

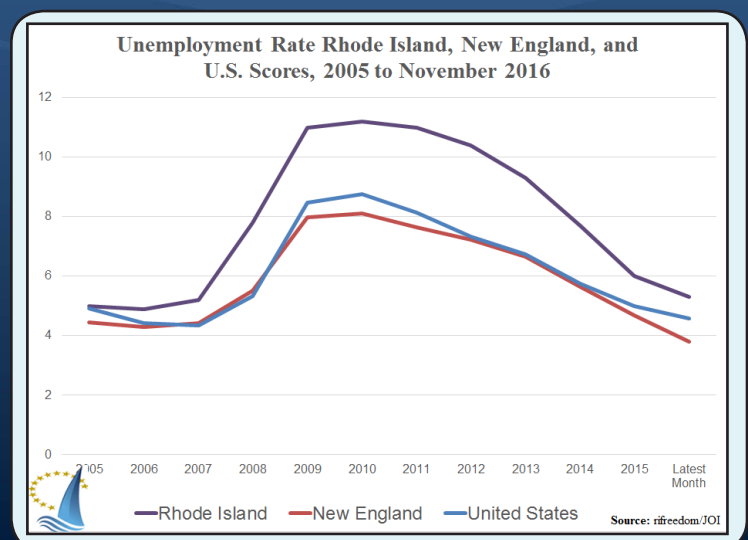
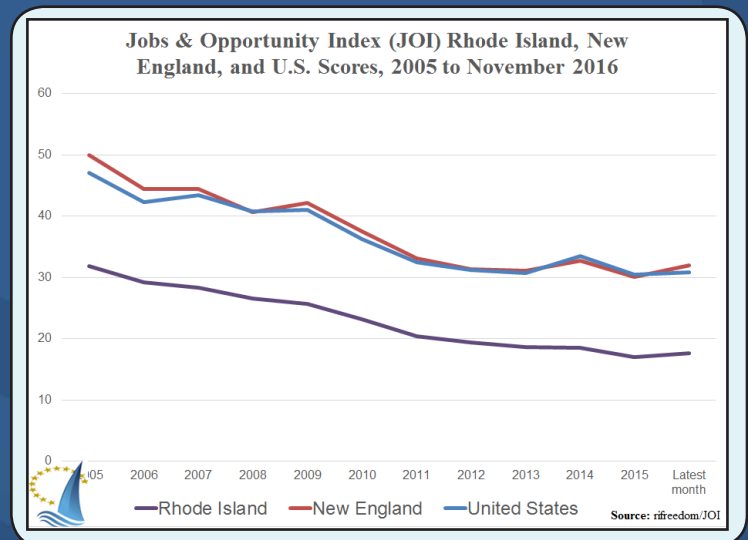
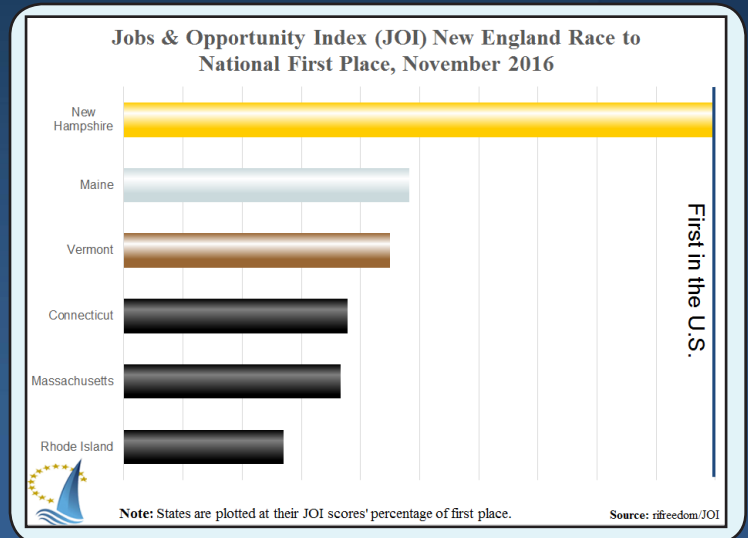
The final Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) report from the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity to be released in 2016 brings little change, leaving until next year information about how factors such as the problematic Unified Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP) will affect Rhode Island's position nationally.

Of the 13 datapoints used for the index, only five were newly updated for the November report. Employment was down 365 from the previously recorded number, while labor force fell a substantial 1,758, although RI-based jobs increased by 300. (Note that these are calculated with pre-revision data for the prior month.) Medicaid enrollment decreased by 1,369 from August to September and SNAP by 667. The enrollment numbers for Rhode Island's welfare programs will be a key variable to watch as 2016 data is completed early in the next year. Assuming UHIP doesn't undermine data reporting to the federal government, the question will be whether increased information finds more current enrollees ineligible than connecting all of the program brings more people to benefits.

The first chart at right shows Rhode Island locked in the last position in New England on JOI. Although New England experienced a mix of improved and declining JOI scores, no states changed position in the national ranking. New Hampshire remained 1st in the nation, with Maine a distant second, at 20th. Vermont was right behind, at 21st. Connecticut narrowly held its 34th position, with Massachusetts next, at 35th.

The second chart at right shows the gap between Rhode Island and New England as well as the United States, with the Ocean State's lag worsening slightly in both cases. Rhode Island kept pace with New England for the gap on the unemployment rate but lost ground against the national average (third chart). Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (measuring optimism that adequate work is available): RI remained at 39th.
- **Freedom Factor** (measuring the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI remained at 39th.
- **Prosperity Factor** (measuring the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained at 47th.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > November 2016 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
New Hampshire	1	👉	65.0	6	👉	5.7	4	👉	8.2	2	👉	8.9
Utah	2	👉	59.6	7	👉	5.6	3	👉	9.4	12	👉	7.4
Wyoming	3	👉	57.4	21	👈	4.6	2	👉	9.9	16	👉	7.1
South Dakota	4	👉	55.0	1	👉	10.0	8	👉	6.8	18	👉	6.9
North Dakota	5	👉	53.9	2	👉	8.0	1	👉	10.0	33	👉	5.8
Virginia	6	👉	46.0	24	👈	4.4	6	👉	7.5	15	👉	7.2
Kansas	7	👉	41.5	9	👉	5.5	7	👉	7.1	25	👉	6.4
Alaska	8	👉	40.7	48	👉	3.4	23	👎	4.4	1	👉	10.0
Iowa	9	👉	40.1	4	👉	6.8	13	👉	5.4	19	👉	6.8
Colorado	10	👉	39.8	10	👉	5.5	15	👉	5.0	7	👉	7.7
Nebraska	11	👉	39.2	3	👉	7.6	5	👉	8.0	44	👉	5.0
Idaho	12	👉	39.2	5	👉	5.7	14	👉	5.4	17	👉	7.1
Montana	13	👉	37.6	19	👉	4.8	21	👈	4.7	4	👉	8.0
South Carolina	14	👉	34.2	35	👈	4.0	32	👎	4.1	3	👉	8.4
Wisconsin	15	👉	33.9	12	👉	5.4	10	👉	5.7	31	👉	6.1
Hawaii	16	👉	33.0	20	👈	4.6	27	👉	4.3	9	👉	7.5
Maryland	17	👉	32.5	16	👈	5.0	18	👉	4.9	21	👉	6.6
Alabama	18	👉	32.3	28	👉	4.3	37	👉	4.0	5	👉	7.9
Texas	19	👉	31.5	15	👉	5.1	17	👉	4.9	26	👉	6.3
Maine	20	👉	31.4	26	👉	4.3	29	👈	4.2	13	👉	7.4
Vermont	21	👉	29.2	8	👉	5.5	26	👉	4.3	30	👉	6.2
Missouri	22	👈	28.7	13	👉	5.3	11	👉	5.6	42	👉	5.2
Nevada	23	👎	28.7	50	👉	3.2	30	👎	4.2	10	👉	7.4
Oklahoma	24	👉	28.3	18	👉	4.8	35	👉	4.0	22	👉	6.5
Indiana	25	👉	27.4	17	👎	5.0	19	👉	4.9	37	👉	5.6
Arizona	26	👉	27.4	38	👉	4.0	41	👉	3.7	14	👉	7.2
Washington	27	👉	27.2	30	👉	4.2	33	👉	4.1	23	👉	6.5
Florida	28	👉	27.0	42	👉	3.8	25	👉	4.4	24	👉	6.5
Georgia	29	👈	26.2	43	👉	3.7	22	👎	4.5	27	👉	6.2
North Carolina	30	👎	26.2	32	👉	4.2	24	👉	4.4	32	👉	6.1
Mississippi	31	👉	26.1	44	👉	3.7	46	👈	3.2	8	👉	7.7
Oregon	32	👉	25.0	31	👉	4.2	42	👉	3.6	20	👉	6.6
Michigan	33	👉	24.8	40	👉	3.9	34	👉	4.1	28	👉	6.2
Connecticut	34	👉	24.6	47	👉	3.5	16	👉	4.9	39	👉	5.6
Massachusetts	35	👉	23.8	23	👉	4.4	20	👉	4.7	43	👉	5.2
New Jersey	36	👈	23.7	36	👎	4.0	12	👉	5.4	45	👉	4.8
Pennsylvania	37	👎	23.7	37	👉	4.0	28	👉	4.2	35	👉	5.7
West Virginia	38	👉	23.1	41	👉	3.8	49	👉	2.8	11	👉	7.4
Tennessee	39	👉	21.9	27	👉	4.3	40	👉	3.7	38	👉	5.6
Illinois	40	👉	21.4	45	👉	3.6	31	👈	4.2	40	👉	5.4
California	41	👉	21.2	46	👉	3.5	44	👉	3.4	29	👉	6.2
New Mexico	42	👉	20.7	49	👉	3.4	50	👉	2.3	6	👉	7.8
Kentucky	43	👈	20.7	29	👉	4.3	43	👉	3.4	36	👉	5.6
Minnesota	44	👎	20.5	11	👉	5.4	9	👉	6.3	49	👉	3.4
Ohio	45	👉	19.1	25	👎	4.4	36	👉	4.0	46	👉	4.6
New York	46	👉	18.9	33	👉	4.1	45	👈	3.3	41	👉	5.3
Louisiana	47	👉	18.7	34	👉	4.0	48	👉	2.8	34	👉	5.8
Rhode Island	48	👉	17.6	39	👉	3.9	39	👉	3.8	47	👉	4.6
Arkansas	49	👉	15.8	14	👉	5.3	47	👎	3.2	48	👉	4.0
Delaware	50	👉	10.8	22	👎	4.6	38	👉	3.9	50	👉	2.6