

The unemployment chart from this snapshot gives a sense of the shock that April brought to the country's economic system, but delays in the other data points that make up the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) make this just a taste of the full bitterness. Rhode Island dropped one spot in its overall ranking to 48th in the country, but that was arguably due to weakness at the end of pre-COVID 2019. Data for 10 of the 12 datapoints of the index except TANF and federal taxes were updated for this iteration.

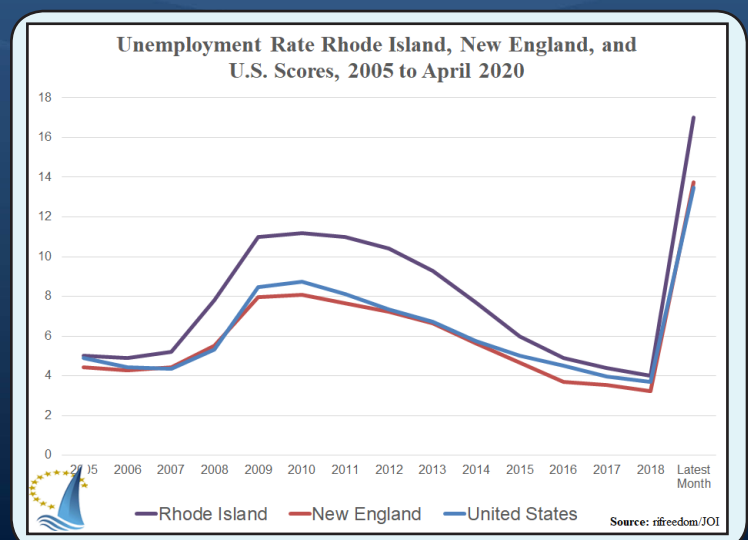
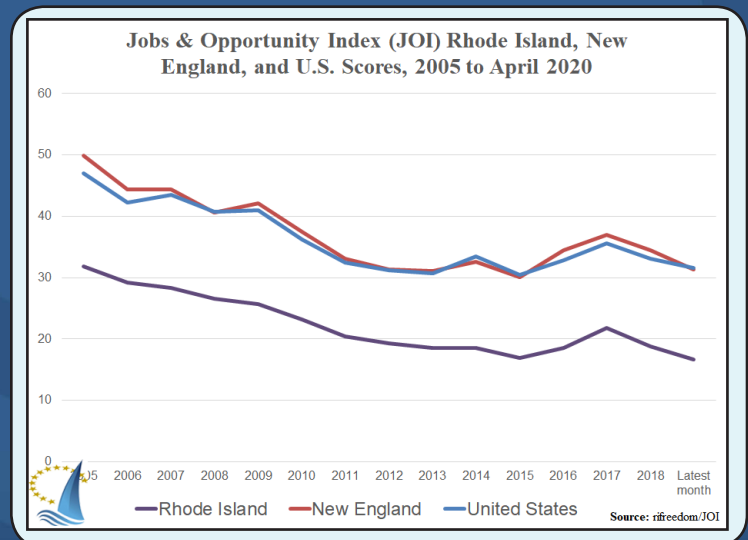
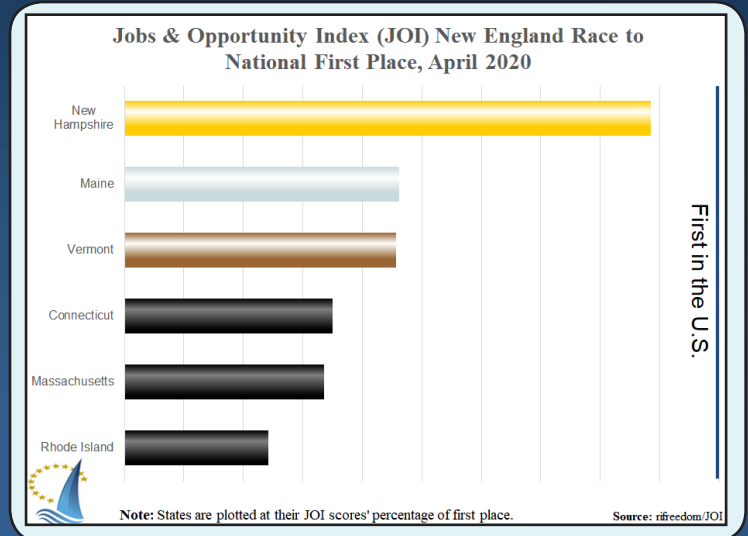
Jobs based in RI fell a whopping 19% from the originally reported number for December, and employment fell 18%, nearly 100,000 in both cases, and the labor force fell 5%. Medicaid enrollment (as of January) increased about 0.7%, while SNAP (foodstamp) enrollment was down 1.8% (as of February). Because the COVID-19 hit came all of a sudden, the Ocean State managed to improve on long-term unemployment (as of March), but experienced a 4% increase in marginally attached workers and another 18% increase in those working only part time because more work was not available.

Perhaps of more concern, because it reflects data from December, personal income in the state fell 1.0% on an annualized basis (a little under \$500 million). At the same time, state and local taxation increased 1.7%, or \$63 million.

The first chart at right shows RI remaining last in New England on JOI, at 48th. New Hampshire slipped two spots, to 3rd nationally. Maine fell three, to 20th, while Vermont managed to hold at 21st. Connecticut overtook Massachusetts by maintaining its 37th place while the Bay State plummeted five spots, to 41st.

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. Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI fell nine spots, to 36th.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI fell three spots, to 44th.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > April 2020 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👍	68.8	18	👎	5.8	1	👋	10.0	5	👋	8.1
Utah	2	👍	66.8	2	👍	8.4	2	👋	9.2	13	👋	7.5
New Hampshire	3	👎	60.9	8	👎	7.2	6	👎	6.8	2	👋	8.8
North Dakota	4	👍	53.1	1	👍	10.0	3	👋	8.4	36	👋	5.9
South Dakota	5	👎	51.8	3	👍	8.3	7	👋	6.5	16	👎	7.2
Kansas	6	👋	46.9	7	👎	7.3	5	👍	7.0	24	👎	6.6
Idaho	7	👋	45.0	5	👍	7.9	11	👎	4.8	9	👋	7.6
Iowa	8	👋	41.4	4	👎	8.3	16	👋	4.5	18	👋	7.1
Virginia	9	👋	40.1	20	👍	5.7	9	👋	5.4	15	👍	7.3
South Carolina	10	👍	38.1	16	👍	6.2	22	👍	3.8	4	👎	8.2
Alabama	11	👎	37.0	9	👍	7.1	33	👍	3.5	7	👋	7.8
Colorado	12	👎	36.8	23	👍	5.5	15	👋	4.6	14	👋	7.5
Nebraska	13	👍	36.0	15	👎	6.4	4	👍	7.2	45	👋	5.2
Wisconsin	14	👎	35.2	11	👎	6.8	13	👋	4.7	27	👋	6.5
Montana	15	👍	35.1	24	👍	5.4	28	👍	3.7	3	👍	8.2
Texas	16	👎	34.0	27	👎	5.4	12	👍	4.7	22	👋	6.9
Alaska	17	👍	33.1	47	👍	4.2	45	👍	2.8	1	👋	10.0
Missouri	18	👍	33.0	17	👎	6.2	10	👍	5.4	37	👋	5.8
Oklahoma	19	👋	32.9	13	👍	6.5	30	👍	3.6	17	👋	7.2
Maine	20	👎	31.8	33	👎	5.1	27	👎	3.7	12	👎	7.6
Vermont	21	👋	31.4	10	👍	7.1	25	👎	3.7	29	👋	6.4
Georgia	22	👍	30.2	26	👎	5.4	18	👍	4.1	23	👍	6.6
Arizona	23	👍	29.3	45	👍	4.3	32	👍	3.5	8	👋	7.7
North Carolina	24	👎	29.3	32	👎	5.1	17	👋	4.2	25	👍	6.5
Maryland	25	👋	29.2	22	👎	5.6	19	👍	4.0	30	👋	6.4
Indiana	26	👎	28.9	14	👋	6.4	20	👎	4.0	35	👋	6.0
Washington	27	👍	27.1	31	👎	5.1	26	👋	3.7	28	👋	6.4
New Jersey	28	👍	27.0	28	👍	5.3	14	👎	4.6	43	👋	5.5
Florida	29	👋	26.7	41	👎	4.6	21	👍	3.9	26	👎	6.5
Tennessee	30	👋	26.6	12	👎	6.8	29	👍	3.6	41	👍	5.6
Hawaii	31	👎	26.5	34	👎	5.1	37	👎	3.2	21	👋	6.9
Mississippi	32	👍	25.9	50	👋	3.8	42	👍	3.0	6	👋	7.9
Oregon	33	👍	25.8	37	👍	4.7	38	👍	3.2	20	👋	6.9
Nevada	34	👎	25.8	40	👎	4.6	39	👎	3.1	19	👋	7.1
Minnesota	35	👍	25.3	6	👍	7.5	8	👋	5.7	49	👋	4.0
Michigan	36	👎	24.2	29	👍	5.3	40	👎	3.0	31	👍	6.3
Connecticut	37	👋	24.0	49	👎	4.0	23	👍	3.8	33	👋	6.2
West Virginia	38	👍	23.4	44	👍	4.4	48	👋	2.4	10	👋	7.6
Pennsylvania	39	👋	23.2	39	👍	4.6	36	👍	3.4	34	👋	6.1
Illinois	40	👍	23.1	30	👍	5.2	34	👎	3.5	40	👍	5.7
Massachusetts	41	👎	23.1	25	👎	5.4	24	👎	3.7	44	👋	5.3
Kentucky	42	👍	22.8	19	👍	5.8	41	👍	3.0	39	👋	5.7
New Mexico	43	👎	22.0	42	👍	4.6	50	👋	2.0	11	👍	7.6
California	44	👎	20.7	46	👎	4.2	46	👎	2.8	32	👎	6.3
Ohio	45	👋	20.3	35	👋	5.0	31	👎	3.5	46	👋	5.0
New York	46	👋	18.6	43	👎	4.5	47	👋	2.7	42	👎	5.6
Arkansas	47	👍	17.3	21	👍	5.6	43	👍	3.0	48	👋	4.4
Rhode Island	48	👎	16.6	36	👎	4.8	44	👎	2.9	47	👋	4.7
Louisiana	49	👎	16.6	48	👎	4.1	49	👋	2.2	38	👋	5.8
Delaware	50	👋	12.1	38	👎	4.6	35	👍	3.4	50	👋	3.2