

Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI), June 2019

Positive Slippage

Justin Katz, Research Director

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Although Rhode Island maintained its overall ranking of 47th in the country on the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity's Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI), the Ocean State slipped on two of the three subfactors. Six of the 12 datapoints used for the index were updated for this iteration, although one of them was SNAP (foodstamps), for which RI has not updated numbers for two-and-a-half years. (UHIP has prevented the state from updating its SNAP enrollment numbers since February 2017.)

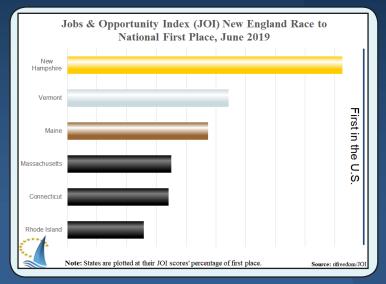
In absolute terms, Rhode Island improved on most of the measures. Employment was up 226 people from the first-reported number for May, and jobs based within the state increased a sizable 3,500. However, the labor force, which includes people working or looking for work) dropped another 69. Again, fewer Rhode Islanders were enrolled in Medicaid for this report. Specifically, the rolls dropped by 1,514 people. Meanwhile, total personal income (including wages and investments) increased \$349 million.

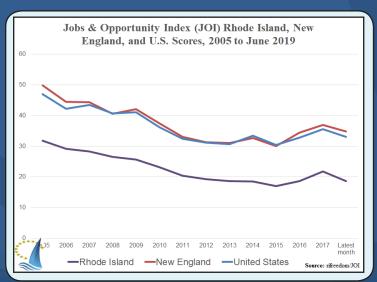
Despite generally positive results, however, Rhode Island lost ground on two parts of the index (see below for descriptions). On the Job Outlook measure, North Carolina overtook Rhode Island to claim 28th. On the Freedom Factor, it was Kentucky that switched places with the Ocean State, to claim 42nd.

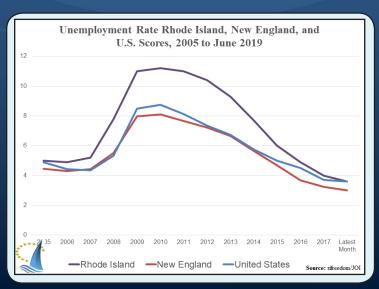
The first chart at right shows RI remaining last in New England on JOI, at 47th. New Hampshire still leads the region and ganed a place, to 2nd nationally. Vermont slipped a spot to 12th place, while Maine remained unmoving, at 18th. Massachusetts also remained in place, at 37th, but Connecticut dropped one, to 40th. 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 all respects.

Results for the three underlying JOI factors were:

- **Job Outlook Factor** (optimism that adequate work is available): RI fell one, to 29th.
- **Freedom Factor** (the level of work against reliance on welfare programs): RI fell one, to 43rd.
- **Prosperity Factor** (the financial motivation of income versus taxes): RI remained 47th.









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	pportame	JOI			Job Outlook Factor			Freedom Factor			Prosperity Factor		
	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	Rank	Trend	Score	
Wyoming	1	EN.	72.3	15	W.	5.9	1	₩.	10.0	4	₩.	8.4	
New Hampshire	2	8	66.9	4	60g	7.5	4	603	7.9	2	M.	8.6	
Utah	3	9	65.8	6	603	7.3	2	W	9.4	13	W.	7.6	
North Dakota	4	leg ?	53.9	1	60g	10.0	3	603	8.6	36	M.	5.9	
Kansas	5	len?	48.2	5	60g	7.4	5	603	7.3	27	M.	6.6	
Idaho	6	8	47.3	10	8	7.0	10	<i>₩</i>	5.6	10	\$	7.8	
South Dakota	7	9	46.7	11	9	7.0	7	603	6.5	21	G.	7.0	
Virginia	8	EN.	44.1	16	603	5.9	8	W	6.0	17	G.	7.4	
Wisconsin	9	8	39.9	7	603	7.2	12	<i>₩</i>	5.3	23	\$	6.7	
Iowa	10	9	39.7	3	lus?	7.9	16	₩	4.7	22	50g	6.9	
Colorado	11	8	39.3	14	603	6.3	15	<i>₩</i>	4.8	18	W.	7.3	
Vermont	12	9	39.3	8	603	7.2	22	<i>₩</i>	4.2	14	W.	7.5	
South Carolina	13	ENT.	38.4	18	W.S	5.7	27	₩	4.0	6	M.	8.4	
Nebraska	14	60h	37.6	9	603	7.1	6	<i>₩</i>	7.1	45	W.	5.3	
Montana	15	Sent .	36.0	26	605	5.2	37	W.	3.7	3	\$	8.5	
Texas	16	Sent.	34.9	19	My .	5.5	14	W.	5.1	24	9	6.7	
Alabama	17	Sent .	34.7	22	603	5.3	34	M.	3.8	9	Sent T	8.0	
Maine	18	leg ?	34.3	32	603	5.0	24	M.	4.1	11	G.	7.8	
Alaska	19	Sent.	32.5	50	My .	3.5	46	W.	3.1	1	W.V.	10.0	
Missouri	20	lens.	32.0	17	603	5.9	11	603	5.5	41	W.	5.7	
Indiana	21	leg ?	31.8	13	603	6.4	17	M.	4.6	35	W.	6.0	
Oklahoma	22	603	31.2	30	603	5.0	36	9	3.7	16	G.	7.4	
Hawaii	23	60g	31.0	21	9	5.3	32	₩.	3.9	20	\$	7.1	
Nevada	24	8	30.7	42	W.F	4.5	30	₩.	3.9	15	\$	7.4	
Arizona	25	9	30.6	43	W.S	4.4	38	₩.	3.7	12	GB.	7.8	
North Carolina	26	603	30.1	28	8	5.1	21	₩.	4.3	25	W.	6.6	
Maryland	27	8	29.9	36	603	4.9	19	603	4.4	26	W.	6.6	
Mississippi	28	9	29.7	46	603	4.1	41	603	3.3	5	G.	8.4	
Georgia	29	60h	29.1	39	603	4.7	20	₩.	4.3	29	G.	6.5	
New Jersey	30	60g	29.0	33	603	4.9	13	₩.	5.1	40	W.	5.7	
Washington	31	603	28.4	25	lus?	5.2	25	₩.	4.0	31	W.	6.4	
Florida	32	60g	27.8	34	603	4.9	28	6	4.0	30	W.	6.5	
Oregon	33	8	27.8	40	603	4.7	40	₩.	3.4	19	W.	7.2	
Tennessee	34	9	27.7	12	W.S	6.5	31	₩.	3.9	38	W.	5.8	
Michigan	35	603	27.3	20	8	5.3	33	₩.	3.8	32	W.	6.3	
Minnesota	36	603	26.9	2	W.F	8.1	9	₩.	5.9	49	Mr.	4.0	
Massachusetts	37	60h	25.3	23	W.S	5.3	18	₩.	4.5	44	W.	5.3	
Pennsylvania	38	603	25.0	38	lus?	4.8	35	6	3.7	34	W.	6.1	
West Virginia	39	8	24.8	48	W.S	4.0	49	9	2.6	7	W.	8.1	
Connecticut	40	9	24.7	49	W.	3.8	23	₩.	4.2	33	W.	6.1	
Illinois	41	603	24.5	37	W.	4.8	26	₩.	4.0	39	W.	5.7	
California	42	W.	23.1	44	W.	4.2	44	₩.	3.2	28	\$	6.5	
New Mexico	43	60h	22.9	45	W.	4.1	50	W	2.2	8	W.	8.0	
Ohio	44	60%	21.9	31	100°	5.0	29	9	4.0	46	W.	5.1	
Kentucky	45	160%	21.6	35	100°S	4.9	42	8	3.2	42	W.	5.7	
New York	46	160°Z	19.6	41	100°S	4.6	47	W.	2.9	43	160°F	5.6	
Rhode Island	47	603	18.6	29	9	5.1	43	9	3.2	47	160°F	4.8	
Louisiana	48	8	18.0	47	603	4.0	48	6	2.7	37	W.	5.8	
Arkansas	49	9	17.5	24	603	5.3	45	W.	3.2	48	160°F	4.5	
Delaware	50	603	13.1	27	60°S	5.2	39	W.	3.6	50	W.	3.2	
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