

In an unusual circumstance 11 of the 12 datapoints used for the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) were updated for April, and the end result was not a happy one. RI overtook Louisiana in 2017 to claim the 47th rank in the country after five years at 48. For the month of April, RI has lost that gain, despite improved numbers by five measures.

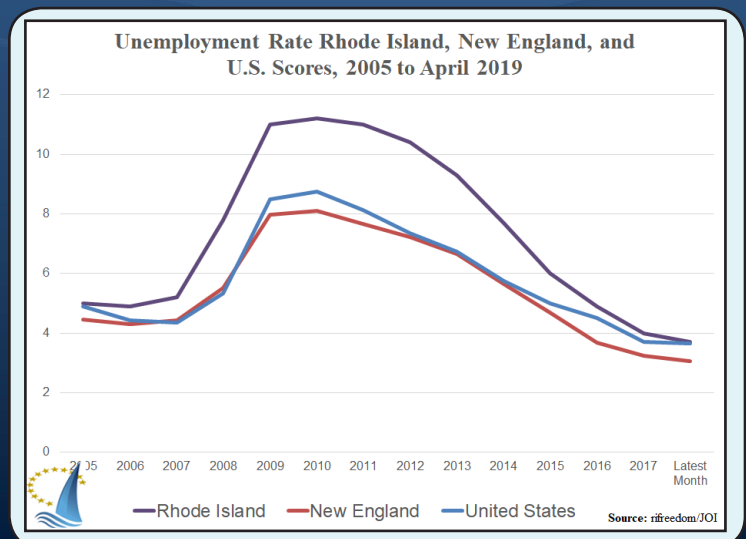
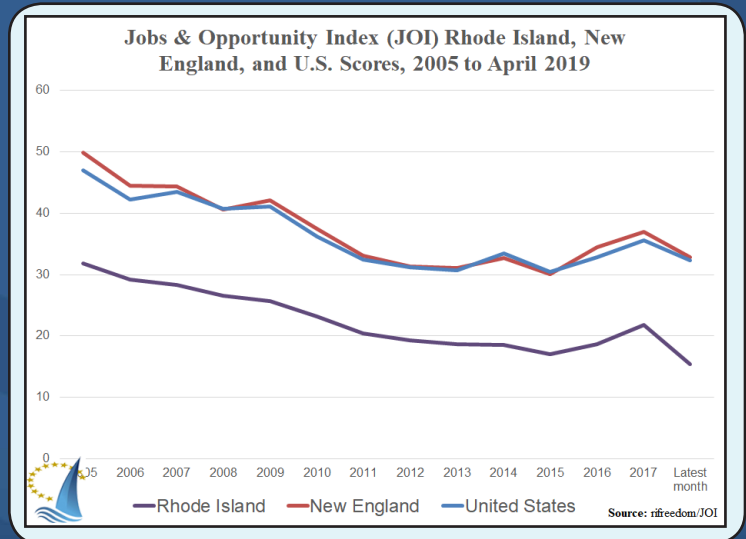
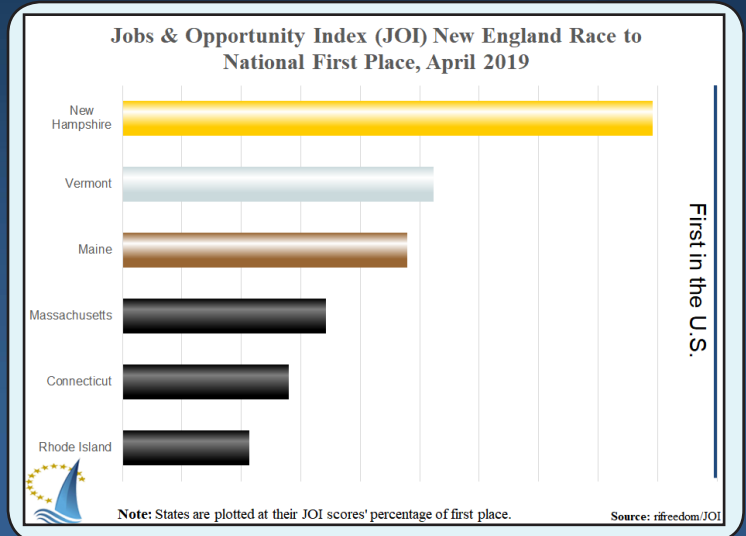
Employment was not one of those five, down another 269 people from the first-reported number for March, and the labor force dropped yet another 1,009. Jobs based within the state represented a bright spot, with an increase of 5,400. Alternate measures of unemployment gave RI two more positive developments, with long-term unemployment down 600 and marginal attachment to the labor force down 200. However, this seems likely to have been caused by worker exits. This more-negative interpretation is justified by the fact that people who are involuntarily working part time increased by 1,100.

On the welfare side, the Ocean State had 5,209 fewer people on Medicaid, which is positive. However, enrollment in TANF (welfare) was up 407, and the state still cannot manage to update its SNAP (food stamps) data, which haven't moved since February 2017. The taxation picture is mixed. The federal government collected almost \$200 million less from Rhode Islanders, but state and local taxation increased by \$41 million.

The first chart at right shows RI remaining last in New England on JOI, at 48th. New Hampshire leads the region, in 3rd place, nationally. Vermont fell two spots, to 14th place, while Maine held steady in 18th. Massachusetts also remained in place, at 36th, but Connecticut dropped two, to 44th. 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 fell four spots, to 28th.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI fell six spots, to 48th.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



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

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👉	72.1	15	👈	5.9	1	👉	10.0	3	👈	8.4
Utah	2	👉	66.6	6	👈	7.3	2	👉	9.6	13	👈	7.5
New Hampshire	3	👉	64.3	4	👈	7.5	5	👈	7.5	2	👈	8.6
North Dakota	4	👉	52.5	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	8.5	36	👈	5.8
Virginia	5	👈	50.2	16	👈	5.9	7	👉	7.4	16	👈	7.3
South Dakota	6	👈	49.4	10	👈	6.9	8	👉	7.1	20	👈	7.0
Kansas	7	👈	48.3	5	👉	7.4	6	👉	7.5	28	👉	6.5
Idaho	8	👉	46.1	11	👈	6.9	10	👉	5.6	12	👉	7.6
Wisconsin	9	👈	40.5	7	👈	7.2	11	👈	5.5	24	👈	6.6
Nebraska	10	👈	39.6	9	👈	7.0	4	👈	7.8	45	👈	5.3
Iowa	11	👈	39.1	3	👈	7.8	17	👉	4.5	22	👉	6.9
Alabama	12	👈	39.0	22	👈	5.3	15	👈	4.7	8	👈	8.0
South Carolina	13	👈	38.0	18	👈	5.6	25	👉	4.0	7	👈	8.3
Vermont	14	👈	37.8	8	👈	7.1	26	👈	3.9	14	👈	7.5
Colorado	15	👈	36.6	14	👈	6.3	19	👈	4.4	18	👈	7.2
Texas	16	👉	36.2	19	👈	5.5	12	👈	5.4	23	👉	6.6
Missouri	17	👈	34.9	17	👈	5.9	9	👈	6.3	41	👈	5.7
Maine	18	👉	34.6	32	👈	5.0	23	👉	4.2	10	👈	7.8
Montana	19	👈	33.6	26	👈	5.2	34	👈	3.4	5	👈	8.3
Mississippi	20	👈	32.0	46	👈	4.0	30	👈	3.7	4	👈	8.4
Nevada	21	👈	31.6	42	👈	4.4	22	👈	4.3	17	👈	7.3
Alaska	22	👈	31.3	50	👉	3.5	39	👈	2.9	1	👉	10.0
Hawaii	23	👈	30.6	20	👈	5.4	28	👈	3.9	21	👉	7.0
Indiana	24	👈	30.4	12	👈	6.5	18	👈	4.4	35	👈	5.9
Arizona	25	👈	30.0	43	👈	4.4	31	👈	3.6	11	👈	7.7
Georgia	26	👈	30.0	39	👈	4.7	16	👈	4.6	30	👈	6.5
Florida	27	👈	28.5	34	👈	4.9	24	👈	4.1	29	👈	6.5
New Jersey	28	👈	28.5	33	👈	4.9	14	👈	5.0	40	👈	5.7
Oregon	29	👈	27.7	40	👈	4.7	33	👈	3.5	19	👈	7.0
Washington	30	👈	27.5	25	👈	5.2	29	👈	3.8	31	👈	6.4
Illinois	31	👈	25.7	37	👈	4.8	21	👈	4.3	39	👉	5.7
Oklahoma	32	👈	25.7	30	👈	5.0	45	👈	2.6	15	👉	7.4
Pennsylvania	33	👈	25.6	38	👈	4.8	27	👈	3.9	34	👈	6.1
Minnesota	34	👈	25.2	2	👈	8.0	13	👈	5.3	49	👉	4.0
West Virginia	35	👈	24.9	48	👉	3.9	43	👈	2.7	9	👈	7.9
Massachusetts	36	👉	24.7	23	👈	5.3	20	👈	4.4	44	👈	5.3
North Carolina	37	👈	24.2	29	👉	5.1	37	👈	3.0	26	👈	6.5
New Mexico	38	👈	24.1	45	👉	4.1	47	👈	2.3	6	👈	8.3
Maryland	39	👈	24.1	36	👈	4.8	35	👈	3.1	25	👈	6.5
Tennessee	40	👈	23.7	13	👈	6.4	40	👈	2.9	37	👉	5.8
Michigan	41	👈	22.6	21	👈	5.3	44	👈	2.7	32	👉	6.3
California	42	👈	21.0	44	👉	4.2	42	👈	2.7	27	👉	6.5
Kentucky	43	👈	20.7	35	👈	4.9	36	👈	3.1	42	👈	5.6
Connecticut	44	👈	20.1	49	👉	3.8	38	👈	2.9	33	👈	6.2
Ohio	45	👈	18.1	31	👈	5.0	41	👈	2.8	46	👉	5.0
Louisiana	46	👈	17.5	47	👉	4.0	46	👈	2.6	38	👈	5.7
New York	47	👈	16.4	41	👉	4.6	50	👈	2.1	43	👈	5.6
Rhode Island	48	👈	15.4	28	👈	5.1	48	👈	2.3	47	👉	4.7
Arkansas	49	👉	14.7	24	👈	5.3	49	👈	2.2	48	👉	4.5
Delaware	50	👉	13.2	27	👈	5.1	32	👈	3.6	50	👉	3.2