

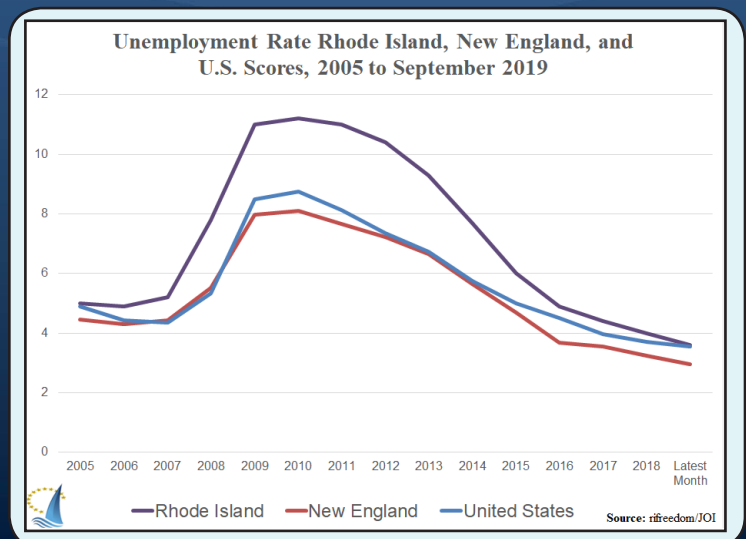
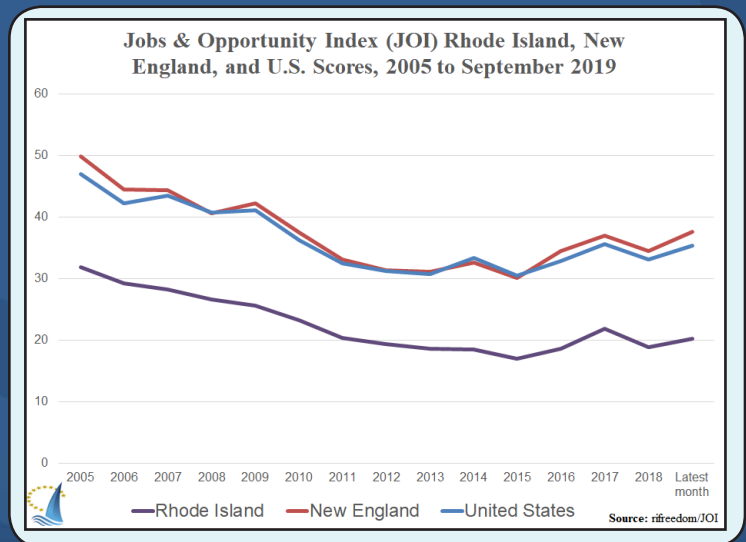
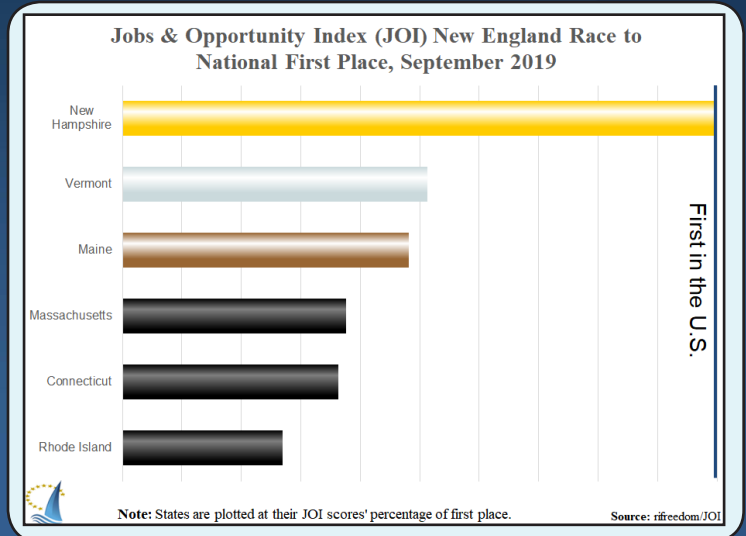
As the third quarter of 2019 came to a close, Rhode Island still held its overall ranking of 47th in the country on the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) but was basically tied with 48th place Louisiana. Data for all 12 datapoints of the index except federal taxes were updated for this iteration, and RI benefited by the fact that it was finally able to report data for SNAP (foodstamps), which it had not done for two-and-a-half years thanks to the UHIP debacle.

Compared with June, RI improved on most measures. Employment and labor force were up about 0.6% since the first-reported numbers for June, with RI-based jobs increasing a more-modest 0.3%. Correspondingly, Medicaid enrollment fell 0.8%, while TANF (cash welfare) rolls shrank by 8.0%. SNAP enrollment was down 4.0%, although that is from the number as reported ever since February 2017. The Ocean State had 2.3% fewer residents who counted as long-term unemployed and 3.8% fewer who were working only part time because more work was not available. However, the number counting as marginally attached increased 23.7%.

The picture is also mixed when it comes to money. Personal income was up 3.9% on an annualized basis, which amounted to \$1.8 billion more income. However, state and local taxation increased 10.5%, or \$349 million, resulting not only from the increased income, but also expansive changes to tax policy.

The first chart at right shows RI remaining last in New England on JOI, at 47th. New Hampshire returned to 1st nationally. Vermont and Maine slipped, to 14th and 19th, respectively. Massachusetts remained 37th. However, Connecticut advanced to 38th. 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 three spots, to 32nd.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI advanced two, to 41st.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



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

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
New Hampshire	1	👍	75.2	4	👎	8.8	4	👎	7.8	2	👎	9.2
Wyoming	2	👎	75.1	15	👎	6.8	1	👎	10.0	5	👎	8.5
Utah	3	👎	69.2	8	👎	8.0	2	👎	9.2	13	👎	7.8
North Dakota	4	👎	54.1	1	👎	10.0	3	👎	8.4	38	👎	6.0
Kansas	5	👎	51.6	6	👎	8.3	5	👎	7.1	24	👍	6.8
South Dakota	6	👍	51.0	9	👍	8.0	7	👎	6.4	18	👍	7.4
Idaho	7	👎	50.0	10	👎	7.6	10	👎	5.6	11	👎	7.9
Virginia	8	👎	45.6	18	👎	6.4	9	👎	5.8	15	👍	7.6
Iowa	9	👍	44.3	2	👍	9.0	17	👎	4.6	21	👍	7.2
Colorado	10	👍	42.1	16	👎	6.7	15	👎	4.8	14	👍	7.8
Wisconsin	11	👎	42.1	7	👎	8.3	12	👎	5.1	29	👎	6.8
South Carolina	12	👍	39.7	26	👎	6.0	27	👎	3.9	3	👍	8.6
Nebraska	13	👍	38.8	12	👎	7.5	6	👎	7.0	45	👎	5.4
Vermont	14	👎	38.6	5	👍	8.6	22	👎	4.1	28	👎	6.8
Texas	15	👍	38.5	22	👎	6.2	14	👎	5.0	22	👍	7.1
Montana	16	👎	38.4	27	👎	6.0	34	👍	3.7	4	👎	8.5
Alabama	17	👎	38.2	17	👍	6.5	35	👎	3.7	7	👍	8.2
Missouri	18	👍	37.3	11	👍	7.5	11	👎	5.5	37	👍	6.0
Maine	19	👎	36.2	33	👎	5.6	24	👎	4.0	10	👍	8.0
Oklahoma	20	👍	34.2	21	👍	6.2	37	👎	3.6	16	👎	7.5
Alaska	21	👎	34.0	50	👎	4.2	46	👎	3.0	1	👎	10.0
Indiana	22	👎	33.4	14	👎	6.9	16	👍	4.6	35	👎	6.2
Hawaii	23	👎	32.4	30	👎	5.7	33	👎	3.8	20	👎	7.3
Georgia	24	👍	32.4	35	👍	5.5	18	👍	4.3	25	👍	6.8
Washington	25	👍	32.1	23	👍	6.1	25	👎	3.9	26	👍	6.8
North Carolina	26	👎	31.9	31	👎	5.7	21	👎	4.2	27	👎	6.8
Arizona	27	👎	31.9	43	👎	4.8	38	👎	3.6	8	👍	8.0
Maryland	28	👎	31.5	34	👍	5.5	20	👎	4.3	31	👎	6.7
Nevada	29	👎	31.3	42	👎	4.9	29	👍	3.9	17	👎	7.4
New Jersey	30	👎	31.3	25	👍	6.0	13	👎	5.0	43	👎	5.8
Florida	31	👍	30.3	37	👎	5.4	26	👍	3.9	23	👍	6.9
Mississippi	32	👎	30.2	48	👎	4.5	42	👎	3.2	6	👎	8.3
Tennessee	33	👍	29.8	13	👎	7.4	30	👍	3.8	42	👎	5.9
Michigan	34	👍	29.5	28	👎	5.9	32	👍	3.8	33	👎	6.5
Oregon	35	👎	28.9	41	👎	5.1	40	👎	3.4	19	👎	7.3
Minnesota	36	👎	28.5	3	👎	8.8	8	👍	5.8	49	👎	4.2
Massachusetts	37	👎	28.2	19	👍	6.3	19	👎	4.3	44	👎	5.6
Connecticut	38	👍	27.3	49	👎	4.3	23	👎	4.1	32	👍	6.6
Pennsylvania	39	👎	27.0	39	👎	5.3	36	👎	3.6	34	👎	6.4
Illinois	40	👍	26.0	36	👍	5.4	31	👎	3.8	41	👎	5.9
West Virginia	41	👎	25.9	46	👍	4.6	49	👎	2.5	9	👎	8.0
California	42	👎	24.2	45	👎	4.6	45	👎	3.1	30	👎	6.7
New Mexico	43	👎	24.0	44	👍	4.8	50	👎	2.1	12	👎	7.9
Ohio	44	👎	23.8	29	👍	5.8	28	👍	3.9	46	👎	5.3
Kentucky	45	👎	23.5	38	👎	5.4	43	👎	3.2	40	👍	5.9
New York	46	👎	21.9	40	👍	5.2	47	👎	2.9	39	👍	5.9
Rhode Island	47	👎	20.2	32	👎	5.6	41	👍	3.2	47	👎	5.0
Louisiana	48	👎	20.2	47	👎	4.5	48	👎	2.6	36	👍	6.1
Arkansas	49	👎	19.4	20	👍	6.3	44	👍	3.1	48	👎	4.6
Delaware	50	👎	14.5	24	👍	6.0	39	👎	3.5	50	👎	3.3