

With Rhode Island losing both employment and labor force, in May, the state slipped to 36th in the nation for unemployment. On the broader Jobs & Opportunity (JOI) ranking, Rhode Island's rank remained unchanged at 48 among states, despite lower scores on the two subfactors for which new data was available (five of its 13 datapoints).

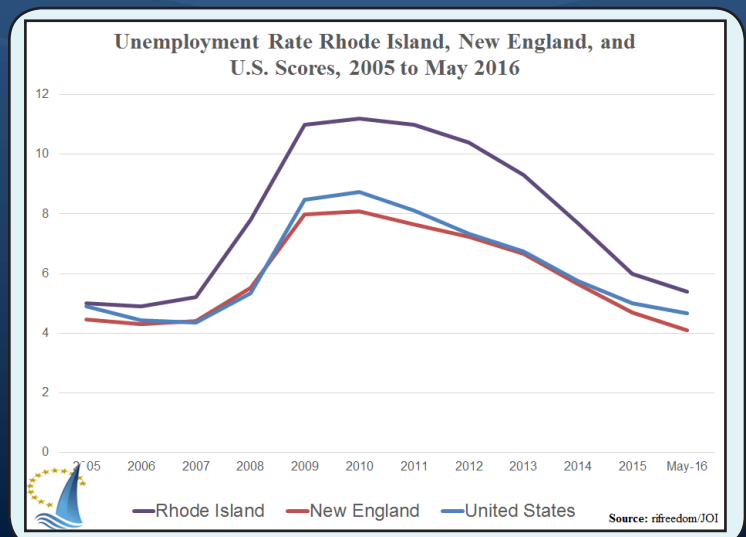
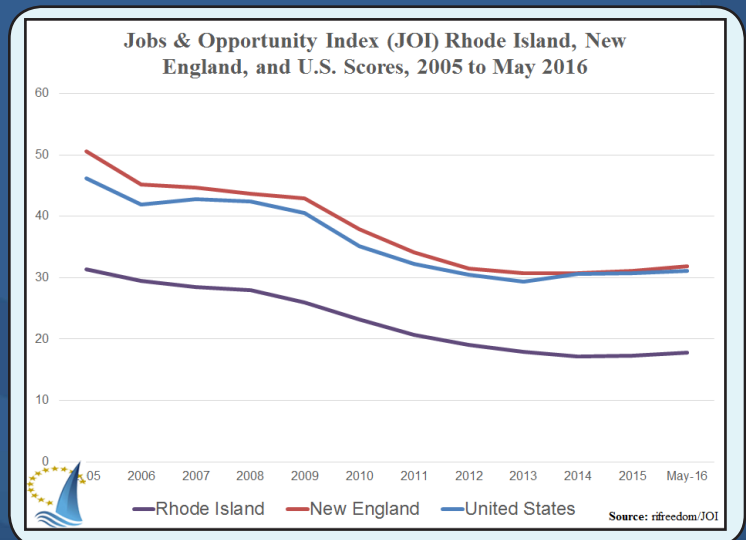
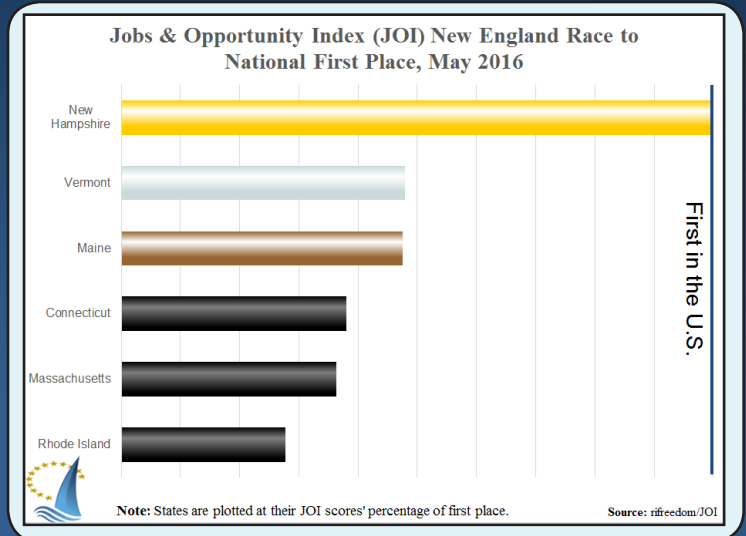
On the three monthly employment datapoints, the decreases were significant, especially using the originally reported, unrevised numbers for the prior month. Rhode Islanders reporting that they are working dropped by 533, while those working or looking for work dropped by 359. Meanwhile, the number of jobs based the state fell 2,400. The two welfare-related datapoints, were mixed (partly because they have different lags in terms of reporting months). Reliance on Medicaid increased by 2,281 people, while reliance on SNAP (food stamps) fell by 208.

The first chart at right shows the six New England states in the national race. All six experienced a loss of points on the JOI score, but Maine managed to move up to 21st place, as Oklahoma slipped. Connecticut held at 34, as did Vermont, at 20. New Hampshire kept its place at the lead of the nation, although Wyoming gained slightly, and Massachusetts is stuck at 37.

Overall, the gap between Rhode Island's JOI score and the New England average grew in April (see the second chart). When it comes to the unemployment rate, Rhode Island lost ground within New England but gained nationally (third chart), illustrating the problem with using that common metric as an indicator of economic health.

Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (measuring optimism adequate work is available): RI remained at 43rd.
- **Freedom Factor** (measuring the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI still ranks 39th, although with a lower score.
- **Prosperity Factor** (measuring the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI still ranks 46th, because no underlying data has been updated.



	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
New Hampshire	1	👉	64.2	13	👉	6.1	5	👉	7.8	2	👉	8.9
Wyoming	2	👉	61.0	10	👉	6.1	2	👉	9.6	12	👉	7.3
Utah	3	👉	57.5	5	👉	6.6	3	👉	8.9	14	👉	7.1
North Dakota	4	👉	56.5	1	👉	10.0	1	👉	10.0	35	👉	5.7
South Dakota	5	👉	50.3	2	👉	9.8	8	👉	6.7	21	👉	6.4
Alaska	6	👉	46.5	38	👉	4.2	18	👎	4.9	1	👉	10.0
Virginia	7	👉	45.5	31	👉	4.6	6	👉	7.3	13	👉	7.2
Kansas	8	👉	42.4	9	👎	6.2	7	👉	7.3	27	👉	6.2
Colorado	9	👉	42.2	6	👉	6.5	16	👍	4.9	7	👉	7.7
Iowa	10	👉	40.8	3	👉	8.1	13	👎	5.3	20	👉	6.5
Nebraska	11	👉	38.8	4	👉	7.6	4	👉	8.1	44	👉	4.9
Idaho	12	👍	38.0	14	👉	6.0	14	👉	5.3	17	👉	6.9
Montana	13	👎	37.4	20	👉	5.2	21	👎	4.8	8	👉	7.6
Texas	14	👉	33.8	8	👍	6.2	17	👍	4.9	24	👉	6.3
Maryland	15	👉	33.7	19	👉	5.4	15	👍	5.0	19	👉	6.6
Wisconsin	16	👉	33.7	16	👉	5.9	10	👉	5.5	31	👉	6.0
South Carolina	17	👉	32.8	42	👉	4.0	31	👉	4.1	3	👉	8.0
Hawaii	18	👉	32.3	25	👉	4.8	28	👉	4.1	10	👉	7.4
Alabama	19	👉	32.3	32	👉	4.5	38	👉	3.8	4	👉	8.0
Vermont	20	👉	30.8	15	👉	6.0	35	👎	4.0	18	👉	6.6
Maine	21	👍	30.5	23	👉	4.9	32	👍	4.0	16	👉	7.1
Oklahoma	22	👎	30.3	12	👉	6.1	29	👍	4.1	23	👉	6.3
Missouri	23	👉	29.2	11	👉	6.1	12	👍	5.3	42	👉	5.2
Nevada	24	👉	28.6	50	👉	3.4	26	👉	4.1	11	👉	7.3
Indiana	25	👉	28.2	17	👉	5.7	20	👍	4.8	38	👉	5.5
Arizona	26	👉	27.5	37	👉	4.3	40	👉	3.7	15	👉	7.1
Mississippi	27	👉	26.9	41	👉	4.1	48	👉	3.1	6	👉	7.7
Washington	28	👉	26.1	30	👉	4.6	36	👉	3.9	25	👉	6.3
Florida	29	👉	25.8	45	👉	4.0	30	👎	4.1	22	👉	6.3
North Carolina	30	👉	25.5	36	👉	4.3	25	👉	4.2	28	👉	6.0
Georgia	31	👉	25.2	46	👍	4.0	23	👉	4.3	29	👉	6.0
Pennsylvania	32	👍	24.6	35	👉	4.4	24	👉	4.2	34	👉	5.7
New Jersey	33	👎	24.5	28	👉	4.7	11	👉	5.4	45	👉	4.8
Connecticut	34	👉	24.4	39	👉	4.2	19	👍	4.8	39	👉	5.3
West Virginia	35	👉	23.7	47	👎	3.9	49	👉	2.7	9	👉	7.5
Michigan	36	👉	23.6	44	👉	4.0	34	👍	4.0	32	👉	5.9
Massachusetts	37	👉	23.3	29	👉	4.7	22	👉	4.6	43	👉	5.0
Oregon	38	👉	23.0	33	👉	4.5	45	👎	3.2	26	👉	6.3
Louisiana	39	👉	22.4	27	👉	4.7	44	👎	3.3	33	👉	5.9
Tennessee	40	👉	22.2	26	👉	4.7	41	👉	3.6	36	👉	5.5
Illinois	41	👍	22.0	40	👉	4.2	27	👉	4.1	40	👉	5.3
New Mexico	42	👎	21.9	48	👉	3.8	50	👉	2.3	5	👉	7.8
Kentucky	43	👉	21.8	24	👉	4.8	42	👍	3.5	37	👉	5.5
Minnesota	44	👉	21.3	7	👉	6.3	9	👉	6.4	49	👉	3.3
California	45	👉	20.3	49	👉	3.8	47	👉	3.2	30	👉	6.0
Ohio	46	👉	19.5	22	👉	4.9	33	👎	4.0	47	👉	4.5
New York	47	👉	19.1	34	👉	4.4	46	👉	3.2	41	👉	5.2
Rhode Island	48	👉	17.8	43	👉	4.0	39	👉	3.7	46	👉	4.7
Arkansas	49	👉	16.4	18	👉	5.5	43	👍	3.4	48	👉	4.0
Delaware	50	👉	11.1	21	👉	5.0	37	👉	3.8	50	👉	2.6