

As somewhat expected, an update to income numbers lost Rhode Island its improved rank on the Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) from the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity, bringing the Ocean State back to 47th in the country. Six of the 12 datapoints in the index were updated for September, although Rhode Island remains the only state not updating its SNAP (food stamp) data, due to the UHIP debacle.

Employment was up from the first-reported number for July by a small 170 people, while the labor force actually dropped 319. In keeping with these results, RI-based jobs came in exactly the same for September, after having dropped significantly the month before.

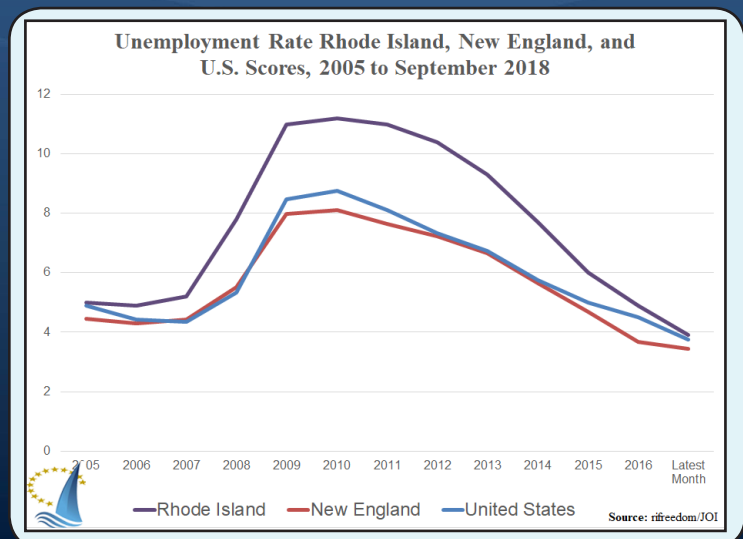
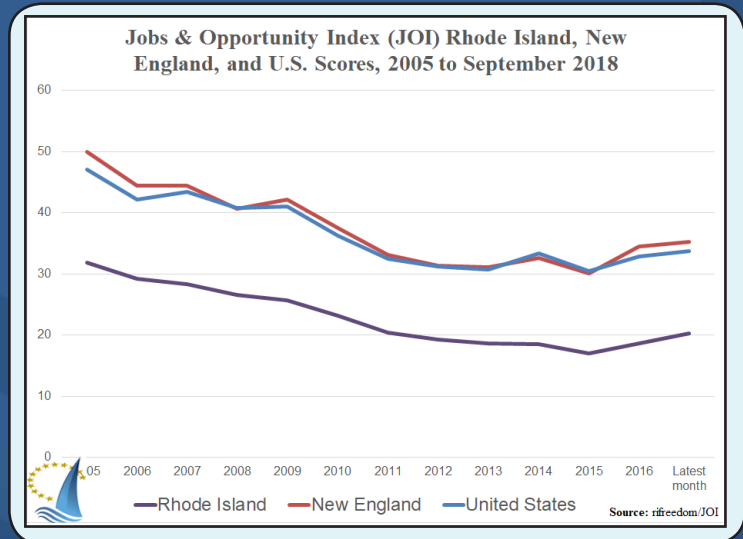
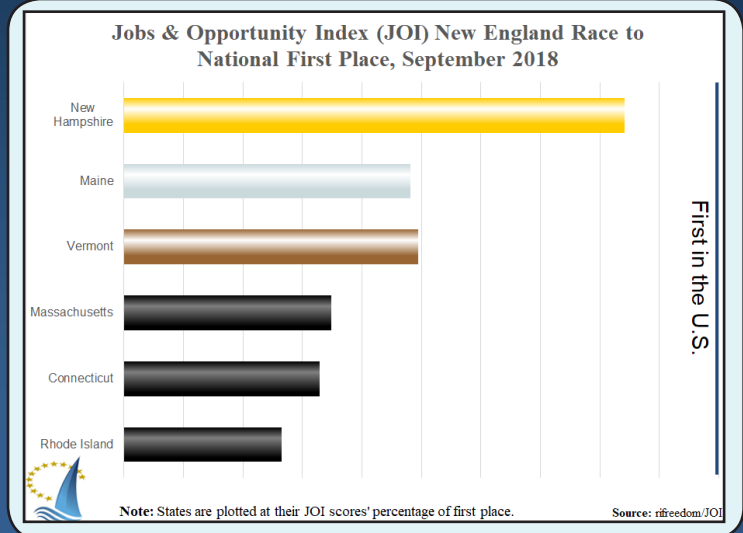
Unfortunately, the number of Rhode Islanders relying on Medicaid went in the opposite direction, following a drop last month with an increase of 439 enrollees. When it comes to SNAP, the inability to update the numbers may be hurting Rhode Island, inasmuch as 45 states saw a reduction in this benefit, which registers as a positive for the index. Meanwhile, annualized personal income was up 4%, which wasn't enough to prevent the Ocean State from losing ground compared with other states.

The Ocean State saw no change in any of the subfactors that go into its overall JOI ranking. The drop in place to 47th resulted from New York's 6% increase in income.

The first chart at right shows RI last in New England. New Hampshire leads the region, with 3rd place, nationally. Vermont was steady at 13th, while Maine held 16th. Massachusetts also did not move, from 35th, but Connecticut managed to gain a spot, to 38th.

The second chart shows the gap between RI and New England and the United States on JOI. 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 remained 17th.
- **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 > September 2018 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👉	76.6	21	👉	6.2	1	👉	10.0	2	👉	8.9
Utah	2	👉	69.4	4	👉	8.1	2	👉	9.8	11	👈	7.5
New Hampshire	3	👉	64.5	14	👉	6.9	4	👉	8.0	4	👈	8.5
North Dakota	4	👉	52.9	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	8.7	33	👎	5.8
South Dakota	5	👉	48.0	5	👉	8.0	8	👉	6.6	21	👉	6.8
Idaho	6	👈	47.1	8	👉	7.4	10	👉	5.7	13	👎	7.5
Virginia	7	👎	46.8	20	👉	6.2	7	👉	7.1	20	👎	6.9
Kansas	8	👉	45.9	10	👉	7.3	6	👉	7.3	27	👎	6.3
Colorado	9	👉	41.0	9	👉	7.3	15	👉	4.9	17	👉	7.1
South Carolina	10	👈	40.5	23	👉	6.0	25	👈	4.1	3	👈	8.5
Iowa	11	👎	40.0	3	👉	8.2	17	👉	4.8	22	👉	6.6
Wisconsin	12	👉	38.5	12	👉	7.2	11	👉	5.5	26	👈	6.3
Vermont	13	👉	37.9	13	👉	7.0	23	👉	4.2	16	👎	7.3
Montana	14	👈	37.2	26	👉	5.9	37	👉	3.8	6	👉	8.2
Nebraska	15	👎	36.9	7	👉	7.5	5	👉	7.4	44	👉	5.0
Maine	16	👉	36.9	19	👉	6.3	24	👉	4.2	14	👎	7.5
Hawaii	17	👉	35.8	11	👉	7.3	29	👎	4.0	19	👎	6.9
Alabama	18	👈	35.3	25	👉	5.9	36	👎	3.9	8	👉	7.7
Texas	19	👎	35.3	24	👉	6.0	14	👉	5.0	23	👉	6.6
Oklahoma	20	👉	34.7	22	👉	6.1	32	👉	3.9	15	👉	7.4
Alaska	21	👉	34.1	50	👉	3.5	42	👉	3.4	1	👉	10.0
Indiana	22	👉	33.3	6	👉	7.5	16	👉	4.8	34	👉	5.8
North Carolina	23	👈	32.0	28	👉	5.8	18	👈	4.8	30	👎	6.2
Arizona	24	👎	31.9	41	👉	4.9	38	👉	3.7	9	👉	7.7
Maryland	25	👎	31.5	31	👉	5.4	20	👎	4.6	25	👎	6.5
Nevada	26	👉	31.5	45	👉	4.8	34	👎	3.9	12	👈	7.5
Mississippi	27	👉	30.8	40	👉	4.9	43	👉	3.3	7	👉	8.0
Oregon	28	👉	29.8	30	👉	5.5	40	👉	3.6	18	👈	7.0
Georgia	29	👉	28.5	36	👉	5.1	21	👈	4.4	31	👈	6.1
Missouri	30	👈	28.2	16	👉	6.6	12	👉	5.4	45	👉	4.9
Florida	31	👎	28.1	37	👉	5.0	31	👎	4.0	24	👈	6.5
Washington	32	👉	27.8	34	👈	5.1	28	👈	4.1	29	👎	6.3
New Jersey	33	👉	27.1	43	👈	4.8	13	👉	5.2	42	👉	5.3
Tennessee	34	👈	26.8	18	👉	6.4	27	👈	4.1	38	👉	5.5
Massachusetts	35	👉	26.7	27	👉	5.9	19	👉	4.6	43	👉	5.3
Michigan	36	👎	26.5	35	👎	5.1	33	👉	3.9	32	👈	6.1
New Mexico	37	👈	25.4	48	👉	4.5	50	👉	2.2	5	👎	8.4
Connecticut	38	👈	25.2	47	👉	4.5	22	👎	4.4	36	👉	5.7
Minnesota	39	👎	25.2	2	👉	8.5	9	👉	6.0	49	👉	3.7
West Virginia	40	👉	24.1	49	👉	4.2	49	👉	2.7	10	👉	7.5
Pennsylvania	41	👉	24.1	42	👉	4.8	35	👈	3.9	35	👉	5.7
Illinois	42	👉	24.0	39	👉	5.0	30	👎	4.0	37	👈	5.5
Kentucky	43	👉	23.6	15	👉	6.6	45	👉	3.2	41	👎	5.4
California	44	👉	23.5	46	👉	4.7	44	👉	3.2	28	👈	6.3
Ohio	45	👉	21.7	32	👉	5.4	26	👎	4.1	46	👉	4.8
New York	46	👈	20.4	38	👉	5.0	47	👉	3.1	40	👈	5.5
Rhode Island	47	👎	20.3	17	👉	6.4	41	👉	3.4	47	👉	4.6
Louisiana	48	👉	18.8	44	👎	4.8	48	👉	2.7	39	👎	5.5
Arkansas	49	👉	17.5	29	👉	5.8	46	👉	3.2	48	👉	4.3
Delaware	50	👉	14.2	33	👉	5.3	39	👉	3.7	50	👉	3.4