

Rhode Island's ranking on the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) held at 47th for March, but one of the three subfactors of the index worsened. On the Freedom Factor, which measures employment and jobs against welfare enrollment, Rhode Island fell one spot to 42nd in the country. Six of the 12 datapoints of the index changed for this iteration.

Employment was up from the first-reported number for February, by 737, while labor force was up 677. RI-based jobs, however, decreased by 600. Medicaid enrollment improved a little from the previously reported number, with a decrease of 103, but SNAP (food stamps) more than made up for the difference, jumping about 2%, or 3,300 enrollees, perhaps for reasons having to do with the state's problematic Unified Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP).

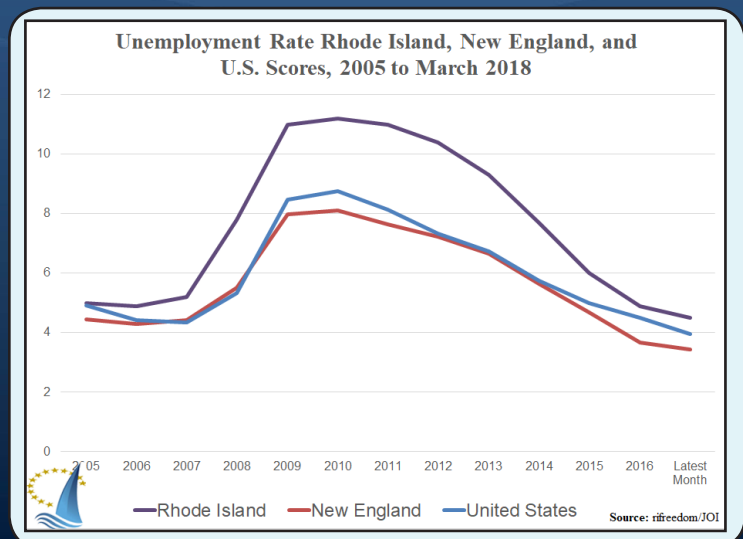
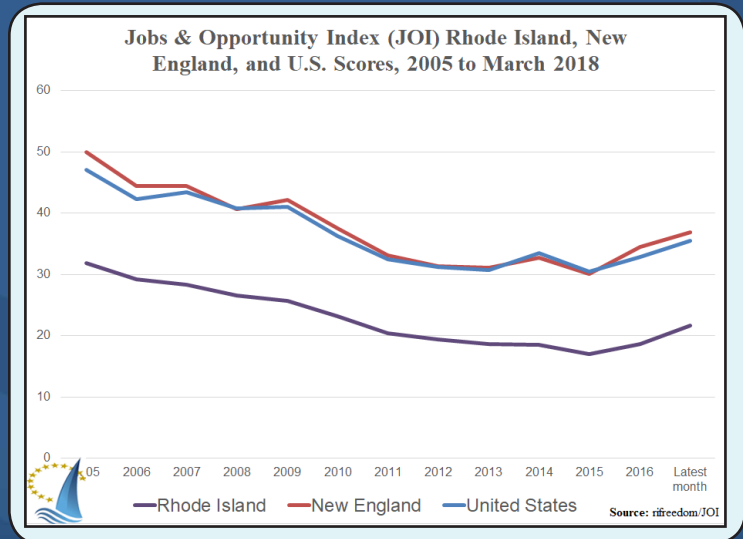
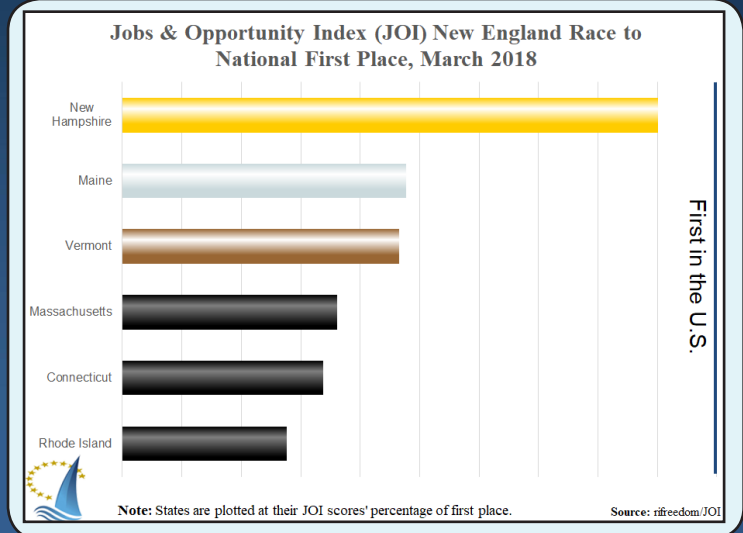
Meanwhile, federal taxation in Rhode Island was up some \$310 million, or 2%.

The first chart at right shows Rhode Island still in the last position in New England, 47th in the country. Regional leader New Hampshire is still in 2nd place, nationally, behind Wyoming. Maine improved one spot, to 18th, while Vermont slipped one, to 21st. Massachusetts also fell one, to 34th, while Connecticut jumped six places forward, to 37th, leaving RI alone as a New England state in the bottom 10, nationally. (CT's story may not be a good one; almost every datapoint was negative, except gross federal income taxes, which dropped 8.5%.)

The second chart shows the gap between RI and New England and the United States on JOI. In both cases, the Ocean State lost a little ground. On the official unemployment rate, RI saw the opposite trend, closing the gaps modestly.

Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI held on to 18th.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI dropped to 42nd.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > March 2018 > 2

| | JOI | | | Job Outlook Factor | | | Freedom Factor | | | Prosperity Factor | | |
|----------------|------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| | Rank | Trend | Score | Rank | Trend | Score | Rank | Trend | Score | Rank | Trend | Score |
| Wyoming | 1 | 👉 | 78.5 | 21 | 👉 | 6.6 | 1 | 👉 | 10.0 | 2 | 👍 | 8.9 |
| New Hampshire | 2 | 👉 | 70.8 | 7 | 👉 | 8.1 | 4 | 👉 | 8.0 | 3 | 👎 | 8.8 |
| Utah | 3 | 👉 | 65.9 | 15 | 👍 | 7.5 | 2 | 👉 | 9.7 | 14 | 👎 | 7.3 |
| North Dakota | 4 | 👉 | 60.3 | 1 | 👉 | 10.0 | 3 | 👉 | 8.9 | 26 | 👍 | 6.5 |
| South Dakota | 5 | 👉 | 52.0 | 3 | 👉 | 8.6 | 8 | 👉 | 6.7 | 18 | 👍 | 7.1 |
| Kansas | 6 | 👍 | 49.7 | 12 | 👎 | 7.8 | 6 | 👉 | 7.3 | 23 | 👍 | 6.6 |
| Virginia | 7 | 👎 | 49.5 | 25 | 👉 | 6.4 | 7 | 👉 | 7.3 | 19 | 👎 | 7.1 |
| Idaho | 8 | 👉 | 47.3 | 13 | 👍 | 7.8 | 11 | 👉 | 5.6 | 12 | 👍 | 7.4 |
| Colorado | 9 | 👉 | 44.2 | 6 | 👉 | 8.1 | 15 | 👉 | 5.0 | 17 | 👎 | 7.3 |
| Iowa | 10 | 👉 | 42.5 | 4 | 👉 | 8.5 | 16 | 👎 | 5.0 | 21 | 👉 | 6.9 |
| South Carolina | 11 | 👉 | 42.1 | 20 | 👉 | 6.6 | 26 | 👎 | 4.1 | 5 | 👎 | 8.4 |
| Nebraska | 12 | 👍 | 40.9 | 5 | 👉 | 8.5 | 5 | 👉 | 7.5 | 44 | 👉 | 5.2 |
| Wisconsin | 13 | 👍 | 40.3 | 10 | 👉 | 7.8 | 10 | 👉 | 5.6 | 30 | 👉 | 6.3 |
| Hawaii | 14 | 👎 | 40.0 | 8 | 👉 | 8.1 | 28 | 👎 | 4.1 | 15 | 👎 | 7.3 |
| Oklahoma | 15 | 👍 | 39.3 | 16 | 👉 | 7.5 | 31 | 👎 | 4.0 | 11 | 👍 | 7.5 |
| Montana | 16 | 👎 | 38.7 | 27 | 👎 | 6.4 | 35 | 👎 | 3.9 | 6 | 👉 | 8.1 |
| Maine | 17 | 👍 | 37.4 | 23 | 👉 | 6.5 | 24 | 👎 | 4.3 | 13 | 👍 | 7.4 |
| Alabama | 18 | 👎 | 37.4 | 30 | 👉 | 6.1 | 36 | 👎 | 3.9 | 8 | 👎 | 8.0 |
| Texas | 19 | 👉 | 37.1 | 24 | 👉 | 6.4 | 14 | 👍 | 5.0 | 22 | 👉 | 6.8 |
| Alaska | 20 | 👍 | 36.8 | 50 | 👉 | 4.0 | 41 | 👍 | 3.5 | 1 | 👉 | 10.0 |
| Vermont | 21 | 👎 | 36.6 | 9 | 👉 | 8.0 | 23 | 👎 | 4.3 | 24 | 👍 | 6.6 |
| Indiana | 22 | 👉 | 34.3 | 11 | 👍 | 7.8 | 17 | 👎 | 4.9 | 35 | 👉 | 5.8 |
| Arizona | 23 | 👍 | 33.8 | 37 | 👍 | 5.4 | 38 | 👉 | 3.8 | 10 | 👎 | 7.8 |
| Maryland | 24 | 👎 | 33.5 | 31 | 👉 | 6.1 | 18 | 👉 | 4.7 | 27 | 👎 | 6.5 |
| North Carolina | 25 | 👍 | 32.9 | 26 | 👍 | 6.4 | 21 | 👍 | 4.5 | 28 | 👍 | 6.3 |
| Oregon | 26 | 👍 | 31.7 | 28 | 👉 | 6.2 | 40 | 👉 | 3.6 | 20 | 👉 | 7.0 |
| Mississippi | 27 | 👍 | 31.3 | 41 | 👉 | 5.2 | 44 | 👉 | 3.2 | 7 | 👍 | 8.0 |
| Nevada | 28 | 👎 | 31.0 | 48 | 👉 | 4.6 | 29 | 👎 | 4.1 | 16 | 👎 | 7.3 |
| Georgia | 29 | 👉 | 30.8 | 36 | 👉 | 5.5 | 19 | 👉 | 4.6 | 32 | 👎 | 6.2 |
| Missouri | 30 | 👎 | 30.5 | 14 | 👎 | 7.8 | 12 | 👉 | 5.4 | 45 | 👉 | 4.9 |
| Washington | 31 | 👎 | 29.2 | 35 | 👉 | 5.7 | 27 | 👍 | 4.1 | 29 | 👎 | 6.3 |
| Michigan | 32 | 👉 | 28.9 | 32 | 👉 | 5.9 | 32 | 👉 | 4.0 | 33 | 👎 | 6.2 |
| Florida | 33 | 👍 | 28.5 | 42 | 👉 | 5.1 | 33 | 👍 | 3.9 | 25 | 👍 | 6.5 |
| Massachusetts | 34 | 👎 | 28.3 | 19 | 👉 | 6.7 | 20 | 👍 | 4.6 | 42 | 👎 | 5.3 |
| New Jersey | 35 | 👉 | 28.0 | 43 | 👉 | 5.1 | 13 | 👉 | 5.4 | 43 | 👉 | 5.3 |
| West Virginia | 36 | 👍 | 27.1 | 46 | 👉 | 4.9 | 49 | 👉 | 2.7 | 9 | 👉 | 7.8 |
| Connecticut | 37 | 👍 | 26.5 | 47 | 👉 | 4.7 | 22 | 👎 | 4.5 | 36 | 👍 | 5.8 |
| Tennessee | 38 | 👎 | 26.4 | 22 | 👉 | 6.6 | 37 | 👉 | 3.8 | 40 | 👎 | 5.5 |
| Minnesota | 39 | 👉 | 26.3 | 2 | 👉 | 8.8 | 9 | 👉 | 6.2 | 49 | 👉 | 3.7 |
| New Mexico | 40 | 👉 | 25.8 | 49 | 👉 | 4.5 | 50 | 👉 | 2.3 | 4 | 👍 | 8.4 |
| Pennsylvania | 41 | 👎 | 25.7 | 40 | 👎 | 5.2 | 34 | 👉 | 3.9 | 34 | 👉 | 5.9 |
| Illinois | 42 | 👉 | 25.4 | 38 | 👎 | 5.4 | 30 | 👍 | 4.0 | 37 | 👍 | 5.6 |
| California | 43 | 👎 | 24.6 | 44 | 👉 | 5.1 | 43 | 👉 | 3.3 | 31 | 👎 | 6.3 |
| Kentucky | 44 | 👉 | 23.2 | 29 | 👉 | 6.2 | 46 | 👎 | 3.2 | 41 | 👎 | 5.5 |
| Ohio | 45 | 👍 | 22.7 | 34 | 👉 | 5.8 | 25 | 👍 | 4.1 | 46 | 👉 | 4.8 |
| New York | 46 | 👎 | 22.5 | 33 | 👉 | 5.8 | 47 | 👉 | 3.1 | 39 | 👉 | 5.5 |
| Rhode Island | 47 | 👉 | 21.7 | 18 | 👉 | 6.7 | 42 | 👎 | 3.5 | 47 | 👉 | 4.7 |
| Louisiana | 48 | 👉 | 20.4 | 39 | 👍 | 5.2 | 48 | 👉 | 2.8 | 38 | 👎 | 5.6 |
| Arkansas | 49 | 👉 | 20.4 | 17 | 👎 | 7.5 | 45 | 👍 | 3.2 | 48 | 👉 | 4.3 |
| Delaware | 50 | 👉 | 14.5 | 45 | 👉 | 5.1 | 39 | 👉 | 3.7 | 50 | 👉 | 3.5 |