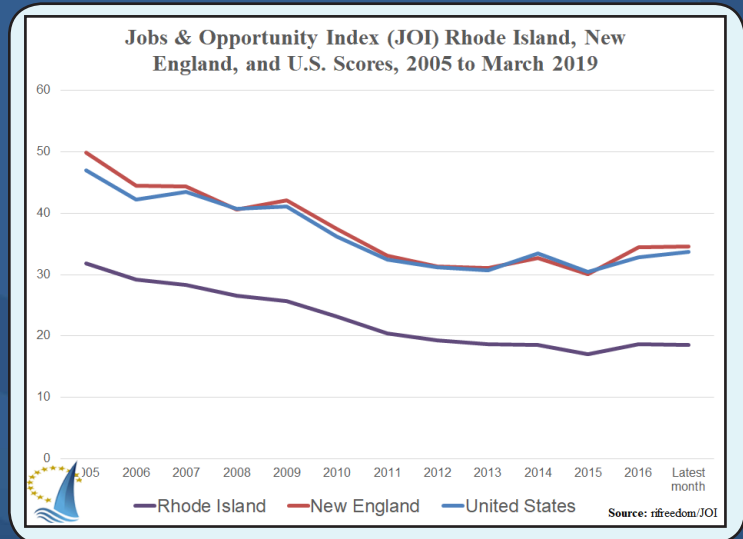
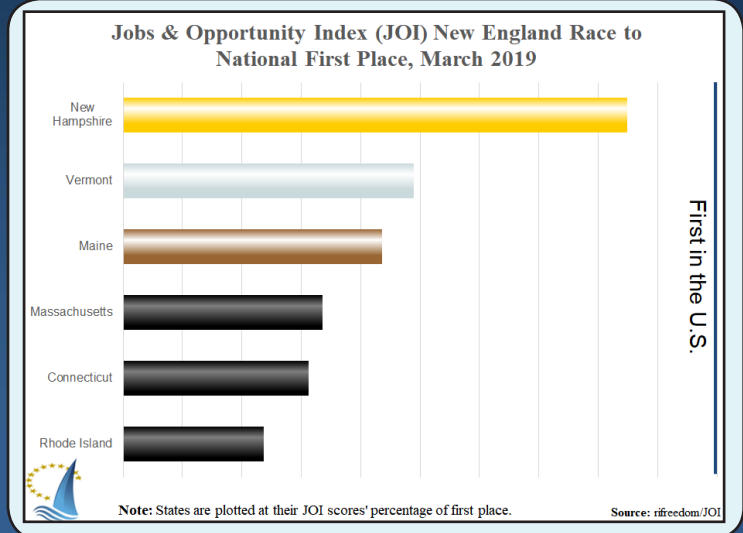
The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released quarterly data for personal income in each state, and Rhode Island is the only one to show a decrease from the first-reported number for the prior quarter. We should note, however, that the numbers from last quarter have been revised down enough that the decrease actually shows as an increase in the official data.

We should also note that Rhode Island remains the only state that is unable to report estimates for monthly enrollment in the federal SNAP program (foodstamps). Until this problem is repaired, we will simply hold Rhode Island's enrollment at the last-reported level, which is from February 2017.

The first chart at right shows RI remaining last in New England on JOI, at 47th. In New England, New Hampshire leads the region, in 3rd place, nationally. Vermont fell a spot, to 12th place, while Maine held steady in 18th. Massachusetts and Connecticut also held their positions, at 36th and 42nd, respectively

The second chart shows the gaps between RI and New England and the United States on JOI, and the third chart shows the gaps in the official unemployment rate. RI's gap improved slightly in all cases. Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI remained 24th.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI remained 42nd.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > March 2019 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👉	78.1	18	👉	5.5	1	👉	10.0	2	👉	9.3
Utah	2	👉	72.5	4	👉	7.7	2	👉	9.9	11	👎	7.9
New Hampshire	3	👉	66.3	9	👉	6.8	4	👉	8.0	4	👎	8.7
North Dakota	4	👉	54.3	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	8.7	35	👉	5.9
South Dakota	5	👍	49.2	7	👉	7.0	8	👉	6.6	19	👍	7.3
Kansas	6	👎	48.4	5	👉	7.7	6	👉	7.2	28	👍	6.6
Virginia	7	👉	47.6	15	👉	6.0	7	👉	7.0	20	👉	7.2
Idaho	8	👉	47.0	8	👉	6.9	10	👉	5.6	12	👎	7.8
Iowa	9	👍	40.9	2	👉	7.8	17	👍	4.7	22	👉	7.0
Colorado	10	👎	40.5	12	👉	6.5	15	👍	4.9	17	👉	7.5
South Carolina	11	👉	40.4	17	👉	5.6	25	👍	4.1	3	👍	8.8
Wisconsin	12	👍	38.3	11	👉	6.7	12	👉	5.4	29	👎	6.6
Vermont	13	👎	38.2	10	👉	6.7	24	👉	4.2	16	👉	7.6
Nebraska	14	👉	37.9	6	👉	7.0	5	👉	7.3	44	👉	5.2
Montana	15	👉	37.1	22	👉	5.3	37	👉	3.8	6	👎	8.5
Texas	16	👉	35.5	20	👉	5.5	14	👉	5.0	23	👉	6.9
Alabama	17	👉	34.9	23	👉	5.3	34	👍	3.8	9	👎	8.0
Maine	18	👉	34.1	34	👉	4.9	23	👉	4.2	14	👉	7.7
Hawaii	19	👉	33.0	16	👉	5.8	32	👉	3.9	21	👎	7.2
Alaska	20	👉	32.7	50	👉	3.3	41	👉	3.3	1	👉	10.0
Oklahoma	21	👍	32.3	33	👎	4.9	36	👎	3.8	15	👉	7.7
Arizona	22	👍	31.9	42	👉	4.4	38	👉	3.7	8	👍	8.1
Indiana	23	👉	31.6	13	👉	6.4	16	👍	4.8	34	👉	5.9
Nevada	24	👍	31.5	46	👉	4.1	28	👍	4.0	13	👎	7.8
North Carolina	25	👎	31.1	29	👉	5.1	18	👎	4.6	30	👉	6.5
Mississippi	26	👍	30.3	43	👉	4.4	45	👎	3.2	7	👉	8.4
Maryland	27	👎	30.3	38	👉	4.7	20	👉	4.5	26	👎	6.7
Oregon	28	👉	29.8	32	👍	4.9	39	👍	3.6	18	👉	7.3
Florida	29	👉	29.3	31	👉	5.0	30	👍	4.0	24	👉	6.8
Georgia	30	👍	29.0	37	👉	4.7	21	👉	4.4	31	👉	6.4
Washington	31	👎	28.9	35	👉	4.8	27	👍	4.0	25	👍	6.7
New Jersey	32	👉	27.8	39	👉	4.6	13	👉	5.2	42	👉	5.6
Missouri	33	👉	27.7	19	👉	5.5	11	👉	5.4	45	👉	5.1
Michigan	34	👉	27.7	26	👍	5.2	33	👉	3.9	32	👉	6.4
Tennessee	35	👉	27.6	14	👉	6.2	29	👉	4.0	37	👍	5.8
Massachusetts	36	👉	26.2	25	👉	5.2	19	👉	4.5	43	👉	5.5
Minnesota	37	👉	25.4	3	👉	7.7	9	👉	6.0	49	👉	3.9
West Virginia	38	👍	24.9	48	👉	4.0	49	👎	2.6	10	👍	8.0
New Mexico	39	👎	24.8	45	👉	4.2	50	👉	2.2	5	👍	8.6
Pennsylvania	40	👉	24.4	40	👍	4.5	35	👉	3.8	33	👉	6.0
Illinois	41	👎	24.4	36	👉	4.8	31	👎	4.0	39	👍	5.7
Connecticut	42	👉	24.3	49	👉	3.8	22	👉	4.3	36	👉	5.9
California	43	👉	23.6	44	👉	4.2	46	👉	3.2	27	👉	6.6
Ohio	44	👍	22.1	30	👉	5.0	26	👎	4.1	46	👉	5.0
Kentucky	45	👎	21.9	27	👎	5.2	43	👉	3.2	41	👉	5.6
New York	46	👉	20.3	41	👎	4.5	47	👉	3.0	38	👎	5.7
Rhode Island	47	👉	18.5	24	👉	5.2	42	👉	3.3	47	👉	4.7
Louisiana	48	👉	17.9	47	👉	4.1	48	👍	2.6	40	👎	5.7
Arkansas	49	👉	17.4	28	👉	5.1	44	👍	3.2	48	👉	4.5
Delaware	50	👉	14.8	21	👉	5.4	40	👎	3.5	50	👉	3.5