

Although Rhode Island remained in 47th place on the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI), the four (of 12) datapoints that were updated for the May report were positive. Unfortunately, one datapoint was not updated for Rhode Island even though it was updated for every other state. The latest SNAP (foodstamp) table from the federal Food and Nutrition Service added a new footnote highlighting that "system reporting issues" have meant no new RI numbers since January 2017.

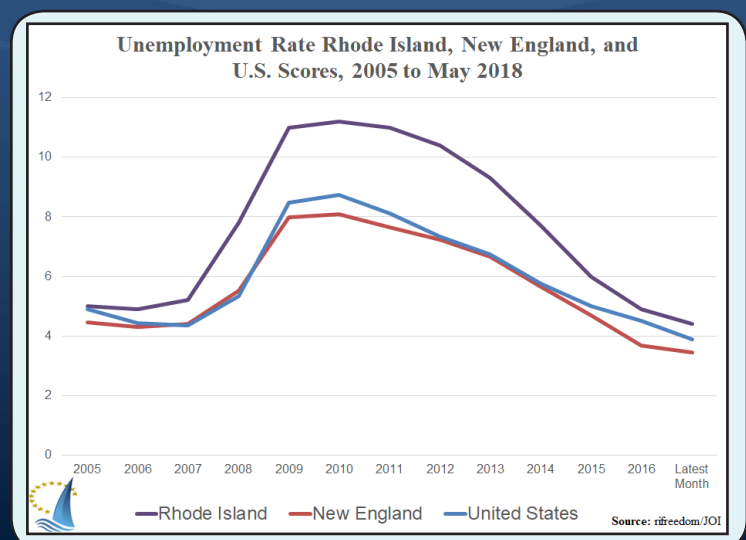
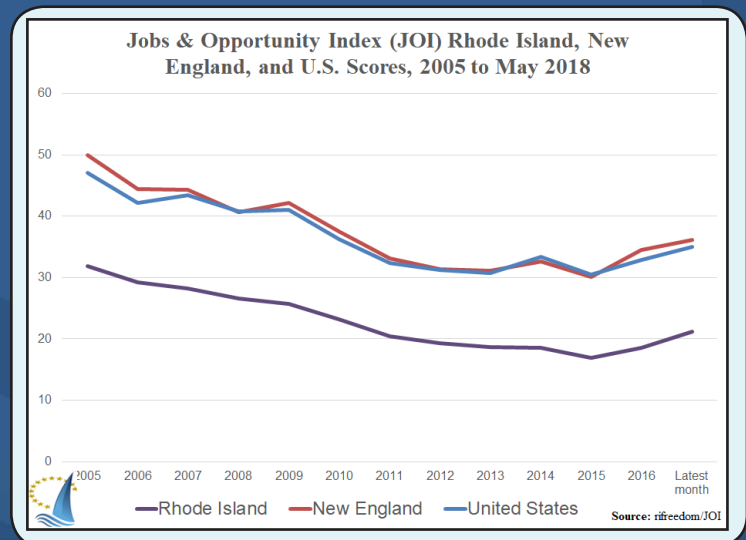
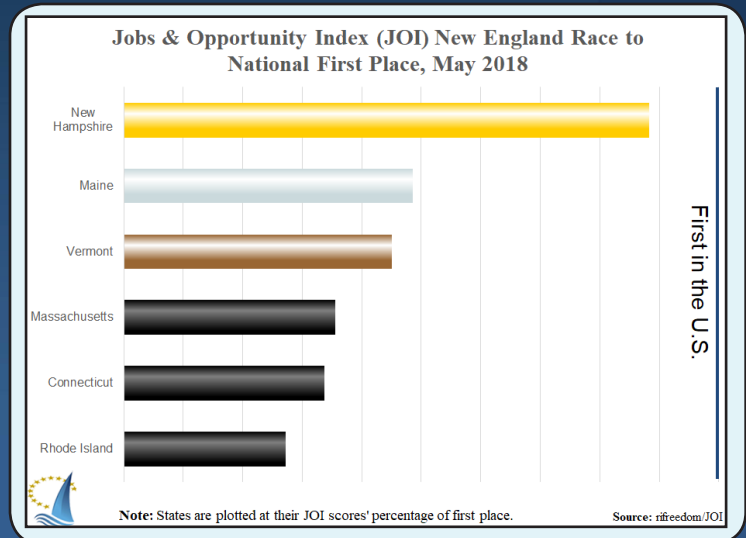
Turning to the numbers that are available: Employment was up from the first-reported number for April, by 1,489, while labor force was up 1,117. RI-based jobs increased, as well, by 1,000. Medicaid enrollment improved from the previously reported number, with a decrease of 1,281.

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 made progress toward the nation's top 10, up two steps to 15th, while Vermont remained in 21st place. Massachusetts managed to return to the 34th slot that it had lost last month. Meanwhile, 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 gained 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 improved one place, to 22nd.
- **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 > May 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	👉	68.7	14	👉	7.3	4	👉	8.1	3	👉	8.8
Utah	3	👉	67.0	6	👉	7.8	2	👉	9.8	14	👉	7.3
North Dakota	4	👉	60.4	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	8.9	26	👉	6.5
South Dakota	5	👉	51.6	3	👉	8.4	8	👉	6.7	18	👉	7.1
Kansas	6	👉	49.4	11	👉	7.6	6	👉	7.4	23	👉	6.6
Virginia	7	👉	49.3	25	👉	6.3	7	👉	7.3	19	👉	7.1
Idaho	8	👉	47.2	12	👉	7.5	10	👍	5.7	12	👉	7.4
Colorado	9	👉	43.4	7	👉	7.8	15	👉	5.0	17	👉	7.3
Iowa	10	👉	43.1	2	👉	8.8	16	👉	5.0	21	👉	6.9
South Carolina	11	👉	41.1	23	👎	6.3	26	👉	4.1	5	👉	8.4
Wisconsin	12	👉	40.2	8	👉	7.7	11	👎	5.6	30	👉	6.3
Nebraska	13	👉	40.0	5	👉	8.0	5	👉	7.5	44	👉	5.2
Hawaii	14	👉	39.0	10	👉	7.6	28	👍	4.1	15	👉	7.3
Maine	15	👍	37.8	17	👉	6.7	24	👉	4.3	13	👉	7.4
Oklahoma	16	👉	37.8	16	👉	6.8	32	👉	4.1	11	👉	7.5
Montana	17	👎	37.7	28	👉	6.1	37	👎	3.9	6	👉	8.1
Alabama	18	👉	37.2	29	👉	6.0	35	👉	3.9	8	👉	8.0
Texas	19	👉	37.1	26	👉	6.2	14	👉	5.1	22	👉	6.8
Alaska	20	👉	35.7	50	👉	3.6	41	👉	3.5	1	👉	10.0
Vermont	21	👉	35.1	13	👉	7.3	23	👉	4.3	24	👉	6.6
Indiana	22	👉	34.1	9	👉	7.6	17	👉	4.9	35	👉	5.8
Arizona	23	👉	33.3	37	👉	5.1	38	👉	3.9	10	👉	7.8
North Carolina	24	👉	33.1	21	👉	6.4	20	👍	4.6	28	👉	6.3
Maryland	25	👉	32.4	32	👉	5.6	18	👍	4.7	27	👉	6.5
Mississippi	26	👍	31.1	40	👍	5.0	43	👍	3.3	7	👉	8.0
Nevada	27	👎	31.1	47	👉	4.6	30	👉	4.1	16	👉	7.3
Oregon	28	👉	30.9	30	👉	5.8	40	👉	3.7	20	👉	7.0
Georgia	29	👉	29.4	38	👉	5.1	22	👎	4.5	32	👉	6.2
Missouri	30	👉	29.4	15	👉	7.0	12	👉	5.5	45	👉	4.9
Florida	31	👉	28.9	39	👉	5.0	29	👎	4.1	25	👉	6.5
Washington	32	👉	28.6	35	👉	5.3	27	👍	4.1	29	👉	6.3
Michigan	33	👉	28.0	33	👉	5.5	33	👉	4.0	33	👉	6.2
Massachusetts	34	👍	27.7	27	👉	6.2	19	👍	4.6	42	👉	5.3
New Jersey	35	👎	27.6	44	👎	4.9	13	👉	5.4	43	👉	5.3
West Virginia	36	👉	26.6	46	👉	4.6	49	👉	2.7	9	👉	7.8
Connecticut	37	👉	26.2	48	👉	4.5	21	👍	4.5	36	👉	5.8
Tennessee	38	👉	26.1	24	👉	6.3	36	👍	3.9	40	👉	5.5
Minnesota	39	👉	25.8	4	👉	8.3	9	👉	6.3	49	👉	3.7
New Mexico	40	👉	25.7	49	👉	4.5	50	👉	2.3	4	👉	8.4
Pennsylvania	41	👉	25.1	45	👉	4.9	34	👉	4.0	34	👉	5.9
Illinois	42	👉	24.5	42	👉	4.9	31	👎	4.1	37	👉	5.6
California	43	👉	24.1	43	👍	4.9	44	👎	3.3	31	👉	6.3
Kentucky	44	👉	23.8	19	👉	6.5	46	👎	3.2	41	👉	5.5
Ohio	45	👉	22.6	31	👉	5.6	25	👉	4.2	46	👉	4.8
New York	46	👉	21.7	34	👉	5.3	47	👉	3.1	39	👉	5.5
Rhode Island	47	👉	21.2	22	👍	6.4	42	👉	3.5	47	👉	4.7
Louisiana	48	👉	20.0	41	👎	5.0	48	👉	2.8	38	👉	5.6
Arkansas	49	👉	18.9	18	👉	6.5	45	👍	3.2	48	👉	4.3
Delaware	50	👉	14.8	36	👉	5.2	39	👉	3.7	50	👉	3.5