

Despite some positive numbers, Rhode Island couldn't shake its 47th place ranking on the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) and even slipped on one of the three subfactors of the index. On the Job Outlook Factor, which gauges Rhode Islanders' optimism about job opportunities, the Ocean State fell five spots, to 22nd in the country. Overall, eight of the 12 datapoints of the index changed for this iteration.

Employment was up from the first-reported number for March, by 975, while labor force was up 842. RI-based jobs increased, as well, by 1,000. Medicaid enrollment improved from the previously reported number, with a decrease of 907, while SNAP (food stamps) showed no change. (Reporting problems related to the Unified Health Infrastructure Project may be an issue, here.)

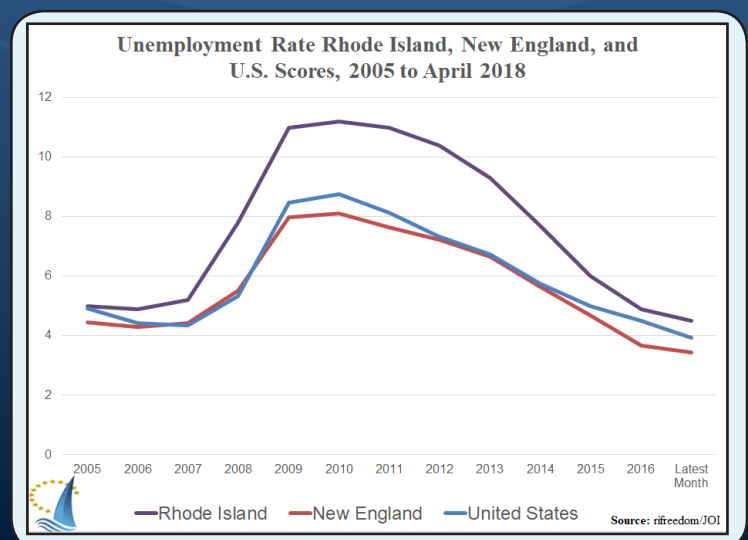
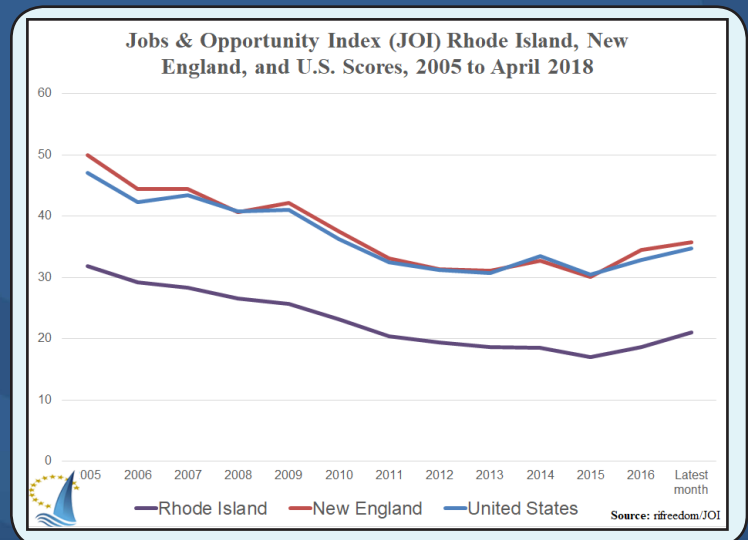
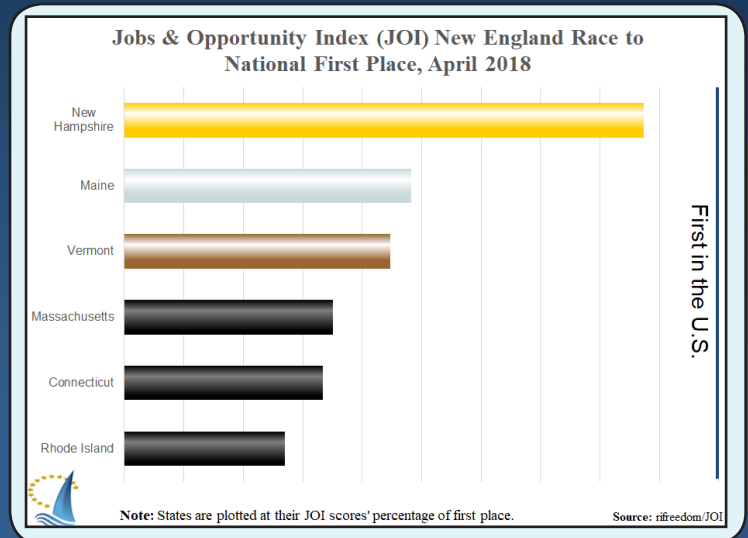
Alternative measures of unemployment were also updated. Long-term unemployment (15 weeks or more) fell a little, by 200 people, while significantly fewer people (1,300) say they are involuntarily working only part time. Another 800 Rhode Islanders say they are "marginally attached," meaning that they would potentially like to work, although the data does not indicate whether this change of attitude represents a move toward or away from job searches.

The first chart at right shows RI 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 and Vermont remained in place, at 17th and 21st, respectively. Again, Massachusetts fell one, to 35th, while Connecticut held on to 37th.

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. The same was true of the official unemployment rate, shown in the third chart.

Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI fell five slots to 23rd.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI remained 42nd.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



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

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👉	77.8	20	👉	6.4	1	👉	10.0	2	👉	8.9
New Hampshire	2	👉	67.9	14	👎	7.2	4	👉	8.0	3	👉	8.8
Utah	3	👉	66.6	6	👉	7.8	2	👉	9.7	14	👉	7.3
North Dakota	4	👉	59.5	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	8.7	26	👉	6.5
South Dakota	5	👉	51.0	3	👉	8.3	8	👉	6.6	18	👉	7.1
Kansas	6	👉	49.0	11	👉	7.6	6	👉	7.3	23	👉	6.6
Virginia	7	👉	48.8	25	👉	6.2	7	👉	7.3	19	👉	7.1
Idaho	8	👉	46.4	12	👉	7.5	11	👉	5.6	12	👉	7.4
Colorado	9	👉	42.9	7	👎	7.7	15	👉	4.9	17	👉	7.3
Iowa	10	👉	42.8	2	👉	8.7	16	👉	4.9	21	👉	6.9
South Carolina	11	👉	40.9	22	👎	6.3	26	👉	4.1	5	👉	8.4
Wisconsin	12	👉	39.9	8	👉	7.7	10	👉	5.6	30	👉	6.3
Nebraska	13	👎	39.7	5	👉	7.9	5	👉	7.5	44	👉	5.2
Hawaii	14	👉	38.6	10	👎	7.6	31	👎	4.0	15	👉	7.3
Montana	15	👉	37.5	28	👎	6.1	36	👎	3.9	6	👉	8.1
Oklahoma	16	👎	37.5	16	👉	6.8	32	👎	4.0	11	👉	7.5
Maine	17	👉	37.5	17	👉	6.7	24	👉	4.2	13	👉	7.4
Alabama	18	👉	36.9	29	👉	6.0	35	👉	3.9	8	👉	8.0
Texas	19	👉	36.7	26	👎	6.2	14	👉	5.0	22	👉	6.8
Alaska	20	👉	35.4	50	👉	3.6	41	👉	3.5	1	👉	10.0
Vermont	21	👉	34.8	13	👎	7.3	23	👉	4.2	24	👉	6.6
Indiana	22	👉	33.7	9	👉	7.6	17	👉	4.8	35	👉	5.8
Arizona	23	👉	33.1	37	👉	5.1	38	👉	3.8	10	👉	7.8
North Carolina	24	👉	32.7	21	👉	6.3	21	👉	4.5	28	👉	6.3
Maryland	25	👎	32.2	32	👎	5.6	19	👎	4.6	27	👉	6.5
Nevada	26	👉	30.8	47	👉	4.6	30	👎	4.0	16	👉	7.3
Mississippi	27	👉	30.8	41	👉	5.0	44	👉	3.2	7	👉	8.0
Oregon	28	👎	30.6	30	👎	5.8	40	👉	3.6	20	👉	7.0
Georgia	29	👉	30.6	38	👎	5.1	18	👉	4.8	32	👉	6.2
Missouri	30	👉	29.1	15	👎	7.0	12	👉	5.4	45	👉	4.9
Florida	31	👉	28.7	39	👉	5.0	27	👉	4.1	25	👉	6.5
Washington	32	👎	28.4	35	👉	5.3	28	👎	4.1	29	👉	6.3
Michigan	33	👎	27.8	33	👎	5.4	33	👎	3.9	33	👉	6.2
New Jersey	34	👉	27.4	43	👉	4.9	13	👉	5.3	43	👉	5.3
Massachusetts	35	👎	27.3	27	👎	6.1	20	👉	4.5	42	👉	5.3
West Virginia	36	👉	26.3	46	👉	4.6	49	👉	2.7	9	👉	7.8
Connecticut	37	👉	26.0	48	👎	4.5	22	👉	4.5	36	👉	5.8
Tennessee	38	👉	25.8	24	👎	6.3	37	👉	3.8	40	👉	5.5
Minnesota	39	👉	25.5	4	👎	8.3	9	👉	6.2	49	👉	3.7
New Mexico	40	👉	25.4	49	👉	4.4	50	👉	2.2	4	👉	8.4
Pennsylvania	41	👉	24.9	45	👎	4.9	34	👉	3.9	34	👉	5.9
Illinois	42	👉	24.5	42	👎	4.9	29	👉	4.0	37	👉	5.6
California	43	👉	24.0	44	👉	4.9	43	👉	3.2	31	👉	6.3
Kentucky	44	👉	23.7	19	👉	6.5	45	👉	3.2	41	👉	5.5
Ohio	45	👉	22.4	31	👉	5.6	25	👉	4.1	46	👉	4.8
New York	46	👉	21.5	34	👎	5.3	47	👉	3.1	39	👉	5.5
Rhode Island	47	👉	21.0	23	👎	6.3	42	👉	3.5	47	👉	4.7
Louisiana	48	👉	19.9	40	👎	5.0	48	👉	2.7	38	👉	5.6
Arkansas	49	👉	18.8	18	👎	6.5	46	👎	3.2	48	👉	4.3
Delaware	50	👉	14.6	36	👉	5.2	39	👉	3.7	50	👉	3.5