

For the May 2019 iteration of the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI), the Ocean State returned to its prior rank of 47 thanks to the troubled Unified Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP). One of the six updated datapoints (out of 12) was SNAP (foodstamps), but only in the sense that it was updated for every state except RI and North Carolina. In Rhode Island's case, the reason is that UHIP has prevented the state from updating its SNAP enrollment numbers since February 2017. So as other states' rankings were affected by the shift in SNAP payments due to the government shutdown, RI's report skipped over the whole thing.

The overall improvement in rank was despite decreases by other measures. Employment was down another 494 people from the first-reported number for April, and the labor force dropped another 845. Jobs based within the state fell a whopping 1,600.

On the bright side, 871 fewer Rhode Islanders were enrolled in Medicaid for this report.

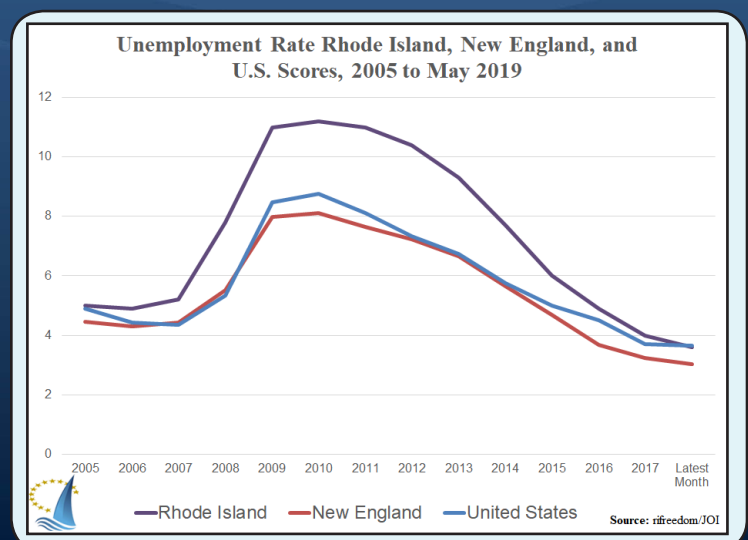
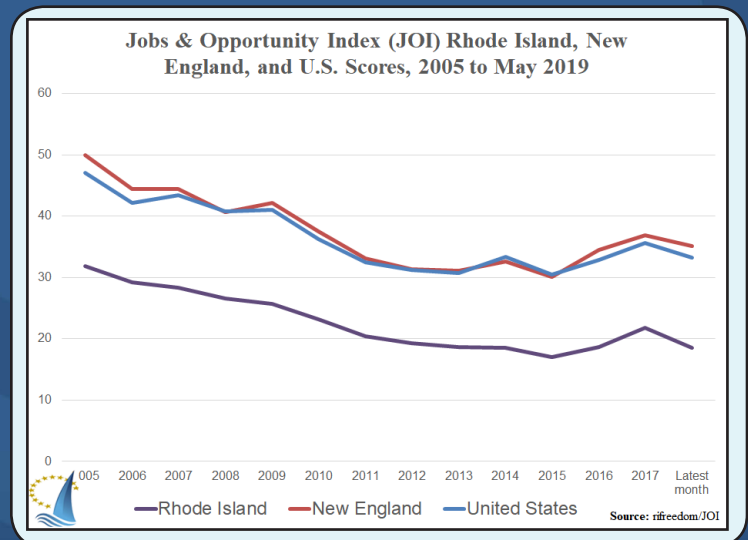
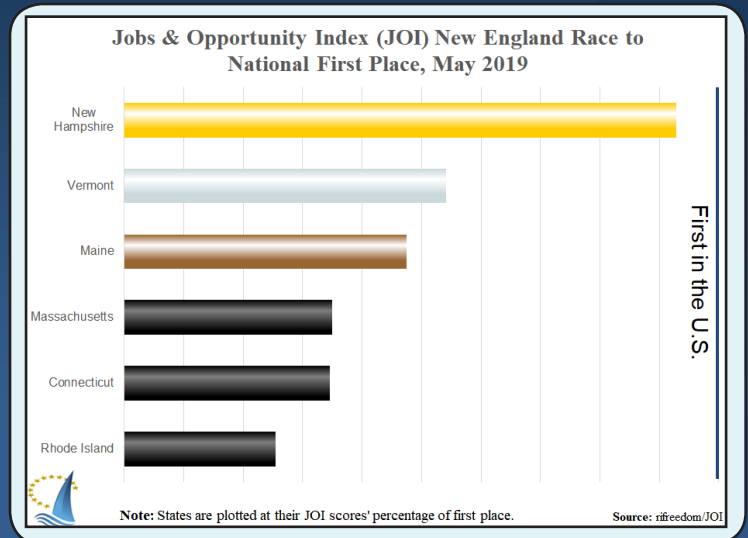
On the other hand, annualized state and local taxation increased by \$13 million. That result is on top of the \$41 million increase in local taxation in our prior report.

The first chart at right shows RI remaining last in New England on JOI, at 47th. New Hampshire still leads the region in 3rd place, nationally. Vermont regained three spots, moving to 11th place, while Maine held steady again in 18th. Massachusetts dropped one, to 37th, but Connecticut moved up five ranks, to 39th.

The second chart shows the gaps between RI and New England and the United States on JOI, and the third chart shows the gaps in the official unemployment rate. RI's gap worsened in the first case but improved in the second.

Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI remained 28th.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI improved by six, to 42nd.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.



Jobs > Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI) > Monthly Snapshot > May 2019 > 2

	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score
Wyoming	1	👉	72.8	15	👉	5.9	1	👉	10.0	4	👎	8.5
Utah	2	👉	67.8	6	👉	7.3	2	👉	9.7	13	👉	7.6
New Hampshire	3	👉	67.7	4	👉	7.5	4	👍	7.9	2	👉	8.7
North Dakota	4	👉	54.0	1	👉	10.0	3	👉	8.6	36	👉	6.0
Kansas	5	👍	48.2	5	👉	7.4	5	👍	7.2	27	👍	6.6
South Dakota	6	👉	47.4	10	👉	6.9	7	👍	6.5	20	👉	7.1
Idaho	7	👍	47.0	11	👉	6.9	10	👉	5.6	12	👉	7.8
Virginia	8	👎	44.1	16	👉	5.9	8	👎	6.0	16	👉	7.4
Iowa	9	👍	40.4	3	👉	7.8	16	👍	4.6	22	👉	7.0
Wisconsin	10	👎	40.2	7	👉	7.2	12	👎	5.3	24	👉	6.7
Vermont	11	👍	39.5	8	👉	7.1	22	👍	4.2	14	👉	7.6
Colorado	12	👍	39.2	14	👉	6.3	15	👍	4.8	18	👉	7.4
South Carolina	13	👉	38.4	18	👉	5.7	27	👎	4.0	6	👍	8.4
Nebraska	14	👎	37.9	9	👉	7.1	6	👎	7.1	45	👉	5.3
Montana	15	👍	35.7	26	👉	5.2	37	👎	3.7	5	👉	8.5
Texas	16	👉	35.0	19	👉	5.5	14	👎	5.0	23	👉	6.7
Alabama	17	👎	34.7	22	👉	5.3	34	👎	3.8	9	👎	8.1
Maine	18	👉	34.6	32	👉	5.0	24	👎	4.1	10	👉	7.9
Alaska	19	👍	32.8	50	👉	3.5	46	👎	3.2	1	👉	10.0
Missouri	20	👎	32.0	17	👉	5.9	11	👎	5.4	41	👉	5.8
Indiana	21	👍	31.9	13	👎	6.4	17	👍	4.6	35	👉	6.1
Oklahoma	22	👍	31.5	30	👉	5.0	35	👍	3.8	15	👉	7.5
Hawaii	23	👉	31.1	20	👉	5.3	32	👎	3.9	21	👉	7.1
Arizona	24	👍	30.6	43	👉	4.4	38	👎	3.7	11	👉	7.8
Nevada	25	👎	30.5	42	👉	4.4	30	👎	4.0	17	👉	7.4
North Carolina	26	👍	30.2	29	👉	5.1	21	👍	4.3	25	👍	6.7
Mississippi	27	👎	30.1	46	👉	4.0	41	👎	3.3	3	👍	8.5
Maryland	28	👍	30.1	36	👉	4.8	19	👍	4.4	26	👎	6.6
Georgia	29	👎	29.3	39	👉	4.7	20	👎	4.3	28	👍	6.6
New Jersey	30	👎	29.3	33	👉	4.9	13	👍	5.1	40	👉	5.8
Washington	31	👎	28.5	25	👉	5.2	25	👍	4.0	31	👉	6.5
Florida	32	👎	28.1	34	👉	4.9	29	👎	4.0	30	👎	6.5
Tennessee	33	👍	27.9	12	👍	6.5	31	👍	3.9	38	👎	5.8
Oregon	34	👎	27.8	40	👉	4.7	40	👎	3.5	19	👉	7.2
Michigan	35	👍	27.5	21	👉	5.3	33	👍	3.8	32	👉	6.3
Minnesota	36	👎	27.2	2	👉	8.0	9	👍	5.9	49	👉	4.1
Massachusetts	37	👎	25.5	23	👉	5.3	18	👍	4.5	44	👉	5.4
Pennsylvania	38	👎	25.4	38	👉	4.8	36	👎	3.8	34	👉	6.2
Connecticut	39	👍	25.2	49	👉	3.8	23	👍	4.1	33	👉	6.3
West Virginia	40	👎	24.9	48	👉	3.9	48	👎	2.6	7	👍	8.1
Illinois	41	👎	24.8	37	👉	4.8	26	👎	4.0	39	👉	5.8
California	42	👉	23.1	44	👉	4.2	44	👎	3.2	29	👎	6.6
New Mexico	43	👎	22.9	45	👉	4.1	50	👎	2.2	8	👎	8.1
Ohio	44	👍	22.2	31	👉	5.0	28	👍	4.0	46	👉	5.1
Kentucky	45	👎	21.7	35	👉	4.9	43	👎	3.2	42	👉	5.7
New York	46	👍	19.9	41	👉	4.6	47	👍	2.9	43	👉	5.7
Rhode Island	47	👍	18.6	28	👉	5.1	42	👍	3.2	47	👉	4.8
Arkansas	48	👍	17.7	24	👉	5.3	45	👍	3.2	48	👉	4.6
Louisiana	49	👎	17.6	47	👉	4.0	49	👎	2.5	37	👍	5.8
Delaware	50	👉	13.3	27	👉	5.1	39	👎	3.5	50	👉	3.2